

THE WORKERS' CALL.

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ADVERTISEMENTS: A limited number of acceptable advertisements will be inserted.

EDITORIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS: To secure the return of unused manuscripts postage should be enclosed.

Contributions and items of news concerning the labor movement are requested from our readers. Every contribution must be accompanied by the name of an author, not necessarily for publication.



The Socialist Vote, UNITED STATES.

Table with 2 columns: Year and Vote. 1899: 18,704; 1900: 21,518.

"TO BE OR NOT TO BE."

The conspicuous part now being played by the labor unions in this city during the present troubles has led its opponents and upholders alike to indulge in wild speculations as to what might be "it" the said unions did not exist.

It was called into being by the development of that system. It will only disappear with the disappearance of the present economic regime, as it is the natural and only weapon that can be wielded by the working class, while the existence of the system of capitalist production remains unchallenged by them.

THE ELECTION AS A TEST.

The result of the pending local elections may perhaps be fairly considered as determining how far the working class of this city are cognizant of their distinct interests, as workers.

SNAP SHOTS BY THE WAYSIDE.

The improved tenement house racket which is now being played in the capitalist press can be best answered by the action of the landlord section of the capitalist class, who are creating the congestion that makes the slum tenement possible, by raising the rents and thereby compelling the workers to huddle closer together.

It seems strange that the mouthpieces of organized labor should use the columns of the Daily News, upon which they have declared a boycott, to answer the hostile statements of Mr. Chalmers, of the firm of Fraser & Chalmers.

For instance, Chalmers in his tirade against organized labor, speaks of the monstrous outrage of leaving his \$3,000,000 plant idle one-tenth of the time, as the demand for a nine hour day would if acceded to, compel.

And this "turning of the tables" on the capitalist employer, how woefully weak it appears. The so-called champions of labor always fail miserably when they attempt to placate that harlot, "Public Opinion," instead of appealing to the class instincts and interests of the workers.

The Chicago Tribune publishes a dispatch from Vienna reporting the assassination of a workman in the streets of Warsaw. The victim was supposed to have been slain in revenge for his betraying the whereabouts of a secret printing press used for the publication of a socialist paper.

The ownership of the enormous amount of the horse-power, generated by the new drainage canal is now a bone of contention between different groups of capitalists, representing different interests, who see in its control, a dazzling vision of profits to be gained therefrom.

Very different is however the method of procedure when the interests of the ruling class require immediate attention. The workmen in this city are plainly growing rebellious, and the erection of an armory for the Chicago Huskars is a matter which admits of no delay.

The "slums" are to be abolished—that is if a number of middle-class women who dabble in "social reform" can succeed in persuading the slum landlords of the financial advantages of putting their property in a sanitary condition.

politicians, and the "common people" to no small degree. But as soon as it was discovered that such occupation would and did result in the French Shylock who held Egyptian stocks and bonds, getting with certainty the "pound of flesh" as interest on his investments.

The British ruling classes know perfectly well that the "sympathy" and "sentiment" of "public opinion" in Europe and America that expresses itself in "resolutions" and denunciations of British greed, are in themselves mere waste of breath.

Perhaps the following declaration in the London Times, regarding the immediate future of the South African republics may have had some influence in deciding other capitalist communities to pursue a policy of non-intervention during the war:

"Mr Chamberlain will do his best to obtain protection for the private property of foreigners also, and even the most anti-British amongst them will hardly repudiate such a service at his hands.

In spite of the palpable nature of this capitalist war, the British government dare not tamper with the basis upon which present society rests, viz.: the "sacredness" of "private property." Any attack upon such rights would make intervention not only possible but very probable, therefore they give notice beforehand, that this sacred fetish, the cornerstone of capitalist civilization, is to be respected.

An English paper speaking of the fighting qualities of the Boers remarks that after the republics have been properly "pacified" the young Boers who have any desire for military life can find plenty of opportunities in the British army, and hopes that "some future Cronje or Joubert may perhaps lead British troops on the battlefield."

Real work for the rapid transit tunnel had its beginning at 8:05 o'clock this morning in the middle of Bleecker street, twenty feet east of Green street.

W. B. Wilson, engineer of the rapid transit tunnel, took a pick and loosened the first cobblestone, and then kept the pick. Many men struggled to get the first stone taken out.

Have you read the above clipping fellow workmen? Well, how does this contrast with the statement of the "advance agent of capitalist prosperity"—that "jobs are looking for men," etc.

LETTER BOX.

On the Political Battlefield.

To Editor Workers' Call:— On March 17th we were called before the Board of Election Commissioners to answer objections filed against the petitions of the S. L. P. We found that the objectors were the De Leonites who claimed the sole right to the party name.

of the party name was declared to belong to Section Chicago and was ordered to be placed at the head of the official ballot. On the other hand, we were called again before the election commissioners to answer objections filed against our aldermanic nominees in the 1st, 19th and 8th wards.

This issue turned upon the construction of section 5 of the Illinois ballot law, which is worded that the meaning is open to doubt, especially in regard to the number of signatures required on the petition for a place on the official ballot for nominees for town, village, precinct or ward, and for city offices in cities having a population of less than 5,000.

BOOK REVIEWS.

THE CIVIL WAR IN FRANCE. By Karl Marx, with an Introduction by Frederick Engels. Published by International Library Publishing Co., 23 Duane St., New York. Price, 25 cents.

The reputation of the great nineteenth century economist, Karl Marx, is so inseparably bound up with that work which is acknowledged upon all hands to be his masterpiece, the "Critical Analysis of Capitalist Production," or as it is more familiarly known, "Capital," that the fact that Marx was perhaps one of the keenest observers and expositors of bourgeois politics in different countries, has very often been lost sight of or overlooked.

Quite different from Monte Carlo is the top of a New York Central freight car. It's a sleazy, dismal night. The cars roll along through the darkness, the Hudson on one side, steep rocks on the other.

and scheming of two most conspicuous characters in this period. Thiers and Favre, 's also exposed in minute detail. Some sketches of incidents pertaining to the defense of the commune, some refutation of the most common charges brought against it, and a bold avowal of its identity with the ultimate objects of the revolutionary proletariat.

A SOCIAL CONTRAST.

How the Gambling Table Is Supported on the Shoulders of Wage Slaves.

W. K. Vanderbilt, smiling good-naturedly, admitted to the reporter that he had lost \$100,000 at the Monte Carlo tables.

The gambling casino at Monte Carlo commands a beautiful view of the Mediterranean. Palm trees, rose, women with big dark eyes and big dark paste, polite croupiers, a well-conducted opera-house in one corner, warm sunlight, smooth roads, fine restaurants, 6,000 francs "limit" on the roulette tables, 12,000 francs "limit" at the "trente et quarante" tables, politeness, polished vice from every country, dissipation, suicide, and gossip make it difficult for any one to get bored there.

"Rien ne va plus," drones out the croupier. The small white ball starts on its journey, slows up, strikes, bounds and settles down.

"Deux, noir, pair et manque" (two black, even, and under 18). So sings the croupier. The fat, greasy money-lender from London rakes in his pile of "plaques"—hundred-franc gold pieces coined especially for the tables. The consumptive woman who has left Montgene for the day coughs a little harder and looks a little whiter—her money is gone.

Up strolls a laughing party, and languid interest stirs the gambling crowd. The smooth, pale American face, the nasal American accent, the huge American fortune are recognized. With a parasite on each side the great fortune on two legs comes slowly up.

The croupier, about to start the ball on another of its journeys, pauses for a second. One of the eight gambling servants at the table listens to an order given in lame French and answers obediently.

"Three hundred Louis on the red-eyes, Monsieur Vahn-der-beel. One hundred Louis on the first dozen—yes, Monsieur Vahn-der-beel. Five Louis on the zero—parfaitement, Monsieur Vahn-der-beel."

Monsieur W. K. Van-der-beel, looking vaguely around, drops one soft piece of paper with a picture of French liberty engraved on it. No other money is taken there. The soft piece of paper suffices for all the bets.

The holder of the little white ball looks up and down the table and sets the ball spinning with his "rien ne va plus." His seven fellow croupiers watch the many piles of money, each a monument to some gambler's hopes.

"Vingt deux, noir, pair et passe." "Mon. Vahn-der-beel on that turn of the wheel has lost \$1,620. Chatting still in that rich American accent, he walks on smiling to try another table.

Have you that little picture in your mind? It's accurate, drawn by one who has seen it.

Quite different from Monte Carlo is the top of a New York Central freight car. It's a sleazy, dismal night. The cars roll along through the darkness, the Hudson on one side, steep rocks on the other.

As he walks, string of short ropes, knotted at the ends and made hard by heavy sleet, strikes him in the face. That means the approach of a low bridge or tunnel. The man drops to the roof of the car, lies close until the tunnel is past.

The engine puffs monotonously. Seven more hours of the night and of his 11-hour "trick" ahead of him. One dollar and a half per day and an uncertain job—that is his short story.

He does not complain of that, so much. But he thinks of a wife and some children "at home," and wishes the end of his work did not land him so far from them. He wishes he could be man enough to save more of his pay for them. He reflects with a sense of shame that he has no right, even in his wet clothes, to be thinking of a drink at the end of his run when he knows the children need shoes.

The engine grinds along, throwing up clouds of heavy smoke towards the black, cloudy sky, and the miles and hours slowly pass by. The stars shine and Eternal Justice reigns back of those heavy black clouds—a long way back of them.

Twenty-two, black, even, and over 18."

The difference between what that brakeman earns and what he gets is a tiny part of Mons. Vahn-der-beel's single lost bet of 400 Louis.—New York Journal.

Mr. Farwell or some of his brother capitalists, they would be told not to stand on the order of their going but to go at once. They being free men, not slaves, Mr. Farwell said so, they preferred not to take the liberty of starving and so became moral towards? and forgot for the moment their right names.

Something this eminent Christian philosopher (?) overlooked when he wrote in his wonderful letter "Rome ruled the world when Christ was born. A small fraction of her people owned all the rest as slaves; infanticide was no crime and human life was worth no more than a dog's. What do we see now? No slave breathes the free air of heaven where the Christ of God, who came to this earth in the zenith of Rome's power, has planted His religion!"

He throws up his hands in horror at the French Revolution forgetting that this revolution was the culmination of the movement which put his class in power to exploit the laborers. Christ did not come on earth to establish nor did he establish a religion. He came from the same class that today is the source of income for Mr. Farwell.

Christ did not come on earth to establish nor did he establish a religion. He came from the same class that today is the source of income for Mr. Farwell. Christ was a carpenter, a nominal free laborer. This grade of laborers largely came from those slaves who had become freedmen through various ways.

If Mr. Farwell was a more careful student of history he might have seen that history portrays a series of class struggles and he might have seen how his class passed through such a struggle to obtain its present position of exploiting the laboring class. When as traders they made their first appearance during the feudal system in the middle ages they were constantly harassed and persecuted by the nobility whose interests were opposed to the rising commercial class.

What is possible in France is also possible in the United States. It is to be remembered, however, that such palliatives are limited in effect proportionately to the power conferred upon the representatives of the working class. The object of the socialist movement in all lands being the establishment of the Co-operative Commonwealth through the political supremacy of the working class, the above measures are submitted in accordance with the concluding paragraphs in the platform of the Socialist Labor party, as follows:

"Pending the accomplishment of this our ultimate purpose, we pledge every effort of the Socialist Labor party for the immediate improvement of the condition of labor, and also for the securing of its progressive demands. "Workingmen of all countries, unite! You have nothing to lose but your chains, and have a world to gain!"

Section Chicago, Socialist Labor Party, February 29th, 1900.

AN ADDRESS TO VOTERS.

By Section Chicago, S. L. P., on Measures to Be Supported by Socialist Candidates in Coming Election.

In view of the fact that the municipal elections in Chicago are to take place in April, the Socialist Labor party in presenting their candidates upon town and aldermanic tickets, once more affirm their allegiance to the principles of revolutionary socialism, as adopted at the late national convention held at Rochester, N. Y.

In calling upon the working class to rally to the support of the principles of socialism, the socialists wish to emphasize the fact so often reiterated, that until the complete triumph of the working class, which can only find expression in the total overthrow of the capitalist system, be accomplished, any temporary palliatives must of necessity be partial and insufficient. Therefore with this distinct understanding we present the following immediate measures, which our candidates will enforce according to the amount of power conferred upon them, for the consideration of all workmen who desire to achieve the emancipation of their class by means of the ballot:

1st. The employment of all unemployed citizens by the municipality, at the best possible wages. 2d. That the municipality shall furnish support and assistance to all workmen upon strike, and aid them with every public power which can be used to help them accomplish their object.

Regarding the first point, the employment of the unemployed, we propose that those who receive the benefits of our present capitalist system, shall bear the expense of the maintenance of those men and their families, whose present destitution is a direct effect of the system by which the laborer is deprived of the product of his toil.

On the second point, we call attention to the fact that workmen do not strike except to better their material conditions, and satisfy their wants. Living under a system of legalized plunder, this want sometimes becomes unbearable, and the workers are often forced to submit to the terms upon which their employers are willing to receive them. Therefore in order to make possible their success in these struggles, the public powers when captured by the working class, must be used in their interests, to achieve victory in such struggles, as it is now used in the same manner by the capitalist classes, to coerce and overpower the workers in the conflicts which are forced upon the latter.

The example of our fellow workmen in Europe, and especially France, on this matter, has been often pointed out in the columns of The Workers' Call and other socialist papers. Workingmen who through their trade unions have expressed their dissatisfaction with their conditions of life, and resorted to strikes to emphasize such dissatisfaction, have in this city, often felt the heavy hand of capitalism, which has never scrupled to use the police, militia, and the machinery of law as aids to enforce the submission of the strikers.

Section Chicago, Socialist Labor Party, February 29th, 1900.

S. L. P. Candidates. ALDERMANIC. 4th ward—Thos. Nickelson. 5th ward—H. C. Driesvogt. 7th ward—L. Marcus. 8th ward—B. Sochatow. 9th ward—A. Kursowski. 10th ward—G. Sindelar. 12th ward—D. H. Daly. 13th ward—Thos. Williams. 14th ward—Marcus Hitch. 15th ward—Anton Stephanovich. 16th ward—A. Jastanski. 19th ward—W. Kamin. 22nd ward—Jno. Bening. 23rd ward—C. E. Kronk. 24th ward—Max Keller. 25th ward—W. N. Kesz. 26th ward—P. Horslev. 31st ward—A. Rasmussen. 33rd ward—C. Stillhoff. 34th ward—H. De Boer.

Socialist Labor Party of the United States.

PLATFORM.

The Socialist Labor party of the United States, in Convention assembled, reaffirms its allegiance to the revolutionary principles of international socialism and declares the supreme political issue in America today to be the contest between the working class and the capitalist class for the possession of the power of government. We affirm our steadfast purpose to use those powers, once achieved, to destroy wage slavery, abolish the institution of private property in the means of production and distribution, and to establish the Co-operative Commonwealth.

In the United States, as in all other civilized countries, the natural order of economic development has separated society into two antagonistic classes—the capitalists, a comparatively small class, the possessors of all the modern means of production and distribution, and the workers, the vast majority, who are reduced to a condition of dependence, economically exploited and oppressed, intellectually and physically crippled and degraded, and its political equality rendered a bitter mockery, and the contest between these two classes grows ever sharper. Hand in hand with the growth of monopolies, goes the annihilation of small industries and the middle class depending upon them. Ever larger grows the multitude of destitute wage workers and of the unemployed, and ever fiercer the struggle between the class of the exploiter and the exploited, the capitalists and the wage workers.

The evil effects of capitalistic production are intensified by the recurring industrial crises, continually rendering the existence of the greater part of the population more precarious and uncertain, which amply proves that the modern means of production have outgrown the existing social order based on production for profit.

Human energy and natural resources are wasted for individual gain. If importance is fostered, that wage slavery may be perpetuated. Science and invention are perverted to the exploitation of men, women, and children. The lives and liberties of the working class are recklessly sacrificed for profit. Wars are fomented between nations; indiscriminate slaughter is encouraged; the destruction of whole races is sanctioned, in order that the capitalist class may extend its commercial dominion abroad and enhance its supremacy at home.

THE WORKERS' CALL.

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On this present occasion the Maison du Peuple has simply set about offering a series of entertainments during the time of the Carnival that would serve as a profitable and helpful alternative to the carousing of the followers of the Carnival. It also passed a rule providing that no one in Carnival costume would be allowed within the building during the days of the Carnival.

Fraternally, A. M. Simons, May Wood Simons.

SOCIALIST BOOKS Directory of Section Chicago.

SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY. Secretaries will please send notice of any omissions, changes or corrections in the following list and notify the editor of The Workers' Call, 36 N. Clark St.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF SECTION CHICAGO, 65 N. Clark St., 1st and 2nd Tuesday; Sec. Jas. Smith, 243 W. Monroe St.

BRANCHES. FOURTH WARD, 3608 Armour Ave., 1st Thursday each month; Sec. N. Krogh, 3850 La Salle St.

FIFTH WARD, 3030 Wentworth Ave.; business meeting every Monday night; public meetings every Sunday at 8 p. m.; Sec. Joseph Trenta, 836 24th St.

SEVENTH WARD, Workman's Hall, cor. 19th and Waller; 1st and 3rd Monday each month; Sec. Joe Stipe, 235 Forsyth St.

NINTH WARD, 427 W. 18th St., every Saturday; Sec. John Deane, 56 Flah St.

TENTH WARD, 116 W. 24th St., every Friday night; Sec. H. Almbald, 106 24th St.

THIRTEENTH WARD, 701 W. Ohio; 2nd and 4th Tuesday evening at 8 p. m.; Sec. P. Schubert, 1618 Washington Blvd.

FOURTEENTH WARD, holds public meetings in Schoenhofen Hall, corner Milwaukee and Ashland Ave. 1st and 3rd Sunday afternoon at 3 p. m.

FOURTEENTH WARD (Danish), 279 W. North Ave.; 1st and 3rd Friday each month 8 p. m.; Sec. T. Anderson, 1019 N. Campbell Ave.

FIFTEENTH WARD, 993 N. Tolman Ave.; 2nd and 4th Friday evening each month; Sec. Adam Harvey, 993 N. Tolman Ave.

SIXTEENTH WARD, 518 Milwaukee Ave. every 2nd and 4th Friday evening.

TWENTY SECOND WARD, 380 Larabee St., 1st and 3rd Mondays; Sec. O. Gritshke, 94 Rosse St.

TWENTY THIRD WARD (Scandinavian), 103 E. Chicago Ave.; public meetings every Sunday at 3 p. m.; business meetings 2nd and 4th Sundays each month at 2 p. m.; Sec. A. B. Galtzbur, 125 Oak St.

TWENTY FOURTH WARD, 65 N. Clark St.; every 1st and 3rd Thursday, 8 p. m., business meeting; Sunday, 3 p. m., lecture meetings.

TWENTY SIXTH WARD, corner Southport and Belmont Aves. every Mon. evening 8 p. m.; Sec. Thos. Carr, 678-680 Wood St.

TWENTY EIGHTH WARD, Brett's Hall, cor. 48th Ave. and Lake St.; 2nd and 4th Thursday evenings each month; Sec. Carl Petersen, 2494 Lake St.

THIRTIETH WARD, 5439 Paulina, every Saturday night; Sec. H. Phillips, 5439 Paulina.

THIRTIETH WARD No. 1 (German), meets 2nd and 4th Monday each month at 4:30 P. M.; Ashland Ave.; Sec. H. Steiner, 240 W. 46th St.

THIRTIETH WARD, Scandinavian, 1148 63rd St. 2nd and 4th Thursday; Sec. A. Rasmussen, 645 Center Ave.

THIRTY FIRST WARD, 6630 Aberdeen St., 1st and 3rd Fridays each month; Sec. J. Wauhope, 6520 Aberdeen St.

THIRTY THIRD WARD meets every Saturday at 8 p. m. at 104 62d St., Nelson Morris Hall; Sec. M. H. Taft, 7019 Edwards Ave.

THIRTY FOURTH WARD, 112th St. and Michigan Ave.; every 2d and 4th Wednesday at 8 p. m.; Sec. G. F. Dennis, 11437 Perry Ave.

THIRTY FOURTH WARD No. 2; Sec. M. L. Klauber, 677 66th St.

POLISH BRANCHES. POLISH CENTRAL COMMITTEE meets every Monday at 4:30-4:45 Noble St., 8 p. m.; Sec. A. J. Borkowski, 299 W. 21st St.

NINTH WARD meets every Saturday at 9:00 S. Ashland Ave. (Polish) Hall, 8 p. m.

FIFTEENTH WARD, meets 1st and 3rd Saturdays each month, at Cor. J. Pratt and Hubbard Sts. (Polish) Hall.

SIXTEENTH WARD, meets 1st and 3rd Fridays each month; public meeting every Wednesday, 3 p. m. at 484-485 Noble St.

THIRTY THIRD WARD meets at 8412 Superior Ave. (second floor front), every 1st and 3rd Sundays at 8 p. m.; Sec. Majk Fleck.

LADIES SOCIALIST BRANCH, meets 1st and 3rd Sundays each month at 663 N. Paulina (Comrade Odaski's house), 3 p. m.; Sec. M. Tylicko, 709 W. 21st St.

QUINCY, first Wednesday of each month at Fink's Hall, 513 Main street, MURPHYSBORO, every Thursday evening.

COLLINSVILLE, every first and third Sunday in the month at corner of Vandavia and Clay Sts.

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