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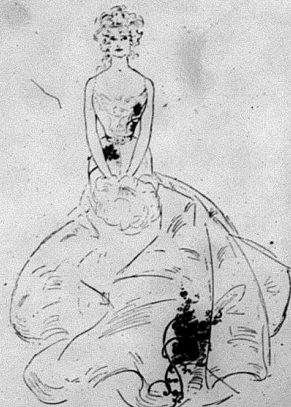
THE CLASS-STRUGGLE Snap Shots at Capitalism A FACT OF SCIENCE

History Explained by the Grand Marxian Law of the Struggle Between Classes-- Every Socialist Must Understand This Law--Extracts from Enrico Ferri, Great Italian Sociologist and Criminologist, in His Book, Socialism and Modern Science.



THE DAUGHTERS OF THE WORKINGMEN.

Their fathers create all the wealth. They have so little they can be neither healthy nor good. They will sell their bodies for clothes. They are the natural result of capitalism. Their fathers produce 2,000 Millions a year more than--



THE DAUGHTER OF THE CAPITALIST.

Her father gets all the wealth. She has so much it kills the heart of a woman in her. She will sell hers for a Duke. So is she. She can consume.

There is no Class-Struggle! Oh, No!

forms of this struggle) must be a struggle of class against class, and not of individual against individual.

Classes Not Individuals.

Hatred toward such or such an individual—even if it result in his death—does not advance us a single step toward the solution of the problem; it rather retards its solution, because it provokes a reaction in the general feeling against personal violence and it violates the principle of respect for the human person which socialism proclaims most emphatically for the benefit of all and against all opponents. The solution of the problem does not become easier because it is recognized that the present abnormal condition, which is becoming more and more acute—misery for the masses and pleasure for a few—is not the consequence of the bad intentions of such or such an individual.

Inexorable Law.

Without regard to the personal relations, more or less cordial, between capitalists and workmen, their respective economic situations are inexorably determined by the present (industrial) organization, in accordance with the law of surplus-labor, which enabled Marx to explain and demonstrate irrefutably how the capitalist is able to accumulate wealth without working—because the laborer produces in his day's work an amount of wealth exceeding in value the wage he receives, and this surplus-product forms the gratuitous (unearned) profit of the capitalist. Even if we deduct from the total profits his pay for technical and administrative superintending, this unearned surplus-product still remains.

Land, abandoned to the sun and the rain, does not, of itself, produce either wheat or wine. Minerals do not come forth, unaided, from the bowels of the earth. A bag of dollars shut up in a safe does not produce dollars, as a cow produces calves.

The production of wealth results only from a transformation of (Nature-given) materials effected by human

labor. And it is only because the peasant tills the land, because the miner extracts minerals, because the laborer sets machinery in motion, because the chemist makes experiments in his laboratory, because the engineer invents machinery, etc., that the capitalist or the landlord—the wealth inherited from his father may have cost him no labor, and though he may practise absenteeism and thus make no personal exertion—is able every year to enjoy riches that others have produced for him, in exchange for wretched lodgings and inadequate nourishment—while the workers are, in most cases, poisoned by the miasmatic vapors from rivers or marshes, by gas in mines and by dust in factories—in brief, in exchange for wages which are always inadequate to assure the workers conditions of existence worthy of human creatures.

No "Dividing Up."

Every attempt made against such or such an individual is condemned to remain barren of results; it is the ruling tendency of Society, the objective point which must be changed, it is private ownership which must be abolished, not by a partition ("dividing up"), which would result in the most extreme and pernicious form of private ownership, since by the end of a year the persistence of the old individualistic principle would restore the status quo ante, and all the advantage would accrue solely to the most crafty and the least scrupulous.

Our aim must be the abolition of private ownership and the establishment of collective and social ownership in land and the means of production. This substitution cannot be the subject for a decree, though the intention to effect it by a decree is attributed to us—but it is in course of accomplishment under our eyes, every day, from hour to hour, directly or indirectly.

Bryan Sort of Politicians.

These politicians, whose conception of statesmanship is a career of daily, trivial protest, who see nothing in pol-

itics but a struggle between individuals—and those tactics no longer produce any effect either on the public or on legislative assemblies, because they have at last become wanted to them—produce just about as much effect as would fantastic champions of hygiene who should attempt to render a marsh inhabitable by killing the mosquitoes, one by one with shots from a revolver, instead of adopting as their method and their goal the draining of the pestiferous marsh.

No individual conflicts, no personal violence, but a Class Struggle. It is necessary to make the immense army of workers of all trades and of all professions conscious of these fundamental truths. It is necessary to show them that their class interests are in opposition to the interests of the class who possess the economic power, and that it is by class-conscious organization that they will conquer this economic power through the instrumentality of the other public powers that modern civilization has assured to free peoples.

Laws Like New Primary Law.

It may, nevertheless, be foreseen that, in every country, the ruling class, before yielding, will abridge or destroy even these public liberties which were without danger to them when they were in the hands of laborers not organized into a class-conscious party, but forming the rear-guard of other purely political parties, as radical on secondary questions as they are profoundly conservative on the fundamental question of the economic organization of property.

Darwin and Marx.

"What Darwin's book on the Origin of Species is on the subject of the genesis and evolution of organic life from non-sentient nature up to man, the work of Marx is on the subject of the genesis and evolution of association among human beings, of States and the social forms of humanity."

The best way to support this paper is to patronize these advertisers.

The "Struggle for Life" and the "Class-Struggle."

DARWINISM has demonstrated that the entire mechanism of animal evolution may be reduced to the struggle for existence between individuals of the same species on the one hand, and between each species and the whole world of living beings.

In the same way all the machinery of social evolution has been reduced by Marxian socialism to the law of the Struggle between Classes. This theory not only gives us the secret motive-power and the only scientific explanation of the history of mankind; it also furnishes the ideal and rigid standard of discipline for political socialism and thus enables it to avoid all the elastic, vaporous, inconclusive uncertainties of sentimental socialism.

The only scientific explanation of the history of animal life is to be found in the grand Darwinian law of the struggle for existence; it alone enables us to determine the natural causes of the appearance, development and disappearance of vegetable and animal species from paleontological times down to our own day. In the same way the only explanation of the history of human life is to be found in the grand Marxian law of the struggle between classes; thanks to it the annals of primitive, barbarous and civilized humanity cease to be a capricious and superficial kaleidoscopic arrangement of individual episodes in order to become a grand and inevitable drama, determined—whether the actors realize it or not, in its smallest internal details as well as in its catastrophes—by the economic conditions, which form the indispensable, physical basis of life and by the struggle between the classes to obtain and keep control of the economic forces, upon which all the others—political, juridical and moral—necessarily depend.

I will have occasion to speak more at length—in studying the relations between sociology and socialism—of this grand conception, which is the imperishable glory of Marx and which assures him in sociology the place which Darwin occupies in history and Spencer in philosophy.

Class-Struggle Repugnant at First.

For the moment it suffices for me to point out this new point of contact between Socialism and Darwinism. The expression, *Class-Struggle*, so repugnant when first heard or seen (and I confess that it produced this impression on me when I had not yet grasped the scientific import of the Marxian theory), furnishes us, if it be correctly understood, the primary law of human history and, therefore, it alone can give us the certain index of the advent of the new phase of evolution which Socialism foresees and which it strives to hasten.

The Marxian Law Shows Us Just What to Do.

It is Karl Marx who, better than any one else, has proved the truth of this

theory by the mass of sociological observations* which he has drawn from societies under the most diverse economic conditions.

The names (of the classes), the circumstances and phenomena of their hostile contact and conflict may vary with the varying phases of social evolution, but the tragic essence of history always appears in the antagonism between those who hold the monopoly of the means of production—and these are few—and those who have been robbed (expropriated) of them—and these are the great majority.

Warriors and shepherds in the primitive societies, as soon as first family and then individual ownership of land has superseded the primitive collectivism; patricians and plebeians—feudal lords and vassals—nobles and common people—bourgeoisie and proletariat; these are so many manifestations of one and the same fact—the monopoly of wealth on one side, and productive labor on the other.

Now, the great importance of the Marxian law—the struggle between classes—consists principally in the fact that it indicates with great exactness just what is in truth the vital point of the social question and by what method its solution may be reached.

As long as no one had shown on positive evidence the economic basis of the political, juridical and moral life, the aspirations of the great majority for the amelioration of social conditions aimed vaguely at the demand and the partial conquest of some accessory instrumentality, such as freedom of worship, political suffrage, public education, etc. And certainly, I have no desire to deny the great utility of these conquests.

But the sancta sanctorum always remained impenetrable to the eyes of the masses, and as economic power continued to be the privilege of a few, all the conquests and concessions had no basis, separated, as they were, from the solid and fecund foundation which alone can give life and abiding power.

The Vital Point of the Question.

Now, that Socialism has shown—even before Marx, but never before with so much scientific precision—that individual ownership, private property in land and the means of production is the vital point of the question—the problem is formulated in exact terms in the consciousness of contemporaneous humanity.

What method will it be necessary to employ in order to abolish this monopoly of economic power, and the mass of suffering and ills, of hate and injustice which flow from it?

The method of the class struggle, based on the scientifically proven fact that every class tends to preserve and increase its acquired advantages and privileges, teaches the class deprived of economic power that in order to succeed in conquering it, the struggle (we will consider, further: on, the

THOUGHTS, by Your Uncle.

Miss Evans, a teacher in the Tacoma High School, took it upon herself a few days ago to go out of her way to warn the pupils in her charge against Socialism, the reason for its avoidance, she claimed, being that it would destroy the home. It is really painful to see a young lady, supposed to be intelligent and capable of directing the young idea how to shoot, so careless about the handling of the truth. The most curious examination of the least of the Socialist claims and programme would have convinced her that the reason a Socialist wants Socialism is that the home will not be destroyed. Besides, if Miss Evans is only a careless reader of the daily papers she ought to see that the present system is destroying the homes she thinks she wants to save. The present system is also, by destroying manhood and womanhood, making the possibility of any "homes" in the future more remote than ever. And then again, Miss Evans, having been a student, ought to know that she can never find what a thing is, or what it is composed of, by going to her opponents for information. I never easier to reach the workers would advise her to read the chapter on homes in the Rev. Mr. Val's book on Socialism, or the equally valuable chapter on the Rev. Mr. Sprague. And if she is really desirous of knowing what she tries to talk about August Bebel's "Woman, in the Past, Present and Future," will be especially valuable and prevent her from again showing to earnest parents her incompetence to present truth to their children.

The new president of the new steel trust, it is said, has but two ambitions, one to be the greatest iron master in the world and the other to be a great philanthropist. It is needless to say that his success at the first will force upon him the necessity also of being the latter, if he wishes to keep that of the millions of the people quiet for a little. The trust will employ nearly 400,000 men, upon whom some 2,000,000 people are dependent.

The formation of the new steel trust is one of the greatest steps toward Socialism that the world has ever yet taken. The necessity of the individual private employer is becoming less apparent every day, and the people will soon demand that millions of human beings no longer depend upon the greed-grabbing motif of corporations for their daily sustenance and their happiness and welfare no longer be an uncertainty.

Another poor victim of our vicious industrial system, in her struggle to free herself and her little ones from conditions that were torturing and slowly degrading her, killed her five young children, threw them in a well, and jumped in after them. The death of her husband left her destitute, and after weeks of living on charity and with the poor-house facing her, with separation from her babies, poor, crazed Mrs. Wenzel of Colfax chose what may, after all, have been the less cruel alternative, and forced them out of a world, where with all its "Christianity" and its "civilization," babies are yet a burden and the presence of destitute mothers unwelcome and annoying. Shame upon the apologists of our competitive hell! When in the final judgment the mad act is recorded, it will be found that the greater guilt lay upon the

for nothing, and as the worker has to be skinned to pay the bill anyway it is of small moment to the worker as to who skins him. Only the Socialist objects to being skinned at all, that's why he fights a private ownership system of which speculation and robbery is not only an integral part, but is also inevitably pushed to a prominent position.

Over in Tacoma some time ago a small-fry Democratic office holder swiped some funds out of the city treasury. The loss was made good; but the Republican administration determined to prosecute him. But unfortunately about a month ago a small-fry Republican office holder monkeyed with the letters in the registry department of the Tacoma postoffice. The matter has been kept quiet, all the papers in the city sticking together, and refusing to let the people know what kind of dishonest servants they have. It rather looked for a time as if some Democrat might let the cat out of the bag, but it is said that the prosecution of the small-fry Democrat will be called off if nothing is said about the small-fry Republican. And thus the two wings of the capitalist party work harmoniously together, while the workers idiotically remain divided and disorganized and continue to be robbed. Thus doth justice work in the case of "well-connected" rascals. Just wait until some poor devil steals a loaf of bread and the machinery of the law will make up for lost time.

The colored population of Tacoma are gleefully commencing to themselves over the fact that a high-toned white man, who was given a cheap government position originally created to placate the colored brethren who demanded recognition of the Republican party, has been caught stealing. It looks kind of mean to not only take a job away from a negro but steal the funds also. But then it is all in the capitalist game. There is but very little difference whether you steal the people's money after they have put it in some place for safe keeping, or steal so much of their labor power that the little they have left in the shape of wages is too small to save anything out of. See? This also explains why schemes of taxation or no taxation do not cut any ice, either, also the tariff, gold, silver, free trade, etc., etc., which the capitalist fishermen use to catch workmen gudgeons.

I notice the state legislature keeps knocking labor bills on the head with a regularity that causes one to wonder if the legislators ever heard of the workers ever voting for a "workingman's friend," or if they know from experience they can catch the votes with the same old guff as of yore. They probably can, and will. The average workman is such a jackass when it comes to voting.

UNCLE SAM.

Notice Everybody.
The S. E. U. will hold a Grand Entertainment and Ball at Germania Hall, Saturday evening, March 3, for the benefit of the Socialist.

Some of the best talent in the City has been engaged for the program. Watch for announcement in next issue.

Every one who wants to help THE SOCIALIST should get tickets to sell.

Tickets will be ready Sunday, March 3, and can be obtained of any member of the Socialist Educational Union.

Remember the people who are not allowed to advertise in The Socialist deserve our patronage.

LOCAL SEATTLE.
A Great Day for The Socialist.
One Hundred Dollars donated in Five Minutes. Socialism and The Press, the Topic of Last Sunday's Propaganda Meeting.
The Local at Seattle granted the Editor and Business Agent of this paper the privilege of presenting the purposes and needs of The Socialist at last Sunday's regular public meeting. The hall was crowded to the doors.

Behind the platform the end of the hall was covered with the Socialist papers of the country spread out over 400 sq. feet so as to make an impressive display.

The speaker showed first that the unemployed laborers always ready to take the places of the employed, must keep wages down to the point of subsistence. That is all that workers can possibly get, a bare living, and they cannot possibly get less and live.

Hence, all questions of taxation, money, tariff, imperialism, interest, prohibition, arbitration and the rest, are absolutely of no account to the wage-worker.

He cannot get any more than his living and he certainly cannot get any less. Second. The Worker produces a vast amount of goods, two thousand millions a year more than is used in this country, though all he gets or can get, is his bare subsistence wage. All this that he does not get is Surplus Value and goes into all sorts of channels, Rent, Interest, Profits, and is scrambled for by the vast army of the unemployed and unproductive—lawyers, gamblers, traders, tramps, clerjemen, salesmen, brokers, dealers and speculators of all kinds.

So here you find the secret of Wealth-accumulation. It comes from what the laborers create, but are robbed of—the surplus they produce over their wages—their bare subsistence.

Socialism teaches that this surplus that producers are now deprived of, must be made their own.

The robbers must be made to disgorge the means by which they are able to keep up this army of the unemployed.

The Land, the Machines and Inventions now owned in private must be made accessible to all, that is, they must be owned by all.

The Capitalistic press will nevertheless allow the workers to see these facts. A Socialist press is a necessity to reveal and teach these facts.

The audience after a plain statement of the financial condition of the paper by the Bus. Agent began to pepper the Editor with names and amounts faster than he could write them down. Inside five minutes one hundred dollars was subscribed in amounts from one dollar to ten. About one-half the cash was passed in on the spot.

It was a splendid achievement and shows that the Comrades are bound to keep the paper in the field.

After seven months without any help from the state treasury and with no rich backer, The Socialist is now entering the eighth month with no debt. It has twice been enlarged and has a small printing plant of its own. Foundations are being laid for a great future. It is the hardest kind of work to establish a new paper anywhere and especially a Socialist paper in a capitalistic environment.

If the Comrades stand by us in the future as in the past—we cannot be defeated.

After the donations were completed, the meeting went on just as usual, and the Local got the largest regular collection in many weeks.

Spokane News.

Local Spokane will be heard from in the future from its new headquarters, corner of Second and Lincoln streets.

We are giving the people of this city straight Socialism, the kind with that terrible class-struggle idea involved in it, and they like it, as is evidenced by the large crowds that attend the two propaganda meetings we hold weekly.

The Socialists intend putting a city ticket in the field in the coming election which takes place in May, notwithstanding the fact that this city has drawn the class-line very clearly by placing a property qualification upon the Mayor and Councilmen. We feel that we have enough men, who can qualify, to put up a full ticket.

Oh! no, there is no class-struggle. But it is pertinent to ask why the city of Spokane makes it obligatory for its citizens to own real estate before they are eligible to election to a seat in its legislative body.

One hardware firm in this city laid off twenty-five men last week and reduced the salary of some twenty others, and thus does Mr. Kinley pro-perity overwhelm us. Sorry, boys, but just drop around to the Socialist headquarters, and we will put you next.

The small business men of this city are up against it, and many are falling by the way side, but they don't seem to realize that competition is its own executioner. Socialism is spreading itself here.

F. J. SPRING

Comrade J. G. Smart, formerly organizer of Local Spokane, and recently Supt. of Work at Barclay Colony, writes us that he has returned to the ranks of Militant Socialists.

He also announces that he will address Local Tacoma Sunday, March 3, on this militant topic, "Cooperative Endeavor and the Fakir aided by the Socialistic Christian Demagogue".

He wishes to address the Seattle Comrades on the same topic. His present address is 117 N. Yoshima Ave., Tacoma.

Comrade Wm. Mailly writes asking The Socialist to reprint a letter of his in the Cleveland Citizen and to comment on same. It is a plea for unity. Comrade Martin of Ohio and others also send communications on the same subject.

Our space is insufficient for the discussion of this subject, with long letters, resolutions, etc.

We all want unity, in fact, we have it in this state, and we are chiefly concerned now to build up a strong Socialist party to meet the capitalist foe.

We are sure national unity will come too, but we don't care to discuss who ought to take the lead. Perhaps those Comrades are right who say, First educate your members so that they know what they want and then they will unite to get it.

Anyhow we are content to await the Referendum of the Exec. Board at Springfield, and there is a lot of time before next Sept. which the Chicago Committee has named for its "Unity Convention".

The next regular meeting of The Socialist Educational Union will be held at 220 Union St., Seattle, Sunday, March 3, 1901, at 4 P. M.

J. D. CURTIS, Sec.

Labor Column

CONDUCTED BY CHAS. L. DE MOTTE.

THE widespread notoriety recorded Carrie Nation for smashing a few joints in Kansas, serves only to fill up valuable space in newspapers. It is something of a sensation, the bold audacity of a fanatic. It cannot and will not result in permanent good or reform. It is simply a mole hill bearing a mountain for their difference in size. What are a few saloons in Topeka, Wichita and a number of other smaller towns compared with the innumerable thousands throughout the United States? The movement is blind, illogical and savors of insanity. A temporary abatement of an effect will never remove the cause. So long as the cause remains undisturbed, the poison that flows from it will form obnoxious ulcers, hence the futility of a spasmodic uprising against effect is clearly apparent. If the people who depend upon manual labor for an existence would forego the use of strong drink for the space of two months it would put more joints out of business than ten thousand fanatics like Carrie Nation. It is labor that supports the saloon and labor is responsible in a large measure for their existence. If labor was as particular in disposing of its product as it is in acquiring it, some of the gravest evils that confront modern society would rapidly disappear. Yet the pronouncement of the laboring class is not the cause of the drink evil. It is the insatiable greed for gain. Remove the incentive for profit, the distillery, the brewery, and all their attendant evils will soon cease to poison the streams of social felicity.

The steamship Port Stephens while undergoing repairs, left this port for Victoria taking with her about one hundred men, ship carpenters and laborers. For two nights these men were compelled to quarter on an open iron deck exposed to the worst of weather, and what little food they got was thrown to them as though they were a kennel of dogs. It is time that an effort was being made to hang and imprison a few of these brutes who are at the head of steamship companies. If these men had revolted against such treatment they would have been tried for mutiny at sea, and yet the officers of vessels may subject laborers and craftsmen to the worst of treatment with impunity. The poor devil who works comes in for small consideration at the hands of these inhuman parasites and pap suckers.

Would it not be a good idea for the daily papers to tell the truth regarding the possibilities of labor in Seattle, and prevent this influx of mechanics. Is the policy of deceit and falsehood followed by these papers of any permanent benefit to the city? Hundreds of mechanics come here expecting to find an abundance of work at the highest wages. They travel the city from center to circumference in quest of work only to find that labor is far in excess of the demand, consequently they leave the city in disgust and carry no flattering story with them.

A PAGE OF SPICY CORRESPONDENCE

an unusual press of work has rendered impossible the preparation of this week's Lessons in Socialism. We suggest to our members of Clubs which have kept with the Lessons that they receive the four Lessons which were already been given. If they might discuss the questions named by Comrade Stark, of Lynden, in his letter given here.

Start the Ball Rolling.

Machinery Beneficial or Not?

Dear Socialist:—Some time ago in our home library I took the programme committee and asked a question for debate which was stated like this:

Resolved, That machinery has generally beneficial to man.

The question seems to me to be of considerable importance, hence I believe it would be of general interest to have the opinions of our Socialists throughout the state on this subject.

The majority of the comrades in Lynden precinct whom I have asked express themselves seem to quite strongly on the side of a affirmative.

So far as I know I am almost quite the only one of the Comrades in the community who would prefer to take the negative side of a question.

Would suggest that the subject be taken up in the columns of THE SOCIALIST by say half a dozen comrades from different parts of the state and briefly treated upon; either as a symposium or one short article each issue for four or six succeeding weeks. Am willing to contribute something on the subject if some one will start the ball rolling.

I cannot close this without expressing my hearty approval of an instructive rather than sensational conduct of THE SOCIALIST.

Keep up the "Lessons in Socialism" (lessons from capitalism) till the Socialists (!) learn the fundamentals and as Comrade Burgess pointed out, just as soon and as full then will the question of Socialism be at an end.

Yours class-consciously,
J. F. STARK.

Lynden, Wash., Feb. 17, 1901.

Direct Legislation Again.

Oakesdale, Wash., Feb. 24, 1901.

Dear Socialist Editor:

Dear Sir: Do you think it is possible to get the question of Direct Legislation before the legislature this term? If so, how? It seems that it is taking about four or six years to get it in Oregon, and if we do not do something this session, it will take longer for us.

I think we could get a great many signers to a petition in this part of the country, if it would be of any good.

Yours, etc.,
DANIEL FISH.

No, it is no use trying at this session and anyhow it is too late now. And what is the use of Direct Legislation; after all? It will not help Socialists till they get a majority—and when they get a majority they will be in control and will at once introduce Direct Legislation.

Strike at once for full Socialism which includes Direct Legislation as one of its fundamentals—and waste no time on any other issue.

Our Account Questioned

St. John, Wash., Feb. 23, 1901.

Dear Comrade: I will kindly ask you to publish through the columns of THE SOCIALIST or answer me by letter as you please the proofs concerning the framing and signing of the U. S. Constitution. We have quite a sprinkling of what we call Pension Republicans and they deny the veracity of statements in THE SOCIALIST of Feb. 17, claiming that all records were burned in the year 1814.

Your sincere Comrade,
JAMES JENNINGS.

Secy.
Answer: "Elliott's Debates" in five volumes, published by Appleton's under authority of Congress, will give full confirmation of all that we printed. They include Yates' Minutes and Madison's Records. These accounts were first made public about 1840 and were published as above related.

For further information, readers are referred to Prof. J. Allen Smith, Prof. of Political Economy and Civil History in the University of Washington, Seattle. Prof. Smith has made a special study of U. S. constitutional history for several years, and he authorizes the editor of THE SOCIALIST to refer to him. He says Congress is responsible for the genuineness of the books as published.

A Mad Boy.

N. Yakima, Wash., Feb. 18, 1901.

The Socialist, Seattle, Wash.

Sir: Kindly drop our name from your exchange list. We don't care to receive a paper which contains such articles as the one concerning Queen Victoria in the issue of Feb. 10, and that concerning the Constitution of the U. S. in the issue of Feb. 17.

We feel that it is a discredit to our own paper, humble as it is, to have such a paper as THE SOCIALIST on our table.

We secured THE SOCIALIST as an exchange through a gross mistake, and should you so desire, we will continue to send to you "The Step-Ladder," free of charge as an enlightening medium.

Yours respectfully,
The Step-Ladder.

No. Yakima, Wash.
Per H. L. Hauser, Ed. in C.

This is something besides amusing.

Here is a young man, say 18 years old, with a better education than most citizens ever get, with literary aspirations too, yet so utterly prejudiced that he cannot listen to a relation of facts about the U. S. Constitution, because those facts do not fit his previous ideas concerning that document.

A "Step-Ladder" is a shakly thing at the best, my boy, but if you don't set it on a good solid basis of facts, you'll have many a sorry tumble.

Now Socialism is fact founded before all things. Don't get mad, but go to studying "whether these things be so." Write to Dr. Smith, of the University, and ask him whether THE SOCIALIST told the truth or not.

A Breeze from Deep River.
To the Editor:—

I think THE SOCIALIST as at present conducted should be satisfactory to Social Democrats, but if your object is to make a Socialist of the average American or if you wish to enroll us "milk and water" Socialists in the S. D. P. your methods might be modified in some respects and be more effective. A man is not convinced that partisan lying is honorable by being called "fincial" and you will not make many enthusiastic converts by designating as milk and water Socialists all who fail to endorse your methods in full.

Now as to your method of teaching Marx Socialism.

When you imagine that the average American will read and assimilate a page of Marx at one sitting and note the distinction between labor and labor power, or between value and use value, or master the difference between nominal wages, actual wages and relative wages, you simply prove that you do not know your American and allow me to say that if you were hired by some old bourgeois haysed to feed calves and paid no attention to the nature and inclination of the calves than you do to that of your readers your job would be lost very quick. It is not disputed that Marx is a true prophet and that every one should know and understand his philosophy of economics. I believe that a general comprehension of the truths taught by Marx would alone make the Co-operative Commonwealth a reality. By the same token a calf should eat a ton of hay and half a ton of chop but the feeder who should dump a bale of hay in the corral and a sack of chop in the feed trough would not be a success raising calves.

So much for the don'ts.

It appears to me that the most effectual way to make converts to Socialism amongst Americans would be to devote a quarter or half a column weekly to short and truthful items regarding Public Ownership projects now in operation or projected. There would be two objections to this, however. First, it would be much more labor to prepare and verify a stickful of such items than to extract a page of Marx, and, second, it would probably lead to what you call "step at a time Socialism," for which, I understand your position correctly, you have a stalwart contempt.

You say that capitalists prefer this kind of Socialism which is perhaps true, but I am more concerned to know on which side my bread is buttered than what preference a capitalist may have. In short, I believe in evolution along the line of least resistance, while I think you are in favor of revolution.

This is a different kind of gush from what you are in the habit of getting or, at least, of publishing, but a change may do you good. It's good for calves. If you survive this dose I may take a rainy day some time and tell you why I do not affiliate with the S. D. P. although I claim to be a Political Socialist.

Respectfully,
J. D. FERTEG.

P. S.—My object in writing is to have you know how one average American thinks, but you are at liberty to publish it or any part of it if you wish.

Publish it? Sure and cert. That's the kind we like.

Evidently one "Average American" has been getting considerable fodder out of our bale of hay and sack of chop. But he's no calf—that's plain.

And for that matter, Ira D., we think you underrate said "average American" when you call him a calf. Most of him would make pretty tough eating as well. He's had too many hard political knocks and been squeezed through the terrible struggle for existence too long, to have much soft stuff left in him.

Now then!
First, THE SOCIALIST is not published solely for "milk and water Socialists." There are others— you, for instance. We want men capable of thought and leadership, uninstructed in economics, to get the fog out of their thinking, to perceive clearly what Socialism means, so that in the coming days of crisis, when men

turn in blocks towards us for guidance, we shall not be blind leaders of the blind. Political Socialism has a definite aim and the party that stands by it must be compacted for onslaught along such a definite line.

It is not so important now that we make more converts as that we instruct, organize, solidify the strong men we already have.

Second, We entirely believe what a correspondent writes from Michigan, as follows:

"I have always maintained that Scientific Socialism, though deep, is capable of being comprehended by the common mind, if presented in a simple logical manner. Your paper does exactly this and that is why I like it."

There you have the other view! Brother Ferteg. If an editor is cussed, he is also blessed occasionally too.

And now about "milk." What do you think of our pictures in the way of milk for calves? Don't you think that illustration of the "Charity Ball" or that last week of "Willie and His Papa" could find its way into the tenderest veal's stomach?

But enough. We forgot to say that Comrade Ferteg sent along his subscription for another year—showing that he must like even our hay and chop.

Would Be With Abe Lincoln.
February 23, 1901.

Editor Socialist, Seattle, Wn.

Sir: I have been on a visit to Iowa the last three months and on arriving home I have saw one of your papers and will start in with ten cents for a start and I will likely help you further in the noble work that you have on hand. I am a Socialist if anything as I have quit both old parties. I voted for Debs last fall. If Abe Lincoln was President I think I would be with him as I was when he was elected both times, but Republicans are not what they were then. I am now going into 75 years and of course will not be able to help the cause much.

Yours for justice,
The Times on "Municipal Ownership."

Editor Socialist: In the Seattle Times of Feb. 9th appeared an article on Municipal Ownership which deserves mention because of its weakness.

The writer of the article in question cites opinions of prominent men, but ignores facts and figures with which our literature is now fairly bristling. But this conduct on the part of the Times is easily accounted for when it is known that the facts and figures are all against the Times.

But since municipal ownership as now exemplified is simply a division of the spoils between the capitalist party, socialists are not interested except as spectators who enjoy such quarrels over a division of the spoils which rightfully belong to neither of the disputants.

Public ownership by the capitalists will not benefit the toiler; it is only another method of exploiting him.

Public ownership by the worker will end exploitation and force all to provide for themselves. Don't fail to note the distinction.
D. BURGESS.

Washington Socialists claim to have thirty-two cities and towns organized.—Coming Nation.

Forty of them now, Ruskin brother. See our last page for proof.

The Ann Arbor Trades Council invited representatives of the various parties to deliver addresses explaining their claims for the workmen's votes. That's the news.

The Cumberland Mine Disaster. For The Socialist.

A terrible catastrophe occurred the other day at Cumberland, B. C. Sixty-four men fell victims to the greed of capitalism; they were killed by an explosion in the mines. The men killed were miners—that is, they were the actual operators of the mines. Every minute they were engaged in their labor they were risking their lives in order to make dividends for the so-called operators, but who should properly be called labor exploiters. The only labor these exploiters are generally engaged in, is to sit in the easy chairs of their clean and comfortable offices and figure out the profits they have ground out of their operators.

A great many times the argument is made in favor of the profit system that labor does not risk anything at all in a business enterprise and is therefore not entitled to as much as the capitalist who risks his capital. They do not see that labor is the creation of all capital, but is continually being robbed out of it through a system of legalized robbery.

Labor is continually risking its very life in order to create dividends for the exploiters. The less labor receives the larger will be the dividends, the more labor receives the smaller the dividends.

This is the system that is being supported by the working class of the United States and the world. This criminal system that drives the sisters and daughters of the workmen from the sweatshops into the bawdy houses in order to produce high rents for their Christian landlords by selling their bodies, and also fills the jails, insane asylums and poor-houses with their victims could be abolished by the workers who are the overwhelming majority and who by the very force of their numbers could trample the drones and parasites of society under their feet. They could establish the co-operative commonwealth of Socialism where every worker would receive the full result of his labor and where proper care would be taken to protect the life of every member of society. Let "Socialism in our time" be the watchword of every worker.

A. C. P.

Don't Be Discouraged.

You Can Get 10 Subs. for 10 Weeks in One Day, if You Go From House to House.

I am sorry that I am not able to send any subs. to the paper.

I am the only Socialist for 12 miles north and south and 10 miles west of here the largest part is McKinley the other part Bryan, but I have a few picked out that I calculate to convert before the next election through cheap books and papers.

Fraternally Yours,
OLOF SANDSTROM.
Fir, Skagit Co.

ENTERTAINMENT!

DON'T MISS THE ENTERTAINMENT AND DANCE to be given Saturday evening, Mar. 2, at SOCIALIST HALL, 220 Union St. Gents, 25c; ladies, free.

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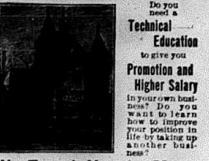
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A Torn Copy of The Socialist

Spokane, Wash., 2-7, 1901.

THE SOCIALIST, 920 Union St., Seattle, Wash.—I found a torn copy of THE SOCIALIST today, and as a true Anarchist, know that the only hope for progress is to scatter the bold superstitions of the masses, and make them thinking, reasoning men and women. You are entitled to support from all intelligent people if your ideas are such as to give reason and independence to its readers. I enclose 10 cents for a trial sub. Yours truly,

C. M. MOE.

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