



THE SPRING VOTE.

Mighty Increase of the Socialist Army at our Polls.

TWO SOCIALIST ALDERMEN IN WISCONSIN.

CHEERS FROM WEST AND EAST

The Socialists of Rhode Island Double Last Year's Vote—Municipal Contests in Detroit, Mich., Cleveland and Dayton, O., Chicago and East St. Louis, Ill., Davenport, Iowa, and Towns in New Jersey—Everywhere a Marked Accretion is Recorded to the Socialist Forces.

This spring the party has tried conclusions with the capitalist foes in the State election of Rhode Island, and in municipal elections in several other States. The result everywhere is most encouraging.

The returns from RHODE ISLAND are as follows:

Table listing election results for Rhode Island across various towns like Providence, Pawtucket, and Woonsocket.

IN ILLINOIS

municipal Socialist tickets were set up at Chicago and East St. Louis. In both cases the growth is perceptible. In Chicago the comrades had to contend against one of those insidious stampees that are the unerring signs of popular dissatisfaction, and that needs but proper guidance to crystallize into effective revolution.

CHICAGO, April 12.—The crazy municipal turnover of last Tuesday did not carry the Socialists of this city off their feet; on the contrary, they came out decidedly stronger than they did last November.

The vote of our city candidates was as follows: Peppin, for City Clerk, 1,344. Kalbitz, for City Treasurer (incomplete), 1,435. Weaver, for City Attorney (incomplete), 1,577.

received a larger vote than was polled for Socialism last year.

EAST ST. LOUIS, April 7.—Our vote here yesterday was 50 for Mayor, and increased down the ticket as the offices became less important, until it reached 32 for constable.

From IOWA, Where a Socialist ticket was set up in Davenport, this cheering news comes:

DAVENPORT, April 10.—The Socialist poll in this city has increased since last fall nearly 300 per cent. For Matchett 110 votes were cast in November. At last Tuesday's election our municipal ticket received a vote that ranged from 270 to over 300.

MICHIGAN Good news is sent to the comrades. The party set up its municipal ticket in Detroit. It thus stepped up boldly against Potato Patch Pingree's fake reform movement.

DETROIT, April 7.—In the special election for Mayor in this city our candidate, M. Meyer, received 377 votes, against 208 cast for Kreighoff in 1895 for same office. Pingree feels dumped.

Not less glad some, and even more so, are the returns from

OHIO. CLEVELAND, O., April 8.—Cleveland comrades have made a good start upward.

CINCINNATI, April 13.—We had here a fine municipal vote: For Mayor—E. Jacobs, 250. For Police Clerk—Pandorf, 278. For Police Clerk—Henry J. Pool, 303. For Treasurer—Emil Schulz, 263. For Justice of the Peace—John Moll, 264.

DAYTON, O.—The Socialist Labor party went this year into the municipal fight, and came out three times as strong as it did last November. We polled last Tuesday 278 votes; last November we had 86.

NEW JERSEY the following Socialist cheers are sent out:

PATERSON, April 14.—We have held our own despite the land slide. ELIZABETH, April 14.—John P. Weigel polls 116 votes; this is an increase.

NEWARK, April 14.—Our returns for the elections held yesterday are still very incomplete. From partial returns it is certain that we have made progress. Best of all is the news from

WISCONSIN. SHEBOYGAN, April 12.—We elected our Alderman, Van Akeren, in the 5th Ward by an overwhelming majority. He polled 178 votes, against 89 for the Republican, and 72 for the Democratic candidate.

The rest of the ticket is as follows: For Mayor—John G. Riedel, 211. For City Clerk—George Schnor, 175. For Treasurer—Gustav Bairow, 169. For Comptroller—Charles Brickner, 151.

WAUSAU, Wis., April 13.—Julius Boblenz, a member of the Socialist Labor party, was elected to-day to the Board of Aldermen. There is no Section of the S. L. P. in this city. But a few Socialist workmen nominated Boblenz, and he received more votes than either of his two adversaries.

Comrade Harry Carless' Tour in the State.

Table listing tour dates and locations for Comrade Harry Carless, including East Syracuse, Auburn, Rochester, Lockport, Buffalo, Tonawanda, Hornellville, Elmira, and Binghamton.

For an Italian Paper.

All comrades and sympathizers who realize the importance of upholding a Socialist paper in the Italian language in this country are requested to send contributions and subscriptions to Comrade C. F. Garzone, 14 Varick place, New York City. Send at least a nickel. "Il Proletario" needs assistance. To discontinue its valuable work would be a serious setback to the movement among the Italian wage earners.

THE ITALIAN ELECTION.

Increase of Votes and of Seats in the Parliament.

In the Last Parliament the Socialists held Nine Seats, in the Next One they Will Hold Fifteen, With Possibly a Few More, of Whom Two are Probable—Two Years ago the Socialist Poll was 57,000 Strong This Year it is Over 98,000—The Italian Situation—Rising Spirit of Socialism.

The result of last month's general election in Italy for members of Parliament is now substantially in. It affords the following comparisons.

At the last general election, held in 1895, the poll of the Italian Socialist Labor party was 57,000; last month it was 98,449—a net increase of over 41,000, notwithstanding the arbitrary and wholesale disfranchisements of workmen voters.

In the last Parliament, 9 Socialist delegates held seats. In the next Parliament there will be at least 15—a gain of 6 seats, in the teeth of Premier Rudinis pledge to the Italian bourgeoisie that not one single Socialist deputy would be returned.

But the elections are not yet completed; in several places, supplementary elections are to be held; in seven of these the Socialist candidates are entitled to re-enter the lists. It is confidently expected that two of them—Hector Cicotti, of the 5th District of Milan, and Guido Podrecca, of Albany Laziale—will triumph; of the remaining five, several have a fighting chance.

Whether any of the seven wins or not their aggregate poll will raise the Socialist vote of Italy to about 100,000. Considering the savage manner in which workmen voters were stricken off registry, the present militant Socialist male population of Italy may be estimated at 300,000 at least—an ominously large figure for an organized revolutionary party, considering that the total voting population of the kingdom is not quite 2,000,000. No wonder the Italian alliance of Crown and Capital feels uneasy when it ponders that, already, out of every 6 male Italians of voting age 1 is a Socialist.

The Italian working class merits the plaudits of the class-conscious American proletariat.

"CONTENTMENT."

It is to be Created on the Ostrich Plan of Hiding his Head.

DE SOTO, Kan., April 12.—In a certain portion of the region known as "the wild and woolly west" there is an organization called "Federation of Women's Clubs." At a recent session of a local club, after the regular programme was run off, the State organizer, who was present, addressed the ladies assembled somewhat as follows:

"There is a great deal of unrest in the land. I see it cropping out in the several local clubs I visit. Many fear and predict that we are on the eve of startling events—even revolutionary in character. But this will all wear away as business revives. The trouble with most of these people is that they were not properly brought up. If the proper spirit of CONTENTMENT were duly inculcated in the masses during childhood, we should hear less about revolution, etc. In the meantime the most important and patriotic service that these women's clubs can render is to cultivate a feeling of CONTENTMENT. Don't agitate or countenance subjects that lean that way. Now, one of the nicest things you can occupy your attention with is getting up a series of social entertainments. For instance, you could cut a lot of nice pictures out of your magazines and paste them on cardboard, hang them around on the walls, and, as your guests come in, have them guess what the pictures refer to; or, let each woman represent a book by fastening on her person pictures or symbols suggestive of the title of the book chosen, which the others are to guess," etc., etc.

Furthermore, the employees were last Thanksgiving Day treated to an elegant sermon in a church of the locality, delivered by the "Rev." Arthur H. Allen, pastor of the Woodside church, which is supported and regularly attended by the Burden family whenever they condescend to live there. This "Rev.," whose wages are \$7 a day, who wears the only plug hat in the locality, who takes his four weeks' summer vacation, and who allows Burden's money to cause a film to obscure his vision so that he cannot read the text in the New Testament, "If any will not work, neither shall he eat," said that now the country had been saved by the election of Major McKinley. It was time for everyone to move from Grumbling street into Thanksgiving avenue. Well said, thou faithful lickspitter, of thy master Capital! But the Burden Iron Company employees will not move from Grumbling Street, neither will the rest of our wage workers, because so long as machinery is in the hands of the capitalist class it is used to degrade, bully and starve the workers, and so cause the residents of Grumbling street to increase. Increase they must and will until they vote for the S. L. P. It is only the success of that working class political party that will increase the residents of Thanksgiving avenue, because then science and invention will be used to relieve man of physical toll without making him a tramp and pauper.

T. E. MILLER.

THE BURDEN IRON CO.

Remarkable Testimony Furnished by its Discharged Employees.

A Workingman Inventor Robbed of his Patent—The Invention Becomes a Means of Displacing Labor and Throwing the other Workers into Poverty—Ruthless Reductions of Wages—Employees Taxed for Boss' Presents to his Vanderbilite Bride—A Dastardly Parson.

GLOVERSVILLE, N. Y., April 9.—Upon my arrival in West Troy the following facts, tending to produce a healthy soil for the planting of the seed of Socialism, were related to me by several discharged employees of the Burden Iron Company. This company has one of, if not the largest plants in the country for making horse shoes. It is located in that part of Troy known as the "Iron Works." The founder of the firm, Henry Burden, commenced early in the fifties to manufacture horse shoes with machines in a small factory at Woodside. These machines, with a few modifications and improvements, tending to perfect the shoe, were in use at the present plant until three years ago. They had been gradually superseded by the "James A. Burden Patent Horse Shoe Machine." Although this machine bears the Burden name, it was invented by one Turner, a foreman of machinists employed by the firm, and who has since been discharged. The new machine is now in general use, with the usual result. A conservative estimate places the number of displaced workers at not less than 700. The wages of those who have been kept at work have been reduced considerably. The firm were pitiless in the discharge of its old hands. Considerations of long service or humanity were absolutely lacking. Men with large families, and who had been in the employ of the firm 15 to 20 years, were quietly told their services were no longer required, and were thus ruthlessly driven to swell the army of unemployed. Any of the present employees who object to having their last drop of blood squeezed out of them are quickly told their services are no longer needed.

Much of the grit and resistance was taken out of these men some years ago when, after a strike of eleven months, they were compelled to submit to the bosses' terms. The present machine makes a successful strike an impossibility. The men dare not even protest. Their dependence is abject. Prior to the introduction of this new machine the firm was paying what is called fair wages, and on the whole the workers felt quite satisfied, as the following will show.

When James A. Burden returned from Europe some time ago, where he had been luxuriating for a few months, the workmen were invited, through a benevolent society, composed of employees, to take part in a demonstration at his Woodside home in honor of his safe return. The juiciest of the cattle responded to the invitation. Mr. Burden made a nice speech to them, in the course of which he told them how much he loved his workmen. He did not say he loved them because he could milk them well. Oh, no! On the contrary, he told them to beware of Socialism. He undoubtedly thought that if they listened to the Socialists they might become aware of the fact that Mr. Burden, like all capitalists, looks upon the wage workers as so much cattle to be milked, fleeced and skinned.

Not long ago this man's son, James A., Jr., married a Miss Sloane, of the Vanderbilt tribe of leeches. A supper was given to the employees in honor of the possibility that he would bestow some more Burden brats for them to feed, clothe and house. The supper fell somewhat flat as the marriage had been preceded by two wage reductions, simply as an extra token of the capitalist's love for labor. The men felt that they were taxed to enable Burden to make presents to this bride.

Furthermore, the employees were last Thanksgiving Day treated to an elegant sermon in a church of the locality, delivered by the "Rev." Arthur H. Allen, pastor of the Woodside church, which is supported and regularly attended by the Burden family whenever they condescend to live there. This "Rev.," whose wages are \$7 a day, who wears the only plug hat in the locality, who takes his four weeks' summer vacation, and who allows Burden's money to cause a film to obscure his vision so that he cannot read the text in the New Testament, "If any will not work, neither shall he eat," said that now the country had been saved by the election of Major McKinley. It was time for everyone to move from Grumbling street into Thanksgiving avenue. Well said, thou faithful lickspitter, of thy master Capital! But the Burden Iron Company employees will not move from Grumbling Street, neither will the rest of our wage workers, because so long as machinery is in the hands of the capitalist class it is used to degrade, bully and starve the workers, and so cause the residents of Grumbling street to increase. Increase they must and will until they vote for the S. L. P. It is only the success of that working class political party that will increase the residents of Thanksgiving avenue, because then science and invention will be used to relieve man of physical toll without making him a tramp and pauper.

Here is an instance of the power of the "pure and simple" trades union: Mr. Burden ordered one H. B. Thomas, contractor, keg manufacturer, to reduce his men's wages from \$2.75 a day to \$1.50 so that the Burden Iron Company may be supplied with cheaper kegs. The workmen refused to accept the reduction, and, backed by the International Coopers' Union, they stood firm, as advised by their leaders. Mr. Burden promptly engaged a new contractor with coopers from Allentown, Pa. Thus, with one swing of the leg he kicked a "pure and simple" trades union bag and baggage out of existence. Although we have no horses among the working class, we have a few asses, and maybe we shall hear the fakirs' frantic appeal to boycott all scab goods, and especially the "Burden Asses' Shoes." Meanwhile the late members of the busted union are tramping the streets. Exploiting the crime of ignorantly fighting the capitalist where he is strong, to wit, in the shop only, and with strike only, and shaking hands with this same capitalist when he is weak, to wit, on Election Day.

Much more could be said of the rascality of Troy's capitalists. Especially in the collar and cuff industry, which, if time permits, I will write about next week. H. CARLESS.

SOME MORE ON INDIA.

The Hypocrisy of the Capitalist Class Everywhere.

While the Liberals and Radicals are lashing themselves into a fine feigned fury about Greece and Crete, all these grand humanitarians are quite indifferent to the fate of millions of people whom they are helping to starve to death in India. What loathsome hypocrites they are, to be sure! And the men of God, from Dr. Creighton upwards and downwards, are even more contemptible. For, as week after week passes, the condition of our Indian fellow-subjects, left to the tender mercies of the rollicking Lord George Hamilton, goes from bad to worse. Lord George, by the way, objects to government by newspaper. It would, indeed, be an abominable rule, guided, as it always is, solely by cash interests. But how about a Secretary of State who takes £5,000 a year out of the starvelings of India for deliberately misrepresenting the truth whenever he speaks in public about them? Isn't that a worse form of government and a greater injury still? As to this sham-Mansion House Fund charity, too. Let our readers mark that the money is used to BUY GOVERNMENT BILLS ON CALCUTTA AND BOMBAY. This means that the pitiful £400,000 subscribed by those who proposed to extort £17,000,000 for direct government purposes out of India in this awful famine year will actually reduce the robbery to the sum of £16,600,000! What do you think of that for mean pretence? It is worthy of those who resort to every possible subterfuge to keep back the truth from the masses of Englishmen. We say again, that the millions who at this moment are being done to death by starvation in India are murdered by Lord George Hamilton and the British government, as much as if they were deliberately blown from guns by Christian British troops. We say more, if ever rebellion was justified in history—that rebellion is justified in India to-day. We tell the natives of India plainly—and we are glad to see from their papers that they follow our agitation closely—they have nothing whatever to hope from the governing classes or the House of Commons here. They will be starved and murdered to the end if they rely upon England as she is to-day. They must trust to themselves, and we will help them as far as we possibly can.—London "Justice."

The walls of a large New York restaurant, owned by a sanctimonious capitalist, are plastered over with quotations from the Bible, besides some other legends.

One of the biblical quotations runs thus: "Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord."

And right below it is a card-board bearing the following admonition: "Keep your eye on your hat and coat." Is not this capitalist system truly a breeder of hypocrisy, and its pillars filthy Pharisees?

The report that Terrence V. Powderly is to receive from McKinley the appointment of Commissioner of Immigration in Maryland has caused some astonishment. Those who are astonished base their astonishment upon the fact that Mr. Powderly is to-day thoroughly down in the labor movement. They ask, What good can Powderly now do McKinley; he has no influence in the labor movement; he no longer has any body to deliver; what is there left in him to buy?

This question is an insult to the capitalist class. With all its defects, that class has some virtues. Among these is the virtue of taking care of their played-out lackeys, and not letting them die of hunger outright. Mr. Powderly, if appointed, is not to be paid for what he will do, but for what he has done.

It is upon that prospect that the Gompers-Sovereign wing of the labor fakirs are banking for an old age in which drinks will not be too rare visitors.

MIDDLE CLASS FIGHTS.

Valuable Picture Drawn by Chicago Small Shopkeepers.

A Conference Held by Small Retailers to Draw up a Bill for the Legislature to Make the Department Stores an Impossibility Breaks up by Going to Smash Against the Fact that the Small Man and the Big Man are Both Branches of the Tree of Capital and belong together.

Professional and magazine article writers have betrayed a very dull scent of late in not exploiting the wrangle that is going on in Chicago among small store keepers. These writers have been miffing an A. No. 1 opportunity for the display of the usual flippantly critical articles they love to write on the several phases of the social question. In this matter our professional pundits also have been negligent.

The mammoth department stores of Chicago have done more for civilization than simply to demonstrate the economies that are possible under concentrated efforts, and thereby to bring the social revolution one step nearer. They have also, though indirectly, furnished an illustration of the oneness of class interests.

Owing to the ravages made on the small stores by the large department stores, the latter sought to organize against the "Monster." To do that they had to proceed upon the theory that their interests and those of the "Monster" had nothing in common. This, however, is a grave error of fact. The middle class and the upper capitalist class are hostile classes, true enough, yet they are both shoots of one trunk, the trunk of private ownership. As they both are planted on that principle, they are both capitalist classes. Two important conclusions follow therefrom.

In the first place all organizations of the middle class as such, against the upper capitalist class are insane, being unscientific, and, therefore, can not be perfected. This is the point that was excellently illustrated in the conferences held by the Chicago small store keepers.

They started stating that they were being ground down by the department stores, and they agreed to draft a bill that should prevent such stores from being set up. The trouble then commenced. What are the features of the department store? Large capital, for one. Could a bill be drafted that should forbid large capital from setting up a store? Of course not; none but a lunatic would propose such a thing; furthermore, not one of the small shopkeepers at the conference but was himself anxious to set up a large store; and not one of them but hoped that he would see that day. Was he to legislate against what he himself wished some day to do and thus forestall himself? Surely not. The "large capital" feature of the department store was accordingly left unassailed.

Another feature of the department store is that it combines several lines: it sells dry goods and vegetables, dairy articles and hardware, stationery and liquor. Could a bill be drawn up to prevent this? The conference thought so and shouted, yes. And then greater trouble came. There is not one small store keeper who could get along with a single line of goods as at one time; some join groceries and liquor, others join cigars and stationery, others join stationery and dry goods; and so forth and so on. The one who sold groceries and liquor would under no circumstances want one of his legs, so to speak, to be knocked from under him and insisted that these two are legitimate lines; but the one who joined dry goods and stationery had no interests that way and wanted that dry goods and stationery be declared kindred lines. On the other hand, the small shop keeper who had mainly stationery, and cigars only as a leader, objected furiously against joining dry goods and stationery, he felt that the other fellow would draw his stationery customers away with the dry goods. And so it went on with the result that the conference had to succumb to the law of their class. Being an offshoot of capitalism, the hand of each necessarily had to be raised against all, and the weapon of all being capital the victory must remain with capitalism. The experience of the small Chicago shop keeper's conference proves that the middle class is not a cohesive class on which can be built.

The second conclusion to be drawn is that the middle class can no more be looked to than the upper capitalist class as a source of protection by the proletariat. Throughout the conference the only question was how to get the larger share of the feelings. It was a combined fight of small property-holders and labor-skinners against the large property-holders and against one another.

The working class alone stands upon ground that logically assails its oppressors, it alone proceeds upon principles that can hold it together and bring on victory.

Owing to the large demand there has been for the issues of THE PEOPLE containing the "Lapses" articles, which expose the knavery of the officers and leaders of the International Cigar-makers' Union, and the numerous requests that have come in for their reproduction, the two articles will be republished next week.

TERMS TO SUBSCRIBERS

Invariably in advance: One year, \$1.00; Six months, .60; Three months, .30.

As far as possible, rejected communications will be returned if so desired and stamps are enclosed.

Entered as second class matter at the New York, N. Y., Post office, on April 6th, 1891.



SOCIALIST VOTE IN THE UNITED STATES.

In 1888 (Presidential)..... 2,068; In 1890..... 15,331; In 1892 (Presidential)..... 21,157; In 1894..... 33,153; In 1896 (Presidential)..... 36,564.

It is better and a deal juster, seeing that we are all brothers, united by the bonds of blood and of nature that property should be shared equally by all. If any one wishes to appropriate everything to himself, be the sole owner and to exclude his brothers of a third or even a fourth of the wealth, such a man is no longer a brother; he is an inhuman tyrant, a cruel barbarian, even a savage beast whose jaws are always stretched to devour the food that belongs to all.

St. Gregory of Nyssa.

LET'S UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER.

From Lohn, Tex., we have received the following communication, that deserves some attention.

To the Editor of THE PEOPLE:—The following is a resolution which was adopted at Lohn, Tex., by the Lohn People's Party Club:

RESOLVED, That we, the Populist Club of Lohn, Tex., send friendly greetings to the Socialist Labor party club recently organized at San Antonio, Tex.

The preceding is sent to you for publication in THE PEOPLE.

It is just because we appreciate the good intentions that breathe through this resolution, and through the act of forwarding it here for publication, that we deem the occasion fit for a few plain words.

The political arena is not a ball room. In a ball room one single couple would feel lonesome. It is a feature of the ball room that many couples whirl on its floor simultaneously, and, what is more, in perfect accord. In the ball room one common harmonious impulse animates the dancers; collisions are not looked for but carefully avoided; the enjoyment of each is the certain measure of the enjoyment of all.

It is just the reverse with the political arena, and, when that is not the case, it is a certain sign of political stagnation and corruption. In epochs of healthy political life, a political party has a mission to fulfill; something that is in force is to be thrown out or upheld; something that is not in force is to be established or resisted. At such periods each political party—be it enlisted in behalf of or against the things that be—says as clearly as is possible: "None other but myself is entitled to the field; I am in the field to overthrow all others; the simple fact of my existence is a denial of the right to live of any other." The political party that can contemplate with equanimity the existence of an adversary, and can exchange kisses with it, is not a party built on principle, but a party built for political log-rolling. All political parties of historic importance aim at the upholding of an existing principle or at the extermination of such, and, with such extermination, at the establishment of a new.

The days we are living in are the days of strong political pulsations. Two principles are contending for supremacy—The one, now in force, is the principle of the private ownership of the things man needs to work with; it is the principle that to the robbers belong the spoils; it is, in short, the principle of wage slavery that condemns the majority to arduous toil and privation, while a criminal few enjoy luxury in idleness. This principle is the principle of CAPITAL. The other principle is that he who works may live, and he who does not shall die the death; it is the principle, consequently, that demands the public ownership of the means of production, without which robbery is inevitable; it is the principle of SOCIALISM. The two cannot live together. One or the other must bite the dust.

In our own country, as in all other so-called civilized countries, there is only one party that stands squarely and uncompromisingly upon the principle of Socialism, and that demands the unconditional surrender of CAPITAL. All other parties either pointedly uphold capitalism or waver on the question. There can be no love lost between the Socialist Labor party and any other. At great critical epochs, he who is not right is wrong; there can be no "in between."

It is one of the hardest things to-day to get two men who call themselves Populists to agree upon a definition of the term or the aim of the thing. Recognizing this, we wish to believe that the Lohn, Tex., Populist Club has discovered how mixed up the crowd is from

principle for which it wishes to fight is straight out Socialism, and that the camp it should be in is the camp of the S. L. P. We wish, accordingly, to think that the greetings it sends are but a forerunner of its application for enrollment on the list of our party's organization. So interpreting its greetings, we receive and give them publication.

We repeat, these are not the piping days of peace, nor is the issue that is upon one that allows of dalliance. It concerns the lives of the men and women, together with their children, who toil; it concerns the existence of the nation; it concerns the fate of civilization.

ALL FUN AND NO TROUBLE.

The capitalist class is getting things fixed in such a way that it may illustrate Socialist principles more and more clearly. That certainly is a commendable spirit.

It first established its stock corporations whereby the Socialists could without difficulty prove that the capitalist did no work. Before a concern becomes a stock corporation the fact that the boss is an idler and parasite does not strike the eye with sufficient force. Some false appearances are preserved that give a color to the false claim that the boss does do some work in his factory. The stock corporation tears away all false appearances on this head. Even a blind man can realize that a stockholder in a dozen different concerns spread over as many different lines, and who does not even know exactly where these concerns are situated, is nothing but a parasite living on the wealth he absorbs without working for.

There still remained a claim set up by professorial economists in behalf of the capitalist. He had responsibilities, we were told. The capitalist courts now leave their professorial confrères in the cold, and speak the capitalists free of even responsibility.

The Courts of Illinois have just decided that, where a passenger is injured on a train his only redress is against the employees, not the company.

Free from work, free from responsibility, our capitalists stand now upon the industrial stage of the country and plump and plain ask the people:

"Kindly tell us what earthly use there is of us?"

So say we, too, and propose to give the answer in short order, equally plump and plain.

POLITICAL and ECONOMIC.

It is not for the purpose of crushing still more than he now is that we propose to pick up ex-Senator Peffer and expose him once more to public view by quoting from his paper the Topeka, Kans., "Advocate." Our purpose is to turn Peffer to the most practical and valuable use that can be made of him, to wit, to illustrate through him the utter unreliability of the spokesmen for the middle class as instruments for the improvement of the condition of the working class.

No paper in the country ever was or continues to be more malignant towards Populism than the New York "Sun." In all the fierceness of our attacks against Populism in general, and Peffer in particular, our arguments were and continue such as properly proceed from a camp that is conscious of the justice of its cause, and consequently, never betray, as the upper capitalist adversaries of Populism do, that viciousness and malignity that proceed from and are the unerring mark of conscious rascality towards former accomplices. No line on Populism ever appeared or appears now in the "Sun" but bears this tell-tale earmark in a more marked way than similar arguments do in other upper capitalist papers. This notwithstanding, the Topeka "Advocate" now publishes an advertisement of the "Sun."

But this is not all; this may even be apologized for on the ground of "business." In addition to the advertisement, the "Advocate" contains this editorial puff on the "Sun":

"Charles A. Dana's 'Sun' has a wide-spread reputation for RELIABLE NEWS. A line of ten words, printed in every edition and every copy of the paper, has for years and years proclaimed this characteristic feature of the great journal: 'IF YOU SEE IT IN THE SUN, IT'S SO.' In another column of the 'Advocate' the reader will find the 'Suns' card."

These few lines tell a tale of the thickness of volumes. The representatives of the middle class are for sale, the upper capitalist class may purchase them any time it wants. The seemingly revolutionary language held by these middle class spokesmen has for its sole object to bluff the upper capitalists and frighten them into a purchase; and, to this end, and this end alone, the middle class leaders are profuse in expressions of love for the workers and promises of relief.

If the symbol of the upper capitalist class is the bloody fist of a ruffian, the symbol of the middle class politician is a dirty dish-cloth.

From neither can the proletariat expect any thing but a tanning.

The Spokane, Wash., "Freemans Labor Journal" should promptly remove the motto that heads its first page: "For the masses against the classes."

more dangerously misleading than it would seem at first blush.

Of course, the people who work are the large majority, and those who loaf are a frail minority; a majority may well be designated as the masses, but the word "classes" can by no means be applicable to a minority. If one chooses to designate the overwhelming working majority with the term "the Masses," then the minority must be designated with the term "the Few." The "Masses" are no less a class than the "Few." The "Masses" are the proletariat or working class; the "Few" are the bourgeoisie or capitalist class.

To speak of the one as the "classes" and the other as the "masses" is to use language that either ignores or denies the sociologic fact that modern society consists of three classes:

- 1. The capitalist—the robber and idle class; 2. The middle class—a class that would like to be idle and to rob as much as the upper class, but is kept from its ideal because it has not enough capital, and is being rapidly expropriated; and 3. The proletariat or working class—the class that does all the mental and manual work needed for production, that produces all the wealth, but is robbed of its products because it has been robbed of the needed capital to produce with.

The social question involves the class struggle of these three classes; the solution of the social question lies in the victory of the working class, because its program alone can wipe out class rule and exploitation.

He who uses the term "masses against classes," ten to one, is ignorant of the existence of the modern class struggle; and as a result of that, he will, ten to one, fall into serious tactical errors.

The social question is a scientific question; accuracy of terminology is essential to success.

The Cleveland, O., "Citizen," being recently attacked by a Colorado paper as a Socialist paper, and, "therefore," as "an enemy of unionism," answers with this well aimed blow:

"Socialists who are wage-workers are, as a rule, identified with labor organizations; generally they are the most active workers in the ranks, and their loyalty to the labor cause cannot be honorably questioned. If a poll could be taken of all the voters in this country, it would be found that the largest per cent. of union men in any party is in the Socialist Labor party. No one acquainted with the labor movement in the United States can safely dispute that claim, and, therefore, Socialists should not be maligned and discredited by opponents who ought to be willing to be fair and decent.

"Furthermore, Socialists hold that the labor unions are class-conscious organizations, and that they are formed for the purpose of securing to the laboring-class a greater portion of its product. But the unions are handicapped by the power of government controlled by the capitalist class, aside from the fact that the workers are propertyless and confronted by concentrated, conscious and autocratic capitalism upon the economic fields. The disadvantage under which labor is placed is enormous, and for this reason the Socialist says the class-conscious economic movement must be accompanied by a class-conscious political movement that will seize the various branches of government and conduct them in the interest of the working people.

"For this laudable ambition Socialists are often denounced by the reactionary and gompersque conservatives as wild theorists, dreamers, etc. But if they were not ignoramuses they would know that in all history the radicals and progressists were likewise condemned and reviled, and still great, growing principles could not be crushed out. Therefore, the Socialists, understanding the historical aspect of society, allied with the greatest altruistic movement that has ever been given to the world, hurl back into the teeth of their detractors the charge that they can see no good in trade unionism, and declare further that they will neither ask or give quarter to capitalistic and political scabism even though hell freezes over."

The "Shoe & Leather Reporter," organ of the bosses in the shoe industry, is greatly assisting us to show that the bosses and the "pure and simple" labor leaders are hand in glove, both working to the common end of keeping down the rank and file of the workers.

The Lynn Lasters' Union was having its election for secretary. Comrade Carter ran on an outspoken Socialist Trade & Labor Alliance platform. In its issue of last March 25th, the "Shoe & Leather Reporter" took sides against Carter. It said:

"It will be for the welfare of the city of Lynn if this official (Comrade Carter) is succeeded by a new man March 30, on which date it is expected that the Lasters' Union will elect a secretary for another year. No walking delegate ever in Lynn has created the same amount of trouble as Carter. He is very extreme in his opinions and is a pronounced Socialist."

The Lynn Lasters' Union did not take the bosses' hint, and on the 20th of March elected Comrade Carter. In the sorrow of his heart, and feeling the New Trade Unionist slap in its face, the "Shoe & Leather Reporter" speaks of Carter's victory in this wise:

"Secretary Carter, of the Lasters' Union, was re-elected to that position the past week, after a very close contest, defeating his nearest competitor by only thirteen votes. Had the two forces against Carter combined he would have been defeated."

There are still more weepful items in the ink-stand of the "Shoe & Leather Reporter."

The receipt of a sample copy of this paper is an invitation to subscribe.

A TIP TO PARIAHS. Standing Armies and Their Economic Relation to the Working Class.

As a Greenbacker and subsequent Populist, I could in those days find no language sufficiently strong to express my detestation of standing armies in general, not only from an altruistic but also from an economic standpoint. Of late, however, while I still despise the spirit that prompts the organization and maintenance of standing armies, also the demoralizing effect of the war-like spirit they engender, I have come to the conclusion that, from an economic standpoint, the burdens of the proletarian class are not increased by the standing armies of the world, especially in countries whose industrial system is under the influence and control of the capitalist class. My change of opinion arises from the fact that, as a member of the organizations above mentioned, I viewed the industrial question through middle class spectacles, while now, as a Socialist, I view it through the spectacles of the proletarian class interests.

As a member of these middle class organizations, I judged all questions from the effect they had or might have on this particular class. To me, at that time, this class constituted the bulwark of society; indeed, it constituted society itself. The universe centered in it, and revolved around it. To me it then seemed that whatever affected the interest of this class either favorably or unfavorably, affected the whole human family favorably or unfavorably—excepting the plutocratic class, these having by their greed separated themselves from humanity, at least so it seemed to me, at that time.

As a result of this system of thought, I believed that whatever increased the taxes of the people—and, by the "people," I meant the middle class—without giving in return a just equivalent, was a detriment and injury to the whole people. As standing armies in times of peace did this very thing, I therefore argued they must of necessity be an injury to the whole people. In fact every dollar expended for such purpose seemed to me pure robbery, no other term so fittingly described my feeling.

I contended that, were the standing armies of the world to disband, the men, who were being drilled and taught, at the expense of the tax-payers, to kill and slaughter each other, would then, under the regime of peace, become useful members of society, in fact, would be transferred from the armies of destruction into the armies of construction, and as a result peace and plenty would reign supreme. It did not occur to me then that already there were millions of men and women outside of these armies of destruction who were anxious and willing to enlist into the army of construction on most any terms that would guarantee to them a mere subsistence, and that sign boards were then sticking up all over the land, and all over the world, heralding the fact to all seekers after useful employment that no more recruits were needed. I never thought, were the armies of destruction to disband, but what there would be ample opportunity for the men composing these armies, to join the armies of construction, until I became a Socialist, and then it was sometime before I came to see that from an economic standpoint the armies of the world, no matter what their effect upon the middle class, did not tend to increase the burdens of the proletarian class.

A question by a boy, a short time since, as to the economic effect of the standing army of Germany upon the laboring people of that country, first caused me to view these armies from a different standpoint. The following are the conclusions I came to in regard to the economic relation these armies bear to the laboring class of all countries under the capitalist system:

Labor, being a merchandise under the capitalist or wage system, is subject to the same law of supply and demand, as are all other merchandise under this system. Under the operation of this law, whenever the supply of any merchandise exceeds the demand for it, the price of that particular merchandise tends to fall. As a result of the introduction of labor-saving machinery, the merchandise labor power has been for years, is at present, and must continue to be in the future—so long as the wage system lasts—a drug on the market. Hence its selling price is and has been tending to the bare cost of producing it, namely: a sum that will purchase for the laborer a mere subsistence and at the same time enable him to bring into existence and rear another wage slave to take his place, when he has become unfit to meet the exacting demands of his employer, the capitalist.

The millions of idle men and women to-day—in this and all other capitalistic countries—prove that there are not enough jobs to go around and furnishes conclusive evidence that, were the standing armies of the world to disband to-morrow, these men would be simply so many new competitors for the situations of those who now have employment. It is a fact that the labor question proper in this country entered upon its present acute stage with the disbanding of the Federal armies in 1866. All civilized countries have reached that stage in their development where the dominant or capitalist class are unable—no matter how philanthropic their intentions—to furnish employment to the whole proletarian class outside the standing armies, to say nothing about those belonging to it, were these too suddenly thrown on the labor market of the world.

The standing armies and navies belong to the same great class as do the police, the executives, the legal fraternity, and the household domestics, namely, to the servant class, all of which live as so many parasites of their patron, the capitalist class, which in turn fleeces all from labor.

This servant class is to the capitalist class a necessary evil that they would gladly dispense with, if they could. Were it possible for them to rid themselves of the burdens of these lackies, the capitalist, not the laboring class, would derive the benefit. This servant class—as so many parasites upon the capitalist class—are co-consumers of the surplus wealth that the capitalists have already fleeced from labor, and thus aid in keeping down the too rapid accumulation of labor's products, and

severity of the "crisis pléthorique," or modern industrial panics, and thereby tend to give to those who have work more constant employment. Were it possible for the capitalist class to substitute machinery for this servant class, as a whole, they would still continue to exploit from productive labor all the wealth produced by it over and above a bare subsistence, and if possible—on account of the increased competition engendered by two or three million men thus being thrown onto the labor market of the world—the exploitation would be more severe than at present.

While the police of all capitalist countries are but so many watch-dogs to keep the capitalists from robbing each other, and the proletarian class from compelling the capitalist class to disgorge their stolen treasure, the standing armies of the world are but enlarged editions of this same breed of animals, kept and petted by the paid agents of capitalism, to wit, the governments of the world, to prevent the capitalists of one country from being robbed and fleeced by those of all other countries; and the navies of the world are simply huge constabularies for the purpose of collecting foreign debts.

So long as Labor is to be robbed it is immaterial to the proletarian class who has the peaches and cream that is garnered by their toil; and could the comrades of this country be as successful in their propaganda among the military forces, as have they been in Belgium, France and Germany—where it is said, a large percentage of the armies are thoroughly inculcated with Socialism—I am not so certain, but what it might strengthen our cause in this country, and at the same time be the means of relieving much destitution and misery, could at least one million of the unemployed be transferred to the United States regular army, and in this way compel capitalism to support in idleness out of its stolen treasure those that the system, which it maintains, is unable to furnish useful employment to.

I offer this suggestion to the labor fakirs as a substitute for their anti-emigration laws.

H. S. ALEY, M. D.

Lincoln, Neb.

Captain H. W. Reed, of Georgia, not many months ago an enthusiastic member of the Pop. Bryan National Committee, has abandoned the noble intention of "emancipating the people," and has become a gold bug. Whence this transformation? Let those who deny the Socialist principle that a capitalist's political views are the exhalations of his pockets listen to Captain Reed himself. He says:

"I have gone into gold mining. It is now the money metal of the world, and as a business man I refuse to shut my eyes to facts. I have found in Mexico one which runs to the fabulous value of forty-five ounces to the ton, or \$900. Labor there is only 62 cents a day in Mexican money. This gives a saving of \$2.50 a day on that score over mining in the United States. Timber is cheap and water is abundant. I intend to return to Mexico next month and develop my business there."

Here we have a man, who, in veritable paroxysms of indignation at the smallness of the wages of the poor working class, called upon the workers to vote for Bryan, now licking his chops at the cheapness of labor in Mexico, and ready to grow wealthy by fleecing the poorly paid workers.

The circular which the capitalists are sending to Congress against the Supreme Court decision on the Trans-Missouri case has passages in it that deserve to be memorized. We are in full accord with the principle that they utter, and, memorizing them, we shall have occasion to apply those principles at a time when this very gentry will be howling about the "sanctity of the courts," as a means to bluff the American proletariat and frighten it against enforcing its rights. Some of the passages run thus:

"If a jury in an important case cannot render a decision on the evidence submitted, the judge presiding sends them out for further consideration, and the minority are apt to be designated as obstinate jurors, even though they are acting as their conscience dictates. It would seem that the interests of the owners of one-fifth of the wealth of the United States ought to have the privilege of sending the highest jury in our land out again for further deliberation when a question of great moment is decided by a vote which is almost a tie, and when the question is one based purely on points of law."

SWEET MCKINLEY

OR The Labor Fakir's Appeal.

AIT: "SWEET MABLE." Written for THE PEOPLE by T. A. HICKLY, Brooklyn.

I've a secret in my heart, Sweet McKinley, That I desire to impart All to thee.

'Tis about the S. T. & L. A.; We are having the devil to pay, So no dues are coming our way, Sweet McKinley.

Many salt tears I have shed, Sweet McKinley, For the "Phillips' Bill" is dead, Don't you see? A grave danger for me does lurk; That makes me angry as a Turk; 'Tis that I'll have to go to work, Sweet McKinley.

When I take your hand in mine, Sweet McKinley, Thoughts of boodle most divine Float over me. In the past my class I sold For your shining, yellow gold; Now I'm out in the cold, Sweet McKinley.

As you sit in the White House chair, Sweet McKinley, Kindly listen to the prayer Of poor little me: I'm as humble as a Quaker, Of any job I'll be a taker; Oh! pity the Labor Fakir, Sweet McKinley.



UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN.

Brother Jonathan—I'd like to know upon what principle Socialists claim that the working class should have all the wealth, and the capitalist class none.

Uncle Sam—Upon the very simple principle that the working class does all the work of production and the capitalist does none.

B. J.—Go away!

U. S.—Whither?

B. J.—I don't care whither in particular. That's not so!

U. S.—What's not so?

B. J.—That the capitalists do not work.

U. S.—If you know of any who does, let me know.

B. J.—Did you ever hear of Jay Gould?

U. S.—Yes.

B. J.—Did you ever read his biography?

U. S.—Several of them, and they prove my statement.

B. J.—You must have been asleep while reading them; or you must have read very imperfect ones.

U. S.—Neither.

B. J.—Why, I remember distinctly that it is recorded in the one I read that he used to work regularly 16 hours a day.

U. S.—puts his hands to his hips and roars.

B. J.—What are you roaring about?

U. S.—At your blunder. I now see the funny error that you have fallen in.

B. J.—What error?

U. S.—You are getting mixed up on the word "work." See here. Does a pickpocket "work," or does he not?

B. J.—Guess he does.

U. S.—Does a pirate "work," or does he not?

B. J.—Guess he does.

U. S.—Does a forger "work," or does he not?

B. J.—I guess, he, too, works.

U. S.—Now, don't you yet see the difference between "work" and "work"?

B. J. puckers his eyelids as if a flood of light is pouring into his eyes.

U. S.—All exertion may be termed "work." But there are two sorts of exertions:

One sort is productive of benefits to society; it either directly enriches its store of wealth or of knowledge, or it does so indirectly. This sort of exertion is the work done by the working class.

Another sort of exertion is productive of nothing, at least of nothing that is good, and may be productive of much that is bad. Not an additional blade of grass, or an additional shoe string, not one particle of the material wealth needed by man is brought forth by the exertion of the pirate, the forger, the pickpocket or any other criminal, nor does their exertion bring forth one bit of useful knowledge. The exertion of all such people does only this; it transfers to their own pockets the wealth created by the productive work of others. This sort of exertion is the work of the capitalist class.

B. J.—Well, that throws a new light upon the question.

U. S.—The capitalist class does not do any useful work. It schemes, indulges in tricks by which it transfers from the hands of the working class the wealth that these produce, and its several members cudgel their brains and "work" 16 or more hours a day upon fraudulent devices to cheat one another.

This sort of work, so far from being entitled to any reward, is entitled only to severe punishment. That's why we Socialists say that the capitalists are entitled to nothing except to bolts and bars.

B. J.—If that's the only sort of work they do they surely deserve the prison.

U. S.—On the other hand, the intellectual and manual workers, the working class exerts itself in the interest of life. Its mental and manual efforts do all the needed thinking and produce all the material things that civilized man aspires to and that life requires. That's why we Socialists say that all the wealth belongs to the working class.

B. J.—So say I, now.

U. S.—Don't ever again allow yourself to be deceived by the words that capitalists and their hirelings fling about. WORK is noble. No capitalist works, except in the sense of the multimillionaire father in the following story:

Multimillionaire to applicant for his daughter's hand—"Do you work, sir?"

Applicant for the hand of multimillionaire's daughter—"I do, sir."

Multimillionaire to applicant for his daughter's hand—"Whom do you work?"

The Terre Haute, Ind., "Railway Times" has this to say on the attitude taken by the Socialist Labor party:

"To socialists it must be a source of satisfaction to observe that the trend of thought in the ranks of students of affairs is in support more or less directly of their theories. Even those who oppose socialism, in discussing ways and means to improve present conditions are compelled to indorse socialistic propositions. NECESSARILY SO, BECAUSE SOCIALISTS HAVE PRE-EMPTED ALL THE FACTS AND ALL THE LOGIC AVAILABLE IN MAPPING OUT THE HIGHWAYS OF ARGUMENT WHICH LEAD TO PERMANENT REFORM."

This is a good evidence of the wisdom of never compromising, but boldly and persistently preaching the full truth and acting upon those lines. Only in such a way can truth be hammered into the heads of men.

The receipt of a sample copy of this paper is an invitation to subscribe.

FACTS VS. BRAUSTREETS

Common Sense From a Winnipeg, Canada, Businessman to Businessmen Showing Necessity of Socialism.

There have been for many years past two great factors in the moulding of popular or current thought. To these we refer by the name of the "pulpit and the press." To such extent as they have created (or even upheld) current thought, they are responsible for the conditions of life which exist around us. Men are so constructed that it always remains true that we uphold the things to which we take no exception. If men could only learn the deep, strong force which lies in thought, I am sure there would not be that apparent reticence upon the part of business men to speak out concerning the things that vitally interest them. It is a noticeable fact that those whom we refer to as "business men" are very slow indeed to speak out upon public questions. This is not much to be wondered at, seeing that each merchant lives in a kind of mental Siberia, where, even in this professedly "free" country with professedly "free" institutions, it may mean commercial suicide to speak the things that are in our minds. But there is one thing sure, and that is that our silence as "business men" has allowed others to speak without contradiction upon subjects concerning which their remarks have always betrayed a lamentable ignorance of the facts in the case. Thus the coils of a destroying monster have been slowly but surely wrapped around us, until we are at last forced to cry out by sheer force of our situation. The writer remembers, when a school boy, writing as a headline at writing practice "competition is the life of trade." Had he written "competition is the soul of commerce" and "commerce is the death of trade," I think a goodly number would consent to it that it would have been much nearer the truth than the headline in our copy-books.

We learn the truth or falsehood of any statement by experience alone; and I am satisfied that "business men" in any line will be found to admit that the old-fashioned headline is a glaring lie! This is what we will admit in secret; but are somewhat shy about proclaiming upon the houseposts. Though the gigantic trusts and monopolies which have been formed by previously warring business men are the best evidence to the rest of the public that we do not believe in the truth of the maxim so much as we did, the "war of competition" between the proprietors of cotton mills was what brought about the combination known as the Dominion Cotton Mills Co. The war between manufacturers of wool cotton was what has caused several of the larger concerns to recently amalgamate their forces. When we look the situation square in the face, we know that from the perishable nature of all classes of goods we are forced to sell—at a profit if we can; but if not, then at a loss. Any man in modern commerce knows perfectly well that no man in business is responsible for the competition and cutting of prices which exists. If he does not know it, then he should learn it at once; for it is a naked truth. Of course none will plead guilty to the charge of cutting. It is always "the other fellow." This is nonsense pure and simple; it is all of us. Any one denying it does not know (or else does not consider) all the facts. Whether a man is a millionaire or otherwise, it matters not. The buying public are out for "bargains," and the house or firm which convinces the public that it is the firm or house which will give them the best and most for their money is the house that sells—whether at a profit or at a loss. We are all in it; if not, we will soon be out of it—perhaps sooner than not being "in it" than "out of it." Any business man knows these things—stated in general—are facts. Under such circumstances I ask: What can be the only results?

I have an article before me entitled "Success in Commerce," in which the writer records that, based upon "actual experience" in the city of Boston, not more than three in one hundred achieved independence. An experience of forty years had proven that only five in one hundred remained. The others "had either failed or died destitute of property. That ninety per cent. of all the estates settled in the Probate Court were insolvent. That "not more than one per cent. of the best class of merchants in Philadelphia and New York retired with a competence." In "Cincinnati a journalist prepared a list of leading business men, and, after the lapse of twenty years, it gave an unbroken list of failures."

This article tells us in only two plain language words that the "results" are; and the Toronto "Globe" is responsible for the article in its edition of May 27, 1896. Now, what we need to get at, if these things are true, is a solution of the question: Are men and merchants responsible for their own bankruptcy, or are we working under laws and conditions wherein the inevitable results (to at least a large proportion in the present and the small minority in the near future) will be bankruptcy? We cannot go into details in a paper necessarily the length of this one; but when only three to five per cent. are successful we are obliged to admit either one or two things:

First—That the other 95 to 97 per cent. of business men are fools; or, Second—That they are living under laws made by (either) fools or knaves. We can take which ever horn of the dilemma we like; but there we are, the dilemma is evident; we can only submit the logical conclusion that either we are "mostly fools" or else our legislation is the work of fools, or—that is more pitiable—knaves. In charity we are obliged to think that our legislators are not knaves; and in equal charity to ourselves we can scarcely credit merchants as being "95 to 97 per cent. fools."

At this point I wish to deal with Messrs. Bradstreet's report or "study of the causes of commercial failures," published recently. In 1896 there were 2,294 failures in Canada, according to Bradstreet's. The various causes assigned were these: "Incompetence, 298; inexperience, 91; lack of capital, 1,481; unwise credit, 31; failure of others, 22; extravagance, 8; neglect, 48; competition, 63; disaster, 1,577; speculation, 17; fraud, 80."

There have been for many years past two great factors in the moulding of popular or current thought. To these we refer by the name of the "pulpit and the press." To such extent as they have created (or even upheld) current thought, they are responsible for the conditions of life which exist around us. Men are so constructed that it always remains true that we uphold the things to which we take no exception. If men could only learn the deep, strong force which lies in thought, I am sure there would not be that apparent reticence upon the part of business men to speak out concerning the things that vitally interest them. It is a noticeable fact that those whom we refer to as "business men" are very slow indeed to speak out upon public questions. This is not much to be wondered at, seeing that each merchant lives in a kind of mental Siberia, where, even in this professedly "free" country with professedly "free" institutions, it may mean commercial suicide to speak the things that are in our minds. But there is one thing sure, and that is that our silence as "business men" has allowed others to speak without contradiction upon subjects concerning which their remarks have always betrayed a lamentable ignorance of the facts in the case. Thus the coils of a destroying monster have been slowly but surely wrapped around us, until we are at last forced to cry out by sheer force of our situation. The writer remembers, when a school boy, writing as a headline at writing practice "competition is the life of trade." Had he written "competition is the soul of commerce" and "commerce is the death of trade," I think a goodly number would consent to it that it would have been much nearer the truth than the headline in our copy-books.

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neighbors. We have around us on every hand the things needed for our enjoyment. Labor is the only thing we need to continue an abundant supply for all. This supply, or the products of labor—food, clothing, shelter, etc.—is the only real wealth, as labor is the only true capital invested. The whole people, who must produce and exchange, must control the production and the means or methods of exchange. We must cease to be dependent upon any part of the whole for a means of exchange. Money is a fraud—a delusion and a snare. It is an invention for the purpose of avoiding labor upon the part of its possessors, and forcing it upon those who lack it. Let us at once correct the mistakes of the past by recognizing the necessity for co-operative labor upon the part of all—national co-operation. In it there can be no "bank"ruptcy, because there are no banks to break. Neither will there be any assignees or mercantile agencies awaiting like vultures for carion. "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people," saith the Scriptures. Sin is transgression of divine or national law. Both these read: "Thou shalt care for thy neighbor as thou carest for thyself." Anything else means poverty to some; and one is as likely to be the victim as another. Let us then prove our Christianity. "By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples if ye have love one of another."—Winnipeg, Canada, "People's Voice."

LETTER BOX.

Offhand Answers to Inquirers.

M. H. F., N. Y.—No, to both questions. "Sancta Simplicitas," Meadows, Fla.—First—The Marxian prediction which you quote: "Before the Nineteenth Century ends, the masses will be compelled to fight for collectivism or starve" will be substantially verified. Second—It is not necessary that each of one half the voters plus one should be actually firmly convinced and trained Socialists. The great events of the world were all accomplished by minorities acting timely, and thoroughly posted and determined. Historic seasons are like climatic seasons. Capitalism is creating the season that will drive the masses in rebellion against it. The S. L. P. will be the nucleus around which will gather, having been the steady beacon that all along shone in the midst of the storm. Fear not. We, this adult generation of Socialists, will bequeath to the generation below us and through them to the posterity of mankind a better world to live in than our fathers left to us. Well may we feel happy and proud of the task and the mission history has thrown upon us. Clemens Bernhardt, St. Louis, Mo.—Your order will be attended to by the Labor News Co., to whom it is passed over.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 11.—Section Washington was a few weeks ago addressed by J. Mahlon Barnes, of Philadelphia, whose subject was "Old and New Trades Unionism." There was a large audience present, who applauded Comrade Barnes every point. He scored the old importation from England, the "pure and simple" scheme, and its leading advocates, such as Gompers & Co. The papers both contained pretty good accounts of the meetings, and gave a fair report of what Barnes said. The fakirs of the A. F. of L., who moved their headquarters to this town, are being hard pushed at present. Only last week, at their own headquarters in their own building, they were told, while a meeting was in progress, that they were a lot of lunatic-steering fakirs. They have also been foiled in an attempt to wreck a union here which is opposed to them, and take it all in all, the following letter, which explains itself, has but added to their woes: "Mr. Samuel Gompers, President, A. F. of L. "Dear Sir—On Sunday, March 21, J. Mahlon Barnes, of Philadelphia, lectured at Labor Bureau Hall, 609 C Street, N. W., on the subject of 'Old and New Trades Unionism.' You are invited to be present and join in the after discussion. With your unique and faultless knowledge of history, both ancient and modern, you will no doubt be able to intelligently discuss the lecture, thereby giving pleasure and gratification to the audience who will be present. A large-hearted, generous man like you, who has devoted all his life, since a tender age, to the cause of labor, would, so we think, be pleased to make use of this opportunity to appear at the lecture with some practical utterances on the question to be discussed. "We, of course, understand that your forte is "practicability," and can judge from your appearance that you have made a personal success of that forte, so that in again requesting you to be present, we further recognize your great ability for discussing in an intelligent manner any subject from a "practical" standpoint. Yours, etc., "ARTHUR KEEP, "Organizer, Section Washington, S.L.P. Mr. Gompers did not turn up.

Minnesota.

ST. PAUL, Minn., April 5.—On Sunday, the 4th Section St. Paul, S. L. P., held their first open air meeting. It was a grand success. Hundreds of people stood in the drizzling rain to listen to the truths of Socialism uttered by Comrades Herbert Shaw and Daniel De Lory, of Minneapolis, and Comrades Corling and Potter, of St. Paul. The working people are ripe for Socialism, and we are determined to carry it to them by having open air meetings every Sunday afternoon. Our Paris Commune celebration was a perfect success, the hall being crowded. Section St. Paul is continually enrolling new names upon its list.

Committee on Charter.

The Committee on Charter and Awards begs to acknowledge receipt of a charter design signed "Carlo St. Elmo." Owing to April 18 being Easter Sunday, the meeting has been postponed to the following Sunday, the 25th, at 2 p. m., N. Y. Labor Lyceum. THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE.

SOLIDARITY OF CAPITAL.

The Language of the Bourgeois Press on the Trans-Missouri Decision. I have often thought what a good thing it would be for the hosts of workmen to be permeated with the same unanimity of feeling, when their interests are attacked, that pervades the capitalist class when their interests, or the interests of any of their number, are in danger. This was impressed upon my mind by the opinions of the different capitalist newspapers on the Supreme Court decision in the Trans-Missouri Freight Association case. Even those ostensibly in favor of the decision—more on account of attempts at being consistent with their past utterances than out of a love of justice—find something to chuckle at in it, ultimately proving a gain for capitalists and their ilk. The New York "Journal of Commerce" states that, until the Supreme Court decides on a similar case, namely, the Joint Traffic Association, which has been upheld by the Federal Courts, "We shall hesitate to accept the opinion delivered by Judge Peckham as putting an end to all possibility of a contract agreement between railroads to maintain rates. Such a conclusion we should regard as a disaster of the first magnitude, because, as experience has shown, in default of agreement among the railroads themselves, the Interstate Commerce law has but little influence in maintaining the equality of freight charges. It demands both steadiness of rates and active competition, things which necessarily kill each other. Now, if the Supreme Court is to range itself on the side of active competition, in the sense that EVERY SHIPPER WILL BE LEFT FREE TO EXPORT FROM THE RAILROADS AS LOW A RATE AS HE CAN, there is plainly nothing save a radical revision of the law between the transportation business and chaos. The prohibition of pooling or the maintaining of rates is adverse to the public interests, provided that the rates maintained are not unreasonable; and that they are uniform is far more important than that they should be reasonable." There is truly something very beautiful in that sentence: "Every shipper shall be left free to EXPORT from the railroads as low a rate as he CAN." How the railroad men must have smiled when they read that! "The New York "Evening Post," of file-dict fame, gets down in its corner, and emits the following shriek: "A glance at the anti-trust act of 1890 in the light of this opinion is enough to send a cold shudder down the back of any owner of property. Every contract, combination in the form of trust, or otherwise, in restraint of trade or commerce among the several States, or with foreign nations, is hereby declared to be illegal, and every such contract is made punishable by a \$5,000 fine or imprisonment for a year, or both." And then it concludes with these sad remarks: "It is now held that the most ordinary agreements of commerce may be punished as crimes, by Congress, without proof that they produce any evil effect whatever." This is a shocking state of affairs, indeed, and one can imagine the pious "drip" of the "Post" being broken down with grief, and tearfully bewailing the terrible disaster that has overtaken this nation, when Capital is asked to conform to a law on the statute books and no opportunity is offered to give labor the generous "rifle diet" prescribed to it by this same philanthropic individual. It is truly awful! Will not some one take pity on him? "The New York "World," which poses so often as the champion of workingmen and has thereby obtained a large circulation, after taking to itself a great deal of credit for the decision, states that no decision could do more to check "the dangerous tendency toward an aggressive socialism which was revealed in the last election." And then proceeds to pour more balm into the wound, which it thinks Capitalism has received, by the following: "As the Supreme Court is the strongest bulwark of property and rights as well as of personal rights, the combinations of capital that are disturbed by this decision should welcome it as distinctly for their ultimate good. By limiting their encroachments it will LIMIT THE REACTION against their encroachments. By reducing their oppression and injustice it will reduce the DANGER OF VIOLENT REMEDIES, worse than the disease." The Brooklyn "Eagle," the proud upholder of all the riotous and murderous acts of the State Militia, when used against the unarmed citizens of the State who object to the oppressive demands of Capital, gives vent to a covert threat to defy the Supreme Court by the "preservative instincts of business and of society" people, in the following: "If there is to be a universal recurrence to chaos and cut rates, the roads, their stockholders, their customers, and the people affected by them will be such sufferers that before long a remedy will have to be reached for the ills. If the pooling arrangements or the traffic understandings formerly reached averted all the malign results which, it is claimed, will be made not only possible, but actual, by the decision of the Supreme Court, then THE SELF-PRESERVATIVE INSTINCTS OF BUSINESS AND OF SOCIETY will assert themselves in the discovery of methods whereby a situation of prosperity can be restored and an imminence of disaster turned aside." Many other papers give opinions similar to those given above. While they all do not denounce the decision, they distinctly intimate that the decision must not stand, for if it does, these "law-abiding" gentlemen threaten disastrous consequences. They are the "best people," and while they are "law-abiding," so long as the law does not interfere with their little "peculiarities," directly it does, though, and makes an attempt to prove that they, as well as others, are amenable to the laws, then these "best people," these "law-abiding people" shriek and threaten the law and its officers with annihilation if they or it stand in the way of their desires. But on the other hand, if the "common people" deign to murmur against a law, then the shriek goes up, "give them the rifle diet," "give them grape and canister," "give them bayonet

if they do not respect the majesty of the law." And the "common people" echo the cry against their fellow-citizens who so murmur. Among the Socialists and New Trade Unionists alone will you find that solidarity of feeling that is so frequently exhibited among the capitalists. Outside of the S. L. P. some are like a flock of sheep astray in the wilderness, not knowing which way to turn; while others are like unto a pack of wolves ready to devour one another if wounded. E. M. McG. Brooklyn, April 12th. CORRESPONDENCE. Rising Tide in Newburg, N. Y. To THE PEOPLE—I make no doubt that the education you are giving and the object lessons the capitalists are furnishing, both of which are perceptibly changing the tone of the workers around here that they will soon come to their senses. I predict a large vote for our party from now on. Let me thank THE PEOPLE for the work it is doing in our noble cause; its columns splendidly show up crime and rascality, and points the way out. WILLIS HENRY, Newburg, N. Y., April 6. The Best Education We Have. To THE PEOPLE—Enclosed please find \$1 renewing my subscription to THE PEOPLE. The paper is good—good in its attitude of open war on Fakirdom, good in its uncompromising policy in politics, and best of all in its dealings with the great questions of the day. I would not be without it. In surveying the whole field of battle, and joyously noticing the great advances made everywhere, we know that much of it is due to THE PEOPLE and its staff. No workman ought to be without it. It is the very best educator we have. ED. LAUER, Montreal, Canada, April 5. Refuses to Play Decoy Duck. To THE PEOPLE—J. H. Clotey, of the Lynn Union No. 80, Boot and Shoe Workers' Union, having declined to stand as the candidate for president of his union, and been elected over his decision, refuses to accept the election. Some may think his conduct extreme; to me it looks proper. A class-conscious workman, that is to say, a New Trade Unionist, may justly, and often should, work along with his fellow wage earners, who, besides the yoke of wage slavery that they carry in common with him, carry also the yoke of "pure and simpledom." But there are circumstances when to accept such a leading office as that of President in a body that continues to cling tenaciously to the blunder of "pure and simpledom," would be on the part of a conspicuous New Trade Unionist an act very much akin to playing decoy duck. Clotey is an outspoken New Trade Unionist. I believe his conduct in this matter is wise and dignified. He wrote this final letter of declination to our union: "Lynn, Mass., Monday, April 5. "Unity Union No. 80, B. & S. W. U. "Fellow Members—I desire to reiterate the reasons why I declined to stand as a candidate for president of our union on the two occasions when your good opinion of my fitness for that position prompted you to thus honor me. The fact that you have elected me to the position in question in face of my plain declaration compels me to state as plainly as possible my reasons for declining the honor you have conferred upon me. "As a Socialist I decline to be the headpiece of any union that opposes the political union of the workers at the ballot box. This political union must be formed on class-conscious grounds, namely, that the purchaser of labor power has interests diametrically opposed to the interests of those who have only their labor power to sell. This being an indisputable fact, it becomes necessary for the latter class to clearly understand to which party they belong. The Republican party represents the capitalist class, the Democratic party represents the middle class. These two classes bear the same relation to the wage earning class as the horse leech does to its victim. The Socialist Labor party, to which I belong, demands the emancipation of the wage workers from wage slavery by the establishment of the Socialist Commonwealth through the ballot box. The members of this union are not ready to follow me in this line of dual unity of economics and politics. When the trades unions are ready to act on the lines laid down by Socialist workmen I am then willing to preside over their deliberations; until then I refuse to become a centre-piece for this or any such other body of workmen. Thanking you for the honor conferred, I remain, Fraternally yours, "JOHN H. CLOHECY." Happy of our Acquaintance. To THE PEOPLE—I have been receiving THE PEOPLE since September last, some one having paid a six months' subscription for me at that time. Please place the \$1 I now send to my credit. I will from time to time send you names and a little money to cover trial subscriptions as often as I can afford it. I am very thankful to Comrade Peare, of Lynn, who, I think, caused the paper to be sent to me, for I might still be groping my way in the darkness of the "Coming Nation" if it were not for him. I used to receive sample copies of THE PEOPLE in years gone by from friends and from the office direct, but I took little or no notice of them, simply because I thought the paper "too extreme." The continuous receipt of it drew my attention closer, and immediately I saw the clearness and absolute correctness of the position maintained by THE PEOPLE. Although from my heart I regretted exceedingly my inaction formerly, I saw that regrets of that kind were no use, so I quietly went to work for the S. L. P., and propose to continue my labors in that direction as long as the power is spared to me. Your article on the closing of last volume and the opening of this is clear and terse. Keep up the fight. JER. O'FHELIHY, Abbington, Mass., April 4. Hartford, Conn. J. Rossmel, 15 Hamilton street, is an authorized business agent for THE PEOPLE. All subscribers in arrears are requested to renew by him. A QUERE PICTURE. Drawn by the Master Hand of Alexander Dumas. We reproduce here, from one of Dumas' works, a passage that will go far to explain some contemporary phenomena. It describes a scene that took place in France at the time of Louis XIV., when the collection of the revenues of the kingdom used to be farmed out. The means by which official evil-doers managed to be "popular," the sort of apostles they had, and the staunch support such miscreants received from the clergy, these are all matters of historic record; in the below passage they are sketched and condensed into one short dialogue that tells the whole tale vividly. The two characters produced on the canvass are the Chief Minister of Finance, Fouquet, who had been sucking the country dry, and his brother, the Abbe, the Abbe. This is the dialogue between the two, opened by Fouquet, the Finance Minister, addressing his brother, the Abbe, who just calls upon him: "What can I do to serve you, Monsieur l'Abbe?" said he. "Oh! Oh! how you say that to me, brother!" "I speak it like a man who is in a hurry, Monsieur." The Abbe looked anxiously at Fouquet and said: "I have three hundred pistoles to pay to Monsieur de Brege this evening; a play debt—a sacred debt." "Next," said Fouquet bravely, for he comprehended that the Abbe Fouquet would not have disturbed him for such a want. "A thousand to my butcher, who will supply no more." "Next!" "Twelve hundred to my tailor," continued the Abbe; "the fellow has made me take back seven suits of my people's, which compromises my liveries, and my mistress talks of replacing me by a farmer of the revenue, which would be a humiliation to the church." "What else is there?" said Fouquet. "You will please to remark," said the Abbe, humbly, "that I have asked nothing for myself." "That is delicate, Monsieur," replied Fouquet; "so, as you see, I wait." "And I ask nothing, oh, no; it is not for want of need, though I assure you. The minister collected a mianne." "Twelve hundred pistoles to the tailor; that is a great deal for clothes," said he. "I maintain a hundred men," said the Abbe, proudly; "that is a charge, I believe." "Why a hundred men?" said Fouquet. "Are you a Richelieu or a Mazarin, to require a hundred men as a guard?" "What use do you make of these men? Speak—say." "And do you ask me that?" cried the Abbe Fouquet. "Ah! how can you put such a question—Why I maintain a hundred men? Ah!" "Why, yes; I do put that question to you. What have you to do with a hundred men? Answer." "Ingrate!" continued the Abbe, more and more affected. "Explain yourself." "Why, Monsieur le Surintendant, I only want one valet de chambre for my part, and even if I were alone could help myself very well; but you—you who have so many enemies—a hundred men are not enough for me to defend you with. A hundred men! You ought to have ten thousand. I maintain, then, these men in order that if public places, in assemblies, no voice may be raised against you; and without them, Monsieur, you would be loaded with imprecations, you would be torn to pieces, you would not last a week; no, not a week. Do you understand?" "Ah! I did not know you were my champion to such an extent, Monsieur l'Abbe." "You doubt it?" cried the Abbe. "Listen, then, to what happened not longer ago than yesterday in the Rue de la Hochette. A man was cheapening a fowl." "Well, how could that injure me, Abbe?" "This way: The fowl was not fat. The purchaser refused to give eighteen sous for it, saying that he could not afford eighteen sous for the skin of a fowl, of which Monsieur Fouquet had all the fat." "Go on." "The joke caused a deal of laughter," continued the Abbe; "laughter at your expense—death to all the devils!"—and the canaille were delighted." The joker added: "Give me a fowl led by Monsieur Colbert, if you please, and I will give you all you ask. And immediately there was a clapping of hands. A frightful scandal, you understand; a scandal which forces a brother to hide his face." "And you veiled it," said the Minister of France. "No; for it so happened I had one of my men in the crowd; a new recruit from the provinces, one Monsieur de Menneville, whom I like very much. He made his way through the press, saying to the joker: 'Mille Barbes! Monsieur the False Joker, here's a thrust for Colbert.'" "And one for Fouquet," replied the joker. Upon which they drew, in front of the cook's shop, with a hedge of the curious round them, and five hundred as curious at the windows." "Well!" said Fouquet. "Well, Monsieur, my Menneville spitted the joker, to the great astonishment of the spectators, and said to the cook: 'Take this goose, my friend; it is fatter than your fowl.' That is the way, Monsieur," ended the Abbe, triumphantly, "in which I spend my revenues. I maintain the honor of the family, Monsieur." Fouquet hung his head. "And I have a hundred as good as he," continued the Abbe. "Very well," said Fouquet, "hand in the bill to my clerk." Change names and offices and towns or streets, and we have the same thing now. Carless Speaks in Buffalo. Henry Carless will deliver a lecture, accompanied by numerous brilliant stereoscopic pictures, on Thursday, the 22d inst., at 8 p. m., in Turn Hall, 329 Ellicott street, near Genesee. Admission free.

PARTY NEWS.

Activity of Militant Socialists East, West, North and South.

National Executive Committee. At the session of April 13th all members were present, with Comrade Matchett in the chair. The financial report for the week ending April 10, shows receipts, \$70.25; expenditures, \$219.30; deficit, \$149.05. Labor News Co.: Receipts, \$148.68; expenditures, \$45.55; balance, \$103.13.

Relative to the general vote upon the Jewish press, it is resolved to open to party members a limited space for the discussion of the matter, and that the time for the close of the vote be extended to June 5th.

A communication from Jewish Section, Boston, is ordered printed in THE PEOPLE, with a reply of the Executive Committee. Charter is granted to a new Section in Mount Vernon, N. Y., composed of Italians, and to be designated as Section No. 2.

Comrade L. A. Malkiel is elected Recording Secretary in place of Comrade Copp, resigned.

At the session held April 6th, John H. Moore presided. Absent: Matchett, Copp and Senbert; all excused. The financial report for the week ending April 3d shows receipts to the amount of \$11.85; expenditures, \$171.61.

The Labor News Company reports receipts \$154.29, expenditures \$38.47, balance \$115.82.

The Secretary is instructed to have prepared a statement setting forth the position of the S. L. P. toward the trade unions.

Comrades Charles B. Copp sent in his resignation on account of ill health, and the Secretary is ordered to issue a call for nominations to fill the vacancy.

A charter is granted to a new Section located at Rockville, Conn.

L. A. MALKIEL, Rec. Sec. pro tem.

Call For Nomination to N. E. C.

To the Sections of Greater New York. The Sections located within the territory of the Greater New York are hereby called upon to make nominations for one member of the National Executive Committee in place of Comrade Charles B. Copp, who has resigned on account of ill health.

The organizers of the aforesaid Sections are requested to submit this matter at the next session of their respective bodies, and transmit the nominations then made to the undersigned not later than Saturday, May 1st, on which day the nominations close.

By order of the National Executive Committee.

HENRY KUHN, Secretary.

Call for a General Vote.

184 William Street, New York, March 20, 1897.

To the Sections of the S. L. P.

Comrades—The National Executive Committee beg to submit the following proposition to the referendum vote of the Sections throughout the country.

We are of opinion that the party press in all languages should be under direct party control, in order that a systematic agitation may be carried on in every possible direction. Such control is especially important now that the party's political activity makes the press a most important and indispensable weapon, which should not be exposed to the risk of being alienated from the party or of falling into the hands of those who may oppose our platform or tactics.

The "Abend-Blatt" and "Arbeiter-Zeitung," published in New York city, are agencies of great importance in conducting our agitation among the ranks of Jewish-speaking workmen. There is a wide-spread demand among the Jewish Comrades that these organs should belong to the party, and the National Executive Committee has received a proposition from the Arbeiter-Zeitung Publishing Association, which conducts the publication of said organs, that the party should assume the control thereof.

The last National Convention of the S. L. P., owing to dissensions existing among Jewish Comrades in connection with these organs, passed a resolution forbidding any Section to have any connection with the Jewish press. This action was taken in the belief that if the Jewish Comrades were left severely alone they would soon settle their differences among themselves.

Experience has shown, however, that notwithstanding the action of the convention, these dissensions still exist, and are a serious impediment to our agitation among the Jewish masses.

We believe that if the direct control and supervision of the Jewish press is vested in the party, acting through its National Executive Committee, all the pretences for disturbances would be entirely removed.

For these reasons it is of great advantage to the party, and especially to Section New York and its agitation, that the party assume control of our Jewish press, the direct ownership, however, to be continued for legal reasons on the incorporated body.

We therefore submit to a referendum vote the following proposition:

"The property and management of the 'Abend-Blatt' and 'Arbeiter-Zeitung' shall be vested in the Arbeiter-Zeitung Publishing Association, under the direct control of the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Labor party. The books of said publishing association shall be examined, once every three months, by an expert accountant, to be appointed by said committee.

The 'Abend-Blatt' and 'Arbeiter-Zeitung' shall be made the Jewish official organs of the S. L. P.

The editors shall be elected jointly by the National Executive Committee and the Publishing Association; or, in case they cannot agree, by a general vote of the members of the party, the same as the editors of 'The People' and 'Vorwärts.' Any editor who may prove incompetent or violate the platform or constitution of the party shall be forthwith suspended by the National Executive Committee.

The National Executive Committee shall act as a Board of Grievances, and hear and determine complaints respecting the business or editorial management of said organs.

The result of the vote of the Sections should be sent to HENRY KUHN, Secretary, 184 William Street, New York City, not later than May 20, 1897.

By order of the National Executive Committee, HENRY KUHN, Sec.

THE DAILY PEOPLE

\$50,000 FUND.

Amount Pledged down to April 14th, 1897.

\$4,270.

Table with 2 columns: Name and Amount. Includes T. W. Z. N. Y., Simon O. Pollock, Fred. Langer, Morris Leberman, and Total this week.

The following amounts have been paid down to April 14th, incl: Previously acknowledged, \$567.75. Elen Forbes, Brooklyn, N. Y., \$1; O. Shaughnessy, Brooklyn, N. Y., \$1; Knud Rasmussen, Buffalo, Wyo., \$10; Bruno Thorne, Brooklyn, N. Y., \$1; G. Gordon, Manchester, N. H., \$5; Adolph Jablonski, City, \$10; Peter Larsen, Brooklyn, N. Y., \$1; John Hossack, Jersey City, N. J., \$1; Chas. Schoneemann, Brooklyn, N. Y., \$5. Total, \$515.40.

Pledgers will please keep in mind the dates on which their payments fall due, as per printed list, and remit promptly. If any error appears on the list, correct with equal promptness.

THE DAILY PEOPLE COMMITTEE, 184 William St., N. Y.

Expressions of Opinion on the General Vote Called for by the N. E. C.

To the Comrades—I am glad to see the stand the National Executive Committee takes in regard to the Arbeiter Zeitung. It is the only way out of the difficulty.

By the party assuming control, as proposed by the National Executive Committee, all difficulty will be removed. We shall be then able to go ahead with our agitation, and those who will still kick will have to stand the consequences. I am perfectly satisfied that the recommendation of the National Executive will be accepted throughout the land with a great majority because we have very few Socialist papers, and can not afford to loose or see any of them go astray. The example of the St. Louis "Tageblatt" ought to be sufficient to convince all Comrades that not unless every paper is controlled by the party can we be sure of its standing straight. What is your opinion? Am I right? I would invite a full expression of opinion.

S. ROSENWEIG, New York, April 13.

To the National Executive Committee, S. L. P.

Dear Comrades—The call for a general vote concerning the "Abendblatt" and "Arbeiter Zeitung" was read at our meeting of the Jewish Section, S. L. P., and after a thorough consideration our Section decided not to vote at the present at all, for the following reasons:

First—The Executive Committee has no right, according to our constitution, to issue a call for a referendum if it is not requested by five Sections situated in three different States. In your call you do not mention the names of the five Sections.

Second—As your proposition is in direct opposition to the decision of the last National Convention, it cannot be brought to a general vote before this decision, which was afterwards indorsed by the whole party, is reconsidered and repealed.

Third—Usually time is given for amendments, but on this occasion the Executive Committee does not give time for that purpose. We hope that the Executive Committee will comply with the constitution, as it requires, the same from the members of the party, and we hope that in bringing that proposition in a legal way before the party it will enable us to participate in the vote.

Please let us know your answer before next Friday, the day of our next meeting. Yours fraternally, the Boston Jewish Section, S. L. P.

M. TURETZ, Organizer.

Answer of the National Executive Committee.

It is evident that there has not been such a thorough consideration of the points in question as is claimed by the Section; it would not have arrived at an interpretation of our constitution for which the constitution furnishes no ground.

Since it may not be impossible that a similar misconception prevails elsewhere, we deem it advisable to give publication to the foregoing with our rejoinder.

In regard to the first reason given by the Section, it should be observed that the constitution in no wise forbids that the administration of the party turn to its constituency and submit important questions to them for decision. What the constitution does do is to regulate the conditions under which Sections may refer propositions of theirs to a general vote. On mere technical grounds, it may be said that an Executive Committee, representing the whole party, is not a Section, and that since the constitution speaks of Sections only in relation to this matter, it clearly does not forbid that the Executive Committee should not refer. But there are better reasons than this purely negative justification. An Executive Committee, by virtue of its position, is necessarily in possession of more comprehensive information about the affairs of the party and its needs than any single Section can ordinarily be, hence a denial of their right to turn to their constituents and referring to them matters of importance, is an abrogation of the right of initiative clearly out of joint, not only with the letter, but also with the spirit of our constitution.

As to the second reason given, we are at a loss to understand how the Section can arrive at such conclusions. In our party organization the power to determine the affairs of the party rests lastly and finally with the rank and file. If, therefore, a National Convention, upon information then at hand, decides a certain matter in a certain way, and the membership indorses such action, does it follow that the rank and file thereby foregoes the right to make a change, if changed conditions make such change necessary? The National Convention no doubt took that action because it was then thought that it would tend to promote a settlement of the internal strife going on in the Jewish movement. But instead of abate-

ment, there has been an intensification of the trouble; a so-called opposition, made up of various elements in and outside of the party, wages war against Socialist papers with methods that cannot be called otherwise than reprehensible, and in extension of their action, plead that the papers "are not under control of the party," while at the same time they often use the name of the S. L. P. in making their attacks.

The third reason given is based upon a total misunderstanding of the constitution. Amendments may be made to a proposition aiming at a change of the constitution (see Section 1 of Miscellaneous Regulations), but in no other case. Hence it is not usual, as is claimed by the Section, that "usually time is given for amendments," and that reason falls to the ground.

In connection with the foregoing notice should be taken that the Executive Committee at their last session decided to open a limited space in the party organs for the discussion of this matter by members of the party, and to extend the date of the close of the vote until Saturday, the 5th day of June.

By order of the National Executive Committee, HENRY KUHN, Sec.

Canada.

MONTREAL, April 10.—The Montreal Hebrew Section meets every Sunday night in Socialist Labor Party Headquarters, 223 McGill street, at 8 o'clock. Headquarters are open day and night.

MONTREAL, April 12.—The newly elected National Executive Committee of the Socialist Labor party of Canada held a meeting April 11. The new Executive Committee consists of the following Comrades: Brennan, Miller, Senior, Griffiths, Saunders, Metcalfe, Severs.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Charter granted new Jewish Section Montreal, organized by Comrade Miller. The Sections meet in the S. L. P. headquarters, No. 223 McGill street, which are open daily.

J. SEVERS, National Secy.

Connecticut.

NEW HAVEN, April 12.—Charles H. Matchett, of Brooklyn, will speak in New Haven Sunday, April 18th, at Veru Hall, 156 Orange street, at 2:30 p. m. Subject: "Socialism or Barbarism." Come and bring your friends.

Massachusetts.

BOSTON, April 11.—All Comrades of Boston are notified that a joint meeting of the Boston Sections will be held on Sunday, April 25th, at 45 Eliot street, at 3 p. m. Order of business: Nominations for a city ticket.

By order of City Committee, J. FRIEDLAND, Secretary.

New York.

NEW YORK CITY.—The regular meeting of the New York Socialist Literary Society was held on Thursday evening, with Comrade A. Bernstein in the chair. Two new members were initiated. Three delegates were elected to attend the conference of the United Hebrew Trades regarding the 1st of May parade. A committee of three were elected to draw up a plan to manage our literary exercises. A concert and lecture will take place in New Prospect Hall, 48-52 Orchard street, on Sunday evening, April 18th, for the purpose of opening the campaign.

Lectures are held every Sunday afternoon in our club rooms, at 3 p. m. All are welcome.

NEW YORK CITY.—A special meeting of Branch 1 (American) was held at Webster Hall, on April 1, with Comrade Kirchner in the chair. Comrade Malkiel, on behalf of the Committee on Reorganization, reported on the present condition of the branch and on the need for reorganization. Motions were adopted instructing the Secretary and Treasurer to settle all the debts of the branch, and to present a complete report on its financial condition at the special meeting, which is to take place on the first Friday in May, at 64 E. 4th street. All members are expected to be present for the future of the branch is to be decided upon. A preliminary meeting will take place on the 3d Friday in April, at 64 East 4th street.

The French Branch held its regular meeting at 470 6th avenue. Comrade Dr. A. Letoquart was in the chair. Communications came in with fifty new subscriptions for the French weekly paper. Section Onelda sent \$1.25, which was received. It was resolved to have an agitation meeting on the 10th of May, at 470 6th avenue, with Comrade L. Sanial as the lecturer. Our meetings are at the present every second and fourth Monday of the month. All the Comrades willing to agitate for the French weekly paper can have lists from the following Comrades: Dr. A. Letoquart, 81 Macdougall street; G. Chagnon, 250 W. 38th street; A. G. Gollersteper, 433 E. 9th street.

G. CHANGNON, Secretary.

Section Kings County.

The general meeting will be held on Sunday, April

18th, at 3 p. m., at Labor Lyceum. At this meeting important business will be transacted. Comrades must be on deck. F. GRUBE, Organizer.

JOHNSTOWN, April 12.—Comrade Carless addressed two very large and enthusiastic meetings in Fulton County last week—Friday in Gloversville and Saturday here in Johnstown. Not only did Carless prove his high efficiency as a speaker, but demonstrated the value of stereotyped lectures as a most satisfactory means of agitation. It is to be hoped that this form of propaganda may be extended, and repeated where already used. That the lecture made deep impressions on the audience could be seen by the hearty applause and the fact that since then Socialism is the topic of conversation wherever working men congregate. The Gloversville meeting was attended by about 250 persons in spite of a pouring rain, and Johnstown turned out to hear the new gospel at least 200 strong. We sold seven "Merrie Englands" and gained two new subscribers for THE PEOPLE and two for the "Vorwärts." Several others promised to order THE PEOPLE as soon as their means would allow them. In the meantime they would satisfy their curiosity to learn more about Socialism by coming in closer contact with the members of our Section. I am sure the day is not far distant when we will have a live and flourishing organization in this city. The Comrades are already discussing the probability of nominating a full county ticket next fall. This district is at present represented in Congress by the largest and most unscrupulous manufacturer of the county. In consideration of the servility and dependence of his voting cattle, he reduced the wages of his employees a few days after his election. Our Assemblyman is another manufacturer, famous for his love for his workers, which he shows by paying starvation wages. The working people in the glove and leather industry have for years been clamoring for a law to make weekly payment compulsory, for at present we are only paid once a month, a striking illustration of what our law-makers have done for us in the past! Do the workers expect to obtain any reform in this respect, not to speak of more important demands, by continuously voting for the very men whose interests are directly opposed to theirs—their bosses?

R. SCHWEMMER.

PARLIAMENTS OF LABOR.

Socialist Trade & Labor Alliance.

At the meeting of the G. E. B. member T. G. Retzlaff was absent; A. Shapiro, chairman.

A committee of the Central Committee of the Clothing Workers' Trades Council requested information relative to the expulsion of the Kneepants Makers' Union. They were informed that before the G. E. B. could act the said union would have to settle its trouble with D. A. No. 2 or appeal to the next convention. A letter from J. P. Tobin, president of the Int. Boot and Shoe Workers in answer to the complaint of D. A. No. 7 was read and referred to the said D. A.

A. Waldinger, as committee to the Prog. Clothing Cutters and Trimmers, and DeLeon, as committee to the Prog. Tailors' Union No. 1 reported that each had endorsed the resolution in favor of the "Abendblatt."

The secretary reported that a large majority had voted for F. W. Wilson as member to the G. E. B., and he was therefore declared elected.

Application for charters were granted to the Pioneer Alliance, Brooklyn, and Mixed Trades D. A., Philadelphia.

It was reported that the Shoe Workers of Philadelphia belonging to the Int. B. & S. W. U. had resolved that the said Int. U. should join the S. T. & L. A.

As the vote for the place and date of the next convention shows a large majority for Boston, Mass., and Monday, July 5th, the same will be closed at the next meeting, and the call for the convention will then be issued.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 14th, at 64 E. 4th street.

D. A. No. 1.

(CENTRAL LABOR FEDERATION OF N. Y.) D. B. Clayton, delegate of the Silver Workers' P. A., was chairman at last Sunday's meeting of the N. Y. Central Labor Federation (D. A. No. 1, S. T. & L. A.) and C. Amadi, delegate of the Furriers' Union, was vice-chairman.

A letter was received from the N. Y. Photo Engravers' Union No. 1 which urged the C. L. F. to use its influence with the Assemblymen and petition to frustrate the Elsworth Carion Bill. It was resolved to inform the union that such petitions are useless and appeals to politicians of no value. They should join the S. T. & L. A. and thus practically benefit their trade by the only means possible.

A committee representing the Bohemian Boss Butchers' Association was admitted, and discoursed upon the grievances between themselves and the Journeymen. After a thorough discussion of the pro and con it was resolved that the members of the Association should sign the present contract of the union, and that the Organization Committee be instructed to forthwith organize the German butchers. It having been announced that members of the Cigar-makers' Union do not patronize the union butcher shops, it was decided to notify them that if the union shops are neglected, then the blue label of the cigar-makers will no longer receive support.

A committee of D. A. No. 7, Shoe Workers, was granted the floor, and gave a history of its seven weeks' struggle with W. Lane, of Brooklyn. It was resolved to donate \$25 in support of the strikers, and to request all unions to make donations when the committee calls.

The delegates to the May conference reported that a letter was read from Int. Bakers' Union No. 92 which stated that if the Int. Bakers' Union Branch 1 was represented, they would not be. It was resolved to instruct the delegates to vote against the Conference interfering in trade matters, as its purpose is solely and simply the arranging of the May demonstration. The Conference also decided to engage only music of the unions, represented in the S. T. & L. A.

Ale and Porter Union No. 1 tabled several communications of a political nature and voted against joint meetings of D. A. No. 1, 2, and 49.

Ind. Bakers' Branch 1 reported making good progress. The Executive

PAINTERS.

The Amalgamated Painters and Decorators held their last meeting on April 12, in Maennerchor Hall, with the election of members for the several offices before them. The house was well filled. Seats seemed to be at a premium, and a good deal of standing room closely filled. The preliminaries gone through and twelve tellers being appointed to distribute, afterwards collect, count and make up the results. It was voted that a plurality vote shall decide in all cases instead of a majority ballot, and the distribution began, while no member was allowed to leave the room nor any one permitted to enter. After giving ample time to make the necessary choice, the ballots were collected, and 739 returned, and the committee began their tedious work on three different tables, each manned by four men.

The chairman stated that the next meeting of the organization would be held on Monday next, April 19, at Brevoort Hall, E. 54th street, down town side, between 3d and Lexington avenues. A recess of one hour was declared to allow the tellers the necessary time; but it took until three o'clock a. m. before the returns were made up, which were then read by the chairman.

President, David Callanan; Vice-President, James Culliver; Recording Secretary, John Olin; Financial Secretary, W. P. Western; Assistant Financial Secretary, John Cobey; Treasurer, Charles Derringer; Sergeant-at-Arms, William Munroe; Trustees, Christ, Luman, William Ferris, Louis' (Danstater); Delegates, John McAndrews, Edward Hanrahan, William P. Barry, Howard Balkam; Executive Council, John J. Corley, John Holloway, C. E. Coltenburg, Victor Bahr, Stafford B. Craig, W. S. Heck, Thomas Grady.

The names of the new officers were received with satisfaction. The greater number of members having left for home long before, about 100 waited to see the end. C. E. COLLENBURG.

Board has adopted resolutions which set forth the attempts of the Int. Bakers' Union No. 92 and of the Int. Bakers' Union to injure and destroy their union. They tabled several political bills sent them by the C. L. F. and Am. Fed. of Labor. Delegates were elected to the May Conference.

Ind. Bakers' Union Branch 2 vote 1 for a joint meeting of D. A. No. 1, 2, and 49. There is more trouble in boss Leopold's shop, he having bought out a bakery and now forces his men to work 16 hours per day. The label was refused. Relative to the May Conference the union decided to await the action of the C. L. F. A blow-out will be arranged for this summer.

United Upholsterers' Union elected new officers and delegates to the May Conference. A letter of the N. Y. Photo Engravers' Union No. 1 was endorsed. One member was fined \$25 because it worked in a seah shop.

Writers' Alliance Liberty reported that two former members, Hans and Bauer, applied for re-admission. The former must pay a fine of \$15, the latter was rejected.

Furriers' Union elected a delegate to the S. T. & L. A. convention at Boston, Mass. Several political bills were referred to the C. L. F.

German Waiters' Union No. 1 reported electing officers Monday by the Australian ballot system. Delegates were elected to the May Conference. Contracts were signed with the following parks for this season and unions are urged to patronize the same: Fort Wendel, Cosmopolitan Park, Sulzer's Westchester Park, Schudt's Little Mount Morris Park, Urbach's Morrisania Park, Ebling's Casino, Noll's Schutzen Park, Brommer's Union Park, Manzel's Park (Fort Wadsworth), Behrle's Brewery Park (Stapleton, S. I.), Lion Park and Stimmel's Pavillion (White Stone, L. I.). Former Treasurer G. Herzberg wrote from Halifax that he sailed for Hamburg, Germany.

Empire City Lodge Machinists reported that a special meeting will be held on Wednesday at which a delegate will be elected to the S. T. & L. A. Convention and instructions given him. An agitation meeting is being arranged in Brooklyn which will result in the organizing of a Machinist Alliance for that city.

Int. Piano-makers' Union voted for a joint meeting of D. A. No. 1, 2, and 49, but the purpose to be only for agitation. Two shops will be organized this week.

Silver Workers' P. A. voted for a joint meeting of D. A. No. 1, 2, and 49, but no reports of unions are to be heard. Four members were admitted and three proposed. They gained some 20 members during the few past months.

United Journeymen Tailors' Union voted against a joint meeting of D. A. No. 1, 2, and 49.

Prog. Clothing Cutters and Trimmers. At the last session of the above union Br. Julius Frankel acted as chairman in the absence of the president.

The report of the Anniversary Committee was laid over to next meeting for action.

The delegates to the Clothing Council reported that the Tailors' Progressive Union will hold a mass meeting in the near future, the meeting held by the United Brotherhood of Tailors was disturbed by the fakirs, in the future steps will be taken to prevent this; a special meeting has been called by the Council for next week to vote on certain important matters, this report was accepted.

Delegates to D. A. 49 are requested to attend its sessions.

THE SECRETARY.

Brotherhood of Carpenters.

Local Union No. 12, United Brotherhood of Carpenters, of Brooklyn (formerly United Framers), at their last general meeting, held on April 7th at the Brooklyn Labor Lyceum, elected the following officers: Chas. Fried, vice-president; John Wilson, recording secretary; Gus Zeibig, conductor; Fred. Johnson, auditor. It was decided that hereafter we demand weekly payments, every man to be paid on the job at 5 o'clock on Saturdays to \$3.25 per day. Any boss who does not fulfill these demands will not get any of the members for work. Local Union No. 12 has 388 members and over \$400 funds in treasury. New members coming in every week. Bosses wishing framers or carpenters shall apply at any time at the Labor Bureau at the Labor Lyceum, 949-957 Willoughby avenue. The weekly meetings are held on Wednesday evening, at 8 o'clock, at the Brooklyn Labor Lyceum.

JOHN WILSON, Sec'y.

SECTION KINGS COUNTY, S. L. P.

Regular Quarterly Meeting

TO BE HELD

SUNDAY, April 17th, at 3 P. M.

AT THE

Brooklyn Labor Lyceum,

949-956 Willoughby Ave.

As this will be a very important meeting all comrades are urged to attend.

THE ORGANIZER.

Trades and Societies Calendar.

Standing advertisements of Trades Unions and other Societies (not exceeding five lines) will be inserted under this heading hereafter at the rate of \$2.00 per annum. Organizations should not lose such an opportunity of advertising their place of meetings.

Branch 1 (American) S. L. P. Discussion meeting every first Friday. Business meeting every 3rd Friday at 64 East 4th St., Leona every Sunday 8 P. M. at Stuyvesant Hall, 17th St., and Hudson Building, 37th St. and 5th Ave. \$10

Carl Sahn Club (Musicians Union). Meetings every Tuesday at 10 a. m., at 64 East 4th street, New York Labor Lyceum. Business Secretary: Fred. \$20

Central Labor Federation of New York (S. T. & L. A., D. A. No. 1). Meets at 270 7th street, Sunday afternoon at 4 East 4th street, New York City. All bona fide trade and labor unions should be represented. Communications are to be sent to the corresponding Secretary, Ernest Bohm, 64 East 4th street, New York City. \$20

Cigarmakers' Progressive International Union No. 90. Office and Employment Bureau, 64 East 4th street—District 1 (Hoboken, N. J.) meets at 342 W. 23rd street, 8 p. m.—District II (Jersey City, N. J.) meets every Saturday at 8 p. m.—District III, meets at 125 avenue A, every Saturday at 8 p. m.—District IV, meets at 342 W. 23rd street, every Saturday at 8 p. m.—The Board of Supervisors meets every Tuesday at 142 2nd avenue, at 8 p. m. \$20

Empire City Lodge (Machinists), meets every Wednesday evening at the Labor Lyceum, 64 East 4th street. Secretary: HENRY ZINCK. \$25

German Waiters' Union of New York, Office: 355 Bowery, Union Hall, 1st floor, Meets every Friday at 64 East 4th street, 10 o'clock. Supervisors meet every Wednesday at 4 p. m. at the same hall. \$34

Musical Protective Alliance No. 1069, E. A. S. T. & L. A., Headquarters, 79 E. 4th street. Meetings every Friday at 12 o'clock noon. Fred. Hartmann, Pres.; Fred. Wolf, corr. Sec'y, Residence, 13 E. 4th St. \$41

Section Essex County, S. L. P., meets the first Sunday in each month at 3 p. m. in the hall of "Essex County Socialist Club," 76 Springfield Ave., Newark, N. J. \$189

Scandinavian Section, S. L. P. Meets 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month at 10 o'clock a. m. at Schuler's Hall, 251-253 East 2d St., New York City. Subscription orders taken for the Scandinavian Socialist Weekly, STAND. AM. ARBEITAREN. \$1

Socialist Science Club. Meets at Webster Hall, 16th street and 4th avenue, every 1st and 3rd Friday at 8 P. M. Also Free Lectures, every Sunday night, 7:30 P. M., preceded by entertainment at same hall. \$1

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