

THE WORKERS' CALL

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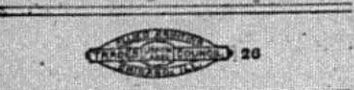
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Advertisements: A limited number of acceptable advertisements will be inserted. Rates will be made known upon application.

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 the writer, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith.



The Socialist Vote. UNITED STATES.

Table with 2 columns: Year and Number of Votes. 1880: 18,704; 1881: 10,552; 1882: 21,512; 1883: 26,498; 1884: 30,020; 1885: 34,899; 1886: 39,275; 1887: 45,550; 1888: 52,504.

ENERGY AND APATHY.

It is often pleaded for some one that he has made great sacrifices for socialism. Let it rather be said of others that they are shirking their part in the common task.

The American socialist has yet to arrive at that degree of comprehension of the philosophy that he claims to follow and its significance to him and his class to be able to make the effort it demands.

Let us rouse from this lethargy. Our activity and our efforts should be in proportion to our knowledge. Before we scoff at the laborer who refuses to vote for socialism because of his ignorance, let us make sure that we are not much more foolish because of our greater knowledge of the consequences, in refusing or neglecting to do our share in the spreading of the knowledge of socialism.

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CAITALISM AND WAR.

That the ruling classes of the great capitalist nations of the world earnestly strive to stave off the menace of universal war which constantly hovers around the development of capitalism, is a fact which cannot be denied by those who have watched their efforts in this direction.

Italy tells his hearers plainly that the course which the ruling classes of Great Britain have been pursuing, and which heretofore has been disguised under such phrases as 'carrying the light of civilization to foreign lands,' 'bearing the torch of progress,' 'spreading the gospel,' etc., etc., has now drawn upon them the hatred and enmity of other nations, a hatred which may not unlikely soon transform itself into an armed coalition against the British empire.

For Teachers and Pupils.

The issue of The Workers' Call for the 9th of June will be a special number for use among teachers and pupils in the schools and colleges.

It will be a number that will reach a class that is ready for socialism and among which little propaganda has been made. It will come just at the time when graduating exercises are going on in all the schools and when its circulation will be sure to attract a great deal of attention wherever it is distributed.

Attention!

Members are requested to attend their respective branches and vote on the unity question. Secretaries will please fill out the return blanks and mail same to Jas. S. Smith, 245 W. Monroe street, not later than May 28th, as the vote MUST reach the national secretary by May 30th.

SNAP SHOTS BY THE WAYSIDE.

According to the cable dispatches, the glass manufacturers of Austria, Belgium, England, France and Germany, have united their interests and formed a European Glass trust.

Now please note this, fellow workmen: The manufacturers, that is to say, the capitalists who own and control the means of production in the glass industry of those countries have UNITED. Do you understand it? United—combined their interests.

You have no doubt also read in the daily papers the accounts of fierce quarrels in the Austrian Reichsrath (the bitter struggle between German and Czech). But the capitalists UNITE.

That is, they join together for the purpose of cheapening the production of glass, so that more profit may be made. To do this they must cheapen everything which goes into the production of glass; which means that the glass workers, wage earners, are also to be cheapened, their hours of labor lengthened, and while they produce more, they receive less.

So the capitalists UNITE. Not in one country alone, but in five. They KNOW that UNITY IS STRENGTH in this case, strength to coerce the workers into submission when the latter become dissatisfied with their conditions.

Now, turn to the front page of this paper, and read the motto which runs along the top under the name. It says: 'Workmen of all countries, UNITE! You have nothing to lose but your chains; you have a world to gain.' Do you comprehend it?

Siberia as a place of exile is to be abolished; according to the newspapers. Thus does modern capitalism in its development sweep away the old established forms of feudal dominion.

In the building trades lock-outs, and the developments arising therefrom many interesting exposures have been made. The claim of the building material men that they sell material on the open market to anyone who will buy, is a huge joke.

The "prosecution" of Gates the manipulator of the Steel and Wire deal which severely nipped some of the satirist Wall Street gang, is to be renewed with greater vigor than before.

"Public ownership" has received another set-back. The United States senate has defeated a proposition which would permit the government to build and operate an armor plate manufactory. Public ownership of the means of destruction doesn't concern the socialist particularly.

The stereotypers in Chicago struck two years ago for increased pay on account of the onerous character of the work. The great capitalist press of this city suspended publication for four days, and by so doing whipped the union into submission.

After six years Henry A. Wisewood of New York has devised a machine which does away with the old and slow method of making stereotype plates used in printing a daily newspaper from a perfecting press.

employment, and second, lower wages for those lucky enough to be employed. On the other hand there will be greater profits for the capitalists who own the machines.

And it would be well for the stereotypers to pattern their activity more after that of their masters, who are not content to stop after one triumph in the economic field.

Teddy Roosevelt is ambitious. He does not desire to vice-president, but is reported as saying that he would like to be the first civil governor in the Philippines.

CHEAP LABOR.

Clear-sighted Capitalism Discerns the Real Question Underlying the So-called "Race Problem."

The Chicago Tribune is one of those clear-out capitalist papers that occasionally hit the nail on the head in a beautifully naive way.

Laying aside sentimentalities, it appears that the negro problem is largely a labor problem. There are now some indications of a movement to organize the blacks into labor unions.

There is much more truth than poetry in that observation and we commend its study to those interested in the "negro problem."

The responses to the call for a special effort to help this paper are extremely encouraging and the campaign offer is taking in good shape.

It is not strange to hear the man who has been hunting for a job, sympathize with the Boers who are to be deprived of their "independence."

The capitalist may insist that socialism is a "dream," but he doesn't want to see it brought to the attention of the working class, just the same.

With one-third the sacrifice and effort that is now being made to gain slight concessions through strikes the workers of America could elect Debs and Harriman and abolish the whole wage system.

To the Reader.

Did you order and pay for the paper you hold before you? No? Then it was paid for by some friend, who seeing the light, desires you also to see it.

CORRESPONDENCE.

In New York.

The United Socialist parties in New York State have forwarded the following report to this office for publication: Comrades—Unity between the Socialist Labor party and the Social Democratic party in this state is now an assured fact.

The state committee of the S. L. P. and S. D. P., which are now meeting in joint session, recommended that a state convention be held in the third week in June.

Joint State Committee. S. L. P. and S. D. P. S. L. P. Committee: Louis Roth, F. Schlueter, L. Jablonsky, E. Nappel, H. Reich, M. Feldberg.

Joint meeting of the members of the S. L. P. and S. D. P. branches of Bronx Borough was held at the Bronx Casino, on Friday evening, May 4th.

Clear-sighted Capitalism Discerns the Real Question Underlying the So-called "Race Problem."

Notice to Massachusetts Socialists. All persons who are in favor of calling a conference meeting of all socialists in the state of Massachusetts regardless of present party affiliations, are requested to at once communicate with M. Kaplan.

For the members of the Social Democratic party and the Socialist Labor party of America: Comrades! We are confronted by a crisis in the socialist movement of America.

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THE "FREEHOLDER."

The Hope of the Populist and His Wanting Power in Society.

C. J. Arntzen, one of the leading populists of Minnesota has the following to say concerning socialism in a recent number of The Representative, edited by Ignatius Donnelly and E. Twitchell:

There is too much difference between socialism and populism to harmonize them together off-hand. Socialism embraces all the people as a unit—a deluge—society everything. Individuality nothing. Socialism destroys energy, enterprise and development.

Of course anyone who is familiar with the doctrines of socialism knows that this is absolutely nonsense culled from capitalist lies about socialism that have been exposed thousands of times in the last half century.

But Mr. Arntzen's communication evidently made a strong impression on the editorial staff for Mr. Twitchell makes the following comments upon it: Socialism as represented and taught by Social Democrats, and all other socialists, makes too much of the collectivity of the commune, and too little of the individual.

The American freeholder is king of this country, uncorrupted. It is the mission of populism to show him his power. The labor vote is the shuttlecock of politics, to be counted out or counted in at the leisure of old party bosses.

Twelve to twenty years ago farmers could run in and out of debt. Now farmers must stay out of debt to be independent. The person who starts in farming on borrowed capital is sure to fail.

In other words the farmer at present receives no income from his nominal "freeholding," (as if he did he could pay interest on that capital), and really owns nothing but a CHANCE TO BE A LABORER, AND RECEIVE WAGES.

And the only way in which that union can be accomplished is to bring the farmers to a realization of these facts and to impress upon them the fact that in socialism lies their only hope of freedom or individuality.

Taking His Measure. When a socialist begins to talk about "saving the party" it shows that he either has a most contemptible idea of the party or a most exaggerated idea of his own importance.

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