





WHAT IS CHANGED?

'Human Nature' or Our Surroundings and Environment?—A Chapter in Evolution.

The argument which the socialist has most often to answer is "Oh, you can't change human nature." Little does the one who has advanced this argument know that by so doing he has thereby partly accepted the argument of the socialist.

changed, but steadfast as a rock clung to its self-interest and that through this self-same self-interest all human progress has been made, in fact that all progress has been up to now selfish progress.

Do you really understand your own interests, the interests of the working class? Do you not see that today society is divided into two classes: one the capitalist class, few in numbers, but possessing the earth and "the fullness thereof," OWNING the land, the mines and the forests, OWNING the mills, factories and shops, the railroads and waterways, in short, CONTROLLING ALL THE MEANS WHEREBY WE LIVE: the sources from which come food, clothing and shelter, as well as all other good and useful things; the other the working class, numbering almost three-fourths of the population, yet owning nothing but its "labor power" and therefore in order to live, compelled to sell this labor power to the capitalists, the owners of the natural and artificial means of production, for only a portion of the wealth which this labor power ALONE creates, and this portion owing to the competition of those thrown out of employment by improved machinery and methods, grows ever nearer to a bare subsistence.

The working class being now the most persecuted and exploited class in our present society, sooner or later will follow the same course of all its predecessors, and following its self-interest will overthrow the present capitalist class and system and again following its self-interest will institute the co-operative commonwealth. This struggle along the lines of self-interest can be watched by anyone who wishes to do so.

Do you not see that between the capitalists and the workers there is necessarily an antagonism, a struggle, the result of ADVERSE interests; the capitalist class desiring to retain its privilege of fleecing the workers, of taking as large a portion of their labor as possible, under the name of "profits," while the workers seek to retain as large a part as they can, to get an "advance in wages." But do you not see that in this the advantage is all on the side of the capitalists: that so long as they are allowed to manage affairs the workers will have to work for less and less, so long as the capitalist system lasts.

"Just now 'times are good.' Are they GOOD for you? Are you getting any more wages than you did a year ago? As much as you ever received? Is your home bright, comfortable, healthy and cheerful? Are you married or can't you afford it? Can you feed and dress yourself and family with decency and comfort? Are your children in school? Are you getting old? Is that position of yours going to last always? What if sickness comes? How many wageworkers can satisfy themselves on these points? Very few.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT? "This is what the socialists want to do: Take the means of production and distribution back out of the hands of private greed which uses them for its own aggrandizement and put them back where they belong, in the possession of ALL the people. To organize industry so there will be no wasted labor and each will receive reward according to what he does.

THE TIME TO BEGIN IS NOW. You cannot expect to overthrow in a day a system which few understand, but begin now right here in Kansas City. Study the platform of the Socialist Labor party; get its literature; learn something of scientific political economy. Vote its ticket. JOIN THE PARTY and TAKE PART IN ITS COUNCILS, wherein every member has an equal voice.

Appeal to the Wage-workers of That City, "What Are You Going To Do About It?" "Another election day is rolling round and you will have a chance to demonstrate either that you understand your own interests, by voting the class-conscious ticket of the Socialist Labor party, or that you are still blindly supporting the interests of your exploiters, large and small, by voting the Republican, Democratic or Populist tickets.

FOREIGN NEWS.

Glimpses of the World-wide Struggle of the Proletarian Army for Its Liberty.

AUSTRIA. Vienna, March 19.—The great strike in the Bohemian and Moravian coal fields, which has been on for over two months, was ended today. The committees decided yesterday that nothing was to be gained by a continuation of the strike, and most of the men returned to work this morning.

GERMANY. Berlin, March 18.—The social democrats today celebrated the anniversary of the revolution of 1848 in the usual way. Wreaths of flowers and laurel were placed upon the graves of those who fell in the barricades on that tempestuous March 18, fifty-two years ago.

FRANCE. Paris, March 15.—The anniversary of the breaking out of the Paris commune, in 1871, which fell on today, was celebrated by the survivors from among those who participated and by the socialist party. The festivities began last night and the meetings continue the socialist party. The festivities included all passed off very quietly.

At a large hall in the Latin quarter the socialists, under the leadership of M. Jaures and other socialist chiefs, held a meeting to talk over the gains of their party since the time of the commune. After the meeting M. Jaures said to your correspondent: "This is always a great fête of the socialist party. The commune really made our theories possible, and when Parisians celebrate the anniversary, they really celebrate the essence of socialism."

At the Pere La Chaise cemetery this afternoon scores of wreaths were hung on the famous wall where the communards were shot—men, women and children together—in 1871. A crowd of several hundred persons assembled to witness the paying of this tribute.

LOCAL NEWS AND NOTES. Comrade Thomas J. Morgan delivered a lecture in Perkins Hall school hall, Thursday night, March 23, on "Industrial and Religious Effects of Trusts."

trade unionists and socialist groups is called for Friday, the 16th, at 8:30 precisely, in the La Bourne de Travail hall, at 35 Rue Jean Jacques Rousseau. The order of business will be: 1. The strike at Doucet's shops. 2. The necessity and usefulness of complete friendly and interested relations between all trade unions.

Belgium. After the publication of the statistics on the situation as regard to the positions gained and held by the socialists in the municipal councils, we further say: That we have socialists in all the municipal councils, in the large and small cities. This representation is perfect and strong, especially at Brussels, Liege and Gaud a third of the councils are socialist.

LABOR ITEMS. Notes From Trades Union Journals and Exchanges, Throughout the United States. (For further Labor Items see Foreign News.) Rev. Lyman Abbott, the well-known New York preacher and sociologist, is reported to have declared that nothing short of complete socialism will put an end to present economic inequalities.

Officers of the Socialist party of Oklahoma, an independent organization, state that their party is ready to become attached to the amalgamated socialist movement, which was favored by the Rochester and Indianapolis conventions. A number of independent clubs in various parts of the country have expressed similar views.

THE TWENTY-SEVENTH WARD EDUCATIONAL CLUB ON SUNDAY LAST Comrade Klenke addressed a large audience, who listened attentively to the exposition of working class interests which was the subject of the address. A lively discussion followed and good work resulted for the socialist cause, as always happens when workmen begin to enquire what their position in capitalist society is at present, and the reason why.

Are you still hustling for subscribers? The Fifth Ward branch, S. L. P., held a successful meeting on Sunday last at 2300 Wentworth avenue. There was a good attendance and Comrade Almbiad, the speaker of the evening, was attentively listened to. Many questions were asked and an interesting discussion followed the address of the evening.

The Fourteenth Ward, S. L. P., held a very large and enthusiastic meeting last Sunday at Schoenhofen's hall, Milwaukee and Ashland avenues. Nearly a hundred persons were present and Comrade Levinson's exposition of the "Class Struggle" was both fluent and scientific and was well-received by the audience. A very instructive discussion took place, and one of the best meetings which the branch has held so far came to a close.

Chicago Federation of Labor ignored the capitalist candidate for alderman in the Fourteenth ward, Comrades Collins and Koop protested vigorously against this act of treason to the working class, but the political fakirs being in full force their efforts were unavailing. This is the crowd that cry out "no politics in the unions." By that they evidently mean no "working class politics" as the capitalist brand is seemingly never heard.

All the petitions of the S. L. P. candidates in the coming local election have been duly filed. Nineteen wards and five towns are to have socialist candidates this year. It remains with the class-conscious workmen of Chicago to see that the vote rolled up this time will obviate the necessity of going on the ballot by petition, and will do so themselves rather, in the standing of an official party. A vote for this ticket means a protest against the miserable and infamous conditions created by capitalism, and the expression of the fact that the voter understands his distinct class interests as workman.

At the meeting of the Thirty-third Ward branch, at Nelson Morris hall, South Chicago, last Saturday evening Comrade Sandeak spoke on "Strikes and Lockouts." His address was listened to with great interest and a discussion of the subject followed. On Saturday, March 24th, Comrade T. J. Morgan will speak on "Trusts and Workmen." The branch will hold an agitation meeting at 106th street and Torrence avenue, (Grandale), at 3 o'clock, Sunday, March 25th, at which comrades Berlin and Berlin will speak. Also a meeting at 79th street and Edwards avenue (Cheltenham), at 3 o'clock Tuesday, March 27th. It is expected that Comrades Morris and Becker will address the latter meeting.

On Friday, March 16th, a branch of the S. L. P. was organized in the Sixth ward. The new branch started with ten members, and judging from the activity and intelligence displayed by the new recruits good results may be expected for the cause of socialism in that district in the near future. Our organizers were informed that a long time has elapsed since a socialist meeting has been held in the Sixth ward, so the ground to be broken may be said to be entirely new. The next meeting will be held on Sunday the 25th inst. at 3 p. m., at the house of C. F. Lowrie, 134 36th street, near Western avenue. All readers of The Workers' Call in that district are urged to attend this meeting and join the new branch to help spread socialism in that quarter of the city.

Our reporter overheard a conversation the other day in the corridor of a well-known hotel in this city. A group of business men were discussing the present labor troubles, and several of them expressed dissatisfaction with the actions of Mayor Harrison, claiming that he had not given sufficient protection to the employers of labor in the struggle with the striking workers. It was universally conceded that the Mayor was remiss in his duties in this respect and many conjectures were passed as to the reason for this peculiar conduct on his part. One of the group finally remarked that he had heard that the workers had determined on taking independent political action for themselves in case that Harrison refused to accede to their demands; that Harrison knew this and acted accordingly. The look of surprise and fear which came over the faces of the group on hearing this, says our reporter, was both amusing and instructive. There is evidently nothing that the labor skinner fears so much as that the workers may some day take political power to themselves.

