

THE WORKERS' CALL.

"Workingmen of all countries unite! You have nothing to lose but your chains: you have a world to gain."

VOL. 1, NO. 10.

CHICAGO, ILL., MAY 13, 1899.

PRICE ONE CENT.

LOYALISTS

An Example of the Tremendous Power of Class Rule.

REFORMERS WHIPPED INTO LINE

Essential Cowardice of the Middle Class Rule—Will Their Manhood Assert Itself—Manner in Which Society Is Governed by the Formation of the Public Mind—A Tyranny of Intellect.

Plutocracy has spoken and the country has crouched in submissive silence. The crack of the whip of capitalism has been heard, and the poor be-muddled upholders of anti-expansion have crawled to their kennels like whipped puppies. In all the pulpits of this city, not one man out of all the hundreds that have been so boldly proclaiming the rights of the Filipinos to treatment that shall be better than is accorded to the rats that infest a building, has opened his mouth in reply to the fulsome laudation of robbery, murder and plunder that was poured out at the Auditorium last Sunday. Frightened at the excitement they see created by their masters they slink humbly to the feet of those who lash them and plead again their allegiance to the hand that strikes. Not one protest or reply is uttered to the torrent of lying hypocrisy that the capitalist-controlled organs of this country are pouring forth. The one daily in this city that had spoken, somewhat faintly to be sure, for humanity, is silenced. The correspondence columns of the other dailies that were formerly filled with fierce bursts of rhetoric against the campaign of outrage now being carried on are vacant so far as the anti-expansionists are concerned.

It looked last week as if the "great strong middle class" of which we hear so much—the "backbone of our country"—were really going to do something. Acting in strict obedience to their class-interests they rebelled against the force that was crushing them as egg-shells would be crushed in the grasp of a giant, and protested against the policy of the United States in regard to the conduct of our present marauding expedition, miscalled a war. Their immediate self-interests for once were in line with a movement that would have been a heavy blow to capitalism. All their inherited and inbred ideas of justice were being outraged by the manner in which the war was being carried on. As a result a tremendous protest was raised. From one end of this country to the other there arose a mighty roar of discontent and opposition. There is no doubt but that a majority of the American people had they been questioned a week ago would have agreed with the anti-expansionists. But anti-expansion meant a body-blow to American capitalism, that must expand or die. It meant a stoppage of the great movement of concentration at home that is returning such rich pickings to our economic rulers.

Then was given, what is probably the best example of class rule ever exercised in any country. It showed that the people of America were under the control of a despotism more autocratic than ever emanated from the throne of Russian Czar or Persian satrap. For of these and similar tyrants it has always been said that while they "might control the actions of their subjects, thought at least was always free." But the plutocracy of America has shown that the despotism of eastern lands is as inferior in effectiveness to the tyranny of capitalism in the field of ruling as the crude hand looms and wooden plows of the same land are inferior to the Northrup loom and steam plow in the field of production. Capitalism has found a way to control the minds of men. It has found a way to deaden independent thinking and turn even education to its purposes. Having control of the means through which the intelligence of the people is reached, what should be a clear perfect lens for the transmission of light unchanged in character, is transformed into a warped and distorted mirror that reflects only in spots and bends the light into the form of darkness. Controlling the schools, they inaugurate Dewey Days to instill admiration of military butchery; ruling the press they pour into the minds of the multitudes whatever doctrines they wish and by persistent repetition make the masses think they are reading their own thoughts in the pages before them; dominating the courts, they infuse their interests into the decisions of judges, and make justice a mouthpiece of plutocracy; governing the pulpits, they declared the doctrine of the "divine right of capitalism," and preach of the "God ordained conquests of civilization," purchasing the platform and the orator alike they speak with silver-tongued eloquence of the glorious achievements of their instruments of oppression and tyranny; seizing art and music, whose foundation and only reason for existence lies in glorifying truth, they prostitute them to the creation of "Manilla to deuses" and the portraiture of the black lies of mammon worship as the pure white expressions of eternal verities; buying and

owning the colleges and professors alike they clothe their infernal doctrines in the garb of learning and parade them as the result of scholastic research and scientific investigation. This tyranny is so much more dangerous because it is insidious and unseen. The ambush and the sunken road are always more deadly than the open battlefield.

Overthrow of a tyranny of the intellect is doubly difficult for the enemies are within the ranks. From childhood to manhood and until old age totters into the grave the citizen of a modern civilized state is told over and over again with all the emphasis of added iteration, enforced by custom, and appealing to his prejudices and inbred traditions, that the rule of capitalism is a beneficent institution. The pressure must come upon him with terrible force before he can be awakened to the falsity of the lie he has breathed in with his daily life through so many years. But the events of today are showing that after all facts are stubborn things. Before the mighty array of existing misery, exploitation and oppression, the great fabric of lies on which our society is built is giving way at an hundred points. But the events of the last few days have shown that these are the only arguments that will prevail with the great mass of men. Not all the finely expressed tales of horror that were told at the meeting of the anti-expansionists in Central Music Hall a week ago will do as much to bring on the downfall of the system of exploitation, either here or abroad, as the formation of one trust or the discharge of a single man. The very fact that such a protest could be voiced against the ruling class as arose a week ago shows that even the hangers on of plutocracy—those who while they are kicked, still dreamed they were themselves a portion of the ruling class, are being taught by their conditions something of the folly of taking their opinions as prepared for them by their masters. The fact that it required the setting in motion of all the organs of plutocratic control to silence them is quite as eloquent as is the fact that they were finally silenced by these means.

Whether they will stay silenced or not depends upon the clearness with which they see their interests, the bravery which they have to declare their opinions, the manhood with which they will meet oppression. It is hard to believe that an entire economic class have been so completely crushed by the pressure of an intellectual despotism that they dare not even raise a protest, but until they shall show some signs of life this must be taken to be their condition. This momentary and fierce uprising against intellectual tyranny is, however, an indication that when a class shall arise who have no interests to conserve, who have nothing in common with the capitalists, who cannot lose by anything that plutocracy may do—when that class shall appear and recognize its interests, rights and duties, that all the enginery of government that capitalism has so carefully erected through all these years will be but as crumbling sand before the waves of an angry ocean. That independent revolting class is even now in our midst, it is already beginning to realize its function in the evolution of history, it is demanding the attainment of its rights and seeking the conservation of its interests. It is with that class that all those must unite who seek the overthrow of intellectual, moral and social tyranny; it is around that class that the forces of revolt must gather; it is from that class must come the final movement toward freedom. That class is the present workers of the world to whom Marx and Engels sent out the cry a half century ago that was at once an argument for freedom, a protest against oppression and a rallying shout to victory—"Laborers of the world unite; you have the world to gain, and nothing but your chains to lose."

In a shoe factory in Lynn, Mass., a pair of shoes were turned out in 13 minutes on 48 machines. Under this system the labor cost of a pair of shoes is about 15 cents—all the rest is profit taken by cattle raisers, railroads, tanners, wholesale leather dealers and retail shoe stores. It is profit please understand, all above cost of labor.—The New Epoch.

No Unions Need Apply.

Wardner, Idaho, May 9.—(Special).—The proclamation to mine owners and miners, of the conditions under which work may be resumed in this district, has been modified today so that miners by going to work must first deny or denounce membership in "any society which has incited, encouraged, or approved of said riots or other violations of the public law." The last clause is aimed at the unions. The proclamation is approved by General Merriam.—Chicago Tribune.

Just notice that last sentence laborers of America and then say that there are no politics in the labor question. If the United States government has not taken a hand in the "union wrecking" business then words have lost their meaning. But the laborers of Wardner voted that way the last election.

Don't forget to ask those you work with to subscribe to The Workers' Call. Your grocer, butcher and baker might be persuaded to subscribe if you demonstrate to them that it will be to their interest to do so.

STOCK YARDS

Conditions in the Worlds Greatest Butcher Shops.

SOME PICTURES OF PACKINGTOWN

Labor in the Union Stock Yards and Packing Houses—Horrible Conditions of the Neighborhood—Abuses in the Packing Houses—Blood Poisoning, Dangerous Machinery, Short Time.

(Continued from last week.)
So far we have studied the life of the laborers—their work, their homes, their surroundings. This is contrary to the usual proceeding which begins with the owners and forgets ever to speak of the laborers at all. Visitors as they watch the mechanical perfection with which everything moves at the Yards, as they see the way in which each man is but a cog in the great machine that runs on in wondrous smoothness, are apt to break out in fulsome praises of the tremendous intellects and marvelous generalship that marshals all these armies of industry for the service of society. Before we join in this chorus of admiration let us make sure that we bestow our praise where it is due. Let us examine one of these mammoth institutions and see if we can locate the organizing, directing, controlling force that preserves order and regularity throughout all the complex ramifications of one of the great packing houses.

At the head of each we shall find a general superintendent, under him two or more division superintendents; then department superintendents and foremen; the overseers of floors, and finally bosses of gangs. Each little potentate is engaged in a fierce struggle to gain the favor of those above him and thus secure further advancement. Jealous, intrigues and plots of all kinds flourish. Bribery, nepotism and diplomacy that would test the resources of an expert politician are employed to gain one step nearer the coveted top. Aside from such methods, the surest way to rise is to reduce the margin of expenses relative to the product in a department. If one man can be thrown upon the streets by forcing the remaining poor wretches to further exertions, promotion is almost within the grasp of the little slave driver who has whipped his fellows on to more rapid death. If he can invent a machine that will send a whole gang of his brother workmen out to beg, starve or steal, while their work is done by the cheaper labor of their wives and children, his promotion is certain and sure. All the evil effects of competition upon the laborer and consumer is present, and the only person always benefitted is the owner of the plant.

But if the effect is damning upon those who are in the line of advancement, what is the condition of those who are condemned to remain forever at the bottom? For it must be remembered that for fully 90 per cent of those who begin work in the Yards there is no hope of ever becoming anything more than an ordinary laborer. Entering the establishment at 14, or if the pressure on the family income is very hard (and when is it light?), a year or two earlier, through the use of easily obtained certificates, they have little education or preparation that would fit them for anything but the simplest tasks. Robbed of their birth-right to the development of the powers that are within them they are bound over to a terrible monotonous slavery to some machine before which they will stand day after day until its rhythmic motions have burnt themselves into their brain and their thinking becomes as mechanical as their work. Or perhaps they stand at some bench and seize a piece of meat as it falls before them, and with that same machine-like regularity that marks everything in the Yards from its politics to its pork-packing, repeat the same motions over and over until they can perform the work equally well with eyes open or closed and until the motions of the hand have stamped their impress on the mind, and they move on in a dreary circle of common things through the day until very weariness at last stops the thinking and they creep off to a place called home, and drag off the great "Yard boots" that seem to hold mind as well as body down to the level of the mire in which they are steeped and throwing them into a corner and seek the bed too tired to think, only to go on with the work in dreams until awakened to the reality of another day's unchanging toil.

The peculiar manner in which much of the work is done renders the pressing of the laborer to an ever higher speed particularly easy. The animal being transformed into meat generally moves along upon some kind of a mechanical contrivance, and each laborer performs his particular task while the carcass is passing him. All that is needed to force the men to greater exertions is to move the meat faster. In one of the meat trimming divisions where women are employed a peculiarly brilliant scheme has been evolved to force these poor creatures to greater exertions. The meat to be trimmed comes out of a chute and passes along a trough where

(Continued on page 2.)

GERMANY

No Fabian Infection in the German Social Democracy.

CONDEMNATION OF FABIANISM

The Proletariat of Germany Attayed As Ever in Uncompromising Class-Conscious Opposition to Capitalistic Oppression—Lies of Capitalism Refuted—No Wavering.

In no previous year has the 1st of May been celebrated in Germany so universally and with such enthusiasm and vigor as it will be celebrated this year. I say vigor—I mean the vigor of passion and wrath. The whole body of German workmen has been insulted, struck in the face by the infamous attack on their most sacred right—the right of coalition or combination. You in England have had your anti-combination laws. Young capitalism wanted absolute liberty to exploit—longer hours of work, women and children at work. And the trade unions of that time resisted. So they had to be gagged, and at the bidding of capitalism your parliament voted the anti-combination laws, hoping to crush all resistance. I need not tell you the history of the civil war that ensued. For civil war is war with all its horror. And the horrors were so great, and so stubborn was the resistance of the secret organization of the worker that after thirty years of civil war, parliament had to repeal the anti-combination laws (in 1825). Well, what English capitalism tried a hundred years ago, German capitalism is trying now. And our government is doing its best to help it. Yes, this same government, which struts about claiming to have solved the social question by its so-called social reform, is of all governments in Europe the one which is most subservient to capitalism. In our memorable St. James' Hall meeting on March 8, I said: "Hypocrisy is the signature of German politics." There is no other government whose acts are so constantly and so diametrically opposed to its words. And this newest attempt to destroy the most important right of the working classes bears a quite harmless name, "Protection of all those who want to work." Unfortunately, those who want to work are not the hundreds of thousands who cannot find work, or who are outlawed by greedy masters, but those abject traitors of their class who are willing to take the place of organized workers—the strike breakers.

We have had on paper the right of combination (Coalitions recht) for more than thirty years. In fact, it is older than the "Borussio" German Empire. It has never been fully in force. Where there is no political liberty there is no guarantee or foundation of right. The finest rights are not worth a straw unless the people have the liberty to watch over them, and, through their liberty, the power to control their application and exercise.

The German workmen are to retain the right of combination, only they must not use it. "Whoever incites to a strike is to be sent to prison with hard labor." In other words, the German emperor himself has defined the new law. And your English prison, with hard labor, is not by far as bad as our "Zuchthaus," which means prison with hard labor, and with the loss of all civic rights. Our "Zuchthaus" steals the honor of the victim.

And "whoever incites to a strike." What is a strike? The principal exercise of the right of combination. Rendering this exercise of the right a criminal action, that means the destruction, the abolition, of the rights of combination.

The German workmen know this, and they are not willing to allow themselves to be robbed of a right which belongs to them, and without which all so-called "social reformatory measures" are worthless. And you may believe me the German workmen will fight for their right as well as the English workmen did, and they will never surrender.

Next Monday millions of German workmen and socialists will swear eternal hatred to the present system of political misrule, and eternal devotion to the cause of International, World-delivering Socialism.

Last year the general elections were before us, and the 1st of May was the review for the coming battle. This year's 1st of May is also a review—a review while there is fighting around us everywhere, and on the eve of a great battle, not the last battle yet, but a battle that will bring us a new victory, and will be a long stride nearer the final triumph. Never has German Social Democracy been so strong, and never more united than now. I say this because I know that the English middle class press is telling you we were on the point of giving up our revolutionary principles and tactics, and changing into a soft party of reform, melting together with middle class radicals and democrats. Don't believe a word of it,

Fabianism, which misled Bernstein, failed to be exported from England to Germany, and will not, cannot, strike root in German soil. And for the very simple reason that we have no radical or democratic middle class. In Germany there is but one democracy, and that is Social-Democracy. Our middle class has never been able to conquer political power, has never been marching at the head of political progress, and stands, since socialism has arisen, on the side of the Junkers against us. The handful of middle class men, who are real democrats without being socialists, is fast disappearing, and the few that have character and intellect, are coming over to us.

So we are a united party and a united army that will hold its grand review next Monday, and while we are thinking of our own fights and of the great common struggle for emancipation of the proletarians of all countries we shall not forget to send our fraternal greetings to the brethren of all other countries.

Without international solidarity the cause of socialism cannot win. And the union and unity of the proletarians of all countries and of each country is an indispensable condition of victory.

Enough! We shall do our duty. You will do your duty.

We are united. You will be united. Hurrah for the 1st of May!

Hurrah for International Socialism and the Universal Commonwealth of all Nations, in brotherhood bound together!

And fraternal greetings to the English, Scotch and Irish comrades and friends.

Berlin, April 24, 1899.

W. Liebknecht.

—From London Justice.

American Pauper Labor.

The Chicago Tribune comments editorially on the report of a member of the British Institute of Electrical Engineers on American manufacturing methods:

This English electrical engineer made another discovery which is not, by the way, a new discovery. It is that "just as our men, generally speaking, are bent on doing as little as possible in a given time, the American workman is bent on doing as much as possible." Every American employer complains, more or less, of the easy-going ways of his employees and their seeming desire to do the least possible work for their money. And yet there is no American carpenter, painter, plumber, bricklayer, machinist, or weaver who does not work more rapidly than the British or continental workman who does the same kind of labor. The American does so much more work in an hour or a day than the employer, as a rule, can afford to pay him the higher wages he receives.

"Nor are American workmen as unfriendly to improved machinery as English workmen are. The British trades unions resist doggedly, and often with success, the introduction of mechanical appliances, which by reducing the amount of hand work lessen the cost of production, and thus enable the industries in which the members of these unions are engaged to compete for customers to better advantage. American workmen are more intelligent. They take kindly to machinery, and one of them who is given a machine to run is willing to get out of that machine all the work there is in it. Thus it is not surprising that this country stands unrivaled in the use of labor-saving appliances. Thanks to those appliances, in part, it is about to conquer the markets of the world."

In other words it is the superior exploitation of the American laborer that makes his masters able to dominate the markets of the world. It is because he is willing to work harder and longer hours than any other worker on earth that his employer is underbidding the capitalist class of every other land. This it was that enabled an American firm last week to bid \$175,000 lower than any other firm in the world for a contract for 5,000 tons of steel in Burma.

BUT WHAT IS THE WORKER OF AMERICA GETTING OUT OF IT?

Overproduction.

Congressman Martin E. Madden at a banquet held in South Chicago last Tuesday evening made use of the following words:

"We produce more than we can use, and here is a great and valuable empire within the reach of our hand ready to receive our surplus. We need to send our surplus to this multitude of people, whom we shall teach to eat wheat and corn instead of rice and rats. There lies the ultimate field for the development of our commerce, because our products must in the end be sent across the Pacific Ocean."

We wonder what the laborers of America think of the difficulty in getting rid of the surplus for which they are suffering. Would it not be well to see that those who are already taught to use them were supplied with all the wheat and corn they need before we try to teach others to like them. Maybe we could not satisfy their appetites after they had acquired the taste.

There will be a special election in the 24th ward to fill the vacancy caused by the appointment of Alderman Walker to the position of corporation counsel. The S. L. P. has placed Com. James Bain, 377 Oak street, in nomination for the vacancy and is preparing to make an active campaign.

All comrades having friends in Austin, Ill., will please send in their names for sample copies of The Workers' Call for the next few weeks prior to the special election to be held there.

ANTI-EXPANSION

Confusion of Those Who Fight From Within Capitalism.

MIDDLE-HEADED ARGUMENTS

The Contradictory Position Into Which Those are Forced Who Would Attack Separate Features of Capitalism While Leaving the Whole Intact—Self-Destructive Nature of Capitalistic Morality.

Amidst the uproar and excitement occasioned by the conflict between the "loyalists" and anti-expansionists, many instructive phases of capitalism appear to the socialist critic, who although not a partisan of either side, watches with interest the various developments which a long continued domination of class rule brings to the surface. That the great capitalist classes, who are the real strength of the "loyalist" movement, are just now in a mood not to be trifled with, is amply attested by their vigorous action regarding the press censorship, and the distribution of "seditious" literature, also by the threats, warnings, and recommendations form many pillars of capitalism, to the misguided theorists and philanthropists, who are too blind and stupid to play the game of formulating "public opinion" in accordance with the dictates of their economic masters.

A perusal of the speeches delivered at the last anti-expansion meeting will convince any intelligent man that an honest acceptance of capitalist morality is the basis and groundwork of sentimentalism and reaction, and just at this point one of the many contradictions of our economic system leaps into light. Capitalism, to whom non-expansion means stagnation and death, finds itself opposed by the same morality which was a necessary factor in its inception. It is needless to say that this conflict arises in that individualistic philosophy which regards morality, justice, humanity, etc. as fixed and isolated entities, by which economic interests are ruled and directed. That the exact opposite of this is true, will be fully realized only in the triumph of socialism.

An impartial criticism of the merits of the argument on either side, would, we think, result overwhelmingly in favor of the "loyalists." There is at least an amount of reality in the reasons they give for expansion. That capitalism ever requires more and more open markets for the sale of its products, no socialist will doubt. That the Filipinos are incapable of governing themselves, a phrase which means that they are not capable of forming a government giving the highest facilities for capitalist exploitation, is equally true. Whether these arguments are strengthened by declarations that the "crack of Gen. Otis' rifles is the music of the coming Son of Man," or that "the thunder of Dewey's guns is the roar of civilization" we will leave our readers to judge. But recognizing as we do, that hypocrisy is one of the most valuable assets in the stock-in-trade of capitalist society, and that it is necessary to some extent to save the consciences of those who are inclined to sentimentalism on this matter, do not feel disposed to deny the "loyalists" the right to glide the expansion pill with the cant of "religion" and "civilization."

Upon the other side the arguments in rebuttal appear weak and fantastic. At the Central Music Hall meeting they took the form of warnings against any departure from the traditional policies which the institutions of this country are alleged to rest on, denunciations of British intrigue, militarism imperialism, and commercialism. Many of the speakers were reputed leaders of "thought," philanthropists, humanitarians and political economists, and those who are generally credited with a considerable knowledge of our social system, yet it is no exaggeration to assert that such a display of economic ignorance and blindness has not often been paralleled on a public platform.

The denunciations of commercialism were especially ludicrous, not one of the orators having the slightest conception of the real nature of the thing he inveighed against. It was treated as something uncaused, an abstraction standing alone, and entirely unconnected with social progress, a monster that might be annihilated by appeals to sentiment and warnings against greed. So strikingly was this lack of a distinct conception shown, that it was rather difficult to imagine just what idea "commercialism" did represent to them, and on reading down the pages we confess that we half expected some one or other of the speakers, would, as a last desperate resort, recommend that "commercialism" be treated as a fractious infant, spanked soundly, and sent to bed.

The despairing yelp of middle class interests undergoing strangulation, was heard from an alleged "provision" of "political economy," who after declaring that expansion was the result of the "merciless spirit of commercialism" etc.

(Continued on page 3.)

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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. Communications must reach the office by Monday evening preceding the issue in which they are to appear.

A. M. SIMONS, EDITOR.

The Socialist Vote.

Table showing election results for the Socialist Party in the United States, with columns for year and vote count.

Copies sold last week 2,950.

PATRIOTISM.

These last few weeks have been filled with talk of patriotism. The press, the pulpit and public platform, all unite in declaring that patriotism is the one thing altogether lovely and greenly to be desired.

Announcement.

We must have 10,000 subscribers before snow flies. We need them, but you need them for the work they will do more than we do.

SNAP SHOTS BY THE WAYSIDE.

Chicago's evil genius has been exercised. The Yerkes interests have been succeeded by the Elkins, Widener, Whitney, Flower syndicate, which also includes many other prominent vultures from Wall street.

Book Reviews.

No. 5 JOHN ST., by Richard Whiting. The Century Co.; pp. 215; \$1.50. We have had novels on the social question ad infinitum in these last few years and one takes up a new one with much misgivings.

Undelivered Papers.

There have been a great many complaints since the paper started because of the non-delivery of papers. Some of this has been due to mistakes in this office and to imperfectly addressed papers.

Official Vote, Oakland, Cal.

Mayor—J. H. Eustace, 249. Treasurer—Wm. Strobach, 399. Auditor—Wm. H. Chapman, 418.

SCHOOL DIRECTORS AT LARGE.

John T. Peterson, 545. Rudolph Rost, 506. Henry T. Rentou, 564. L. M. Harrison, 564.

SCHOOL DIRECTORS.

Second Ward—Mrs. J. D. Haasturter, 154. Third Ward—Miss Irene Smith, 57. Fourth Ward—Mrs. E. Kelley, 81.

LIBRARY TRUSTEES.

C. L. Fostberg, 599. John Guild, 574. John A. Cook, 686. J. W. O'Connor, 722. Jacob Lelithe, 570.

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Here, then, is the situation. The capitalist has great need of a government that will carry out his wishes. That government is made up of officers elected by popular vote, and its policy can, nominally, at least, be changed at any time by a majority of the very class whom it is supposed to keep in servitude.

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Now we have made an offer. Will you not all get down and do your share in rolling up the subscription. Arrangements have been made by which The Workers' Call will be sent to all subscribers of The Spirit of '76 for their unexpired subscriptions.

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Here, then, is the situation. The capitalist has great need of a government that will carry out his wishes. That government is made up of officers elected by popular vote, and its policy can, nominally, at least, be changed at any time by a majority of the very class whom it is supposed to keep in servitude.

These last few weeks have been filled with talk of patriotism. The press, the pulpit and public platform, all unite in declaring that patriotism is the one thing altogether lovely and greenly to be desired. We suppose that if the average workman was asked his opinion on the subject he would say that to be a patriot was about the greatest thing possible for a man to be.

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Undelivered Papers.

Socialist Movement in Russia.

Translated from F. Axelrod in The Neue Zeit.

The Russian proletariat is still very young. It is not long since it completed its separation from the agricultural masses. Our industrial proletariat is the direct product of the powerful exploitation of the peasants which was begun and has been continued by means of the "present social and financial" policy of the government ever since the peasants were freed from serfdom. A great part of our city laborers belong yet to the farmer class. Although in their economic relations they stand on the same industrial basis, nevertheless they are compelled to bear the oppressive taxes which arise from an agricultural basis. And this is true, although in no way do they draw their nourishment from the latter source. They are helplessly bound, however, to the peasant class, which indeed to speak properly, is not at all free in a civil sense, but is in a position of political bondage.

Outside of these there is a large body of industrial laborers as well as of real peasants who overflow the towns and are compelled, more through political force than either voluntary or because of family connections with the peasant class, to lead a sort of mongrel existence between agricultural and town life. They are recruited from the exploited peasant class and ruined through the overburdening taxes and the united oppression of the government, of niggardly and conscienceless land owners, and of greedy dealers and usurers of all sorts. Out of this element our industrial reserve army is recruited. And this unemployed mass is more numerous here than perhaps in any of the lands that have reached the highest point in capitalistic development. Its pressure on the active working army in Russia is incomparably greater than in countries that have advanced further industrially. For in the latter the unemployed masses principally arise from those temporarily or permanently thrown out of the lowest ranks of the active industrial army. They are a direct product of the development of the great industry, of its technical advance and change of market.

In Russia on the contrary it is not alone the inherent independent strength of capitalistic production that continually creates a colossal over supply of hands. It is brought about as well by the financial oppression and helpless condition of the peasants. Now it is clear that the position of the employed laborers in relation to their exploiters must be greatly weakened by this nomadic hungry army of helpless unemployed.

In so far as the technical means with which the great industry in Russia operates are taken into consideration they are throughout modern in character. However it is not founded to the same degree that it is in the west on a modern economic basis. Its source of support is much nearer primitive nature and the social atmosphere that it breathes is barbarian. In short the conditions are comparable to those of a long since finished epoch in the western industrial states. The capitalistic classes feel themselves very comfortable as a whole in these surroundings. It is of vital interest to the proletariat however to make as quick and fundamental an end as possible to this union of barbarian and modern civilization. Along with this, as was intimated above, goes the removal of the political bondage of the peasant, the abolition of his oppressive taxes, together with the destruction of absolutism, which gives him over as a prey to the greed of all sorts of usurers and to all barbarian methods of exploitation. The greater part of our laboring class stand with one foot in the bog in which the peasant body is threatened to be smothered altogether. The lack of culture, the economic and political barbarism which prevail far worse in the country than in the town, together with helplessness and misery of the peasant condition—all of these press the industrial proletariat to the point of subsistence and assure a supremacy of power to the entrepreneur.

The effect on the city laboring class of the outgrown conditions of life of the land masses is so great that Russian industry is restricted almost exclusively to home markets. The process of education of the peasant class is very much retarded, both directly and indirectly through the imperial government and its whole policy. This policy drives millions of farmers from their homes to all ends and corners of the empire in search of food and work, and at the same time retards the spread of industry, and so hinders it from absorbing these millions. The industrial proletariat in Russia at present has a pressing interest in the rooting up, as quickly as possible, of the conditions that oppress and ruin the country population. The immediate exploiter of the proletariat, however, is the entrepreneur. His direct interests concentrate themselves about the conditions of industrial capitalism.

These conditions are quite as antagonistic as in the western capitalistic lands. In their technical foundation and extent the great industrial undertakings of Russia stand on the height of modern capitalistic production. And in the small hand manufactures the opposition of interests between the workers and the entrepreneurs becomes greatly aggravated through competition. The mutual antagonism of these classes is neither placed in the shade by their common opposition to the privileged classes nor is it in any measure obscured or weakened by any limitations local or otherwise that have come down from the guilds of the middle ages. The one privileged class in Russia is now the industrial bourgeoisie which

lead a luxuriant life and make a good profit.

These two classes stand in the relation of two hostile camps, sharply opposed, and separated by a deep social chasm that cannot be bridged by liberal ideology but it clothed in ever so beautiful language and radical phrases. Therefore it is clear that a revolutionary proletarian class movement must unfold and develop itself for support in this opposition and in the conflict naturally arising therefrom. Too, if the revolutionary intelligence of Russia would completely fulfill its historical mission in the revolutionizing of the mass of the people, it must construct its program of action fundamentally on the basis of the antagonism of the laboring class and the capitalistic class. There is no other choice than either with revolutionary feeling and earnestness to start from the standpoint of proletarian class interest or remain in the present social isolation and old political helplessness.

A part, to be sure the smaller one, of democratic intelligence has already decided. But this is only the beginning, and it cannot be doubted that the number of those who will make their choice in accord with the social democratic element will constantly increase; for, apart from the pressing need of our advancing intelligence to create a firm support in the great mass of the people, the great majority of the free-minded citizens are likewise hostile to capitalism and act against it in all possible ways.

There are many liberals in Russia who would, no doubt, feel themselves insulted if one designated them as such and not as socialists. One thing, however, is sure. Not only the extreme democratic minority of our Russian intelligence, but our liberal associations in general—in short, the great majority of the advanced thinkers in the circles of the higher classes are opposed to the capitalistic bourgeoisie. The most cultured in science, in the press, and in the liberal sphere of the elected officials of the bourgeoisie, regard the trading portion as a privileged embodiment of conscienceless exploitation and as the national supporters of oriental barbarism. The antagonistic position of the revolutionary proletariat in relation to the capitalist class will not bring about a hostile attitude of the free-minded citizens to the labor movement.

There are two extreme positions, the taking of either of which would give rise to unfavorable relations between the cultured classes and the proletarian movement. First, if they should remain in the field of wage disputes and similar conflicts with individual entrepreneurs. These take on the form of petty political struggles in each individual case and tend to cause indifference in the wider uninterested circles. But perhaps a worse result would follow from going to the opposite extreme, namely, if the proletarian movement should come under the Bakunin and Blanquist influence and a communistic or anarchistic revolution be pushed into the foreground as the next step toward which the immediate practical efforts should be directed. In reality they would waste themselves in violent premature strife, in terrorizing attempts against capitalism and the government officials, and so squander the revolutionary power of the proletariat in a politically fruitless struggle. Fruitless as well for the inauguration of the national fight against absolutism, as also from the narrower standpoint of the special proletarian class interest.

Against going to this first extreme we are sufficiently secured by the imperial government. It is the affair of the present social democratic movement to see that our labor movement does not fall under the banner of Bakunin and Blanquist. It is for them to see to it that such influences are kept from the ranks of the Russian proletariat. The wide historical comprehension of economic conditions leading to the emancipation of the proletariat, offers to its representatives in Russia, a theoretical basis and a guide for the formation of a programme of action, which expresses in a clear, fundamental manner the class interests of the Russian proletariat, without actually passing the stage of capitalistic development reached by Russia. Our proletariat began its historical career in an industrial capitalistic society that has not yet completed its process of historical development. Its contradictions and wrongs are not those of decomposition or destruction or of ripe, old age, but far more the pains of birth and of childhood. As a matter of course the country and town proletariat must be the worst sufferers from this condition. The next practical aim of the advance guard of the revolutionary labor movement in Russia is not the annihilation of this society, but the attainment of the most favorable conditions for its development. The more energetically the revolutionary element of our laboring class is directed to this object, the more effectively will they be able to further and fight for the special interests of their class. The fundamental evil of Russian capitalism is grounded in the fact that with one foot it stands on the height of modern industrial development and with the other is stuck in the bog of long since dead epochs of barbarism. The social political basis on which it moves arises from ancient times and is of a relatively primitive nature. The culture and social atmosphere that surrounds it is over-charged and bursting with rough, strange elements. Therein originate the greater part of the painful miseries and contradictions of Russian life, which are characterized above all by a colossal incongruity between the social needs, interests and tasks which capitalism creates, and the lack of means for the solution of these problems. The first condition to be aimed at is the radical removal of absolutism, which hinders all industrial

initiative.

This furnishes the outline for the next step in the proletarian movement and determines the tactics to be pursued. It must become a self-conscious instrument for the unification of the now divided forces hostile to absolutism, for a national attack. The social democracy of the Russian labor class must consequently appear in the front rank as a fighter for democracy. As a matter of fact, this very role fell to the social democracy in those western countries where the bourgeois democracy began prematurely to hedge and the liberals remained stuck at half way. But the industrial democratic demands which marked the entrance of the proletarian parties in these lands had a wholly different significance and sought essentially other goals than is the case in the absolute and less capitalistically developed Russia. In these lands these demands have suffered because of their bourgeois character and tendencies. Essentially they are no longer bourgeois-democratic but proletarian-democratic when they are directed against an over-ripe capitalistic society. In Russia these demands aim not at the destruction of an existing modern industrial society, but at the overthrow of the enemies of such a society. They aim immediately, not at the gaining of political power by the proletariat, but at the attainment of the elementary popular rights. Under the blood-red mantle of radical democratic postulates is concealed the modest strife of the nation for the guarantee of personal freedom from the administrative arbitrariness and the limitation of the imperial despotism. In a word, our conflict for the democratic structure of the state does not lead directly to the rule of the proletariat, but to an epoch in which it will first be possible to begin the principal conflict against the united bourgeois for political power.

STOCK YARDS

(Continued from page 1.)

It is scrambling for, each one grabbing for the best pieces to trim. A very dextrous and fearless woman who is able to force her way through the struggle for material, and then work with exceptional speed upon the best pieces thus obtained, often earns the munificent sum of \$1.25 a day. The women who are thus forced to engage in a hoggish fight for the chance to live are the mothers and wives and daughters and sisters of the laborers of this grand and glorious country of the free.

This process of "speeding up" has been regularly and systematically carried out in every department, until an employee informed the writer a short time ago that he was now doing precisely twice as much as he was doing fifteen years ago with exactly the same tools. That marvelous speed and dexterity so much admired by visitors, that transforms a piece of meat as if flies from hand to hand or moves rapidly along an overhanging track is simply inhumanly hard work.

The task of superintendence has thus been reduced to a minimum. A mechanical "boss" has been evolved more merciless, were it possible, than the human counterpart. In such a machine-like, automatic intercompetitive community, with its hierarchy of superintendents, foremen, overseers and bosses, it is hard to discover any essential social function for the owner. Everyone has heard the stories of the long hours that P. D. Armour works, but few are silly enough to believe that he does anything that he could not (were he less miserly) hire someone else to do equally well. No one supposes that when he takes his expected trip to Europe for his health this summer, while his laborers are murdered by the foul atmosphere of his packing houses, that his establishment will shut down. Indeed no one who is at all familiar with the details of the management of a great packing house dreams that if the owners were dead, imbeciles or infants, the life of a single hog would be saved or a pound of meat be missing from the markets of the world. As a matter of fact some of the largest owners of the packing houses are members of a European syndicate and never saw the factory in which their wealth is produced and know less of the processes by which it is done than the most ignorant members of the "cleaning gang."

What then do the owners do? In the answer to this question will be found the beginning of the explanation of the whole hideous mystery of suffering that we have been looking upon. We shall find that because they OWN these buildings, machinery, land, etc., they are able to say to great bodies of men "Either you must work for us or you must perish from hunger and lack of work. But if you do work for us you must give up all you produce save enough to keep yourself and family alive and produce more workers for the coming years." In other words OWNERSHIP OF THE TOOLS LIFE MEANS OWNERSHIP OF THE MEN THEMSELVES. But this ownership can only be secured through the instrumentality of the government. Therefore the employers control the government. This then is the function of the owners—TO CONSTITUTE A RULING CLASS WHICH SHALL DETERMINE THE LAWS THAT MAKE THE WORKERS THEIR SLAVES.

From beginning to end the industry is organized, supervised, directed, controlled and operated by hired laborers. To be sure wage differences still exist, and the head superintendent would probably arise in parvenu horror at being placed in the same economic class with the "hog driver" or the tender of a sausage machine. But these distinctions, like the earlier ones between the trades, are fast fading away. The great Armour Institute and other similar institutions which the employers

have philanthropically established to fill the market with educated skilled labor and thus force its wages down to the level received by the cheapest day laborer, is rapidly settling that phase of the question. The same remorseless competition that has crushed the humble worker to the subsistence point has only been suspended in its operation upon the higher paid laborer because the supply of their labor was still somewhat limited. Yet even now the position occupied by these better paid slaves is little better save in wages than that of those they so proudly order to hither and thither. Their hours are as long, their work as wearisome. They are compelled in their turn to fawn and cringe before those who outrank them and are forced to all manner of trickery with their fellow workmen of similar rank in order to retain their position and advance. Most important of all, they are carefully taught by a "public opinion" created by the capitalist class whom they serve; that they are infinitely superior to the poor devil whom they superintend. In every possible way this idea of class differences among the laborers is preached. The poorer paid laborers are constantly incited to hatred in their turn, of those whom they look upon as petty tyrants. In this way each is deprived of its strongest ally. The cheaper paid laborer loses that leadership and intellectual guidance in his political efforts that he has in his every day work. The superintendent loses the tremendous numerical support that is absolutely necessary to make his efforts for betterment of any avail, and he becomes but a puppet in the hands of a class whose every interest is opposed to his own. Why can these workers never see that the question of voting is one with the question of their work and their wages—that the same organization that makes the "Yards" the marvel of the world in its productive way would, if used politically, make it the mightiest engine for the freeing of labor that this century has forged. In its every department these mammoth institutions are carried on by the workers. Still we are told that the co-operative commonwealth is impossible of realization because the proletariat could never organize industry and there would be no incentive to make the "captains of industry" take the lead and organize labor.

Let us now once more take a wider outlook. The packing industry has now become international. The meats from these great institutions we have been studying are to be found in every country on the globe. The interests of the owners thus at once become wider than the bounds of "Packingtown." They become interested in international politics. They want "new markets." They need the national government to accomplish their purposes. They became intensely patriotic. When the capitalist class of this country were arranging the war with Spain and it was necessary to inflame public opinion, in no place was there more "patriotism" than in the square inch than in the Union Stock Yards and Packing Houses of Chicago. Every day there were a half dozen "flag raisings" with fierce patriotic effusions to the laborers, until the smoke-laden air was thickly dotted with the stars and stripes. It was a peculiar fact that over no establishment did it float higher and prouder than over those whose owners never set foot on American soil, but whose "patriotism" drew just as large dividends as the native product. But they received their reward. All the world knows now the story of the infamous part played in that disgraceful tragedy by the packers of Chicago—how they crowded the rendering vat and the soap factory to feed the poor fever stricken fellows who were fighting to add more dollars to the already overflowing coffers of their masters—the capitalists of America. Other ages and other lands have had their class of robber rulers who drove their slaves to fight that the master might receive the plunder, but it has remained for the diabolical genius of modern capitalism to devise ways and means by which the very fighting slaves themselves should render an income while they were shedding their blood for further gain.

All this mass of misery, outrage, plunder and oppression rests upon one corner stone, which once destroyed the whole edifice must tumble. That corner stone is CLASS RULE BY THE OWNERS OF THE INSTRUMENTS OF PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION. Unless Swift and Swift's class had their Tom Cary's and others of his kind to do their bidding these abuses could not exist. Dangerous machinery and long hours with child labor means that the capitalist class have through their political power cared for their interests by preventing new factory legislation or the enforcement of existing laws. Cary's vile tenements, the neglected streets, the foul gutters, the hair fields, the garbage dump, the overhanging smoke, all are part and parcel of the same structure of which the getting of jobs at Swift's through Cary is a foundation. So long as the laborers of the Yards elect men to office whose interests are with their employers they only get what they have voted for in the conditions in which they live and work.

How then shall they use their votes to save their lives and secure decent conditions to their families. Their very work points the way. Just as their employers have found it to their interest to organize the workers into great bodies wholly opposed in interest to those for whom they work—just as they have wiped out trade and class distinctions among the workers, just so the workers must organize politically. They must organize in the interests of their class instead of that of their employers, wipe out the imaginary distinctions between the members of their own class that capitalism has long ago rendered meaningless, and rallying under the banner of socialism demand that

the workers themselves shall own the tools with which they work and the product they create. Just as their masters have reached out past the dividing lines of nations and wiped out all distinctions of country in one common league of plunder, so the workers must join hands across the narrow boundaries of race and nationality with their fellow workers of the entire world in one common brotherhood of toil and suffering, marching on toward the time when labor shall rule and when to him that labors shall go the fruits of his labor.

ANTI-EXPANSION

(Continued from page 1.)

rior," proved conclusively how much more advantageous in a pecuniary sense, it would be, to keep this "merciless spirit" within the bounds of the United States, and let it run riot there. The sweet reasonableness of this "logic" should certainly convince the working class that expansion is detrimental to their interests.

To furnish the remainder of the evening's entertainment the "traditional policy" bogey was exhibited. The pantheon of 18th century philosophy was ransacked, and the political deities of that period, things of rags and tatters, were polished up and put through their paces. All the florid phrases about "liberty," "humanity," "tyranny," "patriotism," "human rights," etc., which were the inspiration of the callow days when we swore by Tom Paine's "Rights of Man," were pressed into service and performed their intellectual gymnastics amidst wild applause. But there was no suspicion that these musty, rusty gods are merely the puppets that capitalism moulds, twists and turns as material interests direct.

The prevailing tone of the oratory on this occasion irresistibly reminds us of the story of the old hen, who having hatched a brood of ducklings, stood cackling in alarm on the shore of the puddle, in which her strange offspring, recognizing their natural elements, were sporting themselves. Confronted with the unavoidable results of the economic system which they still defend, they give forth a similar foolish and useless note of alarm.

Those who understand the structure of modern society can watch such spectacles with unconcern, knowing well that they are looking upon phases of social evolution which are unconsciously preparing the world for the establishment of a new economic system. But for those who denounce commercialism from the standpoint of bourgeois morality, the tendencies that are now appearing are a source of indistinct dread and terror. The departure from worn-out policies, the violation of beliefs supposed to be eternally sacred, the constant menace of war, the want, misery, and unrest that are necessarily attendant on capitalist progress, seem to them spectral harbingers and prophets of future disaster. To exorcise these grisly phantoms, they invoke the political catch-words of the 18th century, the intellectual deities that presided over the birth throes of modern capitalism.

Most of these men accept the teachings of evolution as the highest attainment of modern science, but regarding its connection with economics, they are hopelessly blind. Seeing nothing outside their class interests, considering themselves as the repositories of all knowledge and culture, looking with well-bred disgust upon the inevitable coarseness of the proletarian movement, they find it impossible to recognize the evolutionary processes that are bringing new economic forces into the arena, forces which are destined to work the abolition of all class rule. We may expect to hear them still uttering their solemn warnings and worn-out platitudes, while the capitalist structure is falling to pieces around their ears. Against stupidity the gods themselves fight in vain.

He that hath ears to hear let him hear. Already the advance guard of the socialist army is in the field, and behind them can be heard the steady tramp of the proletariat of all countries marching sturdily onwards to the accomplishment of their historic mission, a social revolution whose scope and effects can as yet hardly be comprehended.

Jos. Wanhope.

Taking into consideration the fact that we are at present suffering from universal prosperity, and that our philanthropic capitalist masters have decreed a general advance in wages, we would suggest to workingmen the propriety of investing their surplus in a year's subscription to The Workers' Call.

We still have a few hundred copies of Edw. Markham's poem, "The Man with the Hoe," which we will send postpaid at 25 cents a hundred, or 25 for 10 cents. This poem has created the greatest sensation of any production of the last few years and is a tremendous thought breeder. Every socialist ought to have a few in his pocket to help in starting ideas.

The tickets for the picnic to be held July 9th in West Pullman will be at the meeting of the Central Committee next Tuesday night. See to it that your delegates are present.

Be sure that your branch gets the tickets for the picnic and then see that they are well distributed among the members, and then, most important of all, that their sale is pushed vigorously.

Poor Billy Mason. He had such a soft snap on that post-office fence-advertising when he let his mouth run away on an anti-expansion tour, and the Union League Club discovered that advertising on fences around government property was illegal. You should have known better Billy.

TWO TRUSTS.

Steel and Automobile Trusts Mark New Economic Epoch.

Again there has been a movement in the great development of concentration that is of sufficient importance to deserve more than passing attention from the socialist. Two trusts of more than ordinary significance have been formed. The first of these is the new steel trust which was fully described in these columns a few weeks ago. It was then pointed out that this is truly a "trust of trusts" and that in this age of steel its owners literally had a steel grip on everything in sight.

Just now the point to be noticed is the relation of this movement to labor. At the head of this tremendous mass of capital is Henry C. Frick, a man known far and wide for his bitter hostility to labor. He was the man who originated the "nothing to arbitrate" position, and developed the idea of a privately trained body of Pinkertons to shoot rebellious wage-slaves into submission.

He is now placed in a position where his employees will be as helpless in his grasp as any negro in the hands of a Southern plantation owner before the war. There will be but one employer in the whole steel trade. If laborers do not like the treatment they are receiving they can just simply go and starve. If they get rebellious in any one mill, it will not be necessary to even go to the expense of shooting them down. The work can simply be done at another establishment where the workers are more submissive. Wages can be reduced where local conditions are favorable and this reduction used to force all other establishments down to the same level. This playing of different localities against each other has been worked to perfection in the coal trade, and to some degree in the packing industry.

The other trust which is particularly worthy of our attention is the automobile trust. This is significant as showing a combination of various phases of a related industry. This trust, which finds its base in a new form of transportation, the control of whose patents secures a monopoly and gives a commanding position, instead of using that power to crush out the older forms of transportation, makes a combination with them. Thus even competition between improvements and outgrown conditions is done away with and each new invention but strengthens the old monopoly.

So now the Automobile Company is to control the street cars of Chicago. It includes the Pope Bicycle Company, and the Storage Battery Company, and the Studebaker Wagon Company, and is "affiliated" with the rubber trust. Now if they could but combine with the shoe trust the only way the laborers could get from place to place without being robbed would be to walk barefooted. The field is completely and beautifully covered and does credit to the minds that planned it. It is a long step on the road to socialism.

Its effect on the laborers of this city will be little less than revolutionary. It proposes to arrange a number of sub-stations where cabs, delivery wagons and drays will be kept to be furnished on short notice in response to telephone calls. They promise a cab fare of twenty-five cents a mile for two persons and other transportation charges in like proportion. This means an army of cab-drivers, teamsters, drivers of delivery wagons, etc. who will be given a good long vacation in which to think over the social situation. They will be joined by the horse-shoers, stable boys, grooms and so forth and will make a good full brigade to add to the great army of the unemployed. We wonder if any of them will be able to think out why it is that this great invention that should cause a lightening of all men's burdens and a bettering of all social conditions comes as a blighting curse to great bodies of men.

But the main point in which this trust is of peculiar interest is in its effect on the municipalization theory. Where are the "municipal" socialists at when they run against this proposition? If they municipalize the street cars the company can take the money that is paid them (for of course our dear "reformers" would not "consolidate" them), and use it as a subsidy to support their electric cabs and carriages until the street car business was smashed. So the game could be played in all directions. Every day that passes welds the total mass of capitalism into a more compact mass and renders any piecemeal attack upon it more ridiculous. It is too late now for such child's play. Capitalism must stand or fall as a whole.

The matter must be attacked at the roots. Class rule must be abolished and the exploited class raised to power before exploitation will cease.

Comrade Shaumburg reports from Du Quoin that the coal mines have suspended work throwing 200 men, including four comrades, out of work. It is not known how long they will be closed. The S. L. P. is pounding down with the Arm and Hammer until the Dems. and Reps. are crying for mercy.

We have a number of copies of back numbers still on hand and if desired we can begin any new subscription with No. 1, thus giving a complete file. Those who wish the back numbers alone can secure them postpaid for one cent each.

Meeting next Sunday at 11th and Michigan Ave., at 7:30 p. m. Comrade Wanhope speaker.

We are glad to announce that arrangements have been made with "The People" and "The Tocsin" by which we can furnish either of these with The Workers' Call for 50 cents.

Civic Federation Conference.

One of the side issues of the recent movement toward concentration is the number of idiotic ideas that it sets in motion.

But of all the absolutely insane and idiotic movements up to date the proposition of the Chicago Civic Federation to hold a conference for the studying of trusts must bear off the palm.

Of course the reason for the conference is perfectly evident. A few people are actually doing some thinking about trusts.

Capitalism must check this movement or its doom is close. It is useless to argue against it for its premises are history and existing fact, and its logic the laws of social development.

Hence a body of dillettante reformers, capitalist college professors, "practical business statesmen," deluded philanthropists, and rascally labor fakirs are called together to go through the form of elaborate reasoning to arrive at a foregone conclusion.

Belgium.

To show the spirit of class-consciousness and international solidarity that exists in Europe, it is only necessary to call attention to an incident that occurred in the Belgian parliament a few days ago.

Roumania.

The Roumanian government recently seized the membership books of the socialist party kept at the headquarters in Bucharest, and made a list of all the Jewish members.

Sweden.

Swedish papers report a monster meeting of workmen in the Tivoli at Stockholm, to protest against the attack made by the servile capitalist government upon the labor organizations of Holmstad and Sundval in northern Sweden.

THE WORKERS' CALL.

36 N. CLARK ST., CHICAGO, ILL.

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Public Meetings.

The 5th Ward Branch holds outdoor agitation meetings at 33rd St. and Wentworth Ave., every Sunday at 3:30 p. m.

Teath Ward Branch at California Ave. and Madison St. every Sunday at 3:30 p. m.

Fourteenth and Fifteenth Wards at California and North Ave., every Sunday at 3:30 p. m.

Eighteenth Ward, Peoria and Madison Sts., every Sunday at 8 p. m.

Thirty and Thirty-first Ward, Sunday, April 30th at 63rd and Sangamon Sts. at 2:30 p. m.

Good speakers present at all meetings. Everyone invited. Free discussion.

There will be a meeting at room 19 Commercial block, 1906 Commercial Ave. Tuesday evening, May 16th, to arrange for the organization of a branch in the 33d Ward.

Authorized Agents.

The following comrades are duly authorized agents for The Workers' Call and are entitled to receive money for subscriptions and advertisements.

Chicago Agents: 4th Ward—N. Krogh, 3850 La Salle St. 5th Ward—Joseph Keidel, 812 3/4th St.

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Hands Across the Sea

Would you like to correspond with a British comrade in the same trade profession, pursuit or with a view to the knowledge of the Socialist Labor Party's methods and progress in Great Britain.

International Correspondence Exchange, 35 Charlotte St., Hightown, Manchester, England. (Mention the Workers' Call.)

THE PEOPLE LIBRARY. THE SOCIALIST ALMANAC. HISTORY, SOCIOLOGY, ECONOMICS, STATISTICS.

Socialist Labor Party

OF THE

United States.

PLATFORM.

The Socialist Labor Party of the United States, in Convention assembled, re-affirms the inalienable rights of all men to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

With the founders of the American Republic we hold that the purpose of government is to secure every citizen in the enjoyment of this right; but in the light of our social conditions we hold, furthermore, that no such right can be exercised under a system of economic inequality, essentially destructive of life, of liberty and of happiness.

With the founders of this Republic we hold that the true theory of politics is that the machinery of government must be owned and controlled by the whole people; but in the light of our industrial development we hold, furthermore, that the true theory of economics is that the machinery of production must likewise belong to the people in common.

To the obvious fact that our despotic system of economics is the direct opposite of our democratic system of politics can plainly be traced the existence of a privileged class, the corruption of government by that class, the alienation of public property, public franchises and public functions to that class, and the abject dependence of the mightiest of nations upon that class.

Again, through the perversion of Democracy to the ends of plutocracy, labor is robbed of the wealth which it alone produces, is denied the means of self-employment, and, by compulsory idleness in wage slavery, is even deprived of the necessities of life.

Human power and natural forces are thus wasted, that the plutocracy may rule. Ignorance and misery, with all their concomitant evils, are perpetuated, that the people may be kept in bondage.

Science and invention are diverted from their humane purpose to the enslavement of women and children.

Against such a system the Socialist Labor Party once more enters its protest. Once more it reiterates its fundamental declaration that private property in the natural sources of production and in the instruments of labor is the obvious cause of all economic servitude and political dependence.

The time is fast coming when, in the natural course of social evolution, this system, through the destructive action of its failures and crises on the one hand, and the constructive tendencies of its trusts and other capitalistic combinations on the other hand, shall have worked out its own downfall.

We, therefore, call upon the wage workers of the United States, and upon all other honest citizens, to organize under the banner of the Socialist Labor Party into a class-conscious body, aware of its rights and determined to conquer them by taking possession of the public powers; so that, held together by an indomitable spirit of solidarity under the most trying conditions of the present class struggle, we may put a summary end to that barbarous struggle by the abolition of classes, the restoration of the land and of all the means of production, transportation and distribution to the people as a collective body, and the substitution of the Co-operative Commonwealth for the present state of planless production, industrial war and social disorder; a commonwealth in which every worker shall have the free exercise and full benefit of his faculties multiplied by all the modern factors of civilization.

Platform of Socialist Labor Party.

Chicago Municipal Campaign of 1899.

The Socialist Labor Party of Chicago, by its delegates in convention assembled, declares its adherence to the principles set forth in the national party platform:

We hold that the present miserable condition of the working class of Chicago, as well as of the rest of the capitalist world, with compulsory idleness, uncertainty of employment, and small portion of his product received by the laborers when permitted by the capitalists to work, is caused by the private ownership of the means of production and distribution by the capitalist class.

We, therefore, pledge our nominees, if elected, to immediately comply with the following demands:

- Plank 1—The city shall furnish employment to all unemployed citizens by the establishment of public works to be operated co-operatively under the control of the municipality. Plank 2—We demand the municipalization of all public means of transportation, lighting and communication, the same to be operated co-operatively under the control of the municipality, the services to be furnished at cost to all, with wages of all employes as high as are paid for similar services by any private employers, and eight hours to constitute a day's work, save in the most laborious and disagreeable forms, where the hours shall be still further proportionally shortened. Plank 3—We demand that no pains be spared in giving a thorough, free and universal education to all children

IMMEDIATE DEMANDS.

With a view to immediate improvement in the condition of labor we present the following demands:

- 1. Reduction of the hours of labor in proportion to the progress of production. 2. The United States shall obtain possession of the railroads, canals, telegraphs, telephones and all other means of public transportation and communication; the employees to operate the same co-operatively under the control of the Federal government and to elect their own superior officers, but no employee shall be discharged for political reasons. 3. The municipalities shall obtain possession of the local railroads, ferries, water works, gas works, electric plants and all industries requiring municipal franchises; the employees to operate the same co-operatively under the control of the municipal administration and to elect their own superior officers, but no employees shall be discharged for political reasons. 4. The public lands declared inalienable. Revocation of all and grants to corporations or individuals, the conditions of which have not been complied with. 5. The United States to have the exclusive right to issue money. 6. Congressional legislation providing for the scientific management of forests and waterways, and prohibiting the waste of the natural resources of the country. 7. Inventions to be free to all; the inventors to be remunerated by the nation. 8. Progressive income tax and tax on inheritances; the smaller incomes to be exempt. 9. School education of all children under fourteen years of age to be compulsory, gratuitous and accessible to all by public assistance in meals, clothing, books, etc., where necessary. 10. Repeal of all pauper, tramp, conspiracy and sumptuary laws. Unbridled right of combination. 11. Prohibition of the employment of children of school age and the employment of female labor in occupations detrimental to health or morality. Abolition of the convict labor system. 12. Employment of the unemployed by the public authorities (county, city, state and nation). 13. All wages to be paid in lawful money of the United States. Equalization of woman's wages with those of men where equal service is performed. 14. Laws for the protection of life and limb in all occupations, and an efficient employers' liability law. 15. The people to have the right to propose laws and vote upon all measures of importance, according to the referendum principle. 16. Abolition of the veto power of the executive (national, state and municipal) wherever it exists. 17. Abolition of the United States Senate and all upper legislative chambers. 18. Municipal self-government. 19. Direct vote and secret ballots in all elections. Universal and equal right of suffrage without regard to color, creed or sex. Election days to be legal holidays. The principle of proportional representation to be introduced. 20. All public officers to be subject to recall by their respective constituencies. 21. Uniform civil and criminal law throughout the United States. Administration of justice to be free of charge. Abolition of capital punishment.

THE LIBERAL LITERATURE LEAGUE

has been organized to meet a long-felt want—a headquarters in the west for liberal literature. There are any number of houses who can secure the books from the east—so can you—the point is to have the book you want at the time you want it. Here is a partial list of the books and pamphlets at competition prices. For sale by the Liberal Literature League 618 N. Clark street, Chicago, Ill.

BOOK LIST.

Table with 2 columns: Title and Price. Includes books like 'Socialism and the Social Movement of the Nineteenth Century', 'Quintessence of Socialism', 'Economics of Socialism', 'Capital-Marx', 'German Socialism and Ferdinand La Salle'.

PAMPHLET LITERATURE.

Table with 2 columns: Title and Price. Includes pamphlets like 'Kautsky—The Proletariat', 'The Capitalist Class', 'The Class Struggle', 'The Co-Operative Commonwealth'.

MISCELLANEOUS WORKS.

Table with 2 columns: Title and Price. Includes works like 'Outlines of Sociology', 'Looking Backward—Bellamy', 'Equality—Bellamy', 'Co-operative Commonwealth—Gronlund'.

Directory of Section

Chicago.

SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY.

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

CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF SECTION CHICAGO, 48 W. Randolph St., 1st and 3rd Tuesday; Sec. Jas. Smith, 367 W. Madison St.

BRANCHES.

Table listing various branches across Chicago, including Fourth Ward, Fifth Ward, Sixth Ward, etc., with their respective meeting locations and times.

THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

PEORIA, every Tuesday evening, 3123 South Washington street. COLLINSVILLE, every Sunday, 2:00 p. m., Gayler Building, Main street. BELLEVILLE, second and fourth Tuesday evenings of each month at Fisher's Hall, corner of Spring and A streets. QUINCY, first Wednesday in each month at Fink's Hall, 613 Main street. MURPHYSBORO, every Thursday evening.

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