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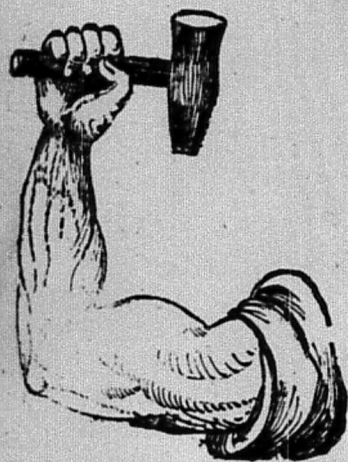
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BRAVO!

New Bedford, Mass., Big Socialist Labor Party Vote.

Massachusetts & Pennsylvania State Conventions.

At the special election, held last Tuesday in the Thirteenth Congressional district of Massachusetts, comprising New Bedford, the Socialist Labor party vote in New Bedford rose from 155 last year to 731. Randall, the Republican candidate, polled in that erstwhile Republican stronghold just 5 votes more than Skahan, the S. L. P. candidate. The closeness of this majority has caused the Comrades to demand a recount. It is believed the S. L. P. carried New Bedford.

But even if the recount should not give the S. L. P. the majority in the city, the vote is a marked victory, whose significance will surely not escape either friend or foe.

The S. L. P. vote in New Bedford had been striking. It went up a little, too trifling to mention, after the previous strike here; and then it dropped again. Then came this year's strike, and with it a Socialist agitation that was not possible at the previous strike. The Socialist Trade & Labor Alliance had not yet been organized; nor, as a result had the warfare of the party been as aggressive against those outposts of the capitalist class—the "pure and simple" labor fakirs—as since. The party agitation, lacked accordingly, that practical turn that only a close contact with the daily class-struggle could impart. The effect appeared in the trifling increase recorded at the succeeding election, and in the subsequent loss, not of the increase only but even of part of the little vote previously polled.

All that was different this year. The strike called for a thorough debate of the labor question in New Bedford. This was due to the existence of the Alliance and its close connection with the party. The party agitation went hand in hand with the immediately practical work of Alliance agitation and ORGANIZATION. This called for the resistance of the fakirs. Of all colors, all shades and all sizes, they poured into New Bedford; they attacked the Alliance; they were forced to present "arguments"; and, such as these were, could be weighed in a manner that the New Bedford proletariat never could before. By precept and by contrast the class-conscious issue was held up and emphasized, and the whole was clinched by Alliance organizations—"opposition unions," as the hostile element loves to style them—and, oh, horror! in the very midst of a strike at that!

There are those who, wishing the party's success, yet have persisted in blindness upon the deep strategy and soundness of the Alliance movement, and have imagined they made a strong argument against the policy that sent party agitators out who, to put it in their own words, "only made Alliance speeches and only organized Alliance locals." Look at New Bedford! The sight there seen proves that no Alliance speech is imaginable that is not a sullen pier for the class-conscious political structure: The membership of the New Bedford S. L. P. Sections increased; the S. L. P. vote swells to such magnitude as to justify the belief that it carried the city—and that in the midst of a war fever, well calculated and expected to carry the voters off their feet into the camp of the capitalist party in power.

New Bedford deserves a rousing cheer from the class-conscious proletariat in the land: in their name we live it here.

With New Bedford as the proof of the pudding, let the well-rounded, politico-economic, uncompromisingly aggressive agitation, education and organization proceed revolutionward.

MASSACHUSETTS STATE CONVENTION.

The Eighth Convention of the Socialist Labor party of Massachusetts met in Lynn on May 28 last and continued in session until to-day, holding, in all, five sittings. There were 38 delegates present. It is considered the largest, most important and most interesting of the conventions of the party in the State. Its official acts of public importance were:

1. The nomination of the following

TICKET:

For Governor,
GEORGE R. PEARE,
of Lynn.

For Lieutenant Governor,
MICHAEL T. BERRY,
of Haverhill.

For Secretary of State,
J. F. STEPHENS,
of Boston.

For State Treasurer,
MARTHA M. AVERY,
of Boston.

For Attorney General,
CLARENCE E. SPELLMAN,
of Westfield.

For State Auditor,
JOSEPH M. PALME,
JOSEPH PALME,
of New Bedford.

The party's candidate for Governor, George R. Peare, was born May 13, 1847, in Halifax, N. S., while his parents were on a visit to the Provinces from Alexandria, Va., their home; came to Massachusetts the same year; stopped there for some time, journeying to Columbia, South Carolina. The family came North shortly before the war, residing in Lawrence and Boston during the Civil War; at which place George attended school and Comers College in Boston; after graduating at that institution he went to Chicago and attended Eastman's College in that city.

Mr. Peare is a draughtsman and machinist; from an experience in the McKay factory in Lawrence he became acquainted with the McKay machine, and during the dull times and panic of 1873 he came to Lynn and worked as a McKay stitchee.

He was a member of Local Assembly 715, Knights of Labor. After the big strike in Lynn he was a member of the old Stitches' Union and later the Sole Fasteners' Union.

In 1885 he joined the Socialist Labor party, and has been a hard and constant worker for the party since that time; was candidate for Lieutenant Governor in 1891, when the party first entered the field in Massachusetts; later he was a candidate for Congress against Henry Cabot Lodge, in the Seventh district.

In 1872 he was married to Sarah Slade, of Winham, Vermont; his family, consisting of three grown-up sons and a daughter attending school, now live on Essex street, Lynn.

2. By far the subject that brought out the best intellectual abilities, legislative usefulness and oratorical powers of the delegates was that relative to the

SOCIALIST TRADE & LABOR ALLIANCE.

the debate upon which occupied nearly all the forenoon of Monday, the 30th of May. This debate was made all the more interesting by the appearance of Secretary Carter, of Lesters' Union No. 32, of Lynn, and member of the Lynn Local Alliance of the S. T. & L. A., who asked the privilege of the floor on behalf of the S. T. & L. A. The privilege was accorded by unanimous consent. After his well-grounded address the following resolutions were adopted with hardly a dissenting vote:

"WHEREAS, In the stage of industrial development, known as the manufacturing period, the old trade guilds and organizations, in which master and man protected themselves against the aggressions of feudal lords, have now necessarily evolved with a higher form of the class struggle in which the man, no longer an artisan selling the product of his labor, but a wage slave, selling his labor power, while the master no longer works at his craft, but has evolved into the holder of great aggregations of capital, the class struggle now presents hostility directly between the wage slaves and the capitalist class.

"The by-gone advantage with the strike, boycott and label as weapons of offence and defence, suited as they were to subjects under despotic governments, are not a force sufficient to enable men living under a higher form of industrial development to gain redress or to obtain advancement. Be it therefore

"RESOLVED, That an appeal be sent by the Socialist Labor party to the trades organizations throughout the Commonwealth setting forth the class struggle, its historic development and the opportunity now afforded to the working class for emancipation from the degradation of servility and poverty to the natural rights of citizens, the co-operative ownership of all the means of production and the benefits of science and cultivation of the arts by the reorganization of trades unions under the principles of the Socialist Trade & Labor Alliance, which recognizes that the working class must become the ruling class; be it further

"RESOLVED, That the Socialist Labor party send speakers to the trades unions to speak in support of this appeal."

3. Action on the

DEBS DEMOCRACY.

This was brought on by the reading from the Chair of an invitation from that "Democracy" in Massachusetts to fuse with it. While the reading of the invitation was going on, a hum of undertone conversation and merriment went through the Convention. The invitation was referred to a special committee with instructions to frame a reply. In a few days it will be sent as a message of light and education to those of the Debs movement who are in it simply out of blindness.

It should here be added that the epistle inviting the party to fuse contained among other signatures that of "Konikow"—a woman whose conduct was found out to be so unclean in the party of this State, while she was an officer thereof, that, although she had withdrawn, the Convention felt constrained to brand her by officially expelling her, as will be seen by the re-

port of the Convention on the fourth page under internal official matters.

In this connection should also be mentioned that a long letter was read to the Convention by Morris E. Ruther, of Holyoke, secretary of the State Committee, addressed to him recently by one Kellher, secretary of the Social Democracy of "America and Patagonia," in which the writer said his (Ruther's) name had been given him as one most fitted to take up the work of organizing the Social Democracy in Holyoke and vicinity, and pointing out that power was about to fall into their hands if the friends of the "cause" would but reach out their hand to pluck it, if indeed that were necessary, as there was a man up the tree of power to shake the ripe fruit into the laps of all who would but stand under the tree of Social Democracy. Ruther denounced the communication as a base attempt to bribe the highest officer of the S. L. P. in Massachusetts, which he spurned with indignation.

PENNSYLVANIA STATE CONVENTION.

The Socialist Labor party State Convention met in S. S. Pittsburgh yesterday and lasted two days. Its important public official acts were:

1. The nomination of the following

TICKET:

For Governor,
J. MAHLON BARNES,
of Philadelphia.

For Lieutenant Governor,
W. H. THOMAS,
of Buena Vista.

For Congressmen at Large,
DONALD L. MUNRO,
of Durkoi.

For Judges of Superior Court,
DR. B. B. LEVENGOOD,
of Bellewood.

2. Action was taken on the

S. T. & L. A.,

by the adoption of a resolution to issue a manifesto to the working class which is to be circulated throughout the State, urging the workmen to identify themselves with the Socialist Trade & Labor Alliance.

3. The consideration of a

PLAN OF CAMPAIGN,

which resulted in a resolution to send an agitator especially through the coal-mining regions.

In view of the splendid results of the special election in New Bedford, the following passage from a speech delivered there by Comrade Hickey the night before election, and reproduced in the New Bedford "Evening Standard" will be found interesting:

"This old world of ours is a world of change. Life is inseparable from motion. The rude blasts of Boreas that blows across the New England hills in the gray dawn of a winter's morning changes to the gentle breezes of balmy spring. The hot winds of a torrid summer's day changes to the cooling zephyrs of our glorious fall. As the seasons change so does our industrial system. Franklin's old font of type is now in the museums. In its place we have the Mergenthaler linotype-setting machine. The old spinning wheel of our grandmother's days has passed away. Instead we have the Northrup loom. No longer do we hear the clang of the hammer on the anvil in the old village blacksmith's shop. Instead we have the mighty trip hammer, with its thousand ton force. Fulton's old steam engine that used to run up and down on the Hudson is supplanted by the mighty engines that annihilate space in their passage across the Atlantic. The little old red school house, with its dozen scholars, is no longer a delight to the eye. We now have the mighty public school, where a thousand children sing their matin songs. Everywhere is seen life, change and motion, except in the old British pure and simple trades union. There labor sings the same old battle songs that it sang in the valleys of Lancashire 100 years ago. As a result we have a New Bedford strike with its recontracto wretchedness, where the strikers pit a soup house against a palace. A strike in which the workers pit the pennies in their tattered pants' pockets against the massed millions of the capitalist class. They stand still. They change not with the changing times. They suffer and die. Against this condition of affairs the Socialist new trades unionist raises aloft the banner of revolt. He says 'keep abreast of times and victory will be your reward.'"

"Vote yourselves on the right side of the policeman's clubs and the militiaman's bayonets. Put yourselves behind the ermine of the judges on the bench. Then, and not until then, will the sunlight of success shine on your banners, and shining thus, reflect the future freedom of our class."

The English translation of Karl Marx' "Eighteenth Brumaire," that recently ran through THE PEOPLE, is now to be had bound in an elegant volume of 78 pages, with Marx' picture as frontispiece. This work is of great value. No Socialist, even though he be no student, and no student even though he be no Socialist, can afford to be without it. Apply Labor News Co., 64 E. 4th street, N. Y. city. Price 25 cents.

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

FRENCH COMRADES.

Interesting Features of the Recent French Elections.

In Default of Completer Information, the Below Data Will Serve to Give Some Preliminary Idea of the Nature of the Campaign and of the Brilliant Victory Won by Socialism—Facts & Figures.

On the 8th of May, elections were held in France for the Chamber of Deputies. According to reports in the capitalist papers the Socialists elected twenty-nine of their candidates on that day, and the French capitalists admit that a million votes were polled by the Socialists. The election laws of France provide that a candidate for the Chamber of Deputies must have at the first ballot a majority of the votes cast for all candidates. If no one has such a majority, a supplementary election is held in two weeks, and at such supplementary election a single plurality elects. According to these same capitalist papers the Socialists elected twenty-eight members on the second ballot, making a total of fifty-seven Socialists. The French papers giving the results of the second election, held on the 22d of May, have not yet reached us, but we can safely assume that at least fifty-seven Socialists have been elected to the next Chamber of Deputies. This is but a slight increase over the representation chosen five years ago, but the signification of the election is greater than the figures indicate.

At the election of five years ago there was no united French party, no common platform, no common understanding. This year, however, in the language of Gerault-Richard, the editor of the official paper of the Socialist Labor party of France:

"For the first time the Socialists have agreed on the fundamental principles of the movement. Wherever our candidates have appeared to talk to the people they have not simply attacked the political form of government and the Cabinet ministers, but everywhere and with a unanimous voice they have attacked the capitalist system and declared for the change to the Socialist system. Read the declarations of the candidates of the Socialist Labor party, and it will be found that these three propositions are the key notes of the Socialists in the present campaign: Conquest of the powers of government by the proletariat; international union of the working class; abolition of the capitalist system of production, in favor of the Socialist Commonwealth."

FRENCH CAPITALIST PAPERS' COMMENTS.

And it should be remembered that this solidarity has been accomplished amidst the most trying circumstances. There was a coalition of all the forces of capitalism, backed up by the capitalist government, to keep down the Socialist vote. How well this coalition succeeded may be learned by extracts from the capitalist press of Paris. The "Gaulois," the organ of the Clericals, says:

"The most important fact of the election is the formidable gain made by the Socialists. They at least have no complaints to make as to the results of the struggle, no matter if they did lose a couple of their leaders."

"The Temps," the especial guardian of the capitalist class, says: "The Socialist Labor party is the only party that can claim to have made any gains."

"The Siecle," the most venomous of all the capitalist papers of Paris, says: "Because Guesde and Jaurès have been defeated, many superficial reasoners are exclaiming that Socialism was defeated on the 8th of May. This exclamation has no facts back of it. From the latest returns the Socialists have at least one million votes to their credit. At the election of 1893 the Socialist Labor party polled 665,038 votes, which makes a gain in five years of about 335,000. Our statesmen of the Meline stamp are saying to themselves in astonishment: We gave rigid instructions to the prefects of every department, and yet the Socialist vote has increased."

THE COALITION.

Reference has been made to the coalition of all the anti-Socialist forces. In a recent article Jaurès refers to this in these words:

"For the first time in twenty-five years the capitalist government and the Church have come to an understanding. It is well known that from 1876 to the present, the Republican party has fought the Church—the Church moved outside of the Republic, and therefore the Church was fought. But menaced by the revolutionary declarations of Socialism, the wealthy followers of Voltaire and the Children of the Cross have become reconciled, and Socialism meets a formidable enemy in the coalition of the government, the money changers, the upper strata of the middle class, the large property holders, and the Church. Possibly this coalition may have the immediate effect of stopping, or at least reducing, the apparent growth or visible progress of Socialism in France, and without doubt two or three elections will be necessary to thoroughly undermine this coalition."

And this coalition showed itself in every district in France where the Socialists had considerable strength. In districts where the regular capitalist and government candidate was sure to

be defeated under ordinary circumstances, the Church itself placed candidates in the field, and the followers of the meek and lowly Nazarene were heard in meeting after meeting exhorting the workmen to vote for the Clerical candidate. But the coalition only succeeded in defeating Jaurès and Guesde. In those districts the Socialist candidates bit the dust, though their vote increased, but elsewhere both the Socialist vote increased and the candidates were successful.

BILL-POSTING SKIRMISHES.

A few details of the election may be interesting. Let us first go to Paris.

It is customary for a candidate for the Chamber of Deputies to make a canvass of his district, get as many supporters as possible, then print bills announcing his candidacy, the names of his supporters appearing thereon, and post up the bills wherever a wall could be found. The government candidates (including the Republicans, Opportunists, Clericals, etc.) got the idea that the more names there appeared on the placards of its candidates the more certain would be the election of those candidates. In pursuance of this idea names were taken at haphazard, no matter whether they were supporters of the afforsaid candidates or not. In the First district of the Thirteenth arrondissement the Socialist candidate was Gerault-Richard, while the capitalist candidate was Paul Bernard. When Bernard's placards were posted about five hundred names were printed thereon as his supporters. Many of those names were the names of Socialists, who were ardent in their support of Gerault-Richard. Protests began to accumulate. The protester was always told that there was another man in that district with his name, and that the other man was the one referred to on the placard. The protester would hasten to the address given him by the agent of Bernard, but it universally happened that the other man was a myth. Now the First district of the Thirteenth arrondissement is thoroughly Socialist, and, true to their class-consciousness; if the workmen discover that a tradesman is supporting the anti-Socialist he is forthwith boycotted. When Bernard's placards were posted, he had among the names of his supporters that of Victor Lucy, a hatter of the Avenue des Gobelins. Mr. Lucy protested, but in spite of his protests his name continued to appear on Bernard's bills. Consequently Mr. Lucy armed himself with a blue pencil and proceeded to scratch off his name wherever he found it. He was immediately arrested by the police and taken before the police judge, where charges of defacing the bills were preferred against him. In vain did Mr. Lucy contend that the lawbreakers were those who used his name without his permission; in vain did he affirm that because of such use of his name his customers were leaving him; all this did no good, and the charges stood. The same night all over Gerault-Richard's district the posters announcing his candidacy were covered with large strips of paper bearing the inscriptions: "Vendu aux Juifs!"—Sold out to the Jews. And the police officers did not make an arrest. It should be understood in this connection that the chief of police of Paris is appointed by the general government, and that the entire police force of Paris is under him, and hence can be used by the general government.

Deprived of the police and the courts of the right to prevent their names being published in support of the capitalist candidates, the men who had this unwelcome publicity forced upon them had recourse to the Socialist press, and every day numbers of cards like the following were printed:

"To the Editor: I have never been a member of any organization supporting the candidacy of Paul Bernard. I have never given that gentleman the right to use my name on his bills, and I protest in the most energetic manner against such a BRIARD, 4 Rue Coppel."

In the Eighteenth arrondissement Legué was running as a Clerical against the Socialist Rouanet. One of the men whose name was printed on Legué's bills had this card published:

"I, the undersigned, a doctor living at No. 16 Rue Hermel, Paris, protest against my name being used as a supporter of the candidacy of Legué. I hereby declare that all my sympathies are with Gustave Rouanet, the Socialist candidate for re-election, for whom I have voted before."

"Dr. G. OLLIVIER."

A still more striking illustration of this capitalist bulldozing occurred in Gerault-Richard's district.

After the election of the 8th of May a new election was necessary, neither Gerault-Richard nor Bernard having secured a majority over all the candidates. During the two weeks that elapsed before the second vote the battle was waged with increased vigor, and on the part of the capitalists with increased brutality. It seems that there is no constitutional or legal determination regarding the apportionment of the walls for posting the bills; but rather that recourse is had to brute force. On the 18th of May Gerault-Richard was passing in front of the Gobelins manufactory, and discovered with a certain degree of anguish that out of two hundred placards that his committee had posted on the wall of the manufactory but three had survived the inundation of bills sown with prodigal hands by the committees backing Bernard;—but let me give the incident in the words of the official paper of the French Socialist Labor party:

"While passing in front of the Gobelins factory Gerault-Richard discovered with a certain degree of anguish that out of two hundred bills that his committee had posted there but three had survived the inundation of paper that Paul Bernard (who became a millionaire at the same time that he was announced the official candidate of the government, the Boulangists,

THE SLUMS.

An Element of Society Well Worth Watching Just Now.

The Slums are a Social Product of Capitalist Society, that Capitalism Must Periodically Thin Out—This Process is one of the Uses of War.—A Sort of Bloodletting that Capitalism Needs.

However numerous the mental class may be in all its ramifications, it is not now, and was not even in the luxuriant days of the declining Roman Empire, capacious enough to absorb the whole propertyless class. The steady displacement of labor by the perfection of machinery, the concentration of capital, and a score of other causes, all of them the results of the development of capital, increase the number of the propertyless people immeasurably faster than they can be taken up by the class of the mental. To these masses, whether they consist of able-bodied men and women, or children, old people, the crippled and infirm, unable to work, there is nothing left but to beg, steal or prostitute themselves. The alternative forced upon these is either to perish or to throw overboard all sense of shame, honor, and self-respect. They could prolong their existence only by giving precedence to their own personal and immediate wants rather than to their regard for their own reputation. That such a condition cannot but exercise the most demoralizing and corrupting influence is self-evident.

Furthermore, the effect of this corrupting influence is all the more intensified by the circumstance that the unemployed poor are utterly superfluous in the existing social order; that, not only does it not need them, but, on the contrary, it would be relieved of an undesirable burden by their extinction. Whatever class is superfluous, whatever class has no necessary functions to fulfill, must perish; this is a law that applies both to the high and the low.

Beggars cannot even indulge in the self-deception that they are necessary to the social system; they have no recollections of a time when their class rendered any services to society; they cannot brag about their power, and force their parasitic existence upon society. They are only tolerated. Humility is, consequently, the first virtue of the beggar, and is the highest virtue of the poor. Like the mental, this class of the proletariat also is servile towards the powerful; it furnishes no opposition against the existing social order. On the contrary, it ekes out its existence from the bones thrown at it by the rich, how could it want to abolish them! Furthermore, beggars are not themselves exploited; the higher the degree of exploitation is carried against the workmen, and the larger the incomes of the rich, all the more have the beggars to expect. Like the mental class, they are partakers of the fruits of exploitation; what could move them to put an end to that system? When William M. Tweed, the shining star of Tammany twenty odd years ago, was unmasked and brought to justice for his wholesale plunder of the public treasury, it was this class among the population of New York City that stuck to him fastest; he had been a generous almoner to it; nor has the character of Tammany's "following" materially changed since then.

The division of the proletariat constitutes, strictly speaking, the SLUMS; never yet has it shown the least spontaneity of spirit for resistance against the system of exploitation. But neither is it a bulwark of the present system. Carelessly and unprincipled, it readily leavies in the lurch those whose aims it has taken so soon as wealth and power have slipped from their hands. This class has never taken the lead in any revolutionary movement; but it has always been found on hand, during social disturbances, ready to fish in troubled waters. Occasionally it has given the last kick to a falling class; as a rule, however, it has satisfied itself with exploiting and corrupting every revolution that has broken out, and to be ready to betray it at the earliest opportunity.

The capitalist system of production has given strong increment to the slums; it steadily sends to them fresh recruits; in the large centers of industry it constitutes a considerable portion of the population.

We call the attention of those in the vicinity of the mass meeting and entertainment arranged by the Wendell Phillips Agitating Society for next Thursday, the 9th instant. The proceeds are for the campaign fund.

This Society consists of young men and lads, who do good work in bringing in the young generation. Their work should be encouraged. See the advertisement on another page.

Unhappy Caroline Islands! Hawaii was "civilized" by our missionaries so thoroughly that these now own the whole island, and the natives are pariahs on their ancestral heath.

Now our Federal Government, at whose head we have a contributor to "missionary work," wants to capture the Carolines so as to afford our missionaries greater security in their "sacred work of civilizing."

The New York Woman's Educational Association, an organization of Socialist women intended to carry into the homes of the proletariat the pure light of Socialism, has arranged a mass meeting and concert for this afternoon, at 3 p. m., in the Old Homestead Garden, 3d avenue and 90th street. Admission is free.

The admirable purpose of the organization should be encouraged by a generous attendance.

(Continued on Page 3.)

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SOCIALIST VOTE IN THE UNITED STATES.

In 1888 (Presidential)..... 2,068
In 1890..... 12,331
In 1892 (Presidential)..... 21,157
In 1894..... 22,133
In 1896 (Presidential)..... 28,324
In 1897..... 55,673

Liberty and civilization are only fragments of rights wrong from the strong hands of wealth and book learning; almost all the great truths relating to society were not the result of scholarly meditation, but have been first heard in the solemn protests of martyred patriotism and the loud cries of crushed and starving labor.

Wendell Phillips.

"REMEMBER THE MAINE!"

The strike that broke out on the auxiliary cruiser St. Louis, that ran into this harbor last week for coaling and refitting, places in its true light the cry of "Remember the Maine!" when uttered by our ruling class, that started it.

On the St. Louis, 300 firemen and coal-heavers went on strike not only because of bad treatment in point of food, but on account of worse treatment, cruelly in fact, besides gross ingratitude. One of them, being sick and applying for medical aid, was kicked in the stomach by the officer; all of them had been made to sleep in exceptionally bad bunkers, without cover; and on a certain occasion were ordered to do the most dangerous part of a work for which they had not been engaged, and were then, the work being done, ordered like dogs under the hatches, where the atmosphere was stifling, and where they were kept for days in succession without fresh air.

Yes, "Remember the Maine!"

But there are in that cry as many meanings as the sources from which it proceeds.

In the mouth of the capitalist class that is sending its untrained, shiftless sons into staff positions on our Army of Invasion, the cry has no other object than to turn to their own benefit the humane feelings of our people. It means an attempt of that criminal ruling class to profit by its own wrong. It means an attempt to swell the sails of their pirate craft of state with the feeling of indignation raised in the great heart of the people by what? by that criminal class' own malfeasance.

In the mouth of the intelligent working class, it is a rallying cry, taken from a striking contemporaneous event, that may be said to sum up the inhumanity of the capitalist system of society. It is a cry that brings in close connection the brutal government of the ruling class of Spain and our own ruling class: the former capable of so dastardly an act as the blowing up, in time of peace, a ship laden with human beings, the latter capable of huddling so many members of the "common people" around powder magazines where explosions are likely; both so reckless of life, of honor, of decency as to be willing to sacrifice untold thousands of their nominal "fellow citizens" in their rush for plunder.

The strike on the St. Louis against the barbarous treatment of workers by officers who represent and are animated by the feelings of our capitalist class is but an incident illustrative of all that there is and should be in the cry: "Remember the Maine!"

What may be called the "Italian Mystery" continues unsolved.

Was it that took place in Italy last month and may not yet be over?

Was it an attempt at a general strike? Or was it a bread riot of infuriated masses driven by famine? Or was it an attempt to overthrow the throne and set up a bourgeois republic? And in this case, did the impulse come from bona fide republicans, or was it the result of a clerical intrigue? Or, yet again, was any of these the starter, some of the others having subsequently combined?

Impossible to tell. All that is known is that deeds of almost unparalleled violence have been committed. The soldiery is said to have massacred, in Milan alone, 7,000 people; in other places the mob, rioters, or revolutionists, got the upper hand, though temporarily only, and wreaked vengeance.

A deep mystery envelops the whole affair, due to the rigid censorship that is observed.

But the truth will out, sooner or later.

POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC.

The Washington, D. C., "Times" gives publication to this tell-tale letter from a correspondent who signs himself "Secretary":

"Amid all the war excitement can you find time and space to champion the cause of about twenty wronged individuals, one of whom I am. My case covers all. I was employed by a Congressman to come to Washington as his secretary. I did so, expecting, of course, to receive \$100 a month. I do all, and more, of the official work devolving upon me in a way that excites commendation of this member, and yet he only pays me \$50 a month, putting the difference in his pocket. When I protested against such treatment I was coolly told, 'If you are

not satisfied I can get plenty who will be glad to do the work for even less, and you can go,' and each month he has deliberately perjured himself by certifying to the Government that he 'has paid \$100 during the past month for clerk hire.' Is there not some way in which this and the other like Congressmen can be meted out their just deserts? There are also some Congressmen who do not employ any secretaries, and yet do not fall to draw out the \$100 a month for that purpose. How does this differ from stealing, and how can any member justify such conduct?"

Pity that "Secretary" does not furnish the name of this worthy Congressman. If he did, it would no doubt point a moral and adorn a tale on "Law," "Order," "Property" and "Patriotism." Ten to one the Congressman in question is among the loudest, flannel-mouthed upholders of all of these.

Bishop Potter is trying hard to understand the labor question, and to get at the minds of workmen. We do not want to discourage him, but he has still a long road to travel.

"With the sweetest of intentions he says:

"Neither labor nor capital can be on top; they must walk hand in hand."

"Any man—even a bishop—who thinks that labor and capital are two different things, is an infant, and understands this world and its problems about as well as a Maltese kitten would understand the Sphinx. Capital is crystallized labor. A dollar is a bushel of wheat or a pair of boots, and a bushel of wheat or a pair of boots is a day's work of one man. A dollar is only valuable because it is a day's work or can procure a day's work—a million dollars are nothing. Capital and labor are the same as ice and water. The capitalist is simply the gentleman who cuts the ice and stores it away. He will gradually vanish as men get intelligent and labor keeps for itself what it produces."

"What Bishop Potter is trying to say is that the man who works and the capitalist who lives on the labor of others are on a par, and ought to go hand in hand. That is rubbish, because the man who produces is above the man who merely consumes. The capitalist per se is nothing. The man with money—accumulated human effort—who uses that to encourage and supply further effort, devising new outlets for human energy and new fields for labor, is a very important personality, and well deserves as good a place as can be given to him. But the mere capitalist investor is simply the fat, green worm on the tomato vine, sleek and happy, but not important or useful."

The above farrago of sense and nonsense proceeds from the New York "Journal"—the property of a typical "fat, green worm on the tomato vine," and productive of all the social stench that it is in such worms to produce.

The clipping is quite a significant occurrence, all the more so when its source is considered. Let us put it on the dissecting table and apply the scalpel to it. The distinction drawn between "capital" and the "capitalist" is pedantic. He who writes upon these subjects should use words in their accepted technical sense. The same as "sceptre," "throne" have become identical with "monarchic rule," "capital" has become identical with "capitalist." It is absurd to say "the sceptre is a piece of wood, the monarch is a thing of flesh, consequently they are not the same"; so, likewise, it is absurd to say "capital is crystallized labor, the capitalist is a gentleman," etc.

If capital were simply crystallized labor, capital would always exist, even after the capitalist had vanished. But capital is something else than crystallized labor. No sensible man would be satisfied with the definition of "slave" that ran this way: "A slave is a human being." Such a definition would be defective because it would leave out the social essence of "slave," to wit, the PRIVATE OWNERSHIP of that human being. So with "capital." The feature of "capital" is a social one. The coat one wears and the New York Central Railroad are both "crystallized labor," but the former is not an instrument of production, while the other is. Capital is an instrument of production held by private hands, powerful enough to defy competition by less powerful instruments, and to subject to wage slavery those wholly bereft of instruments of production. Consequently the coat is not capital, and the N. Y. Central is. Allow Consuelo, the Dutchess of Marlborough, together with the few others who hold the controlling stock of that road, to become angels in heaven, playing on golden harps, prevent any other such from stepping into their shoes, and cause the road to become the property of the people, to be run for use and not for private profit,—and the result would be that these capitalists will have vanished, together with the old capital feature of the road. The instrument of production continues to exist; but "capital," that purely social feature of it, vanishes with the social system that removes the capitalist.

The purpose, however, of the passage from the "Journal" is to confuse the issue by a pretence of "radicalism" as to conceal its purpose of wishing to perpetuate the evil of capitalism. This fact transpires in its closing remarks, which seek to make a distinction between the "fat, green worms on the tomato vine." Yet, they are all alike. No capitalist does any sort of work that society would not be better off for his not doing. No capitalist is useful. Without exception, the capitalist is a parasite who lives on the labor of others, and, as such, degrades the real laborers by keeping them in subjection to his will, doing his bidding—however wrong or right—lest they be thrown out of work.

Of this fact, illustrations are as numerous as there are capitalists, but the passage in hand furnishes a palpitating one at hand. The gentleman who wrote that passage is an employe of the "Journal," i. e., of Mr. Hearst. Mr. Hearst is the capitalist in question. He keeps his "editor" in the wage slave state. Any time his editor ceases to edit as Hearst wants, Hearst will buy another "gold brick" and kick the present one out. In the meantime Hearst is "encouraging and supplying effort," i. e., living on the sweat of the brow of his wage slaves—editors, compositors, newsboys, etc., etc.

Bishop Potter certainly twaddles, but his "Journal" critic goes the Bishop one better.

As men become intelligent, the whole "fat, green worm" class on the "tomato vine" of production will vanish; and with that will vanish the saddest of all spectacles—the spectacle presented by intellectual prostitution.

At last an answer has been vouchsafed to the numerous questions put in these columns to the agitators for the referendum under the present social system. To the statement that it is absurd to demand of the workers, who, today, have to spend most of their time in earning a living, that they give judgment on the complicated laws that the conflicting interests of our capitalist society breeds, and to the question, What ability would the majority of voters, so circumstanced, have to understand such laws and intelligently pass upon them the Alva, Douglas County, Mo., "Farm Record" retorts:

"It is no more 'absurd' to ask the voter to give judgment on the complicated laws that are passed than it is to ask a jury to decide in a complicated legal technicality."

A more welcome retort to help illustrate and emphasize our point could not be wished for.

In the first place, juries do not decide on legal technicalities, complicated or otherwise. Juries only decide on facts, the Court decides all legal points. The only exception to this is in cases of criminal libel, when the jury decides both the facts and the law, and even there the exception is more in seeming than actually so. Criminal libels involve questions of fact essentially.

This would be a sufficient rejoinder to our Alva objector: anybody, unless he be an idiot, can decide on facts, they need no research, they do not branch off and out into connection with all manner of things, as laws do. But we shall go further, and for the sake of argument, admit that the passing upon facts needs as much preparation and leisure as the passing upon laws. And here it is that the objector's argument helps to illustrate and emphasize our point:

The jury is afforded exactly the thing that the referendum itself does not afford the working class, and why the jury can and the worker cannot "pass upon." That thing is time and leisure.

It is essential to the giving of judgment upon a thing that one enjoy leisure to post himself upon it. The jury is given such leisure. It is even paid, however small a fee; if the case be long and they are locked up, they need not worry about where the rent is to come from for their lodging, the money for their meals, etc.; in not a few cases they need not even worry about the charge of drinks: "Jury whiskey" is provided for. Their material needs being attended to by others than themselves, and their whole time, for the time being at the disposal of the case before them, and all the information needed being furnished to them gratis, the jury is in a condition to "pass upon."

Not so the workers, if called upon to pass upon the laws submitted to them by the referendum. As pointed out, the capitalist system keeps the workers with their noses to the grindstone for a bare existence. The referendum idea, indeed, is a denial or ignorance of the stupendous fact that, under this capitalist system, civilization, i. e., the raising of man above the brute's state of having his whole mind engrossed with the thought of a living, does not fall to the lot of the working class; despite the enormous, freedom-from-toll-giving amount of wealth produced, and the still more enormous amount producible to-day, the masses are not raised above the curse of arduous toil into the heaven of leisure. They must spend their time in producing what they need, and hardly succeed in that. Such is their lot from one election or referendum day to the other. Whence is the time to come to devote to the acquirement of the necessary information to pass upon the complicated laws of today? whence is the money to come to furnish them with all the documents needed?

Let the referendum idolaters take the tip, inadvertently furnished against itself by the "Farm Record," and just pelt to themselves the degree of information that juryman would be equipped with on the day of rendering his verdict if, all along, he had had to spend his whole time delving and mauling for a living. Identical would be the condition of the workers at the hustings if to-day they had to pass, by referendum, on the complicated sort of laws that emanate from capitalist Legislatures.

The referendum, as proposed by the "Reformers," is an absurdity; the nearer one contemplates it, the more absurd it looks.

TOASTS.

From a Dinner Given to M. M. Hyndman in London.

At a recent dinner, given in honor of H. M. Hyndman, a leading Socialist in England, and at which representatives of all nations and of many shades in the revolutionary movement of the age were present, many apt speeches were made in response to toasts. The most telling passages among them were these:

MR. A. E. FLETCHER, THE CHAIRMAN, said: We do not propose to-night to trouble you with what are known among the Philistines as "loyal and patriotic" toasts. (Hear, hear.) Not that we are either disloyal or unpatriotic, but because we have met to welcome a leader of Democracy whose work and influence we regard as of far greater importance than that of the representatives of institutions whose life is in the past rather than in the future. As Democrats—no matter of what particular species of that somewhat comprehensive genus we belong—we are, or ought to be, before all things courteous, before all things tolerant of the feelings and the opinions of others. (Hear, hear.) We try—not always with success—even to love our enemies, however much we may hate their opinions and their methods. Therefore, we should be the last people in the world to offer any discourtesy to the sovereign lady at the head of the State. We are even willing to admit that she has done less mischief than any of her predecessors on the throne. (Laughter.) Nor have we any grudge against the houses of Parliament, excepting that we think that one might very well be ended and the other mended. (Applause.) As for the army and navy, we share the admiration of the nursemaids of Britain for the gallant members of those services, and the best that we can wish them is that they may all soon be relegated to the ranks of the unemployed. (Hear, hear.) For the bishops and clergy of all denominations we have no feelings but those of compassion, and regret that so few of them have the pluck to follow the lead of the able and devoted Churchman on my right (the Rev. Stewart Headlam). Perhaps I might be excused if I made some innovation to-night in proposing to you the health of the police—(laughter)—because the police, to whom Mr. Hyndman and other dangerous persons are well known, have done considerable service to the Democracy from time to time by giving, in Trafalgar Square and elsewhere, object lessons in the great Democratic doctrine that force is no remedy against the champions of a righteous cause. (Applause.) Mr. and Mrs. Hyndman must be particularly gratified to see around them to-night so many public leaders who have fought nobly in the cause which they have at heart, however different may have been their methods—men and women who have like Mr. Hyndman himself, made great sacrifices for the cause of civil and religious liberty, and who have fought great battles against monopoly and privilege; men and women whose one watchword has been "Service," and who have caught their inspiration, not from sovereign and statesmen, not from the dispensers of patronage, but from the poets and the prophets of the century—from Shelley and Mazzini, from Ruskin and Morris—(applause)—from Lassalle and Karl Marx, from Lowell and Whitman, from Ibsen and Tolstol. (Applause.) Not a few of such public leaders, at the beginning of their career, like Mr. Hyndman himself, were laughed at as impracticable dreamers, as mere cranks, as leaders without a following, as men who could best be compared with the Irish recruit who swore that every man in the regiment was out of step except himself. (Laughter.) But what do we see to-day? We see that the rank and file of serious reformers, social, economic, political, or religious, are getting more and more into step, more and more into line, encouraging us to hope that one day they will be united enough, and strong enough to storm and to carry the last citadels preserved by the united forces of plutocracy and aristocracy. (Applause.) The signs of the times, notwithstanding the reaction in favor of Toryism and Jingoism, are in our favor. The omens of victory are settling on our banners. In America and in Europe in Italy—(cheers)—in Austria, in Germany, even in Russia, in Norway, in the United Kingdom the Democratic movement is undoubtedly growing from strength to strength, and making rapid and irresistible progress under the leadership of men who, like Mr. Hyndman, have devoted their splendid abilities and their untiring energy to educating the minds of their countrymen in those economic principles upon which alone can be based the permanent prosperity and the future happiness of mankind. (Applause.)

MR. DADABHAI NAOROJI, among other good points made by him, said that the British people who made the greatest boast of progress in humanitarianism, has yet a great deal to do before a real international solidarity was established. There was not yet even such a thing as the solidarity of the British Empire. The British Empire consists mainly of India. If there were no India in it the British Empire would be a mere dream. (Laughter and "Hear, hear.")

MR. TOM MANN, of the longshoremen, contrasted the attitude of the workers fifteen or twenty years ago with their attitude to-day on the question of internationalism. There was then no such thing as an international spirit. Each workman fought for his own hand. Among the trade-unionists and the co-operators there was no international aspiration—nothing but the narrow, selfish, plutocratic desire to obtain control of things and to add to the prestige of Britain. Their desire then was the desire of the average thick-headed Englishman of to-day. They had no thought of the necessity of shaking hands with the French or the German workman. The workers of other countries were simply wretched foreigners, altogether inferior to them, their trade rivals. They looked upon them and spoke of them with contempt. Poor devils! They knew no better, because their wretched teachers, being blind, had led them into the ditch. Now, however, the workers recognized

frankly that the foreign workman was not an enemy, but a friend to be taken by the hand; that the workers of all countries must unite, and fight shoulder to shoulder to get their own. They had fought in the past nationally and in sections, and their labor had been largely in vain.

THE REV. STEWART HEADLAM remarked that there were all sorts of Socialists. He, personally, learned his Socialism more than thirty years ago from Frederick Denison Maurice and Charles Kingsley. (Applause.) There were Socialists now who were per-meators. (Laughter and "Hear, hear.") There were Socialists who felt that they could do the best kind of work by being members of various municipal bodies. They did that work in a humble fashion, remembering the advice of Mr. Michael Davitt many years ago—"Send your third-rate men to Parliament, because the real first-rate man can do better work outside." But there was no real difference between Christian Socialism and other Socialism except this, that a Christian Socialist is a Socialist who happens to be a Christian, and, therefore, has certain motives for his work which other people have not; and he is able to appeal to the vast majority of the people who call themselves Christians, and urge them to put themselves in line with the teachings of the scientific Socialists. (Hear, hear.)

If the Rev. Stewart Headlam correctly represents the "Christian Socialist" of England, then the species there must be very different from the variation here. Here we know of more than one "Christian Socialist," in fact, most are that way, who, what he "happens to be" is not a "Christian" but a cantankerous "Atheist," and who, so far from urging the masses to put themselves in line with the teaching of scientific Socialism, do just the reverse, hating nothing more than science, a thing that compels them to stick to facts, and just interferes with their freedom to talk nonsense.

MR. HYNDMAN, the guest of the evening, closed his well-chosen words saying: Because the earth would ultimately cool down so that the last remnant would be hustled together ice-bound in their huts on the equator—was that any reason why they should not continue to work for a better day? No. If there were but one generation to live after him to enjoy that for which he labored, he would still labor and count the enjoyment of that one generation as his reward. (Cheers.) They had a great future before them. If they all worked with one accord they could purchase happiness and comfort for succeeding generations throughout the world. (Applause.) He thanked them sincerely for their many kind words said about him. That reception would encourage him to go forward with more vigor in the future in the work of transforming the present system of class domination into a state of happiness, freedom, and of contentment for all. (Loud cheers.)

HUNGER AND COLD.

Sisters two, all praise to you,
With your faces pinched and blue;
To the poor man you've been true
From of old:
You can speak the keenest word,
You are sure of being heard,
From the point you've never stirred,
Hunger and Cold!

Let sleek statesmen temporize;
Palsied are their shifts and lies
When they meet your bloodshot eyes,
Grim and bold;
Polity you set at naught,
In their traps you'll not be caught,
You're too honest to be bought,
Hunger and Cold!

Bolt and bar the palace door;
While the mass of men are poor,
Naked truth grows more and more
Uncontrolled;
You had never yet, I guess,
Any praise for bashfulness,
You can visit cans court-dress,
Hunger and Cold!

While the music fell and rose,
And the dance reeled to its close,
Where her round of costly woes
Fashion strolled,
I beheld with shuddering fear
Wolves' eyes through the window peer;
Little dream they you are near,
Hunger and Cold!

When the toiler's heart you clutch,
Conscience is not valued much,
He reckns not a bloody smutch
On his gold:
Everything to you defers,
You are potent treasoners,
At your whisper Treason stirs,
Hunger and Cold!

Rude comparisons you draw,
Words refuse to sate your maw,
Your gaunt limbs the cobweb law
Cannot hold:
You're not clogged with foolish pride,
But can seize a right denied:
Somehow God is on your side,
Hunger and Cold!

You respect no hoary wrong
More for having triumphed long;
Its past victims, haggard throng,
From the mould
You unbury: swords and spears
Weaker are than poor men's tears,
Weaker than your silent years,
Hunger and Cold!

Let them guard both hall and bower;
Through the window you will glower,
Patient till your reckoning hour
Shall be tolled;
Cheeks are pale, but hands are red,
Guiltless blood may chance be shed,
But ye must and will be fed,
Hunger and Cold!

God has plans man must not spoil,
Some were made to starve and toil,
Some to share the wine and oil,
We are told:
Devil's theories are these,
Stifling hope and love and peace,
Framed your hideous lusts to please,
Hunger and Cold!

Scatter ashes on thy head,
Tears of burning sorrow shed,
Earth! and be by Pity led
To Love's fold;
Ere they block the very door
With lean corpses of the poor,
And will hush for naught but gore,
Hunger and Cold!



UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN.

Brother Jonathan—Whatever much you may think of your Socialism, I don't think much of it.

Uncle Sam—That certainly is a great misfortune.

B. J.—Socialism is not humane enough for me.

U. S.—What is humaner?

B. J.—Communism.

U. S.—How do you make that out?

B. J.—Isn't the motto of Socialism "To each according to his deeds"?

U. S.—Say it is.

B. J.—Well, Communism's motto is "To each according to his needs." I call that infinitely more humane.

U. S.—Apart from the relative humanness of the two mottoes, I would say that you are wasting your love on phrases of no practical importance.

E. J.—Isn't it practical whether the movement one associates with is a harsh or a kind one.

U. S.—True enough. But all that has no application to the case. It is not a question of willingness or unwillingness to be kind; the question is one of power to be kind.

Now see here. If you have five children, all equally strong, healthy, intelligent; and the smallest amount a human being can get well along with is one dollar a day; and all that you make, all that you can make, is two dollars a day—could you, with these two dollars a day income furnish one dollar a day a piece to your five children?

B. J.—No.

U. S.—You would be short three dollars a day, even if you could get along with nothing.

B. J.—Couldn't do it.

U. S.—Could you justly be said to be harsh, inhuman and all that because you do not provide for your children "to each according to his needs"?

B. J.—Why no; if I can't, I can't.

U. S.—Just so. Now, suppose again you have five children. Four of them healthy, strong, intelligent, one dollar a piece is needed by them; and a fifth child that is a cripple and sickly, and he, to be kept at all comfortably would need five dollars a day. Your income is seven dollars a day. What would you do then?

B. J.—It still won't go round.

U. S.—Could you afford the crippled child five a day?

B. J.—That would leave only two for the other four, not counting myself. No, I hardly could.

U. S.—You would let the well ones have less than one dollar, so as to afford the cripple a little more, but yet he would not be treated "according to his needs," eh?

B. J.—No; but that would not be my fault; I could not do better.

U. S.—Now, let us suppose a third case: You have five children, all five healthy, robust, intelligent; three dollars a day is needed to keep them up; your income is one hundred dollars a day.

B. J.—How much?!

U. S.—One hundred a day.

B. J.—I wish it were fifty; I wish it were twenty-five; I wish—

U. S.—Never mind what you wish; it is only an illustration. With that amount of revenue, would you keep your children down to an expenditure that is "according to their needs"?

B. J.—No; I'd let them have more.

U. S.—Just so; and why?

B. J.—Because I can afford it.

U. S.—Now, that's all that there is in these mottoes. It is not a case of humanness in the one or of harshness in the other. The one, which you call "humane," proceeds from and towards an aspiration, regardless of the material power to carry it out; the other, which you call "harsh," proceeds from the material power and accommodates its aspirations to the capacity to reach them. Do you understand?

B. J.—I—think I do.

U. S.—Now then, whether in society each shall have according to his needs or according to his needs is a question that depends wholly upon the capacity of production of that society, and that again depends wholly upon its mechanical development and social arrangement.

When, at the time these mottoes sprang up there was some justification for them. The one of "to each according to his needs" was an aspiration that swung to the other extreme of the wrong it saw; it saw excessive wealth enjoyed by those who needed it not, while others in need pined; as a revulsion of feeling, it demanded for each "according to his need"; but this was a case of feeling only; it did not stop to consider that even if excess were lopped off at one end there might not be wealth enough for ALL "according to their needs"; while the "harsh" motto, keeping this fact in mind, insisted on its method.

To-day, one may well say that the issue between the two mottoes is a volcano burnt out. It has no more real importance. It is known that the wealth producible to-day is so large that each can have enormously more than his needs. The mechanical development of production has thus removed the basic difference of the two mottoes. In so far as the one represented "communism" and the other "Socialism," the two are one to-day. Your objection is back-numberish.

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—LOWELL.

NEW BEDFORD REVIEW.

The Local Situation and Outlook After the Collapse of the Strike.

NEW BEDFORD, May 30.—The New Bedford strike is over, and the workers are tasting the bitter fruits of defeat as a result of their faith in pure and simple unionism. Some of them are plunged in a quagmire of pessimism. They are the ones who have not yet embraced the new trades unionism. On the other hand, the S. T. & L. A. men have come out of the fight not like their class-unconscious brothers, with the damp of despair on their brow, but with every fiber of their being tingling with hope. The old trades unionists are marching in the darkness of night amidst the shadows of the willow trees of defeat. The new trades unionists have their faces set to the rising sun, radiant with hope for the future. Old trades unionism in this fight has been thoroughly tried and tested with most disastrous results to the workers. They have been compelled to submit to everything the manufacturers demanded. Not the faintest concession has been made. Thoroughly defeated they have returned to work. But they are thinking as they never thought before. It thus follows that our movement is growing on all sides. Every Local Alliance that we organized during the strike has more than doubled in membership, and we are reaching out for more. I might say here that New Bedford is built like a dumb-bell, the congested part at both ends. The workers are massed at two extreme points. The North end and the South end, while in the center of the dumb-bell, as it were, is the plutocracy and the business quarter.

Seven months ago there was a German Section in the North end. That was all the organized force in the town. About that time Comrade Hancock and a few other English-speaking comrades organized an American Section, and right here there is food for reflection, in the remarks of Comrade Hancock at the City Hall meeting, for many of our sympathizers in different parts of the country who do not organize or do not push their organization on the plea that "the people are not ready yet." "We must wait a few years until conditions grow worse," etc. He said: "When we organized seven months ago we did not think that we would grow strong enough to put a Congressional ticket in the field for some years. But the strike came along, we having the nucleus of an organization, we were able to gather into our fold all the dissatisfied thinking workmen, who were taught by the strike that they had to change their line of action from the old trades union to the new, from the old parties to the S. L. P. We were further able to send to New York and to the State Committee for assistance, with the result that we have accomplished more in six months than we thought possible in six years."

There is a great lesson to be learned from these remarks. The law of depreciation works as inexorably in the capitalist system as the law of gravitation. Hence a New Bedford strike may occur at any moment in any part of the country. Our comrades should be ready to take advantage of it. The New Bedford comrades have this to show for their short work here. A newly organized American Section of 62 members in the South end; the North end has jumped from 20 to 110, and has sent two delegates to the State Convention on a basis of representation of one delegate for every fifty members in good standing, thus showing that they are all paid up. There are here four locals and a District Alliance with a membership of over 400, and growing with leaps and bounds. Organization of the Alliance is thoroughly perfected, and the comrades are working with a spirit of emulation and esprit de corps worthy of Napoleon's old guard. It is no fairy tale or dream that is given utterance to when our New Bedford comrades say: "THE NEXT STRIKE IN NEW BEDFORD WILL BE CONDUCTED BY THE SOCIALIST TRADE & LABOR ALLIANCE."

Why should it not be so? Old trades unionism has been so thoroughly shown up here that the blindest of the workers are seeing it in its true light. Their leaders have been so decisively thrashed and shown up as fools or knaves by the Socialists that we stand out in a great white light by contrast. Grimaldi, the great English clown, whose antics were so indescribably funny that the London populace was moved to laughter, even when he appeared on the street, could not in his palmy days hold a candle to Sam Gompers in the estimation of the people of New Bedford. Everywhere they laugh at Mr. "Go." When the weaver finds the love light leaving his wife's eyes as she thinks over her miserable lot, he has only to tell her of Mr. "Go." When the child of an ex-striker sees the smiles break out on her worn cheeks as she thinks of the great mogul of the A. F. of L. and his disappearing coat tails as he went to "catch that train." When the child of an ex-striker is naughty, as even poor strikers' children sometimes be, the father will tell the little tot that if he does not improve he will grow up to be as mean as Mr. "Go," a consummation that the child certainly does not wish for.

To make matters worse for the A. F. of L. its officers seem to strive with every effort to make the tapeworm even more ridiculous, if such were possible. For instance, the A. F. of L. has decided to boycott cash registers. Here returns from the poor weaver's wife, as she returns from the grocery store with a two-cent bundle of wood in her apron, if she invests in a seventy-five dollar cash register the whole power of the A. F. of L. will be turned on her to crush her. The Central Labor Union of Lynn, sick though it was of the stupidity of the A. F. of L. officers, has continued to affiliate with the A. F. of L. and, from long experience were ready to almost any thing from that source, but the cash register proposition was the straw that broke the camel's back. They looked at the proposition, thought over it, sent back their charter to the A. F. of L. of Hell, gave one great groan and died.

A parallel case is that of the Central Labor Union of Fall River. They sent a letter to Comrade Skahan, of New Bedford, our candidate for Congress, asking him if he was in favor of postal

savings banks. Fancy post office savings banks for the starving strikers of New Bedford, men who in the majority of cases will not be out of debt for the next three years as a result of their 15 weeks' idleness.

These simple cases of class stupidity or worse could be multiplied indefinitely, but I have neither time, space or patience to bother with them. Enough to show how necessary it is for the Socialists to erect a new trades union movement that will be a fortress behind which the proletariat can entrench itself to carry on the daily class struggle instead of the card board structure of the pure and simpliers. This strike has taught a great many lessons to the observing man. For instance, when the gates were opened for the admission of scabs, the pulpits of all denominations showered advice on the heads of the workers, said advice being to the effect that no man has any right to interfere with another; let him go back to work if he wants to. This was a direct request from the pulpits to the strikers to scab it. Again, the grocers sent word to the soup houses that they would give no more food. The word was sent around from the politicians, close to Manufacturer Pierce, to the rum sellers to advise all the strikers to go back. Mr. Pierce and all the other mill capitalists own "corporation houses," miserable shanties which the strikers hire from the companies, paying an exorbitant rent, thus the masters get back some more of their surplus value. A week before the gates were opened the strikers received notice to quit if they did not return to work. This, of course, meant instant surrender to the capitalist robber. Thus the ownership of the workers' houses by the mill capitalists placed the manufacturers in such a position that they could have broken the strike any moment they wanted to. With all this intimidation, is it any wonder that the strikers gave in after a heroic struggle of 15 weeks for the weavers and 18 for the spinners?

So much for the great strike and the lesson it teaches. The conclusion is obvious. Organize in the Socialist Trade & Labor Alliance, thus receive the backing of a growing political labor party, built on the lines of class-conscious solidarity. Then strike where Pierce and all the other capitalist brigands are weakest—at the ballot box; wrest the political power from him and all his class; smite the labor fakir who runs on the Pierce ticket as hard as you would strike Pierce himself. Organize in that way. Pierce and Co. would not dare to outrage you as he does to-day. He would know that the direct result of such action would be the rolling up of such a vote in Massachusetts that the old Bay State would be in danger of falling into the hands of the revolutionary proletariat as a preliminary step towards the capturing of the public powers of the Nation by the working class.

On next Tuesday, the special election for Congress takes place in this district. The feeling is general that when the ballots are counted there will be a surprise for the capitalist and labor fakir crew.

THOS. A. HICKEY.

The Alfred Dolge "Profit Sharing" bankruptcy is developing more and more beauty spots on the "Profit Sharing" solution of the Labor Question.

A month or so ago, when the failure of the firm was first announced, we called attention to several of these beauty spots, among which was the helplessness of the "profit-sharing" employes to control the action of their "fellow workman" and "fellow profit-sharer"—the boss—when he wanted to speculate with their prospective share—and losing it, and leave them whistling for their share, which was anything mythical enough.

Now new developments come up. Papers are now served by a bank to remove Alfred Dolge as one of the receivers on the ground of fraud, and the course the whole affair is taking is such that the "partners," the "profit-sharing" workmen and women of the concern are moving away wholesale from the village. The only thing that they find they share with their former "partner," the capitalist, is his disgrace—as the duped end of the swindle. When the schedules are made up it will be interesting to know how much of the "shares" went to Prof. Green Goods, alias George Gunton, for the annual banquet speeches he used to deliver to the employes for the purpose of helping to humbug them. There are birds whispering about that the only "sharer" was this Green Goods. Can this be?

"The Right to be Lazy," a sparkling, and, withal, highly instructive work by Paul Lafargue, has appeared in the English language. The work was originally in French, it immediately was put into German, and, though very much belated, yet not too late it is just out in English. The English reading public, and especially those interested in the Social Question, owe the pleasure and profit they are now enabled to derive from this clever production, to Comrade Dr. Harriet E. Lothrop, of Boston, who undertook the translation and executed it with skill and neatness, and also to the enterprise, as well as devotion to the cause of popular education on the Social Question in America, of the International Publishing Company, that places it in the field.

The work is a 46 page pamphlet, that takes up the question of work from a new side; and from that quarter pours out broadside upon broadside upon a social system in which WORK, being the surest way to the enforced idleness and low revenue of the worker, assumes such a false and distorted shape in his mind, that it is clung to by him with a tenacity that raises it to the plane of an idol with him, and thereby pushes him ever lower. The vast erudition of Lafargue, his deep penetration, and his grasp of the question, coupled to a genial style and imagery, that is peculiarly French, and to which Dr. Lothrop has done full justice, render the pamphlet the easiest sort of reading. Inensibly the reader becomes possessed of valuable information, that is furthermore valuable in that it points out the way for investigation and further observation. One is amused, edified and instructed all in one.

Apply to Labor News Co., 64 E. 4th street, N. Y., or to International Publishing Co., 23 Duane street, N. Y. Price 10 cents.

FRENCH COMRADES.

(Continued from Page 1.)

and the Clericals) had flooded the district. This candidate, yesterday without resources, to-day so prodigal, has placarded his bills by thousands throughout the district. He has at his service twenty-four bill posters escorted by forty superintendents, and every one of these eighty-four men is attached to the police department and is now on leave of absence. Never in the history of the Republic has official pressure reached such a degree of intensity.

"Against such a force of men the four bill posters of the committee that had Gerault-Richard's campaign in charge could not compete. Against the one hundred thousand bills with which this protegee of the capitalists covered every wall in the district, they only succeeded in getting up two thousand. And it is under such conditions that we have had to fight this battle.

As Gerault-Richard was passing the factory, the posters in the pay of Bernard and the government were in the act of covering up the only three bills that were left to announce the next speech of the Socialist candidate. Gerault-Richard protested against this high-handed procedure and did what any other man would have done—tore off and destroyed Bernard's bills. "Surely," he said, "among the three hundred bills for which there is a place you will leave me room for three." Immediately one of the police detectives that accompanied Bernard's posters ran to the nearest police station and instructed four policemen to arrest Gerault-Richard, who very quietly told the officers to mind their own business. The detective insisted that the police proceed with the arrest and told them plainly: "You know that you are supposed to arrest him, and it will go hard with you if you do not."

"The crowd, which by this time had become large and excited, took the part of the Socialist candidate, and began to hiss both the detective and the police. Gerault-Richard ended the exhibition by asking his friends to disperse, and said to the functionaries of the government who were about to take him into custody: "I forbid you to speak to me. Your duty is to run Bernard's campaign, and to do that you have to destroy my announcements. Do that, but I defy you to touch me, even with the ends of your fingers." With these words he left the gang to meet the guys and rally of the passers-by as best they could.

This incident is an indication of the methods which the capitalist government of France has had to resort to in order to attempt to keep down the Socialist vote. What occurred in this district of Paris occurred in every other district and at every place in France where the Socialists were always strong.

THE SOCIALIST DOCUMENT.

The final appeal of the Socialist Labor party through its press was in the following words: "Citizens, vote—

"To conquer the political power, which will be the instrument to effect your economic emancipation;

"To better your condition under the capitalist regime by continual reforms;

"To defend your class interests;

"To defend the trades union liberties that you now enjoy, and to snatch new liberties from the capitalist government;

"To defend the liberties of the public against the coalition of your exploiters, the Clericals, the Nobles, the Royalists, and the Cesareans;

"To prepare for and hasten the Socialist regime, which, assuring to each one the entire product of his labor, will establish equality between all men.

"Proletarians of the farm, the office, the store, the shop, and the factory,

"ELECT THE SOCIALISTS!

"To refrain from voting is to desert the fight.

"To vote for the capitalist candidates is to forge your own chains.

"To vote for the Socialists is to take a step toward the Socialist Republic."

The result of this magnificent agitation resulted in the increased vote above indicated. Owing to the coalition of all the anti-Socialist elements and the unlimited and open use of money and intimidation at Carmaux and Roubaix, Jaurès and Guesde were defeated. At Carmaux, Jaurès received 5,515 votes against 6,702 for the capitalist candidate de Solages. At Roubaix, Guesde received 7,971 votes against 11,247 for the capitalist candidate Motte.

Some very interesting incidents have developed over the defeat of these two war horses of the Socialist Labor party of France. Next week we shall give the expressions of the leading French Socialists regarding the defeat of the movement, as well as some additional facts regarding the nature of the defeat.

In Paris 203,159 votes were cast for the Socialists. On the first ballot nineteen out of the forty-six delegates to which Paris is entitled were chosen. Out of the nineteen, seven were Socialists.

In the Thirteenth arrondissement of Paris, Gerault-Richard, the editor of the "Petite République," received 2,914 votes against 2,308 for Bernard and 1,262 for Dupré, an Opportunist. A second election was necessary. I have not yet learned whether the Socialist was defeated or not. The probability is that he was, for naturally the vote of the Opportunist would go to Bernard. Gerault-Richard was one of the three—Jaurès, Guesde, and Gerault-Richard—that the capitalist coalition was bound to defeat. J. P. May 28.

The numerous calls that have come in for the New Bedford speech "What Means This Strike?" published in these columns a few weeks ago, has determined the National Executive Committee to reprint it in pamphlet form. It can be had at the Labor News Company, 64 E. 4th street, this city. Single copies, 5 cents; 10 copies, 30 cents; 100 copies, \$2.50.

Milwaukee, Wis. Comrade J. Rummel, 210 18th street, is authorized agent. All subscribers in arrears are requested to settle with him at once.

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

CORRESPONDENCE.

[Correspondents who prefer to appear in print under an assumed name, will attach such name to their communication, besides their own signature and address. None other will be recognized.]

Queer Things in Arkansas.

TO THE PEOPLE.—I have, since a little time back, tried my best to organize a Section of the Socialist Labor party here. But the time and conditions affecting the people here are not ripe yet. Most of the people are willing to go in on general principles objecting to public control of land and to industrial war. They are willing enough to accept the rest of the platform if not such a condition of mind significant? But even the rest of the platform they objected to in 1896. For instance, they objected to the equal suffrage plank, and many others object to the immigration plank.

While my agitation was encountering these difficulties, following in the same the old populist war-horse along with their "thunder." Between that and the war bluster, all attention is now drawn away again from anything sensible for the time being.

There is an old fellow going on just now. The populist candidate for Senator in this district issued an address to the voters. Among the most striking passages of the address were:

"I elected, I promise to be a faithful servant of the people."

"I pledge myself to be faithful to the trust reposed in me."

"I shall represent the whole people," etc. Such are his "issues." He has been doing the same thing for years. Now, hardly was he made aware of his own unpopularity, and his Democratic opponents, and what does this address contain but exactly the same thing that the other does. I am trying to use an old fellow, who has been with those two parties, and their candidates and their aims, and their foundations are exactly alike. In the meantime, the two candidates are accusing each other of being dishonest, being dishonest. Each claims that the other is "thunder." What "thunder"? The chickens have come home to roost. T. W. Hanover, P. O. Ark., May 28.

The Seidenberg Spectre Casts a New Shadow.

TO THE PEOPLE.—In crossing a street of New York recently, I happened to pick across a picket of the International Cigar Makers' Union. The sight brought very forcibly to my mind a certain passage in a recent letter, written by I. Bennett, Secretary of the Seidenberg strike, and was published in the "N. Y. Volkszeitung" of April 24, 1898. Mr. Bennett says there: "BUT IT MUST BE REMEMBERED THAT THE PICKETS ARE NEVER APPOINTED FOR THE TIME THAT THE STRIKE LASTS, BUT ARE TAKEN FROM THE LIST OF UNEMPLOYED."

The picket who I saw across that street picked contrasted strongly with the old picket of Bennett. I could only see the same familiar faces of the men on picket duty. Instead of the picket not ONE unemployed man, he had a whole lot of them. I picked himself—a MANUFACTURER; David Holmderinger—a MANUFACTURER; Mo David—a MANUFACTURER. Besides these, there were other men who are not manufacturers but who have a steady job from the International Union of some kind or other. There is, for instance, Joe Vogel, who has been Secretary of the Int. Cigar Makers' Union for some time. He has been in the one Rosenstien and Ash, who for the past few years have held good "long filler" jobs from the label committee of the Int. Cigar Makers' Union. These Mr. Bennett's "unemployed"?

I should not forget from the list one Kluka, a member of No. 90 and of the fakir Bohemian Union. He has been doing "pick-et work" for the last 15 years. This, like the only one who comes nearest to Mr. Bennett's statement about only the "unemployed" are you are right? NEVER WORKS EXCEPT WHEN THERE IS NO STRIKE, the moment there is a strike on he is on picket duty.

RUDOLPH KATZ, Member of Int. I. C. M. U. New York, May 21st.

B. C. C. S. D. and S. L. P. in the State of Washington.

TO THE PEOPLE.—Matt Mastison was in town yesterday; he is a B. C. C. (Brotherhood of the Co-operative Commonwealth)—a "colony boss." He is well meaning, but with very limited views. He says that he is a B. C. C. Just now the "Social Democrats" are making a hard pull. They are on the streets bragging on what they are going to do, and about the "Social Democrats" that they got from somewhere to put into the colony scheme. There is no love lost between them and the B. C. C. of Edison. Mastison was down from Edison where the colony is located. He says they are down on him, think his scheme was intended to hurt them. "I don't know, but have reason to think it is the intention of the Debits here to put up a ticket for the State Convention of the local branch here, and another prominent one of their members went into the Fusion convention here this spring, and were prominent in all the way through. We must do what we can, and we can pretty often."

T. J. D. Seattle, Wash., May 28.

The Bryan Democracy in Massachusetts.

TO THE PEOPLE.—"But it happened unto them according to the true proverb. The dog is turned to his own vomit again, and the sow is washed to her wallowing in the mire."

The sins of the democratic party are many. Early in the century, led by ambitious and greedy men, they adopted as their dominant motto the interests of the country.

Since the war it has, especially in the South, been the organizer of chain gangs and in very recent years has been the organizer of the South towards disfranchising the workers, notably in South Carolina and Louisiana; in the latter State a constitutional convention, having just adopted a new constitution, is now providing for both a property and an educational qualification which goes into effect at once—not being submitted to the voters.

In the North, and especially in Massachusetts, it has been a tall to the Republican kite. It has in a few short years oscillated from Butler and Grover Cleveland and from advocating soft money to a champion of hard money.

It has pretended to be a champion of democracy; but being a capitalist party, it has sold out its followers whenever the capitalist interests have been on the side. It has been enthusiastically supported by those it deceived—it is the character of some people to believe in one after having been deceived by another.

It has been pointed out in THE PEOPLE that Bryanism in the Massachusetts Legislature in 1896 and 1897 sold out to McKinley. McKinley was elected by the support of the Congressional District of this State, where, on the 16th of May, the Democratic convention—the Bryan "new" democracy—nominated a ticket headed by McKinley as their candidate for Congress at the special election.

Let this may seem like a fairy story, the papers in the case are herewith submitted. The following letter of the Secretary of the I. R. U. sent the following letter to the candidate: "Hon. Charles S. Randall.

"Dear Sir:—I have the honor of tendering to you on behalf of the Democratic Convention of the 13th District the nomination for Congress, and hoping you will accept the same. I am yours truly, HENRY W. BERRY.

The follower of Hananiam replied as follows: "Jas. W. Murphy, Esq.

"I hasten to notify you that I cannot accept the nomination tendered me. During the years that I have been a voter I have been a loyal supporter of the Republican party and its present old Whig party. CHARLES S. RANDALL.

Shades of Thomas Jefferson and the Chicago platform! In two short years, after the "first battle," Bryanism in Massachusetts capitulates and goes over to the enemy. It elects Josiah Quincy, a rank "gold bug," to the office of Mayor of Boston, then endorses the Republican candidate for Governor of the State, and winds up its debauch by trying to bribe a Republican to be its candidate for Congress—"the world do move"—in some places backwards. THOS. C. BROPHY.

Boston, May 27.

TO THE PEOPLE.—The next discussion meeting of the American Branch, S. L. P., will be held at the City Hall, New York, Sunday, June 6th, at 8 p. m. sharp. At the request of several friends the subject for discussion will be: "Why the Socialist Labor Party is opposed to the Debs Social Democracy."

Whoever of our comrades can discover in Buffalo some remnant of the defunct "Buffalo Branch of the S. D. A.," or any person

LETTER BOX.

as yet affected with this Debs fever should try to bring such to the meeting.

Admission free to all. Freedom of discussion is also guaranteed to every one.

Buffalo, June 1. B. REINSTEIN.

Off-Hand Answers to Correspondents.

[No questions will be considered that come in anonymous letters. All letters must carry a bona fide signature and address.]

E. S. Nekomis, Ill.—Never mind if you are called a Socialist sympathizer for not allowing yourself to be browbeaten by the capitalist. Ever since the French comrades are in the same way called "Socialist sympathizers" because they do not allow the cry of the French capitalists about "revenge" to affect them; and our German comrades likewise are called "Socialist sympathizers" because they do not prove of the barbarian principle of holding a people subject to a nation that it dislikes, and accordingly approve of the annexation of Alsace and Lorraine without the consent of these people. Likewise our Italian comrades are called English sympathizers because they announce the butchery of Italian soldiers forced to fight in Africa so as to gain some territory for Italy and keep it away from England. And so on. The root of all these alleged "sympathies" is the well-grounded knowledge that the proletariat of the entire class has for its object nothing less than the nation; it has for its sole object the pockets of the capitalists. This fact will soon dawn upon our own people. Just wait.

A. A. New York.—Civilization, and, therefore, Socialism, are opposed to conquest. A people should have the choice of the nation, government, and laws, and not be ruled and under. Conquest does not consult this wish. We are, therefore, unalterably opposed to the conquest of the Philippines. As a temporary war measure, the United States might be justified. But the idea of conquering about seven million people, enforcing our ways, our rule, our system upon them is a return to barbarism; and the plan to "knock them down to the highest bidder" is a no better than the one that the old time slave market system.

A. S. W. Fort Worth, Tex.—Make no mistake about that, nor allow one thought to run away with all the others that go together with it. "The Socialist movement is not a movement against individuals," correct. But individuals uphold systems. No system will stand up on second of itself. Without the individual to uphold it, it would not be. An army seeks to silence the guns of its adversaries; would you say that, therefore, it should blaze away at the guns only and carefully abstain from attacking the men who are manning the most terrific gun is terrific only in so far as individual gunners operate it well; imagine these away, and no lamb, carried on the arms of a shepherd, would be able to harm the flock. The capitalist system is such a gun; the capitalist class and its defendants are the gunners.

J. McG. Cleveland, R. I.—The government of the United States has questioned right to draft citizens for this or any other service outside as well as inside the United States. A. Grosinger, New York.—On more careful examination of the letter you brought last week for publication to this office from your cigar-makers' union, it appears that the signature other than "The Committee."

In view of the fact that the letter contains charges against persons therein named that are untrue, and that the name of the person in this office itself to be true, THE PEOPLE cannot assume the responsibility of publishing such anonymous correspondence, anonymous even to its author.

By the way, when you were here last week, you convinced yourself, by a personal inspection of the original of your letter, published in our issue of the 1st of last month, that it had not been "mutilated," "rendered ridiculous," or otherwise "disfigured," as you had been falsely charging THE PEOPLE with having done. You are now endeavoring to retract the charge with those to whom you made it, and oblige?

T. D. A., Boston, Mass.—The People's party honeycombed with Nationalism! Well, perhaps you are right; then only the sense that the lion may be said to "honeycomb" with the lamb be placed inside of him.

J. H., New York.—The "right of eminent domain" is a feudal conception. It is the right of ownership reserved to overlord our private landed property, and the right of overlord could enter upon, take possession of, private property, claiming to exercise his right of domain of ownership and control, superior to that of the tenant who is holding the property. This old feudal right has passed over to the people in their collective capacity, and is exercised, subject to the limitation of eminent domain, in the form. This limitation of paying "indemnity" under which the national right of eminent domain is now placed, is no part of the conception of the right of eminent domain. The feudal theory that all property flowed from the overlord was a correct military deduction; indeed, all property did flow from him as the head of the feudal system, and as the power. To-day, the people collectively are the head, center and symbol of the source of "property"; all property flows from that; all property is collectively owned, and the collectivity has in it an absolute right of ownership, which it has right to enforce whenever it so chooses—and, no doubt, will, eventually, it choose to do so.

"Ground rent" is the rent yielded by land, proper, to the landlord. "Economic rent" is an abstract economic expression of the value of land. It means the value, in product, of what one piece of land will yield in excess of another, which the same amount of labor is applied. The theory that "economic rent" is something such as rent, or that no such thing as "rent" arises, over any piece of land into another piece of land comes into cultivation and yields with the same amount of labor smaller returns. The difference between the yield of the first piece over the second is "economic rent." The whole theory is based upon the fact of land monopoly, and that in a very primitive stage of capitalism. The development of capitalist production has taken the bottom from whatever color of reason the theory of "economic rent" may have enjoyed. A Mergenthaler typesetter, an improved Hoe cylinder press, a Northrup loom, and steam reaper and binder, set up anywhere; it works the theory of "economic rent" into splinters. To-day the theory speaks only in the head of the bona fide single taxer; and the reason is that the meaning of the word "capital" is to him as to his class.

E. C. R., Haverhill, Mass.—If a draft should be ordered in this war, and a Socialist be drafted, the safest thing to do is to submit. We must bear the consequences of the blindness of the majority of the people. It is keeping up a social system that renders imperative such wars as this, and agitate all the more to enlighten them.

T. F. B., Benicia, Cal.—For information on the fact that the liberation of Cuba was conceived in South America, but was balked by the United States slave-holding Government, then see the "Congressional Record," then called the "Congressional Record"; the Congress (Senate and House Documents) of that time; Niles Register; and above all, a voluminous work ("Documentos para la historia de la liberacion de Cuba") which has been collected by the Government of Venezuela, being a very complete collection of documents upon the South-American war of independence and the diplomatic correspondence that developed it. There also was an article in the "North American Review," we believe, some time during those years that dealt with the question.

"Reader," Scranton, Pa.—The world may crash and crumble, but THE PEOPLE will not bend. That's what it's here for. Its principles are the highest truths, the loftiest idea of the age. Let it all else go to wrack and ruin, over the wreckage Truth will rise—and conquer.

A Comrade, Los Angeles, Cal.—The last Milwaukee election (municipal) gave the S. L. P. 518 votes; at the previous municipal election the vote was 541.

Bundles of 50 PEOPLES sent regularly cost 1 cent a piece.

F. T., Piedmont, W. Va.—The 1,400,000 accredited to the Free Socialist Labor party for 1896 in the Almanach de Questions Sociales are the municipal elections polls, and take in votes of the "Socialist radicals" and such others. Our comparison is made between the poll of the 1896 and 1897. The 1897 year's vote was national, i. e., for members of Parliament (Chamber of Deputies), and so was the election of 1893. Such elections are every five years.

General Agitation Fund.

Previously acknowledged \$42.58
Boston City Committee, per D. Goldstein 6.00
Total \$48.58
HENRY KUHN, Sec'y.

Daily People Minor Fund.

Previously acknowledged \$2,225.28
F. Helberg, Somerville, Mass. 50
A. Estienne, New York City 50
D. Digen, Chicago, Ill. 50
F. Bierack 50

Total \$2,275.28
HENRY KUHN, Fin. Sec'y.

OFFICIAL.

SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY.

National Executive Committee.

Session of May 21st. Teche in the chair. All present. The financial report for the week ending about the 15th of May was read: \$51.25; deficit for the week \$2.15. A telegram was received from New Bedford announcing a large vote for the S. L. P. A committee from the National Executive Committee, complaining about a communication from THE PEOPLE on the Seidenberg strike and requesting that greater care be exercised in the publication of their communications. The committee stated that while they were in accord with the general policy of THE PEOPLE on matters of national import, the paper should be free from interference in local matters. The Executive Committee, after discussing the matter, came to the conclusion that in the particular instance complained of, the National Executive Committee should communicate with the G. E. B. S. T. & L. A., asking whether the N. E. C. could recommend to them an agitator for work among the miners in Pennsylvania. Resolved: To inform them that Comrade Hickey will go to that State and that they can use him for a certain time. A letter was read from the Secretary of the National Executive Committee, dated May 15th, 1908, in which he acknowledged receipt of the resolutions to be forwarded to the comrades of Spain. The letter stated that they published the resolutions for the comrades of Spain, and that they had a member at large, Tenn., admitted as a member at large. The Texas sections have elected San Antonio as the seat of the State Committee in the convention at the State Convention to be held at the State Convention in San Antonio to forthwith elect the committee and to report such election at headquarters. Reports were received from Comrades Kethard and Hickey about their activities.

A. S. BROWN, Rec. Sec'y pro tem.

General Vote.

The Sections of the Socialist Labor party are hereby called upon to forthwith proceed to vote upon the below candidates for delegate to the National Convention of the S. T. & L. A. to be held in Buffalo, N. Y., on July 4, 1908. The candidates who have accepted the nomination are: AVERY, MARTHA MOORE, of Boston, Mass.; KEIP, ARTHUR, of Washington, D. C.; and MORGAN, THOMAS G., of Chicago.

The following comrades were also nominated but declined: Lucien Sanial, Fred. Long, J. Mahlon Barnes, Thomas A. Hickey, Hugo Volz, Dan De Leon, Joseph Mpanag and Matthew Maguire.

Organizers will please note that the vote must be reported in figures, and in figures only, and that statements to the effect that the section has voted "unanimously" for this or that candidate, without stating the vote cast, cannot be accepted. The vote closes on TUESDAY, JUNE 23rd, the day of the last meeting of the National Executive Committee. All reports not at hand of that date cannot be counted. Only one delegate is to be sent and members vote for only one delegate in three sections.

Organizers will please submit this matter at the next meeting of their respective sections, see to it that the vote is taken and report the result without delay.

THE DEBATE.

(Continued.)

NEW YORK CITY, April 24, 1898.

Debate of the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union (A. F. of L.) versus the General Council of Shoe Workers (S. T. & L. A.), at Teutonia Hall, 16th street and 3rd avenue, New York City, April 24, 1898.

Participants: John F. Tobin, and Frank A. Sieverman, representing the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union;

William L. Brower, and Daniel De Leon, representing the General Council of Shoe Workers.

The meeting was called to order by Miss Katie Pryor, Secretary of the General Council of Shoeworkers.

TOBIN: This is round two. Mr. De Leon has told you that Comrade Tobin voted for that scallawag Pomeroy at the American Federation of Labor, and he repudiates my action on that occasion because I happened to vote against the large mass of so-called fakirs. I want to explain that briefly, and say my reason was entirely different from convey. I voted for him for the reason that the different trades had the right to vote for whoever they chose to represent them at that convention.

He tells you that certain men in this city have violated their obligation to their organization, and we must discipline those men. In other words, they have placed a fine on those men. They must pay a fine. That is another evidence of fakirism. When you find an organization telling its people that they must pay a fine of ten dollars or ten cents for each man because he scabbed it on them, you must take this belief that they pay this fund to add bootie for this organization, for the officers of the organization who do not report what they do with their money.

Now, some men have been referred to as fakirs. I want to tell you that there is a peculiar condition existing in New York, which you perhaps know, and that it is impossible if you come in here to get men who are identified with the Socialist Labor party movement. Because why? Because they must bow down to the will of the High Priest. The High Priest says these are the qualifications necessary to become a Socialist in New York, or you are not a consistent Socialist. In other words, when the High Chief of the Socialist Trade and Labor Alliance, who, by the way, is the editor of THE PEOPLE, takes snuff everybody must sneeze. That is the philosophy of that. For that reason we have not got with us this afternoon a representative Socialist on our side of the platform. These men here did not sneeze when the snuff was taken and they have got out. (Applause by Modest, Casson, Winchewsky, Cahon, etc.) Some of them happened to be in the city to-day, and then we found that our field of operation in that line was quite limited indeed, and we were obliged to resort to this in order to have our side of the platform filled. No apology therefor.

Mr. Brower stated that the Cousin's snuff was lost about five years ago because men were not loyal to the organization. That is only a guess, simply guesswork, because a man went out of the packing room into the Good-year room. Now, if these strikes that we order from day to day were based on that, we are going to lose every time; but it does not hinge upon that at all. It is more important than that.

De Leon wants me to substantiate a statement that he makes that Comrade Carter, of the Lynn Lasters, is a class-conscious Socialist; and challenges me to deny that he is. I want to give you some evidence of his "class-consciousness." Here is a proposed amendment to our constitution which he fathered, and I want you to mark the evidence of "class-consciousness" in this proposed amendment to our constitution.

"Amend Article 17 by adding: 25 per cent. of all moneys received by the General Union shall be set aside for a fund to be used for manufacturing union-made shoes." (The class-conscious men do not believe in labels, and to-day we find that this meeting is advertised by a circular which has on it an imitation of the union label; but these people do not believe in labels at all; labels are of no use.) "When said fund amounts to \$5,000, the General Executive Board and General Officers shall start a manufactory, and shall have full power to decide on location, kind of shoes to be made and all details of conducting the business; also have power to hire money and do business the same as any first-class business concern." (Just imagine a first-class business concern with a capital of \$5,000 and the ability to borrow money!) "They shall keep ever in view the idea of producing the best possible shoes for the money, to the end that our stamp shall be a guarantee of a first-class article as well as a union-made one. If the above recommendation is not accepted, we recommend that all reference to a union stamp be stricken from our constitution." Signed by M. Grote, George Waddell, John Gibson, Fred S. Carter, committee. This proposed resolution was offered by Comrade Carter, and I tell you that is an evidence of "class-consciousness." It is about the silliest I have ever seen; and he further says if our Convention fails to adopt this amendment we must strike from our constitution all reference to a union stamp! He has got his solution of the labor problem in this little document; and if you do not accept it, you get out! That is an evidence of "class-consciousness." I say! It is the worst I have ever seen.

Now the International Congress has been referred to, and Comrade Sieverman has told you that we are entirely in line with the International Socialist and Trades Union Congress that met in London in 1896. I submit that we are doing exactly what that Congress states we should do, and we were represented in that Congress by our American delegates, Comrades Maguire, Sanial and Bechtold, and that is the resolution that was adopted, and it said: "Especially difference of political views should not be considered a reason for separate action in the economic struggle." Now that is the meat of all the resolutions adopted at that Congress, and it is entirely in harmony with our union. We are just in line with that. I submit that is the most

reasonable line to take; that is the most reasonable line of action; and when we came to New York and saw this little Mutual Admiration Society, acting in opposition to the Congress, we see they are making no progress.

De Leon has a standard of measurement, set up in 1896, as follows: "You fellows up in Rochester are not in line; you are not thorough Socialists; your tactics are wrong, and the evidence is that your vote does not increase, while here in New York we are up all the time." Now, here in New York, let us measure the correctness of his tactics by the vote that the Socialists poll! I have adopted that yard stick; and we find where our organizations exist, where we have the best organizations, there we have an increasing Socialist vote every time we go to the polls. Here in New York you have a stationery vote. Here, in a field where you have the greatest degree of the effects of the modern industrial system, confronting you at all times, and an opportunity to make Socialists every day, and where you have the National Executive Committee, you are unable to increase from year to year, and in Rochester, with our incorrect tactics, if you please, we are enabled to make progress right along and our organization is on class-conscious lines. I will say that we are showing a much more substantial increase along those lines than you are. The men I have met here do not seem to have made any more progress than we have. We have good Socialists in Rochester and wherever our organizations are. (Applause.)

BROWER—Mr. Tobin said that the Faunce and Spinney strike was prior to the organization of the Boot and Shoe Workers. So did I. I still say that after they had their agreement in the City of Lynn, in the central organization, they violated that promise and took and organized scabs that took the places of members of the various independent organizations. (Voice: "Support that.") I will (showing two letters). And the gentleman who made that agreement was Mr. Eaton, of the Lasters' Union. Do you wish me to read this letter? I will give it to you: It is from a shoemaker of the East. I would like it to go in the records of this meeting. This letter comes from a person whom they tried to victimize when he left the city of Lynn for the purpose of going to the West. (A voice: "What's his name?") A. B. Stevens. He is not a Socialist. They wrote to the city of Chicago, "Look out for this fellow;" yet the cutters in the city of Chicago received this man and denounced these fellows. (Voices: "Read it.") I will read it, but I don't want it taken from my time. (The Chairman states that the reading must be included in the time of the speaker.)

The organization of the Brooklyn Union of the Boot and Shoe Workers—there are several of them here—I claim were the men that refused to assist the other shoe workers in the Cousins' trouble of 1892, and also in John J. Latteman's in 1894. It was not altogether on account of Mr. Ross that the Latteman strike was lost; other persons in this city assisted in breaking that strike, and that factory has been going from bad to worse ever since, and whether the Boot and Shoe Workers can ever get it in condition again remains to a certain extent to be seen. There are men here who know full well that we had the factories won, were it not for the snakes in the grass who were guided from the office of the firms, and are now in the Tobin's organization. We can go into the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union of this city and point them out. In Weil's factory this man Clark made the statements that the Council amounted to nothing, he represented the only organized shoe workers of the country; notwithstanding that we made an advance of 25 per cent. The General Council is the liveliest corpse that Mr. Tobin and Mr. Eaton will ever see. DON'T FORGET THAT POINT.

Mr. Sieverman spoke about Comrade Gifford. I do not mean to say that he was a Socialist, but this man came back into Thomas' factory, where there were 500 people, all told, and he made the statement that his card was refused. And Mr. Sieverman told me in the Grand Central Palace, at the time of the party's Convention in 1895, that he would not recognize the card of the S. T. & L. A.; and I said: "The battle is on." The same was said by General Secretary Eaton in the Boston office; he said he would not, and he did not. The Syracuse Union, when men tried to go to work, said "those cards are no good."

They refer to the waving of the American flag in the office of the General Council, and I want to say right here, boys, that I am not ashamed of that flag. I don't wish to appeal to sentiment in this debate. The party carries that flag at the head of its procession together with the International flag of labor. I recognize that there have been wrong things done under the American flag, but I tell you, boys, if you take and follow out the policy of the Socialist Labor party and the Alliance, we can wipe out those wrongs, and don't forget it.

They speak about "capturing" our organization. Well, if they can capture all the members of the Council in this city they are welcome to them; but I tell you, boys, from this time out, from the expressions of the National Officers of the Boot and Shoe Workers Union, the fight will go all the stronger; and we will talk to the unorganized shoe workers and the organized shoe workers of the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union and show them the miserable position of their national organization.

I now wish to say a word in relation to a matter that took place in the city of Newark. An organizer of the Boot and Shoe Workers, Mr. Goodwin, met me there before Local 63, S. T. & L. A., and he there expounded the principles of the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union. I took issue with him; he challenged me to debate; I accepted it. He then flunked out of it, and then said in the records of the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union that I backed out; and when Mr. Tobin was called upon to back up the statement of Mr. Goodwin, Mr. Tobin backed him up. Now the records of the Boot and Shoe Workers are on the table and they can be easily referred to, and their own lie exposed.

I further wish to say this, that the Boot and Shoe Workers' actions in this city since it has been in existence, if that is any criterion to go by, indicate that their progress will be very slow. I made the prediction on the platform

* These two interesting letters will be published at a later day.

I do not care whether you go into the

in Boerum street, when the cigarmaker, Mr. Dan Harris, and a few more were allowed to talk, notwithstanding they interrupted me when I tried to show the weakness of the Boot and Shoe Workers from their own report, and expressed what the Shoe Workers of Brooklyn had to say about this new organization of Shoe Workers, namely, that they would soon go to pieces. When the Boot and Shoe Workers go through the number of fights that the General Council has gone through, we will then find out which side the honest shoemakers are on. We have stood the battle for five years, and wherever the Council has been established we can show a better condition of Shoe Workers than the Boot and Shoe Workers can now or will show in time to come.

Delegates of the Tobin organization go into the Central Labor Union and make statements. What are those statements? Statements that I, as an officer, for the purpose of a wine dinner, sold out a boycott. What is the truth? The C. L. U. itself declared the boycott off, because the people had the courage to go out and stand on new trades union lines.

They say we have nothing to show for the money that we get from our organization. The members get a report once a year, and they know exactly where the money goes, and they know whether it has been squandered one way or another. Next Sunday the Council has another meeting; and the meeting following the members of the various locals know just what money has been collected, how it has been spent, and everything else. (Applause.)

SEEVERMAN—You will notice, gentlemen, that Mr. Brower failed to tell you why he was so actively engaged, having it put in printer's ink, to keep you in an organization that was petering out, meaning the Knights of Labor. He does not explain it to you why he did that in 1895, while Tobin was in Boston fighting the fight of the American Federation of Labor. He has not touched it with a ten-foot pole. He has not said anything else but appealed to your prejudice, and has told you, "We know what these people done in 1892." The most improved fakir could not improve on that. In 1892 these men scabbed it, and what of it? For five years the Shoe Council has been trying to get these shops and bring them into the fold of the labor movement, and they have made a most complete and signal failure; and because of that the Boot and Shoe Workers have come down here and appealed to your prejudice! I attended a meeting that Sam Gompers addressed in the city of Rochester last Sunday night, to 113 men; 113 men they were able to drum up to that affair; they drummed up 113 men in the town where I live, where we have 1,100 members of the Boot and Shoe Workers alone that do not affiliate with any corrupt central body, that won't have anything to do with any body based on the old-fashioned political lines. He tried by hook and by crook to arouse these people to a state of enthusiasm, he gave them all that bluff you have listened to about these fellows scabbing, and then he appealed to the American flag in your education, then the American flag is waved. Hurray! I congratulate you, members of the S. T. & L. A., upon your manifestation of international class-consciousness. I congratulate you in view of what is transpiring under this flag in Hazleton, at Lattimer, at Homestead, everywhere throughout this country under the folds of these stars and stripes. I congratulate you, class-conscious S. T. & L. A., that the leader of your movement, who was the leader of 49, has the trickery of arousing you under that flag. If there is one thing that we need to-day it is plain talk. Let us understand that that flag stands for tyranny, that it stands for oppression, that it stands for robbery; let us understand that it is the capitalist emblem. (Hisses.) They hiss; they are class-conscious; they are Socialist Trade and Allianceites; they are class-conscious. Under this American flag all these oppressions are inflicted upon you. Under this American flag you are to-day being ground down to the miserable pittance that you are receiving. It is the flag which every capitalist fleeces and every capitalist fleecer hides himself in its folds. It is in that guise, hidden in its folds, that they today rope you in, bunco you and make you believe that it is to your interest to fight their battles. We have got to understand that the question that is today at issue is a question of which of the two sets of capitalists shall have a chance to fleece the Cubans. That is the proposition. And the S. T. & L. A. proudly waves the American flag; it proudly says that the Cubans should be fleeced by American capitalists instead of by the Spanish capitalists. Please excuse me from any of that kind of class-consciousness! I think a man would be a peculiar man indeed who did not have somewhere in his heart a love for the particular spot where he first saw the light of day. I first saw the light of day down in the old Buckeye State, and I do think more of my country than I do of other countries. I have in my heart a tender spot for my country, but what is this country? Is it its flag? No, it is you; it is the 55 per cent. of workmen who are being plundered, and it is for those that I am proud that you hiss this sentiment; it is for those that I would take this country away from the capitalist class that has got it. We never can accomplish this if we allow the president of the S. T. & L. A. and capitalist editors to bunco us that the proper thing to do is to rally around flags. We do not want any of that.

We submit a proposition to you, my friends, that the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union is prepared to come into the city of New York and fight the battle for you, to the best of its ability. It has behind it a force of some 10,000. We think that 10,000 are worth something.

Mr. De Leon was kind enough to state that I wear this red button as a bait. The worthy Chairman of this meeting, Comrade Hickey, Comrade Balkam, who is a member of our party and was a candidate for election, they have all met me when they reached my city, and they have all done me credit to say that I work earnestly for the interest of the party. De Leon wanted to discredit me in your eyes; he was afraid I might say something which he would not like. Is it any wonder that we have men sitting here who were once affiliated with the S. L. P. and who had the independence to get out?

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Boot and Shoe Workers' Union or not. We are here defending our right to show our ability to organize the unorganized workers of the city of New York. We are here to do what the General Council is manifestly unable to do in the city of New York. If we demonstrate our ability to do this, if we show you by our action in our respective fields that we are doing all that is to be done under existing conditions, that we are not a tall in any capitalist political party, if we can do that, you will give us credit. Don't let anything sway you in your conclusions because this man or that man says it. Take everything upon its merits. I don't pretend to be an orator, and what I have said to you this afternoon has reference to the merits of our organization, to its right to plant its flag in the city of New York and do business here, from an economic, from a Socialist, from any standpoint we wish to do it. If you think we are right we ask you to stop your opposition to the growth of the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union. If we ask for the opportunity to try to do something for Lattemen's men, I say in common decency we should have your undivided co-operation and support, and if you agree with that sentiment that settles it. If you think, however, that we are justified in using up another three or four or five years trying to organize the unorganized, you will disagree with me, and you will say: "Sieverman, you and your Boot and Shoe Workers' Union have no place in this city; go back to the city of Rochester, where you are meeting with unqualified success."

I thank you shoemakers of the city of New York for your attention. If I never have a chance to see you anywhere else, I will be on the street corners some day talking the Socialism of the S. L. P. (Applause.)

DELEON: It is a great pity that the stenographer could not also stenograph a picture of Comrade Hickey's face when he was just now being referred to by Sieverman as testimony for Mr. Sieverman's false statements.

Now, I do not think it is necessary for me to take up my full time. We have driven them to the defensive; and in their defence they have resorted to personalities in the choicest fakir style, as in the matter of the flag, which I shall refer to presently.

They have argued well for us in that they have carefully left unanswered every point of importance that we made, as you surely will have noticed.

Not a word in answer to the Buffalo affair.—They dared not!

Not a word in answer to the lasters having refused to pay them dues.—They dared not!

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And so on, all along the line. Instead of joining issue, they spent their time in what? Let us see.

They excuse themselves for the element they have here on this platform as their backers on the ground that they "could get nobody else." Which is to say: "If I can't get honorable men to stand up for me, I am all right if I can get dishonorable men."

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Sieverman makes a violent onslaught on the flag, accusing the S. T. & L. A. The fact is that a private member, not even an officer of D. A. 49, placed the American flag together with the Cuban flag over her desk in the D. A.'s office. As to the American flag itself, it is not Socialist principle to denounce it, as Brower already showed; and as to the Cuban? It certainly is Socialist principle that a people shall have the right to govern itself; Spain denies that right

to Cuba; that flag stands for that right. I can well understand the feelings of the Comrade for having coupled the two flags over her desk. As to me, I know she will eventually discover her error, and that the independence she craves for Cuba will not come in that way. Yet this act is presented here as a fakir's act; and not only that; this individual action is sought to be palmed off upon you, not only as an official act of D. A. 49, but as an official act of the whole S. T. & L. A. Think of the unfairness, the disingenuousness, the dishonorableness of such a charge. Yes, Mr. Sieverman, you may find the flag of Cuba over the desk of a private member of the D. A. 49 who would love to see Cuba free, but I'll tell you what you won't find in the Alliance: You won't find there any of its representative men associating with a Dan Harris; you never will find them by their silence approving the "pure and simple" lies a Dan Harris instills in the workers' heads. That distinctive line is drawn between the Alliance and the fakirs who indulge in such conduct. We may have among us some who indulge in a mistaken notion as to what the Cuban flag means; but we have in our ranks none who will back up and countenance exactly the reverse of what they claim to stand for, of what the Socialist Trade and Labor Alliance stands for.

Mr. Sieverman further said it was a falsehood to say he threw light on this question in the S. L. P. national convention, and he told you a pretty yarn of how he was prevented by me from "throwing light." As he first used the word "falsehood," I feel free to use it now. His story is an unqualified, deliberate falsehood. But it is not the first he is guilty of. In that convention I mailed half a dozen falsehoods on his head in plain view of all; and only yesterday afternoon Comrade Hickey nailed on his head two more falsehoods he was retailing against me.

They say the S. T. & L. A. is a paltry affair, a "Mutual Admiration Society."—I notice that it keeps the whole crowd of fakirs howling from one end of the country to the other.

They tell us great things of what they have accomplished—at a distance; wherein they approve themselves apt pupils of their President Gompers, who in New Bedford tells the weavers of the great victories he won for the miners in Pennsylvania, and in Pennsylvania tells the miners of the "splendid victory" he won for the weavers in New Bedford;—always far enough away to prevent the danger of immediate contradiction.

Mr. Sieverman gave you a "philosophic" lecture on the "scab" and "human nature." I have no time to expose that "philosophy." Suffice it to say that it was certainly interesting to note just the men who on this platform enthusiastically applauded Sieverman's apotheosis of the scab (pointing towards Brown, Prince and Modest, of the Cigarmakers, and Bechtold, of the Brewers among the Tobin-Sieverman backers). I can't go into that.

They find much fault with our saying that we can win economic battles, and with our adopting a label; that's their fault; we make it clear enough that the economic weapons are valueless only when in the hands of such labor fakirs as the leaders of the Garment Workers, with whom they are associated, and who sell the label to the sweater bosses. Under class-conscious training, and backed by a bona fide political party of the working class, these economic weapons are powerful aids; and that statement was perfectly correct in the South.

Tobin says he adopts my standard of measurement, and he compares the votes in Rochester and New York as proof that the Alliance is no good and Gompers' body is. The trouble with his illustration is that he got his facts upside down. My standard is correct. Why, in the Sixteenth Assembly District alone of New York, where we were "Alliance up to the handle," the INCREASE ALONE of our vote was twice as large as the vote of all Monroe County—Rochester's county. (Applause.) This applause must stop, it eats into my time.

Then, as to their contradictions, I can't take them up, my time is almost run out. But did you notice Sieverman's pride at his Rochester body "not affiliating with any corrupt central organization"? And these are the men who tell us they are wise in affiliating with Gompers, and denounce us for "going off and staying alone."

I am very glad that the vicious tone, which the correspondence from the Tobin-Sieverman side took during the preliminary arrangements for this debate, opened our eyes in time, to prepare us upon what we had to expect from that side, so as to cause us to have a stenographer here. The public will be given this debate in full, and we shall issue it in pamphlet form, with the correspondence that preceded it. It will help to bring on what I know will come, as well as I know anything, that the organization of the S. T. & L. A., being that organization which is built upon the lines of International Socialism, will be the organization that will prevail, despite all this masquerading that we see here. (Applause.)

(The debate was here declared closed by Chairman Harry Carless, and the audience separated with cheers for the Socialist Trade & Labor Alliance.)

THE DAILY PEOPLE \$50,000 FUND.

Amount Pledged down to June 1st, 1898.

\$4,575.

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

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Sieverman says we celebrated their advent in '95, and asks what has transpired since that we now hold different language. That we celebrated their advent in '95 is an argument in our favor; it shows we were hopeful they would act properly, and were not going to oppose them without ground. What transpired since? We told you. They walked into New York and endeavored to destroy our work with the labor fakir Dan Harris as their chief fogleman; they sought thereby to profit by the disensions they would raise through the economic rot they started to retail, and break the solid foundation for union that we had built in our endeavor to establish union,—and, mark you, WILL ESTABLISH UNION.

Sieverman makes a violent onslaught on the flag, accusing the S. T. & L. A. The fact is that a private member, not even an officer of D. A. 49, placed the American flag together with the Cuban flag over her desk in the D. A.'s office. As to the American flag itself, it is not Socialist principle to denounce it, as Brower already showed; and as to the Cuban? It certainly is Socialist principle that a people shall have the right to govern itself; Spain denies that right

to Cuba; that flag stands for that right. I can well understand the feelings of the Comrade for having coupled the two flags over her desk. As to me, I know she will eventually discover her error, and that the independence she craves for Cuba will not come in that way. Yet this act is presented here as a fakir's act; and not only that; this individual action is sought to be palmed off upon you, not only as an official act of D. A. 49, but as an official act of the whole S. T. & L. A. Think of the unfairness, the disingenuousness, the dishonorableness of such a charge. Yes, Mr. Sieverman, you may find the flag of Cuba over the desk of a private member of the D. A. 49 who would love to see Cuba free, but I'll tell you what you won't find in the Alliance: You won't find there any of its representative men associating with a Dan Harris; you never will find them by their silence approving the "pure and simple" lies a Dan Harris instills in the workers' heads. That distinctive line is drawn between the Alliance and the fakirs who indulge in such conduct. We may have among us some who indulge in a mistaken notion as to what the Cuban flag means; but we have in our ranks none who will back up and countenance exactly the reverse of what they claim to stand for, of what the Socialist Trade and Labor Alliance stands for.

Mr. Sieverman further said it was a falsehood to say he threw light on this question in the S. L. P. national convention, and he told you a pretty yarn of how he was prevented by me from "throwing light." As he first used the word "falsehood," I feel free to use it now. His story is an unqualified, deliberate falsehood. But it is not the first he is guilty of. In that convention I mailed half a dozen falsehoods on his head in plain view of all; and only yesterday afternoon Comrade Hickey nailed on his head two more falsehoods he was retailing against me.

They say the S. T. & L. A. is a paltry affair, a "Mutual Admiration Society."—I notice that it keeps the whole crowd of fakirs howling from one end of the country to the other.

They tell us great things of what they have accomplished—at a distance; wherein they approve themselves apt pupils of their President Gompers, who in New Bedford tells the weavers of the great victories he won for the miners in Pennsylvania, and in Pennsylvania tells the miners of the "splendid victory" he won for the weavers in New Bedford;—always far enough away to prevent the danger of immediate contradiction.

Mr. Sieverman gave you a "philosophic" lecture on the "scab" and "human nature." I have no time to expose that "philosophy." Suffice it to say that it was certainly interesting to note just the men who on this platform enthusiastically applauded Sieverman's apotheosis of the scab (pointing towards Brown, Prince and Modest, of the Cigarmakers, and Bechtold, of the Brewers among the Tobin-Sieverman backers). I can't go into that.

They find much fault with our saying that we can win economic battles, and with our adopting a label; that's their fault; we make it clear enough that the economic weapons are valueless only when in the hands of such labor fakirs as the leaders of the Garment Workers, with whom they are associated, and who sell the label to the sweater bosses. Under class-conscious training, and backed by a bona fide political party of the working class, these economic weapons are powerful aids; and that statement was perfectly correct in the South.

Tobin says he adopts my standard of measurement, and he compares the votes in Rochester and New York as proof that the Alliance is no good and Gompers' body is. The trouble with his illustration is that he got his facts upside down. My standard is correct. Why, in the Sixteenth Assembly District alone of New York, where we were "Alliance up to the handle," the INCREASE ALONE of our vote was twice as large as the vote of all Monroe County—Rochester's county. (Applause.) This applause must stop, it eats into my time.

Then, as to their contradictions, I can't take them up, my time is almost run out. But did you notice Sieverman's pride at his Rochester body "not affiliating with any corrupt central organization"? And these are the men who tell us they are wise in affiliating with Gompers, and denounce us for "going off and staying alone."

I am very glad that the vicious tone, which the correspondence from the Tobin-Sieverman side took during the preliminary arrangements for this debate, opened our eyes in time, to prepare us upon what we had to expect from that side, so as to cause us to have a stenographer here. The public will be given this debate in full, and we shall issue it in pamphlet form, with the correspondence that preceded it. It will help to bring on what I know will come, as well as I know anything, that the organization of the S. T. & L. A., being that organization which is built upon the lines of International Socialism, will be the organization that will prevail, despite all this masquerading that we see here. (Applause.)

(The debate was here declared closed by Chairman Harry Carless, and the audience separated with cheers for the Socialist Trade & Labor Alliance.)

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