

The People.

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IN LYNN, MASS.

Reasons for its Proletariat to Join the S. L. P.

The Socialist Labor Party, Long Vindicated for its Principles and its Name, has Survived Every "Reform" Party Thrown as a Spoke in its Wheels, and, Growing Steadily, Pursues its Undeterred Career.

The Lynn Section, Socialist Labor Party, wishes, at this time of political activity in municipal affairs, to say a few words to the voters of Lynn. We send greetings to the 372 men who voted for our candidate for Governor and to about twice that number who voted for some of the other candidates at the late election. Many of you are not members of the Section, and we give you a cordial invitation to send in your names and become members. By so doing you will strengthen our movement, morally and financially, and help to do more effective propaganda work with both literature and speakers. The dues are the small sum of 25 cents per month. The Section is growing rapidly and every man who has become conscious of the interests of the class to which he belongs will find its meetings interesting and will experience a sense of satisfaction in knowing that he is doing his full duty by himself and by humanity, in living up to the teachings of the Socialist Labor Party.

You want to see Lynn prosperous. That city is prosperous whose people are well housed, clothed and fed, where want and misery are unknown, and where every man can get a chance to apply his labor, power and have for himself and family the full product of his toil. This condition has not been brought about by any of the parties that have won control in the past. Mr. Ramsdell and Mr. Shepherd are called good fellows by their respective admirers; we do not wish to deny it, but the question for each voter to ask himself is, who and whose interests do they represent?

Do they represent the interests of the large rank and file, the muscle and the brain of our city's population? or do they represent the interests of the idle capitalist few? Are they thinking about how to provide employment for Lynn's unemployed? or about riding into some high position on the backs of the hungry workers, whom they speak radical sounding words for during some labor trouble, then immediately after the laborer's votes have put them in office, send the police to club the same workers for more trivial cause than ever before?

When called upon to decide between a question of shorter hours, better pay and more humane treatment of employees, or larger dividends and extension of franchise for corporations and "the public be damned," where will they be found? Capitalists are class-conscious, i. e., they are conscious of the fact that they, with their superabundance of the good things of life, belong to a different class from the common people, who have only their labor power as their capital. They are conscious of the fact that, because of owning and controlling the machinery of production, their class also owns and controls the workers themselves. They can give or deny employment, and if given can decide how small the fraction shall be which the worker shall receive of the wealth which he produces. Most important of all, they are conscious of the fact that the sure way for them to continue and increase in power as exploiters of labor, is to always have control of the political, the law-making and the law-enforcing machinery. We call on the large body of the common people of Lynn to consider these things and try to become class-conscious as their exploiters. The question is not, can he make a good speech? or is he a good fellow? The question is

"CONSIDER THE LILIES"



HOW THEY GROW

ALTGELD-TANNER.

A Comparison of Two Dangerous Capitalist Demagogues.

MURPHESBORO, Ill., Dec. 7.—"Birds of a feather flock together." With the object of catching the workman's vote, ex-Gov. Altgeld, during the Pullman strike, declared he would not "use the militia against the interests of the toilers." Gov. Altgeld's successor, John R. Tanner, worked the same trick; but thought he would work it more effectively than his predecessor. When the mine owners of the Pana and Virden Districts began to import colored labor from the South, the present Governor said, in sum and substance: "I will not use the militia against the interest of the toilers"; or, in his own words: "I will not use the militia to protect imported labor taking the places of honest citizens of Illinois." This flattery and humble condescension almost upset the miners' wits, the same as Gov. Altgeld's turned the heads of the Pullman strikers. At the Virden strike, it was known several days in advance that an effort would be made to land the "imported labor" in the mine stockades. It is the Governor's sworn duty to prevent murder and bloodshed. But, instead of forcing the miners to act as pickets about the stockade, he should have detailed the militia in preventing "imported labor" entering the stockade. From the neglect of duty fourteen miners were murdered by the capitalist-hired assassins, and their families—well, Tanner-Altgeld and the rest of the capitalist hirelings don't give two pinches of snuff what becomes of the families of these miners.

But how about this labor-loving Tanner protecting the "lives of the mine owners"? These with him, were dear, precious lives. A few days after his ignoring the lives of these fourteen murdered miners as he would ignore the lives of fourteen cats, he learned that the life of the President of the Virden mine was in danger. With lightning haste he ordered the militia to guard this President while entering the train from the stockade, and to escort him two hundred miles to his home in Chicago. After the Socialists have time and again demonstrated that the capitalists are a robber class, many of the working class thought it nothing but foolish talk on the part of the Socialists. But when two capitalist lackeys, holding the highest offices in the gift of the little and big capitalists, put their heads together and publicly declare such to be a fact, then surely henceforth the producers of all wealth should never doubt it. This confession was lately made by Governors Tanner and Altgeld. Gov. Tanner in a speech said that Altgeld and his gang were a set of robbers; that they had looted the State's treasury of \$2,000,000. He proved it beyond a shadow of a doubt. A few days afterward, Gov. Altgeld in a speech replied by saying, "you're another," and he, too, proved it beyond a shadow of a doubt. They ooth told the "truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth."

MIND IN BODY.

Martha Moore Avery's Reasons for Accepting Nomination to Boston School Board.

To the Socialists of Boston. Dear Comrades:—Your communication informing me of my nomination for the School Board of Boston is received, for the honor and for the confidence in my ability to serve the party in that capacity I thank you. I here-with accept the nomination. Correct principles and the best methods of using them are of prime importance in preparing the girls and boys of Boston for the opportunities and responsibilities that the new future will impose upon them. First, the recognition of the fundamental principle that knowledge, not authority, must ever be the aim of life is necessary to free the pupil from the domination of the teacher. Methods by which men have registered what knowledge has been gained—words, numbers, characters—must be learned in order to gain the modern vantage ground; in other words, the intellectual tools, developed up through the ages to work with must be the free possession of every child. To recognize, then, to analyze and to register correctly and minutely is the full sum of education. The Socialist Labor party, because of the knowledge of the laws of social evolution set up by economic action, is aware that the working class must become the ruling class; that is, fraternal relationship must be established between man and man, which is only another way of saying that all men must render useful service to society, not service in servile capacity to individuals as the present wage-system makes imperative.

The public school system is already a long way on the road towards fitting children for future citizenship. It is founded upon principles of Democracy. Boston schools must be improved and expanded to meet rapidly changing economic conditions. No private institution can be allowed to give superior advantages; this is easy of accomplishment because, however great the resources of private persons, the public resources are vastly greater. Exclusive schools, open only to the children of the rich, would thus put to advantage all persons who were educated in them. No child of the poor should be kept from going to the best possible school, or from going to school for any of the many reasons that are now common, and thus be placed at a disadvantage. The necessary equipment for gaining the best advantage of school life are (after noble buildings generously furnished with modern supplies): good varieties of food, beautiful and comfortable clothing, the human body, that most necessary instrument of use to the intellectual power, kept by the bath and exercise in condition to nicely obey the mental and moral faculties. That Boston, the Commonwealth, the Nation may have creditable citizens, these requirements must be met in the school life. Without sufficient food, the brain-force is not equal to the tenacity necessary to study. Boston may easily extend its cooking department to every school; while learning the art of cooking, enough food may be prepared to supply the entire school with one delicious meal each day. To be illy clothed affects detrimentally the entire range of faculties: freedom for the body and beauty is the standard in dress for both health and elegance. Our schools must see to it that justice is done to those children whose parents are unable to procure the dress neces-

THE VOTE.

Further Official Returns from Several States.

Official Figures from Washington Conform its Magnificent Maiden Total of 1,323—Pennsylvania's Loss of Vote Through Barred Election Frauds—Wisconsin Increases Slightly—Corrected Returns from Rhode Island.

Pennsylvania Official Returns.

The vote of Pennsylvania for the head of the ticket (J. Mahlon Barnes) is 4,318. Below is the vote by counties for this year and 1897:

County:	1898.	1897.
Adams	2	8
Allegheny	361	2,148
Armstrong	4	21
Beaver	15	17
Bedford	2	9
Berks	378	317
Blair	103	103
Bradford	9	24
Burke	54	28
Butler	10	13
Cambria	103	93
Cameron	7	1
Carbon	7	27
Centre	1	3
Chester	28	33
Clinton	3	3
Clearfield	141	101
Columbia	4	13
Crawford	2	11
Cumberland	2	12
Dolphin	4	15
Delaware	9	9
Elk	6	4
Erie	41	44
Fayette	37	20
Forrest	1	2
Franklin	7	2
Fulton	1	2
Green	1	4
Huntington	1	1
Indiana	10	10
Jefferson	9	8
Junia	1	1
Lackawanna	141	121
Lancaster	28	19
Lawrence	12	15
Lebanon	2	11
Lehigh	52	48
Luzerne	226	189
Lycoming	49	126
McKean	2	2
Mercer	43	33
Mifflin	1	2
Monroe	5	26
Montgomery	102	70
Montour	1	1
Northampton	39	33
Northumberland	133	225
Obi	4	4
Philadelphia	636	1,498
Pike	8	3
Potter	6	6
Schuykill	228	134
Snyder	1	1
Summeret	3	11
Sullivan	1	1
Susquehanna	5	12
Tazewell	1	1
Union	1	1
Venango	6	8
Warren	3	14
Washington	42	56
Wayne	3	14
Westmoreland	253	252
Wyoming	2	2
York	40	26
Total	4,318	5,048

Washington Official Returns.

The vote of the State of Washington for the head of the State ticket (Young, Supreme Court) is 1,323. This is the State's first Socialist vote. Below is the vote by counties:

Adams	7	1
Asotin	5	25
Benton	29	18
Challam	43	154
Clarke	33	7
Columbia	9	62
Cowlitz	12	42
Douglas	7	22
Franklin	6	108
Garfield	6	51
Grant	12	36
King	159	71
Kitsap	23	201
Killbuck	12	64
Lincoln	24	15
Levitt	29	15
Lincoln	47	1,323
Totals	1,323	

Wisconsin Official Returns.

The vote of Wisconsin for the head of the ticket (Riese, Governor) is 1,477. At the previous election, 1896, Matchett received 1,318 votes.

Out of the 70 counties in the State, Riese polls a vote in 66. These are:

Adams	2	Marquette	7
Ashland	25	Manitowish	3
Barren	10	Marquette	770
Barraboo	10	Monroe	2
Brown	19	Oconto	10
Buffalo	4	Ontonagon	7
Burnett	12	Ozaukee	21
Crawford	2	Outagamie	7
Chippewa	4	Pepin	1
Clark	5	Pierce	7
Columbia	4	Portage	10
Crawford	2	Price	25
Dane	14	Racine	19
Dodge	4	Richland	7
Door	4	Rock	11
Douglas	3	St. Croix	71
Dunn	7	St. Lawrence	7
Eau Claire	7	Sauk	7
Florence	7	Sawyer	2
Fox du Lac	7	Shawano	11
Green	8	Sheboygan	89
Green Lake	12	Taylor	7
Iowa	5	Trempealeau	4
Jefferson	8	Vilas	3
Kewaunee	8	Waushara	3
Kenosha	6	Washington	3
Kewaunee	6	Waushara	9
Lafayette	3	Waushara	7
Laporte	3	Waushara	15
Langlade	3	Winnebago	56
Lincoln	4	Wood	15
Manitowish	17	Wood	15
Marathon	114	Total	1,477

sary to the establishment of useful manhood and womanhood. The wholesale manufacture of clothing points plainly to this supply. Mental friction and unrest, moral degeneracy and collapse is in great measure traceable to want of proper and sufficient bathing. The school must supply the facilities in order to maintain its self-respect. The odor of the average school room is pregnant with animal refuse, thrown off by respiration; this fact alone should be sufficient to convince men, who aspire to a civilized life, that the bath is a necessity in the Boston schools. To speak of physical culture in a word is a difficult matter. What I would say is that such training as will allow the instant co-ordination of intellectual and physical force at any given piece of work; that conscious and unconscious action of all faculties small focus at one point, is the underlying principle to be demonstrated. There is much to be done in our schools in this direction. Physical beauty and grace of movement is the natural result of health. By the introduction of the knowledge attained in this department of science we may establish the health of our children rather than, as now, undermining it by our crude demonstration of our lack of knowledge. The Socialist Labor party demands the abolition of the contract system on all public works. The positive side of this proposition is that a commission be created under which must be done all work of construction and repairing. A commission that shall be composed of men who have a practical knowledge of the work required, not a board of sinucres. The spoils system, which is consequent upon the capitalist system, is impossible of abolition until the working class becomes the ruling class. Then and not until then will politics be taken from the schools of Boston. I remember, too, the demands of the Socialist Labor party that the educational system be extended to the University. In the event of my election I shall do my best to move toward this end along with the advances indicated by this letter which, I trust, correctly estimate the aspiration of Boston Socialists who are guided to their high task by the white light of science and the warm heart of love and devotion to the children of our beloved city. Fraternally, MARTHA MOORE AVERY.

HOLYOKE, Mass., Dec. 14.—After a severe struggle, the Socialist Labor party of this city elected yesterday the Cigarmaker Moritz Ruther Alderman for the 3rd Ward. Comrade Ruther polled 387 votes, and wins with a plurality of 95 votes. The Socialist Labor party candidate for Alderman at Large polled 1,000, and Comrade A. Buckland, the party's candidate for Mayor, 400 votes.

In Holyoke, the S. L. P. went into the election in 1891 for the first time; it then polled 44 votes. Undismayed by this trifling result the organization returned year after year to the strife, coming out with an ever higher poll. More and more local candidates were set up. The party's growth drove the Democrats and Republicans together in 1894 and Ruther was defeated by their combined strength, their candidate receiving 327 and he 250 votes. That year, however, the S. L. P. Councilman for the Ward was elected. After the new chartering of the city and the reappointment of the Wards, Ruther was nominated by the S. L. P. for Alderman at Large; he then polled 1,408 votes. Last year he was again nominated for the 3rd Ward; in that struggle, the capitalist candidate got through with a majority of only 92 votes. Finally, this year, victory crowned our efforts.

In order to accommodate comrades who wish to subscribe to two or more of the party's organs, we have made arrangements for reduced rates as follows: THE PEOPLE (50c.) and the "Tocsin" (50c.) both for 50c. a year; THE PEOPLE and the "Class Struggle" ("New Charter") (50c.) both for 50c. a year; or all three (at regular rates \$1.50) for \$1.20 a year. These offers will remain in force until withdrawn by notice in these columns.

THE SEIDENBERG SPECTRE.

Only a few years ago, when, had as things were, the condition of the cigar-makers and its unions in this city was better than it now is, and a conference of some Officers of the International Union being called here to see what could be done to improve matters, one of the conferees, who suggested that the label be withheld from all firms that did not adhere to the Union's rule, was well-nigh mobbed. His suggestion was considered as down-right treason to the Union, "because," as one of the exasperated holders of "long-filler jobs" among the Label Committee put it, "what firm is there that we could grant the label to?" The man was right. His and his fellows' alarm for his Label Committee job attests to the fact that the shop hardly exists in New York where a strike could not be justified under the union rules. Essentially the same state of things, only in an aggravated degree, prevails to-day. The Seidenberg factory was, and continues to be, no exception to the rule. Why was it chosen and at that particular season, March of this year? The answer to the "why?" will be found in the answer to the question, How was the strike conducted and under what circumstances?

THE CASE SKETCHED.

On February 10 of this year the Pioneer Cigar-makers' Union, Socialist Trade & Labor Alliance No. 141, was organized at 98 Avenue C in this city out of men who refused, either to continue in, or to join a body whose perverse leaders were reducing the benefits to be derived from a labor organization, while, at the same time, they were increasing the burdens of the rank and file by a shower of extra assessments, and higher dues, together with higher salaries for themselves. The new organization was founded amid the wild yells and protests of Rudolph Modest of No. 90, David Heimerdinger, Brown, and some ten other approved labor fakirs of the International Union, and notorious enemies of the Socialist Labor party, who were present and threatened, then and there, to smash the new Union by striking in the first shop where the Pioneers should appear. Several of the charter members of the Pioneers worked at Seidenberg's; they promptly carried on an agitation in the shop; and before long their membership there had risen to thirty-one. This was the status of things when, on Monday morning, March 14, the Pioneers, going to their work, suddenly ran up against the International Union pickets, who, with Isaac Bennett as leading man, blandly informed them that the shop was on strike. (See Documents III. and IV.) The Pioneers asked "why?"; they were told "against a reduction of wages"; they were astonished at that, having heard nothing about a "reduction" when they left the shop the Saturday previous. They declared their willingness to aid in resisting a reduction, if there were any, but they asked why they had not been consulted, being a bona fide organization; why they had been ignored; etc., etc. (Document IV.) Unable to get any satisfactory but only shuffling answers, and being seized with a vague sense of foul play, they decided to enter the shop anyhow and find out. There they found out that, with the exception of their own floor, indeed the whole factory was out on strike. Hurried consultations were held, and they appointed a committee to go to the strikers' meeting, ascertain the cause of the strike, and, if found to be on a matter of wages, to offer the Pioneers' assistance and co-operation. At the meeting they again encountered Isaac Bennett. He was presiding. He refused them a hearing (Doc. III.), although many of the strikers wanted to hear them; and, denouncing them as "scabs," Bennett hammered them down and out of the meeting. The Pioneers then sought information elsewhere. By some of the strikers they were told the strike was for higher wages (Docs. II. and VIII.); by others they were bluntly told it was against themselves; and still others admitted frankly they knew not what the strike was about. In this confusion, the Pioneers walked out of the shop within an hour of having entered it, having in the interval done not a stroke of work; never returned to it (Doc. IV.); and fell back upon their own organization for instructions. At a special meeting, held on the 18th of the same month, their Union adopted resolutions reviewing the situation and asking D. A. 49, S. T. & L. A., with which they are affiliated, to call a mass meeting of the strikers to ascertain the facts (Doc. I.). The meeting asked for was called for the very next day at Bohemian Hall. Besides advertising it prominently in the "Volkszeitung," it was advertised by over 1,000 hand-bills, containing the resolutions of the 18th, thoroughly distributed among the strikers. At that meeting not one of the strikers appeared; Isaac Bennett had ordered them not to attend. Despite that, the Pioneers continued out of the shop. On Monday, two days later, the strike was "settled." The demand for higher wages, upon the promises of which the "Spanish workers" had been inveigled into striking, was abandoned; not a cent higher wages was obtained by any of the strikers;—but quite a shower of dues and initiation fees was cropped by the International Union, and THE PIONEERS WERE EXCLUDED FROM THE SHOP (Docs. II. and VIII.).

The strike started on March 14 and ended on the 21. Beginning with A DAY BEFORE the strike started, and down to the day it ended, Isaac Bennett raved against the Alliance men as "scabs"; they were "scabbing" BEFORE the shop was on strike; they were "scabbing" when they went, Monday morning, the 14th, into the shop to find out; they were "scabbing" when they were sitting idle in their homes, and not a dog or cat was in the shop, the whole place being locked up. The "Committee of No. 90"—which will presently step upon the scene—shrugging its shoulders as to Bennett's charging the Pioneers with "scabbing" before the shop was on strike and afterwards, when they were not in the shop, sought, on May 31, before the National Executive Committee, to justify Bennett's calling the Pioneers "scabs" and, therefore, not receiving

their Committee on the morning of March 14, on the technical ground that "it was a Union principle with which only practical trade unionists were familiar, and which learned men, such as Editors, could not comprehend," that if a shop is on strike any man who goes into the shop, especially if warned by the pickets, is looked upon as a "scab." This principle, thus sweepingly put, is false. One thing it is when men, whether members of a bona fide organization or not, who are strikers in a shop, brush by strikers' pickets and enter the shop, whatever the pretext may be; and another thing, however it is when men, members of a bona fide organization and at work in a shop, are one fine morning, without previous notice or consultation, suddenly informed that their shop "has been declared on strike against a reduction," refuse to accept the statement of what to them are FOREIGN AUTHORITIES, and go into the shop to ascertain the truth for themselves. The former may be; and another thing, however, if there is only one circumstance under which in the latter case, the term "scab" is hurled at such men, to wit, when the organization that uses the term declares war against the organization whose members it thus seeks to stigmatize;—in other words, WHEN THE STRIKE IS AGAINST THE OTHER ORGANIZATION.

Nor does the force of this argument escape the officers of No. 90. Indeed, they admit its correctness by the very tenacity with which they insist that "nobody knew" there were Pioneers at Seidenberg's when the strike was declared. The Committee of No. 90 so insisted before the N. E. C., on May 31, and another officer of the Union so declared it (Doc. VII.). Granted, for the sake of argument, that this was so. Then Bennett found out his mistake, or lack of information, when, on the morning of March 14, his pickets encountered the Pioneers going to work. That certainly was notice enough. Why, then, was the Pioneers' Committee refused admittance and a hearing by him???

CONFIRMATORY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Two other circumstances combine to demonstrate that the strike at Seidenberg's was actually against the Alliance.

On Friday evening, March 25, Isaac Bennett being present at the regular meeting of the 28th Assembly District Branch, S. L. P., of which he was then a member, and the Seidenberg strike being under discussion, he was there asked, in full meeting, this question: "Is it true that you have been going around declaring that the only object of the activity of certain members of the party in D. A. 49 of the K. of L. was to give Comrade Sanial a job on the K. of L. Journal?"

The witness of his having done so was present; Isaac Bennett looked around, saw him, and brazenly answered: "Yes, it is true; and it is so; that was your only object,"—and more to the same effect.

This ignoble interpretation of the arduous and valuable work of party members in the K. of L. has been the interpretation that, for nearly three years, every labor fakir and foe of the S. L. P. has been howling over and harping upon from one end of the country to the other. It is unnecessary to refute it, least of all is it here the place to go into that. Yet, what does the fact of Bennett's taking up that cry during the strike mean, and thus assailing men all of whom, at least as yet, had neither directly nor indirectly taken their stand on the strike; men, who, at the time he was taking up the cry, did not even know that such a strike was on? The second of the two circumstances above referred to as combining with this one to demonstrate that the Seidenberg strike was actually against the Alliance, will help to answer the question.

From the inception of the strike, and all along in his declarations, Isaac Bennett has laid much stress upon "the Pioneers having, under the guidance of Seidenberg's Superintendent Pisco, organized into their union the suspended or expelled members of the cigar-makers." What is the sense of the charge?

The cigar-makers, working at Seidenberg's, composed a sister Local Alliance of the Pioneers. It was represented in the then D. A. 1 (Central Labor Federation), while the Pioneers are represented in D. A. 49. On the very Monday when the strike started, March 14, the report in the "Volkszeitung" of the meeting of D. A. 1, that had taken place on Sunday, the day before, stated that a "Special Committee" of this Cigarettemakers' Union "was granted the floor and complained that D. A. 49 and L. A. 141 (the Pioneers) had organized its suspended members into an L. A. and they had been recognized by Superintendent Pisco." At their first meeting upon that, March 17, the Pioneers appointed a Committee to the cigar-makers, to demand that the false charge be retracted. (1) At the following meeting of the Pioneers, their Committee reported that the Cigarettemakers' Union denied all knowledge of any such communication to D. A. 1; their delegates had made no such report; they had appointed no Committee to make any such complaint; and THAT BOHM, THE SECRETARY OF D. A. 1, MUST HAVE MADE ANOTHER MISTAKE. Not satisfied with any such explanation, the Pioneers ordered their Committee back with instructions to insist upon a retraction. (2) At the following meeting of the Pioneers, no retraction having yet appeared in the reports of D. A. 1, they ordered their Committee to again repair to the Cigarettemakers' and say that, if the retraction was not made at the very next Sunday meeting of D. A. 1, charges would be preferred against them before the General Executive Board, S. T. & L. A. (3) At the next Sunday meeting of D. A. 1 the Cigarettemakers' Union retracted the charge, saying that "the report made by a Committee, according to which it was alleged that D. A. 49 had organized 17 of their expelled members into the

Pioneer Cigarettemakers' Alliance, was false, and had not been authorized by the Union." (1)

Who were the "Committee" that had made the false report to D. A. 1? To this day, it has not been possible to ascertain their names. Did such a "Committee" ever exist? If so, who manufactured it?

The facts in the case are that, one day, among a batch of applicants for membership to the Pioneers, there were 17 expelled or suspended members of the Cigarettemakers'. Before their admission, the fact was discovered and they were rejected. Not yet having any "application cards," the Pioneers had been using their "membership cards" as such. Thus the names of these 17 men DO appear on 17 Pioneer "member cards." But D. A. 49 has the stamp system of dues, AND NOT A STAMP APPEARS ON ANY OF THOSE 17 CARDS, thus proving that none of those 17 men was ever admitted to membership. Despite repeated explanations on this head, and thoroughly understanding the matter, Isaac Bennett has been using those cards, which, so far from proving his point, attest, by the absence of dues-stamps, to the fact that the men never were admitted, and he has gone about seeking to hoodoo the unguarded with such "proofs" even after the official retraction by the Cigarettemakers' Union itself.

THE CONSPIRACY.

The conspiracy against the Pioneers was elaborate. A cloud in the eyes of the public and of Alliance organizations themselves was to be raised over D. A. 49, with whom the Pioneers were affiliated; the scabbiest act of taking up expelled members of sister bodies was to be imputed to them; to pile on the agony over the D. A. that had dared to encroach upon what the fakir Officers of the International Union look upon as their special field to fish in, ignoble purposes had to be imputed to active party members, even if by so doing even Comrade Sanial, wholly disconnected from the whole affair, had to be dragged, along with them, into the mire. And above all scabbiestness was, under all circumstances, to be fastened upon the Pioneers themselves. When the plan of the strike was being hatched, they, a bona fide Union, known to be in Seidenberg's shop, were kept wholly in the dark, and thus a net was spread to catch them where, under the pretense of "union real-loyalty," they could be made out "scabs" in the eyes of the unthinking; and to give greater show of truth to the charge, the fakirs stood back, but the man picked out to lead in the dirty work and thus inflict a blow upon the whole New Trade Unionist movement, ay, upon the party itself, was one who had long been considered an adversary of the International Union's fakirs, an upholder of New Trade Unionism, and of its contentions as to the worthlessness and injuriousness of the International Union's pure and simple, a party man, a member of the progressive Union No. 90—ISAAC BENNETT.

CAUGHT IN HIS OWN TANGLE.

Isaac Bennett reckoned without his host. The Seidenberg strike was not allowed to drop into oblivion, it rose a spectre to plague him. He found it necessary to explain in writing; he begins by calling upon witnesses (Doc. III.); but his witness goes back upon him (Doc. IV.); he then seeks to disengage himself, only to throttle himself tighter (Doc. V. first part); and, finally, wishing to escape the charge of having given false testimony, he recklessly tries to throw upon others the odium of untruthfulness (Doc. V., second part) and succeeds only in tangling himself faster; surely, if, as he argues in the second part of this document, the men who went into the shop, despite the warning of his pickets, lied when "they gave themselves out as members of the Alliance," then, upon what ground did he on so many occasions, at the already mentioned session of the 28th Assembly District Branch, S. L. P., among others, denounce "the Alliance men" as "scabs"? Which of the two statements is false? The two statements can not both be true. But in trying this last dodge, Bennett is to be the official declaration of his own Union over the signature of one of his own fellow Officers, admits that there were "3 Pioneers" at Seidenberg (Doc. VII.). In trying to minimize Bennett's wrongful action, and reducing 31 Pioneers to 3, Groenlinger here admits enough to convict his associate. Whichever way Bennett turns, he is tripped.

Pitiable is the spectacle presented by Isaac Bennett, and yet instructive withal, so instructive as to compel its complete presentation—however much one's heart may be wrung in the doing of deed. Bennett felt, as so many others before him, tempted by the corruption funds of the International Union. The increased difficulties of the struggle for an existence had swept away most of his customers; he gave up manufacturing, and took up the business of Label Committee, Strike Committee and Picket Duty with their \$3 and \$5 a day revenue; in the conflict between Principles and a Living, the Principles went by the board, all the easier, as the freedom to use phrases would remain untouched and the downfall could thus be yelled—and Bennett thus dropped to the level of cat's paw for the labor fakirs of the International Union. Whether Bennett is now drifting in the conflict between his personal needs and his duty to the working class has more recently been illustrated by an action that called down upon him the severe censure of his own Union No. 90. (2)

No. 90's OFFICERS NOW STEP UP.

Spiked by Katz (Docs. IV. and IX.), strangled by himself and a fellow officer (Docs. II., III., IV. and VII.),

(1) Report of C. L. F. D. A. 1 in "Volkszeitung" of April 4, and in THE PEOPLE of April 10.

(2) Bennett is a member of the Strike Committee. For months a strike had been on against the cigar manufacturing firm of Bondy & Lederer. The strike seeming hopeless, and the Union's men being anxious to go back to work, he was ordered by his Union to vote to call the strike on. THEIR interests and his own ran foul of each other. Their interests demanded work, and that meant the calling off of the strike. HIS interests also demand work, but "work" with him, is not in the shop but as picket, etc., and that meant to keep up the strike. His interests carried the day. Despite his instructions, he did not vote as ordered. On this account his Union, No. 90, passed a vote of censure upon him on 31 Oct. 9.

and unexpectedly pursued by the spectre that his action had conjured up, Bennett fled for refuge behind the Officers of his Union—No. 90. As the fakirs had sought to conceal their rascality behind the until then fair name of Bennett, so did he now seek to cover up his wrongdoing behind the reputation of the Officers of his own Union for progressiveness and devotion to Socialism. The first step in this direction was the pulling of wires to secure a white-washing resolution in his own behalf (Doc. VI.). With that performance, the officers of No. 90 step on the scene, and keep it until, in turn, they themselves begin to slide off by trying to shove their Union into the fight—their Union which, as will appear, was and remains innocent as the unborn babe.

On May 31, a Committee of Union 90, consisting mainly of Officers thereof, appeared before the National Executive Committee, S. L. P. It came with two suggestions, both springing from the "Seidenberg Spectre" publications in THE PEOPLE.

The first was that the Editor of THE PEOPLE should not concern himself with local affairs; the Committee spoke German; it used the term "Lokal Angelegenheiten"; to meddle with such affairs, the Committee claimed, was to fritter away energies on small matters, and to cause heartburnings that impeded the propagandistic work of the Socialist comrades in the Unions; the Editor of THE PEOPLE should busy himself with national affairs only.

The Committee was asked whether it did not realize that in the Social question all "local affairs" had a national bearing and vice versa, all "national affairs" affected local spots; it was asked to explain where local affairs ended and where "national" ones began; it was also asked to specify what it meant by "affairs" (Angelegenheiten).

In the course of its answers it became clear that by "Angelegenheiten," the Committee meant the Labor Fakir; it used the word "Angelegenheiten" merely as a euphonic term; so clear, indeed, did this become, that they were asked to illustrate; was, for instance, Mr. David Heimerdinger (the labor fakir, who assisted Isaac Bennett as a picketman in his crusade against the Pioneers in this locality, and who two years ago made a fakir tour of the whole country, was he a local or a national "Angelegenheit"?)

The Committee dropped that line of argument, and still using its euphonic term of "Angelegenheit," for Labor Fakir, proceeded to suggest that the Editor of THE PEOPLE might limit his operation; to the "Angelegenheiten" of such "Unions as No. 144 and others of the International Cigar-makers' Union" in this city; the Committee would not find any fault with that; but the Editor of THE PEOPLE should not disturb the "Angelegenheiten" of such a progressive body as Union 90, because, if he did, the progressive members, like the Committeemen, would find their propagandistic work made very difficult.

The N. E. C. rejected this whole line of suggestions as radically defective, whatever special meaning was attached to the term "Angelegenheit."

The second suggestion of the Committee was that the Editor of THE PEOPLE should exercise greater care in the acceptance of communications. A letter had appeared in THE PEOPLE of May 22, signed by Joe Cohen and Jack Brittan (Doc. VIII.). The Committee was of the opinion that the Seidenberg strike being over so long ago, its resuscitation now by that letter could have no effect other than to assist the firm of Bondy & Lederer against whom a strike was now on; if the Editor of THE PEOPLE would exercise greater caution he would not commit such a blunder.—The file of THE PEOPLE was fetched; it was shown to the Committee that the Cohen and Brittan letter could not be said to "resuscitate" the Seidenberg strike, seeing that ALL ALONG articles and letters had been appearing in THE PEOPLE, since the settlement of the strike, under that very title of "The Seidenberg Spectre," the object being not to allow that misdeed to fall into oblivion. The Cohen and Brittan letter was read and the Committee were told that only if the letter contained false statements could fault be found with it; that, however, it tallied with facts published officially by the Union itself (Doc. II.) and with other facts; and that, therefore, if, indeed, it affected the Bondy & Lederer strike injuriously, the fault lay, not with the letter or its publication, but with the Strike Committee for having been guilty of such crimes against Labor; the Committee were reminded of the incident when Lassalle, being arrested for alleged inflammatory writings, reminded his judges that, not his "writing," but the "facts" were inflammatory, that he could not be held responsible for them, that THEY must suffer who were responsible.

The Committee declared that the Cohen and Brittan letter was essentially wrong; its gravamen lay in the charge that Bennett and the whole Strike Committee had deceived the "Spanish floor" workers with promises of securing higher pay for them through the strike; the charge was a false suggestion; learned people, like Editors, could not be as accurately informed upon the union rules as practical workers; and the Committee proceeded to explain that, true enough, the Union Constitution forbade the striking for higher wages at the season when the Seidenberg strike broke out, but that, if a strike is declared against a reduction, then "individual" demands can always be tacked to the original demand for higher wages, included; only that then, if the other demands are complied with by the employer, the strike may not be prolonged for higher wages without forfeiting International protection (Doc. XIII.).

The Committee's attention was called to a fundamental error in their argument against the correctness of the main charge in the Cohen and Brittan letter: one thing it is to drop the "individual" demands for higher wages that are tacked to demands allowed by the Union, when men are anyhow on strike against a reduction, and another thing it is to induce men to come out on strike, as the "Spanish workers" had been induced, on the promise that their wages are to be raised, and then drop their demands; the former act was not fraudulent, the latter was a fraud upon the men; Bennett and the Strike Committee had committed this fraud on the "Spanish workers"; as to all the

other people on strike, "individual" demands may have been made with propriety for higher wages and dropped, seeing that, with them, the strike was ostensibly against the reduction said to be implied in the establishment of the "Kelly floor"; as to the "Spanish workers," however, they were in no way threatened or affected by the "Kelly floor," consequently they could have gone out only upon a demand for more pay, all the more as they were not members of the Union; that was the lure held out to them; a swindle was practised upon all the more galling to them, as, not only did they not get what they were promised if they struck, but, by the terms of settlement, they had to join the Union and thus make outlays for initiation fees and dues; they had been cheated into fighting against themselves, and lost their jobs besides—a not unusual affair with fakirs' "settlements."

The Committee was then driven from one false statement after another; they first declared Cohen and Brittan to be "notorious scabs and non-union men"; being promptly met by the Editor of THE PEOPLE, who showed that Cohen and Brittan were members of the International Cigar-makers' Union, the Committee then declared that Brittan and Cohen were "expelled members"; being again shown that that was false, one of the Committee of No. 90 came forward with the admissions that Brittan and Cohen WERE members of the Union and that they WERE NOT expelled, but that just then they were "suspended" and that Brittan traveled under a false name; and, finally, being asked what his true name was, the Committee said that he signed himself "Jack" Brittan but his real name was "John" Brittan, thus revealing that the Committee either did not know that "Jack" stands for "John," or that it tried to impose upon the N. E. C. (Doc. XVII.) upon all of which the N. E. C. decided that in the particular case complained of all reasonable care had been exercised in the acceptance of correspondence by THE PEOPLE.

No. 90's REJECTED COMMUNICATIONS.

On the morning of the same day that the Committee of No. 90 appeared before the N. E. C. with its suggestions and complaints, it forwarded to THE PEOPLE a communication purporting to be an answer to the Cohen and Brittan letter. The communication contained libelous matter, seeing it imputed a dishonorable alias to Brittan, and, furthermore, bore no signature other than "The Committee," thus, if published, rendering THE PEOPLE liable without defence. On this ground, as set forth in the Letter Box of June 5, THE PEOPLE declined to publish "The Committee's" answer. From that time on, No. 90's officers left THE PEOPLE aside and addressed itself direct to the N. E. C. It there appeared three times.—June 7, July 12 and Nov. 22—, with communications demanding their publication in THE PEOPLE, and was denied each time.

Documents X. and XIII. were successively refused publication by the N. E. C., because the first contained not the remotest attempt at a refutation of the charges of Cohen and Brittan, and the second, or amended one, was essentially no better. Both ran away from the real and burning points raised by Cohen and Brittan, and that helped to show the desperate tricks adopted at the Seidenberg strike to give it a color of legality and thereby conceal the conspiracy against the Pioneers that lay at its bottom. The two communications of No. 90's Committee sought to avoid the point and overcome it by inference in an attempt to discredit the characters of the writers (Cohen and Brittan). But the Committee defeated their own purpose by overshooting their mark: Their endeavor to make Cohen and Brittan out to be scab agents for Bondy & Lederer, claiming them to have offered the girls on strike "nice and sweet things," besides "new dresses," if they went to work, and then to have CONFIDED TO THE GIRLS THAT THEIR OWN (COHEN AND BRITAN'S) REWARD BE "A FOREMANSHIP AND \$50," produced peals of laughter from the workmen on the N. E. C.; not so (as Cohen and Brittan were claimed to have acted) are scab-agents wont to act; however profuse they may be in promises of "nice and sweet things" to strikers, it is not in the nature of the scab-agents' work to confide to the people they are working upon the "nice and sweet things" they themselves are to be rewarded with; not so, for instance, did Mr. David Heimerdinger, Isaac Bennett's associate in the Seidenberg strike, act when, in 1886-87, he officiated as scab-agent for the firm of Simon Bros. in this city (Doc. XV.). No. 90's Committee itself realized the fishiness of this charge, all the more seeing that Cohen and Brittan had been engaged by the Strike Committee itself to jolly the Bondy & Lederer girls on strike, and, consequently, their promises of "nice and sweet things" were probably true without their being Bondy & Lederer's agents. So weak, indeed, did No. 90's Committee itself feel on this point that it felt the need of buttressing an otherwise sufficient charge with the charges of "non-unionism," "scabism" and the bearing of an alias against Cohen and Brittan—all of which were shown to be false by the N. E. C., as previously recited.

As to Document XII., its publication was denied because it was again an evident attempt to run away from the real point, the point raised in 40 out of the 44 lines of Katz' communication (Doc. XI.), and slurring that over by a seeming and swaggering refutation of a minor point made by him and covering only the 4 last lines, and after all admitted in the main by No. 90's answer itself (Doc. XIII.). The N. E. C. did not deem THE PEOPLE'S columns the place for such sort of dialectics.

As to Document XIV. its publication was refused by the N. E. C. because it went off at a slant, and thus, intentionally or otherwise, brought confusion into an issue that, it was becoming more and more evident, would soon have to come to a point, and consequently, should not be allowed to be entangled. As the document itself starts setting out, it was the report of a special meeting of No. 90, held to discuss "the attitude taken by the National Executive Committee of the S. L. P. toward Union 90"; the N. E. C. had been invited to be represented. The issue was "the attitude of the N. E. C."; it was a tangling up of matters to make others the issue, as the document does. At that "meeting of Union

No. 90," out of its 1,384 members, barely 30 were present, the majority of whom was made up of the Officers of the Union, besides men as Karl Arnold, who, always claiming to be a "progressive workingman" and a "Socialist," was caught on the registration roll of Tammany Hall only shortly before, Rudolph Modest, Gillis, and more such specimens of "progressiveness," notorious Debsist-Anarchists and foes of the party. Whatever interest a majority made up of such elements may have had in facing about, the N. E. C. did not care to allow itself to be hoodwinked.

Finally, Document XVII. was refused publication because it carried the bare-facedness of falsification beyond the point of endurance (Doc. XVI.). This last document (Doc. XVII.) closes the second, and seeks to open a third act in the "Seidenberg Spectre," a typical drama of the present stage of the Labor Movement.

ABORTIVE ATTEMPT TO GOAD No. 90 INTO THE FIGHT.

The Labor Fakirs of the I. C. M. U., alarmed for their blood-money at sight of the organization of the Pioneers, plotted its ruin; yet knowing the disrepute in which they are held in this city, dared not themselves come forward. The First Act in the drama of the Seidenberg Spectre is enacted with Isaac Bennett, a "progressive trade unionist" as the actor. Resting upon the statements of this Isaac Bennett, the fakir C. M. I. U. delegates in this city's fakirs' convective, the Central Labor Union, announced on Sunday, June 3, with full mouths, and could not sufficiently dilate on the announcement, that 31 ALLIANCE CIGAR-MAKERS HAD LOST THEIR PLACES AT SEIDENBERG'S, and the announcement was echoed, and re-echoed in the capitalist press. Here in the city, THAT was the important point; the "scab" charge was, of course, also made, but that was not, here, of prime importance; THE important point here was to make a show of strength against Socialist Unions, and thereby prevent their growth. Outside of the city, the "scab" charge was THE point, and, indeed, from Texas to Maine the Labor Fakir and his press utilized, for all they were worth, the weapon thus placed in their hands against the whole Socialist movement by "even such a progressive trade unionist and Socialist as Isaac Bennett, of Union No. 90." The fakirs' point seemed carried.

But the Seidenberg Spectre rose more ominous, made all the more so by the unbridled glee of fakirdom. Bennett, pursued by the spectre, sought refuge behind the Officers of his Union. These allow themselves to be shoved, like he had been; and, thereupon, the Second Act is enacted (Docs. VII., X., XII., XIII. and XIV.).

Finally, defeated in their purpose, as Bennett had been, several of the Officers then sought to pull up their Union itself on the stage. The claim that Union No. 90 was pronounced "untrustworthy," etc., by the Editor of THE PEOPLE (Doc. XVII.) at one of the sessions of the N. E. C. is a pure fabrication, that the stress of the No. 90's Committee drove them to. (1) But though they thus violently ring the bell for the Third Act, the curtain refuses to rise: So disgusted and disheartened is the rank and file at the contradictory, vacillating and often suspicious conduct of most of their Officers that, though over 1,600 strong, a meeting of 30 members is considered wonderful. The men and women satisfy themselves with paying their dues and assessments, often with tears in their eyes at the evident extortion, but submissive, in order to "save themselves trouble."

The "Seidenberg Spectre" will not down. It rises and sways ominously over the head of Fakirdom. It is a palpating concentration of this principle, a principle bound to assert itself.

"A STRIKE IS PROLETARIAN NECESSARILY A PROLETARIAN MOVE, INSTIGATED BY AND CONDUCTED FOR FAKIRS' INTERESTS. IT IS A MOVE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CAPITALIST CLASS. AS SUCH, A STRIKE IS THE MOST INSIDIOUS WEAPON OR MANOEUVRE OF CAPITALISM TO AID, BUT DESERVES ONLY RUTHLESS OPPOSITION."

DOCUMENT I.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY PIONEER CIGAR-MAKERS, L. A. 141, S. T. & L. A., MARCH 18.

[THE PEOPLE, March 27.]

WHEREAS, Last Monday, the 14th inst., the employees of the cigar manufacturing firm of Seidenberg & Co., consisting of members of the International Cigar-makers' Union and of others, who are not members, working on the Seidenberg floors of that firm, went out on strike without any demands being presented to the firm by the officers of the International Cigar-makers' Union, who are running this strike; and WHEREAS, The members of this Pioneer Cigarettemakers' Union (Local Alliance 141, of the Socialist Trade & Labor Alliance, affiliated with D. A. 49, S. T. & L. A.) who had been at work on an strike, or, if not, or, if affected by the strike, left their work early on that same day, and have continued out ever since; and WHEREAS, The members of the said members of the Pioneer Cigarettemakers' Union sought to confer with those having the strike in charge, but were hampered down and grossly insulted by the chairman, Isaac Bennett, and were otherwise prevented by officers of the International Cigarettemakers' Union, said Bennett included, although the striking workmen were willing to hear our committee; and WHEREAS, The said members of the Pioneer Cigarettemakers' Union are thus left entirely in the dark as to the situation, all the more as the statements are very conflicting on the causes of the strike; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this Pioneer Cigarettemakers' Union, in special session assembled, this 18th day of March, request D. A. 49, S. T. & L. A., to call a mass meeting of all the employees of the firm of Seidenberg & Co., working on an strike, for to-morrow (Saturday), afternoon, at some convenient place up-town to discuss the situation and ascertain from the strikers' own mouths whether the further continuance of the strike is to be continued; and that the fact on this head is that the Committee finding, contrary to their expectation, that the Editor of THE PEOPLE was not too "learned" to inform himself, and was so thoroughly posted that he forced the Committee to abandon one false statement of the "Spanish workers" argument after another, their member Emil Adam tried a bluff, and bluffingly asked the Editor of THE PEOPLE: "Do you mean to say that you know more about the 'Spanish workers' Union, No. 90, and the 'Union lies'?" Whereupon he was promptly answered: "I never said anything to justify the idea that I consider you, or all of you, three put together, as the whole of Union 90."

(1) Pioneers' minutes, March 27.
(2) Pioneers' minutes, March 24.
(3) Pioneers' minutes, March 31.

