

THE PEOPLE.

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SOCIALIST VOTE IN THE UNITED STATES.

Table showing Socialist vote in Presidential elections from 1856 to 1896. 1856: 2,068; 1860: 13,331; 1864: 21,157; 1868: 33,183; 1872: 86,564; 1896: 82,204.

You but stand in the way and belittle our Cause with your "brotherly" whine to the rich. Stand aside, or be MEN and take Socialist arms and fight like us boys in the ditch.

STANISLAS CULLEN.

TO READERS AND COMRADES.

Take notice that the inscription "Henry Kuhn, Nat'l Sec'y, S. L. P.," is inserted on the front page of THE PEOPLE, immediately under the title, to the right of the date.

THE "NEW POLITICAL APPARITIONS."

A short time ago, the "philosophical" editorial department of the capitalist papers blossomed forth into a series of articles on the "New Political Apparitions."

When the Pullman or American Railway Union strike broke out, this Pingree rocketed himself into notoriety, and kept on ascending in a pyrotechnic splendor of pyrotechnic displayfulness.

The Ship of State crossed the bars and entered the ocean of the present issues with the Labor political uprising in New York City of 1886. Many incidents of similar nature had preceded the uprising of '86, but none was either of the magnitude of that, or, judging by subsequent events, so epoch-making.

The "Reformer," the "Labor Friend" Pingree was struck against by his employes on account of low wages and other routine capitalist outrages; and simultaneously comes the announcement from the best possible source that PINGREE IS TO RETIRE FROM POLITICS.

the competitive field against fellow-competitors who had been crowding him in the market. By his conduct he was enabled to dictate terms, not in political caucuses, but in capitalist economic caucuses of his own trade.

What Capitalist Society HAS now, and will henceforth for a while have to reckon with, are, not apparitions that will contest the supremacy of its leading members on the national political field, but apparitions that will by demagogic arts pick up politics as a temporary club with which to club themselves entrance into and admission in the economic sanctum of Upper Capitalism.

But the S. L. P. will presently have a word to say in all this.

MALAPROP HADLEY.

The election of Prof. Hadley to fill the office of President of Yale College, in the place of President Dwight, resigned, is a matter of much more significance than appears on the surface.

Time was when the President of Yale was chosen, had to be chosen, from the theological fraternity. Down to President Dwight, the Yale Presidents were all taken from active pulp duty. The College, like all our old American colleges, was originally, if not a theological seminary exactly, at any rate the product of the intense theologic disputations that prevailed here at one time, each sect, if at all capable, setting up its own college.

Theological questions have become toys to entertain idle minds; the social question, now agitating the country, is the living issue. How deep the stream of this issue runs, and how wide it reaches, may be judged by the new departure in Yale. The College, feeling compelled to be, or seek to be, a living power, finds itself constrained to abandon the elemental standard by which its Presidents were chosen, and adopt a new one.

This would be significant enough, even if that were all that is connected with the affair. It would be significant enough of the new age we are living in. But there is more.

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Yale was right when it passed by the theological candidates for its Presidency; it blundered, however, when it picked up a Hadley thinking he could help the class, the young idea of whose boys it tries to teach how to shoot.

In order to do the mopping to a purpose.

The tidal wave that will slump the "Volkszeitung" corrupt conspiracy against the Party is setting in powerful. The donations to enable the Party to publish THE PEOPLE, whose subscription and other funds the conspirators stole so as to shipwreck the paper, already run up to over \$500, as will be seen by the receipt elsewhere in this issue; and the resolutions from Party organizations and other affiliated sources are simply pouring in.

The S. L. P., in the field to stamp out the treason of the Capitalist Class against the Nation, will know how to stamp out treason and reaction in its own ranks.

The mail list at our disposal being old, and consequently incomplete, subscribers, who receive this issue are requested to do their utmost to connect with such others who may not happen to receive it, and to send, to this address, 61 Beekman street, at once the names and addresses of such subscribers, together with the date that the subscription has been paid up to.

Sections, literary agents or private persons holding bills are requested to remit at very earliest convenience and always to send bill with the remittance. Sections having no unpaid bills on hand, will do THE PEOPLE a favor by sending in the last receipted bill (which will be returned), so as to enable the office to open the account properly.

POLITICAL and ECONOMIC.

Remarkable is the clear language of the Bertrand, Neb., "Independent Herald" in a controversy it is carrying on with the muddled Lincoln "Nebraska Independent." Here is a passage:

The "Nebraska Independent's" privilege of running a populist paper and fighting any or as many other parties as he chooses is not denied. But this does not give him license to flood his columns with unfounded assertions, and expect them to go unchallenged.

Thus the tactically clear-cut, relentlessly uncompromising and compactly disciplined organization of the Party hews its way into respect. We shall not quarrel with the Bertrand "Independent Herald" over its lack of certainty that the S. L. P. IS the Party that will emancipate this Nation. It will reach certainity in the ripeness of time.

How instructive, to him who has eyes in his head to see, is the posture of the metropolitan press on the Brooklyn strike: One set of papers (the ones held by "Bear" would-be-trolley-stock-holders) are booming the strike for all they are worth.

Another set (the ones held by "Bull" actual trolley stock-holders, the stocks of whom are threatened with a decline by strikes and disturbances) are running the strike down. According to these

The strike is a fizzle; almost all the cars are running; there is no strike. Bye-and-bye these stock exchange disputants will come to an understanding among themselves; they will then be all "Bulls"; their labor fakir agents will be given a bone to gnaw at and ordered to call the strike off;—and, if perchance enough workmen, having taken the strike serious, persist in their demands, the former "Bears" will be found acting in perfect unison with their former Exchange adversaries, the "Bulls," and unitedly call out: "Police!"

The metropolitan capitalist press continues unanimously and enthusiastically for the "Volkszeitung."—"Correct! Every time correct! Nor would the Party wish it otherwise and have the issue blurred.

The next supplement to the Socialist Almanac (No. 3) will appear in a few days. Subject: "Taxation." Price, 5 cents. Send your orders to the LABOR NEWS CO., 147 East 23d street, or to HENRY KUHN, National Secretary, 61 Beekman street, New York.

Every agitator for this S. L. P. should be in possession of the valuable little treatise. The pending campaigns are going to be turned by the capitalist politicians largely into "taxation" campaigns, the same as recent ones were mainly "money" campaigns.

TEN YEARS LATER.

1889—1899.

Under the title "Ten Years Later," Dumas wrote one of his most interesting, instructive and thrilling historical novels. The historic tale to be unfolded here in this article under the identical title may be found equally interesting, instructive and thrilling, if not more so, and inspiring besides to the student, especially the lover of the movement in America.

Ten years ago, the Socialist Labor Party was a "party" in name only. It is essential to a political party, first, that it be a pulsation of the national life of the country itself in which the party springs up; and, secondly, that it be politically active. That which ten years ago called itself the "Socialist Labor Party," lacked both essentials.

While this development was going on, there were others setting in also. Years ago the earnings of Labor were higher; a thrifty mechanic, who did not object to pinching himself some, could lay by money in bank.

Driven out of the shop by improved machinery and concentrating capital, the workmen with savings in bank fell back upon that, and started small stores, in short rebounded into the middle class. One of the results of that—the seeming increase of the middle class—stumped the unscientific mind: the German Socialist, Edward Bernstein, concluded Marx was wrong, and the vulgar economists everywhere started new songs on the beauties of capitalism.

Our friends, the exchanges, will kindly take note of our changed address. Papers wishing to exchange with THE PEOPLE, National Organ of the Socialist Labor Party, must be forwarded to the new headquarters—61 BEEKMAN STREET, this city.

There is a third development that needs mention. It is akin to the one last considered. The worker, who had some savings, being thrown on the street by machinery, could fall back upon his savings and become bourgeois; the worker, who had none, stood on the ragged edge of the abyss of Labor-Fakirism. Into that abyss fell not a few. Their unions became reactionary "pure and simple"; all sense of solidarity vanished; there was no longer a question of organizing and protecting the working class; the union became a means for those in it to get a job by and to put others out of their jobs; and finally it ripened into an engine of capitalism, sold to the politicians by the leading fakirs.

Now, then, all these interests—the German Labor Fakir, the German bourgeois ex-workmen and the singing, etc., society tired-out Socialists—clustered in this city around and centered in a German paper that, sailing under the name of Socialism, was, from its inception, essentially a practical business enterprise for its own employes. The paper was the "New Yorker Volkszeitung."

The fishiness of the "Volkszeitung" was too rank to be concealed. Accordingly, about fourteen years ago, the "Party" element that was sound in mind and heart, found it advisable to establish a bona fide Party organ in the German language—"Der Sozialist," subsequently named "Vorwärts," a weekly paper—and later managed to acquire another weekly, in the English language, named the "Workmen's Advocate." The editors of these two papers, Rosenberg and Bushe, respectively, were like the rest of the "Party's" national officers, weak, insignificant men, wholly unfit for their responsible posts. Nevertheless, with all their unfitness, Rosenberg and Bushe, saw a glimmer of light. A political party that is not in politics struck even them as absurd.

not (infrequently)—that was a horse of a different color, that would not do." The "Volkszeitung" forthwith began to nag at the then editors of the Party organs. Rosenberg and Bushe, being the light weights they were, allowed themselves to be angered, and finally driven into a preposterous, wholly untenable and mischievous position. Having got them there, and thus isolated from the rest of the "Party" members, whom the deep villainy of the "Volkszeitung" intrigue escaped, the "Volkszeitung" crowd rose in self-righteous indignation. "Something had to be done quick"; "the Party had to be saved"; and more of such cant, until the "Party" membership having been seasoned by such a campaign of perfidy, the "Volkszeitung" crowd found it safe to carry out their scheme. One night they broke into the Party's premises, took the two papers and all their belongings; sacked the two editors, and bounced the National Executive Committee.—And that was the end of that, in 1889.

Ten years have rolled by since,—ten years equivalent to fifty. The very necessity that the "Volkszeitung," together with its disreputable appendages, was under to disguise its real purpose behind a false issue, left it uncovered against the real danger that it had sought to escape—POLITICAL ACTION BY THE S. L. P.

At the same time that the affairs of '89 were going on in the "Party," a Socialist movement, to the manner born, was being throbbled into existence by the throbs of the nation itself. That movement went into the existing S. L. P., and transformed it. The very next year it unfurled its banner in the political field and held it. The "Volkszeitung" element was defeated. They valiantly sought to accommodate themselves to the inevitable, but could not; bankruptcy began to stare the "Volkszeitung" in the face; every year that passed made their element's position more unbearable; in front, the accelerated development of capital rendered the Labor Fakir and the tax-paying small trader more and more desperate, while the magnificent progress of the Party, with its increasing revolutionary ardor, was burning them in the rear. For some time the foul interests of ten years ago had been plotting to ease their straits; their manoeuvres to nag the Party's officers into blunders suffered shipwreck one after the other, and were turped upon them; then, all else proving unavailable, they staked their all upon a headlong coup that should strangle the Party—and failed ignominiously.

The year '99 is ten years later than '89. The S. L. P. is no longer a social club located mainly in New York. Within the last ten years its inspired apostles and its press have, with words of fire, cast abroad the rejuvenating spark, kindled the flame of class-consciousness in America, and planted the standard of the Social Revolution in the land. The S. L. P. has become a Party, indeed; it has leaped the boundaries of the city and State; it spread out North, South and West, and now extends from Ocean to Ocean, honored, respected, feared, over 80,000 strong.

In 1899, the S. L. P. is no longer the concern that can be bagged by the cannille of capitalist society.

Owing to last week's confusion and delay in sending out THE PEOPLE, and the possible miscarriage of some numbers, several of the important articles on the situation in New York are reprinted in this issue.

What Shall Our Song Be? [Written for THE PEOPLE by N. E. C. Somerville, Mass.]

What song shall we sing while the sweat rolls down, And the grime works in till it clogs our heart? What prayer shall we pray while our senses prave, And we faint as we totter from mart to mart?

Man's work is not all delving graves for the dead, Or binding the wounds of a god: For the sake of the voiceless too often we've bled, For our idols too much kissed the rod.

Remember that the address of THE PEOPLE is now 61 BEEKMAN STREET, Room 305, N. Y. CITY, N. Y.



Uncle Sam and Brother Jonathan.

BROTHER JONATHAN—What do you think I heard a Socialist speaker say the other day?

UNCLE SAM—If he WAS a Socialist speaker, you must have heard something sensible.

B. J.—Well, I didn't; he talked nonsense. What he said was downright reasonable to the Revolution of our Fathers!

U. S.—That's stiff. What did he say?

B. J.—Now, then, that Socialist said that we workmen were nothing but merchandise, like shoes, stockings, pork or beef. If that is not insulting, I don't know what is; if that is not denying the Revolution, what is it?

U. S.—Well, I don't know what all you mean by that Revolution. I DO know, however, that a thing may have been done, and yet, after a while it is all un-done again. A Revolution, our fathers' Revolution, may have been successful in setting us free; but it don't follow from that that we may not have been subsequently re-enslaved and turned into merchandise. If this did happen, it would be no treason to say so; on the contrary, it would be folly, mischievous folly, to deny it.

B. J.—Well, that's true, too. But we have not been re-enslaved, or turned into merchandise.

U. S. (looks at him steadily.) B. J.—Have we been re-enslaved?

U. S.—Let's reason together. You read the papers, don't you?

B. J.—I do.

U. S.—Did you ever come in their columns across the expression: "The millionaire market?"

B. J. (amused).—Why, no!

U. S.—Why are you amused?

B. J.—Because the "millionaire market" would mean a market in which millionaires are bought and sold; and that is nonsense; millionaires only buy and sell; they are not bought or sold.

U. S.—Just so; in other words, millionaires would be merchandise?

B. J.—Yes, and they aren't.

U. S.—Or did you ever come across the terms: "The railroad magnate market"? Or "The mine baron market"? Or "The banker's market"? Or "The corporation stock-holders market"?

B. J.—No, and for the same reason; they are not bought and sold; they are not merchandise.

U. S.—Correct. Now, did you ever come across the term: "The beef market"?

B. J.—Lots of times. That's all right. Beef is bought and sold; it is a merchandise.

U. S.—And did you ever come across the terms: "The pork market"? Or "the shoe market"? Or "the stocking market"?

B. J.—That's very natural; pork, shoes, stockings, and so forth are all bought and sold; they are all merchandise.

U. S.—Now, my man, refresh your memory, and tell me whether you ever ran across in the papers the term: "The Labor Market"?

B. J. (starts back as tho' he had been struck full in the chest.) U. S.—Did you, or did you not?

B. J.—I did, by thunder!

U. S.—Your face brightens up; light seems to be going up in it. Was that Socialist right or was he wrong in saying that we were nothing but merchandise under this present, capitalist system?

B. J.—Right, by Jove!

U. S.—Yes, my man, let's be sensible, and not allow our vanities to blind us to our own undoing. We ARE merchandise, just as pork and beef; we ARE sold in the market just as shoes and stockings;—we ARE RE-ENSLAVED. Look as you may into the works of our Revolutionary Fathers, and never once will you come across the term, "Labor Market." The workingman was not then merchandise. Opportunities—natural and social—were then open to all; each man could be, and was, the architect of his own fortune, or misfortune. In those days, had any one used the term "Labor Market," he would have been understood as little as if he had used the word "kinetograph"; neither of the two was yet in existence. As the latter, so is the term "Labor Market," a subsequent development, and that development is indicated by the pregnant expression, "Labor Market."—WE ARE ENSLAVED!

B. J.—Then, all that was gained is lost again?

U. S.—But not beyond recall. Our slavery a hundred and odd years ago arose from our political DEPENDENCE upon a foreign power; accordingly, our freedom at that time had to be gained by our asserting our INDEPENDENCE. Now, then, to-day, our slavery arises from the circumstance of our being merchandise lying on the shelves of the market—along with beef, and pork, and potatoes; accordingly, our freedom from this new bondage must be gained by our stripping ourselves from the disgraceful condition of merchandise; we must pull ourselves away from the economic companionship of pork and beef and shoes and leather, and all other merchandise; we must dare to stand erect; we must dare to claim our rights and perform our duties as MEN, as HUMAN BEINGS. To do that now, we must overthrow the present tyrant class—the Capitalist class,—the present tyrant system—the Capitalist or Wage Slavery system, and set up the Socialist Republic where the instruments of production shall be owned by all; and thus all who work may be free. Fall to, Jonathan

