

THE WORKERS' CALL.

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

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PRICE ONE CENT.

A DANISH LOCK-OUT

The Struggle for Liberty Being Made in Denmark.

A CLEAR-CUT CLASS STRUGGLE

International Solidarity of Capitalists Met by International Solidarity of Laborers—A Call for Aid.

For the last few weeks the little kingdom of Denmark has been the seat of one of the fiercest battles between the capitalist and the laboring class that has marked this century. For several years both sides have been thoroughly organized. About two months ago there was a strike of the carpenters. An agreement was arrived at between the representatives of the unions in the Central body and the master carpenters but when it was sent out for a referendum it was rejected by seven local bodies. The bosses then demanded that these local bodies be forced into accepting the agreement. This of course was impossible in a democratic organization and a lock-out was immediately declared by the employers. At the beginning 40,000 men were shut out and the long struggle was begun. The official board of arbitration endeavored to settle the matter but the employers took the old position and declared they "nothing to arbitrate." They laid down as a first principle of any agreement that any arrangement made by Central bodies should be binding on all the membership and not subject to the referendum. This being a vital point in all labor organizations could not be considered.

These were the reasons given to the public and around which the conflict was nominally waged. As a matter of fact both sides realize that the real issue is deeper than this. For many years both sides have been preparing for the struggle. With the steady growth of socialism the laborers became more firmly united and their treasury became more and more full. Steadily the workers reached out for political privileges. They had captured many minor offices and were going forward with the steady continuous advance that leads to a certain victory. Therefore their economic organization must be crushed and this is the real object of the lock-out. The 40,000 who were out at the beginning was increased to 55,000 during the past week and when it is remembered that Denmark is largely a farming country some idea of the extent of the struggle is realized. Practically all business is at a standstill. Scarcely a wheel is turning anywhere. The laborers have almost universal sympathy. One of the queer developments of the matter is that the middle class shop keepers finding themselves being rapidly squeezed out of existence by the complete cessation of industry are raising a tremendous cry against the system which enables a few men to stop or start the wheels of society at will. For them no one feels at all sorry as they have all along supported the system they are now raving about.

It has always been the custom among the trades-unions of Europe in time of strike to send the young and unmarried men out on a traveling card entitling them to travel pay at each town they come to until they have secured work. In this way the burden on the union is lessened. This was attempted in the present instance but the travelers soon found themselves confronted by an interesting phase of the internationality of capitalism. The employers had sent circulars all through northern Germany and Norway and Sweden warning employers against the locked-out men and it was soon made evident that no Dane could obtain work in any of those countries.

This was instantly responded to by an exemplification of the fact that the same solidarity that had drawn the owners together had identified the interests of the workers of the world. From Germany, England, America, and in fact from all the four quarters of the globe, wherever capitalism had penetrated with its shadow—socialism—the funds poured in. Nevertheless the need is still tremendous and must continue so until the laborers shall again be permitted to use the tools of production from which he is now separated. They have need of all the help that they can secure and we hope that the comrades of America will not be behind those of other lands. Money for this purpose can be sent to the office of The Workers' Call, 36 North Clark street, and will be recognized in the columns of that paper.

Another development of the situation is seen in the way that the socialists have seized the opportunity for educational purposes. Every available hall in the great cities has been secured and students and professors of the universities together with the leaders in the socialist movement are acting as teachers and the workmen are being thoroughly schooled in the principles of socialism. Thus even this desperate attempt to wreck the labor movement is being turned to advantage by the Danish comrades. The enforced idleness is being used to strengthen the

workers for the fight that once gained shall abolish all strikes and lockout forever.

MODERN AGRICULTURE.

Inventions That Might Lighten Human Toil If Not Used Under Competition.

The model farm of today and of the future must avail itself of the most economical systems of plant propagation, and the geomagnetism must play an important part in its workings. Beneath the rich soil in the gardens where the delicate vegetables are growing, networks of invisible wires are laid, collecting and distributing the atmospheric electricity to all the plants.

In the forcing houses similar arrangements are made for stimulating the winter vegetables and flowers for the market, while overhead powerful arc lights make the night as brilliant as day and help to mature the plant growths in half the regular time required by nature. In the fields of wheat and corn the more powerful currents from a storage-house work out similar results, lessening the season of growth and doubling the yield per acre. Excessive droughts and the danger from late and early frosts are thus partly avoided on the electric farm, while if necessary two crops can be raised on one season of the year. Only one could be grown. The electric power that the farmer has at his command enables him to regulate the growth of his plants to suit the seasons or the markets. One portion of the garden can be forced, while the other may mean the harvest of winter vegetables and flowers for the market.

There is no limit to the use of the new invisible power which he gathers from the atmosphere around him or generates from the wasted forces of the neighboring stream of water. This leads to the examination of the source of the new power that propels the great chinery on the farm. A small stream of water that formerly flowed across the farms in an irregular course, fertilizing the lower meadows and irrigating the upland districts, has been widened and deepened near its source, forming a large storage reservoir. This reservoir is dammed at its lower end, and as the water tumbles over the open water gates it turns several large turbine wheels.

These wheels do not move the machinery of a flour mill, but constantly manufacture electricity for use in the other way means. The huge storage reservoir, the work of making electricity can go on through the driest season, for the water power never gives out and the electric power is always ready to do its work. From this storage house the motive power is conducted to all parts of the farm, forcing chinery for winter plants are connected with the power house by overhead wires similar to those which disfigure the streets for trolley lines. The great barn and living house are lighted by electric lights that get their source of energy from the same place. Powerful electric radiators from the storage house to every part of the fields and to these electric motors are attached for performing the various labors assigned to them by the inventive genius of man.

The electric machinery worked by the motor is of great interest. Here are huge plows that turn over six furrows of fresh soil at once, hayrakes and reapers which perform their duties automatically, electric weed-killers and fertilizers, corn-huskers and shellers, hay-choppers, and gigantic threshing machines. The electric vehicles rush across the extensive fields with loads of grain, hay, or vegetables, moving with their broad tires without difficulty over the rough, uneven surface, and behind the plows and harrows the automatic seeders follow in close succession, dropping the corn, wheat, or other seed at regular intervals in the freshly turned furrows. Everything is performed by machinery, guided by disciplined hands and propelled by the new motive power that has caused all the revolution.

There are two general types of these electric plows which will serve to illustrate the general principle of operation in each class. The first type is propelled by a fixed motor. The field selected for plowing is divided into sections of exactly the width of the cable used for pulling the plow. A heavy, powerful electric motor on wheels is stationed at either side of the field, and a strong cable connects them. This cable winds and unwinds upon a spool as the machinery is set in motion. To this cable the plow, which is capable of turning from three to six furrows at a time, is firmly attached. When the electric motor on one side of the field is set in motion, it winds up the cable and drags the plow forward toward it, and when it reaches that side of the field it turns around, and the reverse action of the other motor repeats the operation. The second type of electric plow is run by a movable motor attached to the plow itself. The cable is fixed to an anchor on the opposite side of the field, and the electric motor follows this cable, dragging the heavy plow with it. Even the weeding is accomplished by electricity. The electric plow stimulates plant growth and gives motive power to all the machinery can also kill and destroy. Electrocutting is applied to the weeds just as successfully as to prisoners in our jails. The delicate current of electricity may give life and vigor to plants, but a powerful current destroys every germ of life, animal or vegetable. In the spring of the year the new weed destroyer goes over the field and annihilates weeds, insects and larvae. A vehicle moves along a series of many wire brushes drags on the earth and kills everything that comes in contact with the electric current. A field overgrown with rank weeds can thus be cleared in a comparatively short time of every noxious growth.

Death is just as sure and sudden as if each plant received a lightning stroke from the summer clouds. The weed goes over the field after the storm, so that the wet stalks will act as more perfect conductors. There comes from Budapest the first electric tree destroyer; the farmer who has extensive woodlands to clear finds science ready to help him in this respect. The tree-felling machines were invented to destroy the giant trees in the forests of Galicia. They are comparatively simple in their construction, but veritable giants in their operations. A small motor carried upon a movable truck is drawn up to the noble product of the forest and secured to it by chains and clamps. The automatic saw-chisel is next put in position, and when the electric current is turned on it eats its way rapidly into the huge trunk and nearly severs it in two. While the machine is being adjusted to another

tree is being used to strengthen the

BATTLE FOR FREE SPEECH

IN SAN FRANCISCO BUFFALO COMRADES

Socialists Discharged and Police Attempt to Break Up the Socialist Propaganda.

FREE SPEECH GUARANTEED. SEVERAL COMRADES ARRESTED

Socialists Advised to Enjoin City Against Any Further Interference With Their Speakers. They Propose to Fight the Matter to a Finish in the Courts and Maintain Their Rights.

The following shows that the struggle for free speech is being carried on by the comrades throughout the country. There can be but one result in the end. The flunkies of capitalism will be defeated and the result will be but a type of the greater fight:

At least two of the police judges have decided that the socialists have as much right to hold public meetings in the streets as any other political body.

Chief Lees has made himself particularly obnoxious to this class of people and has thrown them into jail whenever the opportunity was afforded.

There is no section in the penal code to prevent the people who believe in this doctrine from meeting and listening to speakers on a public thoroughfare.

Thursday evening Lees and his men corralled about twenty socialists and locked them up for obstructing the crossing and street at Market and Fifth streets.

He founded the complaints on section 416 of the penal code, which reads: "If two or more persons assemble for the purpose of disturbing the public peace consulting any unlawful act and do not disperse on being desired or commanded so to do by a public officer, the persons so offending are guilty of a misdemeanor."

Anthony McGinty, Thomas Bersford and Pauline Horwitz were discharged from custody by Judge Conlan this morning, and Judge Mogan made a like disposition of the cases against Joseph O'Brien, William Edlin and G. E. Beaham. The defendants were represented by Cameron King.

Judge Conlan in dismissing the cases said:

"There is no law under which these people can be held. They certainly have the right to free speech, and no one can deny them this, which is granted to every American citizen. If the ideas of the police do not correspond with those of the socialists in political policies, that is their personal business. They have conducted orderly meetings, listened to their speakers, and applauded their remarks. I will never convict anyone because his religious and political beliefs do not coincide with mine. I will say this much, that were I the attorney for these people, I would resort to other measures to prevent them from being annoyed and continually thrown in jail. No police officer has a right to do it, and I will not tolerate it in my court. Free speech must be upheld under the Constitution of the United States. Case dismissed."

Attorney King stated that he would immediately apply to the superior court for an order restraining the police from molesting the socialists in the future.

Judge Mogan said: "The prosecution had no authority to enter a case or complaint under section 416 of the board of supervisors against these people. This section states that when people assemble for purposes other than public meeting and obstruct the streets, they may be guilty of a misdemeanor, but when they do assemble for public meeting they are not guilty of any offense. I so held in the case of A. McGinty, arrested at Third and Market streets a year ago, for speaking on the corner. The evident intent of this ordinance is not to prevent public meetings but to prevent riots, and certainly these defendants held a public meeting."

"Officer, do you know whether these people were disturbing the peace?" asked the judge.

"Well, they applauded the speaker and shouted," replied the guardian of the peace.

"I also," continued the court, "during election times have addressed district assemblies and have been applauded, and I will admit that I was pleased to get the applause. If these people have not the money to hire a hall, they can meet on the streets. Poverty is no offense. Cases dismissed. I hope the police will not arrest these people again, and if they do and these socialists come to my court I will again discharge them."

Judge Treadwell stated that he would make a similar disposition of these cases on his calendar if arrested for this offense.—San Francisco Report.

Have you asked all your shop mates to subscribe to The Workers' Call? If you are not willing to do that much how long do you think it will be before you are free?

Mr. Griest announced the result to the crowd, advising them to disperse, and inviting them to be present next Sunday evening, when a meeting will be held, even if the courts have to be appealed to.

The crowd gave three cheers for the speakers and then dispersed.

"It is the experience of the party for years past," said Mr. Reinstein after the occurrence. "A year ago in Boston Mrs. Martha Moore Avery was arrested for speaking at an open air meeting. In court the case was dismissed and the meetings were not molested afterwards. The same thing occurred to our speakers in Chicago, San Francisco, Denver and other cities, but in every case we won out. It is a fallacy to think that political meetings cannot be held on Sunday. I had the corporation counsel look that up, and he decided that there was neither law nor ordinance prohibiting such meetings. We shall hold a meeting next Sunday night."—Buffalo Courier.

Just as we go to press comes the news from Columbus, Ohio, that Com. Otto Steinboff was also stopped by the police, but that when he informed the police captain by telephone that he proposed to keep on until he was arrested and then make a test case of it the matter was dropped and his meeting was resumed with a much increased audience.

A BENEVOLENT TRUST.

A Labor-Saving Device That Will Not Save Any Labor.

Joseph Letter, ex-ruler of the wheat pit and prominent at the present time in "auto-truck" enterprises, returned home yesterday from New York and the east, where he assisted in perfecting the organization of what he admits is "the very newest trust of them all." This combination is the air-power combine of Chicago and New York motorcycle manufacturers. An aggregate capital of nearly \$20,000,000 is represented in the new concern, whose complete organization was effected a few days ago by the purchase of the Rhode Island Locomotive works and the Corliss Steam works of Providence, R. I.

"The consolidation of these interests had been expected for some time but has only just been carried into effect," said Mr. Letter at his home, 101 Rush street, last night. "We are now to engage extensively in the building of motorcycles or autotrucks for use as street cars by traction companies throughout the country. Already nearly a score of cities have been secured for the Metropolitan Railroad company of New York city. We have autotruck works in New York, Rhode Island, Baltimore, Washington, D. C., and Chicago, and the output is soon to be increased to proportions that would have been thought incredible some few years ago. "I should prefer that our enterprise not be regarded as a trust, but if the name fits it I don't know what we can do about it. It is certain, however, that our undertaking will not have to share the odium of throwing poor working people out of employment. Indeed, its effect will be decidedly the other way—to give work at remunerative pay in entirely new lines of enterprise to be developed with all the resources at our command."—Chicago Chronicle.

Now that is the kind of Mr. Letter—not to throw any men out of work by the introduction of his new labor-saving device. We suppose that all the horseshoers will be given jobs blivving up the rubber tires, the hostlers, stable men, etc., will be employed in polishing up the machines each morning, while the harness-makers will all be allowed to put in their time making "blindlers" for foolish workmen who object to having their affairs benevolently directed by Joseph Letter and his kind.

One cannot help but think how much different things might all be if the motorcycles and the plants at which they are to be made were owned and controlled by the laborers. They would then actually "save labor" in the sense that less human energy would need to be expended to produce a present degree of comfort.

OPENINGS FOR DRUMMERS.

Consolation for the Commercial Travelers Who Are Now Out of a Job.

The Chicago Tribune tries to console the drummers who are out of work through the formation of the trusts that there is soon to be a new field open for them. In a recent editorial it says:

"There is a great opening for the Americans who first qualify themselves to engage in the commercial traveling business abroad. They will be the aristocrats, the money-makers of the profession. Until energetic Americans are sent out to all quarters of the globe by American manufacturers the latter will not get the full volume of the trade they are entitled to. They must compete abroad with foreign rivals precisely as they have been competing at home with domestic rivals."

Before the drummers of this country all rush into this new field that has just opened and decide to drop their very intelligent (?) anti-trust crusade to seek their fortunes in foreign lands we would call their attention to a few facts: In the first place a great many trusts are international. We do not fancy that the copper trust employs any more solicitors in Europe than the Chicago Street Car company does in America. These international trusts, however, are but the advance guard that indicate the track the whole army of industry must take. None but the very largest firms can compete in the international market today and when competition is reduced to a few great firms in any one market the question of combination is already settled. They will unite and divide rather than compete and ruin.

BELGIAN SOCIALISTS

A Chapter in the Story of the Class Struggle.

ANOTHER VICTORY GAINED.

A Well-Conducted Fight by the Belgian Proletariat to Obtain Political Privileges.

Translated from the French of Emil Vandervelde in "Le Mouvement Socialiste."

It is well-known that the Clericals, who have been in power since 1884, have a formidable majority in the Belgian chamber, possessing 110 votes against 12 Radicals and 28 Socialist votes.

They owe this majority, which in no way corresponds with their real force in the country principally to two causes—the injustice of the system of plural voting and the fear of the socialists. The double and triple vote system materially profited the conservatives, especially in the country which was the stronghold of the Clericals. The effect of the fear of socialism was seen in the elections of 1896 and 1898, when the government would have been beaten if the Liberals who were vanquished in the first ballot had not been controlled by their dominant bourgeois instinct and fear of anti-clericalism and hence assured the victory of the catholics.

But the times have changed. The Dreyfus affair has made them reflect. The economic development of these last years has enlarged their minds and awakened the liberal spirit and rendered more insupportable the political narrowness and pettiness of the Clericals. On the other side the socialist propaganda continued to do its work. The Catholic party is being eaten up by the cancer of internal dissensions. The Democratic movement has ceased to bear the badge of disgrace in Flanders. In brief, it is to be hoped that in the elections of 1900 the parties in opposition to the government will unite upon the basis of universal suffrage, and proportional representation and destroy this artificial majority, that a leading Catholic journal has recently referred to as the statute with feet of clay.

It was to support this tottering statue that the Clerical ministers, instigated, it is said by the king, planned the audacious imposture that ended in turning public indignation against them.

Their object of "electoral reform," as is now known, proposed to establish proportional representation in the large districts (electing at least six deputies) while maintaining, on the other hand, the system of majority election in the smaller districts. In reality this amounted to the neutralization of the great cities. According to M. de Trooz, the author of the project, in the seventh district affected by the law, the result would be to give the clerical minority in the district 32 votes while the opposition majority would have but 27. Brussels, with the surrounding country, for example, electing 12 deputies, would have nine Catholic and nine Liberals and Socialists combined. Western Flanders, on the other hand, now electing 12 deputies, would still continue under the majority rule to elect 12 Catholics; the important Socialist and Liberal minorities, having no part in the representation.

In short the parliamentary majority would depend upon the little rural districts. To be sure the clerical majority would be reduced, but they would gain in duration what they lost in extent. It was in effect the capitalization of the future values of the electoral powers by which the risks of the future were to be avoided at the expense of a present loss. This was to undertake an operation that even M. Woeste, the leader of the Right, qualified in these terms: "The result of this law will be to falsify the organization of the public powers in their essence; it has not, neither does it merit, the confidence of the people."

In spite of this opposition of M. Woeste, the central section pronounced for the project. The Left of the chamber then decided that if the government refused to adjourn for the approaching elections they would leave parliament and appeal to public opinion. Awaiting this the democrats parties prepared themselves for the resistance.

It cannot be denied that the chances of success appeared feeble. How was it possible to bend the enormous Clerical majority and make them give up this which was perhaps their last sheet anchor. How was it possible to arouse the masses against a complicated project where the injustice was so carefully concealed under obscure formulas and apparent concessions. How could we galvanize our battalions in the Belgian country to go on a four weeks' strike. The first campaign of meetings organized by the League of Universal Suffrage and Proportional Representation (an assemblage composed of Catholics, Socialists, and Christian Democrats) had certainly had the effect of preparing the ground; but as a rule, and save where the

(Continued on page 4.)

THE WORKERS' CALL.

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Special rates if ordered by the hundred. Orders for current issue should reach the office by Tuesday evening.

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.

The fact that a signed article is published does not commit The Workers' Call to all opinions expressed therein.

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.

A. M. SIMONS, EDITOR.



The Socialist Vote.

Table showing the Socialist vote in the United States from 1890 to 1898. 1890: 13,704; 1891: 15,552; 1892: 21,519; 1893: 25,696; 1894: 30,090; 1895: 34,899; 1896: 36,276; 1897: 55,550; 1898: 82,204.

Copies sold last week 12,500.

A CHANGE OF VIEW.

There is frequent and continuous objection by many people to the socialist position that self-interest is the proper incentive to social action. One of their frequent objections is that it is beastly. Well, what of it? If we will notice close we will see that after all pretty near all the so-called "human" attributes are shared by the beasts.

But a little examination will show that this objection is a result of a much wider generalization than it at first appears to be. It is a necessary corollary from a philosophy which was once universal but today has been driven from all but a few positions which must in turn be soon relinquished. The old conception of the universe made man its center—it was anthropocentric. For him and to satisfy his wants all sentient nature lived and moved and had its being—to minister to his comfort all the physical world was created. His earth was the center of the astronomical system. Within the social world there were certain classes and personages who imagined that around them the remainder of the social world revolved—that all other men only lived to minister to their wants.

Under this system man was supposed to be created from different elements the remainder of the animal world. Anything that was supposed to partake of the nature of other forms of life was stamped as "low" and "bestial." This idea was carried into the social world and the blood that flowed in the veins of the ruling class was supposed to be of a darker cast than that of the "common herd."

Out of this same conception grew the interpretation of history that made great social changes depend upon the existence and actions of certain great men. Wars came and were fought because kings disagreed. Revolution broke forth because some great leader of the people arose. The Reformation arose from Luther, the French Revolution from a Marat or a Robespierre and America became an independent nation because of the eloquence of a Patrick Henry and the generalship of a Washington.

One by one these illusions have fallen away. The earth is now known to be but a single unit whirling through space, a mere atom in comparison with the great system to which it is bound. Man is seen to be but a trifling fraction of the sentient life on the earth and to be of no more importance so far as the cosmic scheme is concerned than the oyster he so contemptuously feeds upon. He is seen to be but a portion of the animal world to be classified according to his physical makeup—the same as the earthworm or the bull-frog. Within society the same revolution of ideas takes place. Social changes were seen to be the result of changes in the way the great mass of society secured its living. Revolutions were seen to occur for the same reasons as the migrations of animals—because material conditions demanded new relations within the social group.

If those Cleveland citizens who are now so sturdily combining in a boycott of the street railways would combine with one-half the same energy and solidarity at the ballot box in support of the Socialist Labor Party ticket the day of strikes and boycotts would soon be over.

How many persons did you ask to take a three month's subscription to The Workers' Call during the week?

Such a movement was desirable, so social upheavals were seen to be the result of underlying economic changes and not the product of some great man's brain.

Thus it soon began to dawn upon the minds of men that just as there were no favored planets, select animals, or specially loved species in the physical and sentient world so in human society there were no especially appointed individuals and classes whom all others were bound to honor and to support. Gradually the idea began to penetrate through the minds of men that each individual was a unit in himself and existed for himself and not as an appendage to any other individual. Once this point had been reached the fact became apparent that the life of each one became an end in itself and that it was the proper business of each to seek its own welfare. And this may be sought either through association or by individual effort. Modern economic development makes associated effort the most effective. Therefore it follows that the self-interest of the individual today demands that he work with his fellow men to secure his own ends. The size of the social unit with which he shall work depends upon the end to be attained. There are certain instances in which the interest of the individual accord with all of humanity. But at the present time his most pressing interest is with the economic class to which he belongs. The laborer today has no interest with all humanity that compares for one moment with the life and death interest he possesses as a member of the working class. If a cyclone should appear both the capitalist and laborer would have a common interest in getting into the cellar. But the economic cyclone that is upon the laborer at present is sweeping his dollars into the capitalist's pocket and the interest of the laborer lies in stopping that cyclone, while the capitalist desires it to continue. But in either case there is no reason why either should seek anything else than his own self-interest. Throughout the sentient world the universal law is the same. Any individual that pursues other than its own interest (always remembering that that interest may be best sought through some group) is simply acting in a manner that if continuously followed out would mean extinction. Man is here as elsewhere no exception to the universal law.

What Are You Doing? This is a present struggle in which we are engaged. It is a fight of right now. Are you sick of your conditions? Are you doing anything to help yourself? One of the things that you can do is to help put the truths of socialism in the hands of all laborers. We ask that you make a special effort for the next few weeks as this is with us the season of what the farmer calls "between hay and grass." The six months subscribers have not yet begun to renew and the first strong enthusiasm has reached its limit. We are still increasing at a phenomenal rate as you can see by the figures at the head of the editorial column, but we handle many more and wish that you would hurry to send them in.

Just to make the thing interesting we have decided to make a little addition to our ten-cent offer that has brought in such a mass of new subscribers. We do not want to send our paper to socialists so much as we want to send it to those who are still ignorant but are willing to learn. So we will send clubs of ten for three months as usual for ten cents each, and will supply you with cards convenient for taking such subscriptions and all the sample copies that you can use. Then to help you in circulating socialist literature we will send you two copies of the Pocket Library of Socialism, advertised in another column, with each card of ten names with ten cents each sent in.

Do you not think you can make use of a few such cards? It is no trouble at all in any shop to get twenty or thirty men who will give ten cents each for a paper every week for three months. Again, if we're in trouble and were to call for donations we have no doubt but what a large number of our readers would willingly give a dollar or more to help us. But now that we are prosperous will you not give an equal sum to help yourself? Do not wait. As soon as you have read this drop us a card for some sample copies and a bunch of cards. Then get to work and it will not be long before you will have more socialists in your neighborhood.

At last after he has had time to get clear of all danger steps are being taken to apprehend W. A. S. Graham, who stole \$34,500 from the Chicago school fund. If he had stolen a loaf of bread a policeman would have had him by the neck before he got around the corner.

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How many persons did you ask to take a three month's subscription to The Workers' Call during the week?

SNAP SHOTS BY THE WAYSIDE.

And now my friends, keep your eyes and ears open. That noble champion of Single Tax, Tom L. Johnson, is about to give us an example of what can be done for the workers. He is about to advance their fares on the Detroit street railway system 66 per cent, and those who work on these lines have asked for an advance of wages amounting to about 20 per cent. Will he give it?

On Friday, 25th ult., the Evening Journal contained a dispatch stating that the Cleveland City Council will have nothing more to do with Mayor Farley now advocates the severest punishment for the strikers. What does this mean? Let us see!

While the strike showed a possibility of success the vote of the employees involved was a factor to be considered, but now that it is lost, those who have lost their jobs will reinforce the capitalist "reserve army of industry." They will be come canvassers, or worse will wait for a chance to displace those in other towns where labor troubles appear just as we have seen that the men from other towns who have been beaten before, have taken the places of the strikers in Cleveland and Brooklyn. They will have no fixed abode and will therefore lose political significance, and as a consequence the city council of Cleveland is no longer interested in them, and Mayor Farley declares that they must be severely punished.

But the thorough exploitation of the class-unconscious worker does not cease with this action. Long terms of imprisonment will be meted out to the strikers, the sympathies of the working classes will be aroused. Efforts for commutation of imprisonment and pardons will be worked to the utmost by the labor fakirs and scheming politicians, and another crop of Altheids, Pingrees, etc., will be born. The stupidity of the workers is the strongest bulwark of the capitalist system.

The surest way to release the victims of unjust conditions is to raise your voice for the abolition of the system that produces the injustice. The louder that voice (or in other words the larger the socialist vote) the more potent it will be to effect that release. Our comrades in Europe, especially in Italy and France, have found this to be the most effective method, and we should learn from their experience.

Mayor Jones has issued a pronouncement in which he declares that "he believes in all of the people," and that he has received hundreds of letters urging him to become independent candidate for governor of Ohio, from all CLASSES of people. Say, Mr. Jones, are there classes; and on what lines are these classes divided? Have they, as classes, separate material interests? If so, as far as their class-consciousness is developed, will they not give evidence at the ballot box that such is the case?

The capitalist class, to which you, Mr. Jones, belong, have always said that their interests are the interests of "all the people," and with perfect consistency you, Mr. Jones, are again the candidate of "all the people." But those workingmen who understand their distinct class interests, will vote for Comrade Robert Bandow and the entire Socialist ticket, which you, Mr. Jones, are either too shrewd or too cowardly to mention.

The capitalist classes, as we have stated, always speak in the name of the "people," and while the workers are blind to their own interests the capitalist claim in this respect must stand justified. The working classes are not the "people" and cannot be, until they have made themselves the ruling class, and our fight is being made in order that we may become in reality the "people."

In a supposed interview with Admiral Dewey, that gentleman is made to declare that "our next war will be with Germany." This, although a deliberate lie, was not inserted without purpose. It is a phase in the process of formation of "public opinion" for future use by the capitalist classes who are interested that it should obtain credence to some extent. Why?

Germany is recognized as a formidable competitor in the world's markets, and as we are now carrying that burglar's lantern, known as the "light of modern civilization" round the world to enable our capitalists to rob other peoples and countries, we object to competition, particularly if we think we are stronger than our competitor. Hence, war with Germany seems natural and probable to our capitalist press; but to the class-conscious workingmen of both countries it is only an other evidence of the murderous character of the capitalist system.

It is stated that "The King of France with 30,000 men marched up the hill and then marched down again," and the peace conference at The Hague seems to have attained a like decisive result. Even the capitalist papers of Europe understand and point out its farcical nature. One says that "its final protocol is a funeral oration, and its result equal zero, while another declares that it "introduces absolutely no change in existing conditions." From the outset the socialists understood the nature and consequent futility of this comedy. The "Vorwaerts" sums it up in this manner: "The hardest work of the members was to refrain from laughing in each other's faces at their own insincerity." It seems to us that this "hard work" could not necessarily be wearisome to a class whose whole lives are spent in cultivating the fraud, decep-

tion and humbug which must necessarily accompany capitalism. We remember a few months ago that a French socialist remarked to an acquaintance who was about to travel to The Hague as a member of this conference, "Go," he said, "you will fail, and your failure will be our crowning argument." This prediction has been fulfilled to the letter. Capitalism and war are inseparable.

It is probable that Oom Paul Kruger, the stubborn old fossil of the Transvaal, has taken some of the peace conference lessons to heart. He now shows signs of weakness, and Great Britain is pressing harder in consequence. It may be that he now understands why John Bull so obstinately refused to abandon the Dum Dum bullet, without which the elevation (and perforation) of "humanity" in the Transvaal might be a work of difficulty.

The Chicago Resolution.

The following gives the results from those sections who have actually acted on the resolution of Section Chicago: Endorsed:—Clinton, Mass. Canton, Ohio. Minneapolis, Minn. Milwaukee, Wis. Quincy, Ill. Rejected:—Denver, Col. Lincoln, Neb. Washington, D. C. Jacksonville, Ill.

Sections Philadelphia and San Francisco passed the following resolutions, taking practically the same stand as Section Chicago but with a different remedy. A large number of resolutions from other sections have been received and almost innumerable communications of all kinds, but as all of them have been published in other papers we do not wish to fill our space with them. Section Columbus, Ohio and Holland, Mich., have seconded the San Francisco resolution:

Philadelphia, July 26th, 1899. Whereas, The present deplorable state of affairs within the party organization in Greater New York threatens the welfare of the party in general and deprives its laborers of their property;

Resolved, That the Board of Appeals, upon receiving sufficient endorsement to this resolution, take a referendum on the propriety of changing the seat of the National Executive Committee, also receive nominations for place of a new seat to be held in New York and suspend from control the old National Executive Committee and the newly elected National Executive Committee, take possession of all party property (the same to be taken care of by commissioners appointed by the Board of Appeals) and be requested to at once proceed to New York and suspend from control the old National Executive Committee and the newly elected National Executive Committee, take possession of all party property (the same to be taken care of by commissioners appointed by the Board of Appeals) and be requested to at once proceed to New York and suspend from control the old National Executive Committee and the newly elected National Executive Committee, take possession of all party property (the same to be taken 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THE UNEMPLOYED.

The Illinois Farce of Free Public Employment Offices Exposed by Previous Failures.

Last Monday the law creating free employment offices in Illinois went into effect and the daily papers were filled with accounts of the blessings to be reaped by the laborers in consequence. As the workings of such offices are always claimed to be in the interest of the laborers and help to "solve the problem of the unemployed" it might be worth while to take a little space to show up their fraudulent character. In the first place let us see if what they claim to do would help anybody if it was carried out. They propose to "put men at work" or to "find places for them." But does anyone have any idea that vacant positions are like acorns in the woods—only needing to be found to help the laborers. A vacant place means in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred that someone has been put out of it. Then the place is to be found which another man has just lost. But how about the loser? With other kinds of property the loser has the first claim when it is found. But here he is the only one in society who is debarred from receiving the goods. In other cases where new work is being undertaken it may seem at first as if getting work through the free employment office was "just like finding a thing." But if we look a little closer we will see that all the employment office does is to decide WHO shall have the job. It simply says that if you wish work you must make your application through our office and thus give our officers an excuse for drawing their salaries instead of going directly to the employer and getting it yourself.

It may be replied that all this is theory and would not be borne out in practice. Let us then examine the workings of a set of such employment offices, those of the Ohio Free Employment Offices, and see what the facts show. It might be said that the same results that are shown to exist in the operation of these can be shown to exist in a great number of others both in this country and in Europe. If it is found that the free employment bureau assists those least needing assistance, competes most with those now hardest pressed, becomes least useful when most needed and fails utterly when urgently required, faith in its desirability should be somewhat shaken. That it can be convicted upon everyone of these indictments I believe the evidence will show.

The problem of unemployment is much less serious with women than with men. A fairly competent woman can often obtain work while her husband is walking the streets in enforced idleness. This condition has already tended too much to shift the burden of the support of society on to the weakest shoulders. Considering the men alone, the unskilled, common laborer is much more in need of assistance in finding employment than is the highly skilled tradesman. If then, we find the free employment bureau is catering to the domestic servant and the skilled laborer, it would tend to show that at these two points it had largely failed to meet the conditions demanded to make it of value.

Let us now look for a moment at the workings of the Ohio State Employment Offices in regard to the matters here referred to. As seen by the following table, showing the operation of these offices from their inception, there was a very large registration the very first year of their organization:

Table with columns: Year, Situations Wanted (Male/Female), Positions Secured (Male/Female), and Percent. Data for years 1896-1899.

Work was found for 33 per cent of those applying. Encouraged by this large increase in registration follows—the number of applications for work being far higher than in any succeeding year. In this year the absolute number of those obtaining work is the greatest, although owing to the large registration the percentage falls to 32 per cent. The next year, 1892, the "boom" year, also marks the high-water mark of the bureau's efficiency. In that year a trifle larger per cent of those applying received work than in any other year. The next year the panic begins. Now, if ever, the bureau should come to the assistance of the unemployed. In 1894 the panic is in full force and only 14 per cent of the applicants receive work. In 1895, notwithstanding the registration has fallen of one-third from that of the previous year, 1891, only 11 per cent are found situations. The employment bureau has broken down when most needed. The writer was personally engaged in charity work in Cincinnati in 1895 and knows that no one ever dreamed of sending an unskilled laborer to the Free Public Employment Offices for work.

When we turn to the record concerning the female workers we find another story. The registration steadily increases from a little over 5,000 in 1890 to over 15,000 in 1896, while, most significant of all, between 60 and 68 per cent of those applying are found situations, save in the single year of 1894 when only 52 per cent are so supplied.

A student examining this table to determine industrial conditions would be led to believe, from the number of applications for work that 1891 was a year of terrible distress and that from then on things steadily improved. Perhaps it was this optimistic view of the situation that led the Superintendent of the Cincinnati Bureau to say in his report for 1896, "I firmly believe the time is not far distant when we will be able to supply all who may apply to us for employment with places that will make glad the hearts of those depending on them for the necessities of life." The amazing audacity of this statement is made more evident when the figures for the Cincinnati office are studied separately. If the free employment bureau is ever to be of use it ought to show it in a great city where it is certainly most required. On the contrary, as with time and sex, so with place it is most useless where most needed. The figures for the Cincinnati office alone are herewith presented:

Table with columns: Year, Situations Wanted, Positions Secured. Data for years 1890-1896.

It would seem as if the farce were well-nigh played out when in a city of over 300,000 inhabitants, in a year of great industrial depression, situations were only found for 237 men. It would be an off week for a ward politician in the palmy days of the spoils system when he did not put more men than that to work. It would seem that a point had been reached where the main function of the employment offices was, in the words of Superintendent of the Dayton Office in his report for 1892, to constitute a place where the unemployed, "in their disappointments at not finding work, they come to the office as a Mecca of consolation, to assure themselves that there are really no openings in the city where they may secure the work necessary to maintain an independent existence."

Of course, anyone who has looked into the matter at all knows that the unemployed are absolutely an essential product of capitalism and are absolutely necessary to its continuance. The continuous series of revolutions in the process of production that take place with the improvements in processes constantly throw large bodies of men out of work, a portion of whom are, to be sure re-absorbed by the extension of production. But so long as the greater portion of the members of society are compelled to sell their labor power for a small portion of what that labor power will produce it is evident that they cannot buy back the entire product with the small portion they are given. The result is that there is a chronic overproduction of goods relative to the power of the laborers to secure the articles they produce. This means that the capitalist will be unable to utilize all the labor power for sale at any time and a certain portion of the workers must always be shut off from the opportunity of producing and hence of living except upon such crumbs as are thrown them in charity by their masters or as they can obtain by stealing. But there is another reason why the unemployed are a necessity to capitalism. So necessary are they that if they were removed but a single week the whole structure would totter to its fall, while their absence for any protracted time would mean its complete destruction. Were there no waiting army just outside the workshop door waiting for some poor slave within to drop in his place that they may secure his right to a master how long would it be before those who are working would demand that they be paid all that they produce. If they made that demand and struck with no unemployed to take their places their victory would be sure. But when that victory had been secured there would be no more capitalism and there would be no object for anyone to own the tools of production since that ownership would not as at present give the power to the owner to take the product from the producer.

Do not mistake me. I have no wild Utopian dream that capitalism is going to be abolished in this way or any other way save by the workers getting control of the public powers and making laws in their own interest. But the illustration is given simply to show how dependent our present civilization is upon the poor starving outcasts who wander up and down this fair land and beg for someone to buy them. If we but look carefully we shall see that in no very fanciful sense the whole unsightly structure we call civilization and of which we are so very proud depends for the preservation of its present form upon the existence of the "Wandering Willies" and "Meandering Mikes" of the comic papers.

Every socialist should always have one of our subscription cards in his pocket with which to take ten cent subscriptions.

GARBLED FACTS.

Anxiety of Capitalism to Disguise Revolutionary Character of European Socialism.

One of the most certain signs that the labor movement throughout the world finds its highest expression in socialism is evidenced by the fact that the capitalist press is now being forced, to some extent, to notice the position and strength of the socialist movement throughout Europe. The most remarkable features of these notices consists in their power of misrepresentation, their ambiguous language, confusing insinuations, and astounding falsehoods concerning the movement. They are seemingly written for the express purpose of blinding and misleading the unclass-conscious man who perchance may read them, and it must be admitted that in this respect these lucubrations are admirable for their ingenuity. In the Chicago Tribune, for example, the 30th ult. there appears a short editorial on socialism, which is a gem of its class. It is based on an article which is published in Gunton's Magazine, a journal devoted to capitalist economics. It begins by mentioning casually, as if a matter of small importance, that socialism originated in Germany and was transplanted here by immigration, thereby dexterously appealing to the race prejudice and dislike of foreign peoples and methods, which is so carefully fostered by the sham "patriotism" which the capitalist classes find such an excellent article to mislead and dupe their economic slaves. The reader is left to infer that the capitalist system of production is native to the soil, while the revolt against the miserable conditions it creates is a foreign importation. The next point is made in this wise, that "Socialism, wherever vested with political power, has tempered its revolutionary theories with more practical wisdom." The writer can hardly be so ignorant as not to know that in no country in the world is socialism vested with political power, and we may therefore conclude that this lie is willfully perpetrated. But yet its ingenious construction is admirable. The phrase, "wherever vested with political power," is an ambiguous expression, deliberately calculated to impress upon the mind of the superficial reader that here and there the "people," meaning thereby the capitalist class, had been graciously pleased to allow the socialists liberty to carry out some of their ideas, but always such permission to be revocable at the pleasure of the capitalist class. Such an impression it is now very desirable to create amongst the working classes by the Tribune and its ilk, as it would be neither good policy nor "practical wisdom" to state the naked truth that whatever small amount of political power has been gained by the socialists has been gained in the teeth of the strongest opposition that the ruling classes could offer. When the socialist has gained the political power, there will be no occasion to "temper their revolutionary theories" with the "practical wisdom," which will then have become superfluous folly. The mission of the socialist movement is the abolition of the capitalist mode of production, and the substitution therefor of the co-operative commonwealth, and, when in power, socialism will at once proceed with the accomplishment of its mission. That it has not done this already proves only that power has been and still is lacking. Our capitalist contemporary need indulge no hope that the economic system of which he is either a supporter or dependent will be permitted to exist one instant longer than can possibly be helped. The "tempering of revolutionary theories," upon which his class sometimes pretend to rely, will quickly disclose itself as a broken reed when socialism has conquered the public powers. We have not the slightest objection to offer when our capitalist masters begin to imitate the action of the little boy in the dark, who "whistled to keep his courage up." They may indulge in this pleasant and comforting illusion to their hearts' content, but it will not affect the reality in the slightest degree.

The editorial ends with a quotation from "Gunton," that "in Germany, where its political power is strongest, the socialist party is comparative conservative, being little more than an advanced liberal party, advocating industrial legislation." Can it be this harmless movement that Bismarck tried for twelve long years to suppress, by imprisonment, exile, prohibition of free speech, confiscation of party organs, and the thousand and one modes of annoyance so well known to a trained and submissive police force? Is it for advocating "industrial legislation" that the German prisons for years have been crowded with socialist agitators? Why, the Kaiser himself advocates "industrial legislation" and Bismarck in this time, was the chief exponent of a peculiar brand of socialism, which if not the genuine article, was in the opinion of the German ruling classes "something just as good." But what do the same ruling classes of Germany think of this socialism which Gunton and the "Tribune" attempt to emasculate? Fortunately, and curiously also, we have the answer ready to hand in the columns of the same paper and of the same issue. In the European press dispatches from Germany (printed in the Tribune) the "Krupps Zeitung" formulates the Conservative attitude towards the socialists as follows: "It is impossible to treat a party that declares war upon the state and the existing social order as having the same political rights as other parties," whilst the "Dresdener Nachrichten" declares that "the idea of political equality for socialists is against the public welfare." Surely this can hardly apply to a party which we are assured is "comparatively

THE TRUST QUESTION.

Some Socialist Philosophy From the Camp of the Enemy—A Few Explanations.

The Chicago Inter Ocean recently had a symposium on "Trusts" to which a conglomerate mass of people were asked to contribute. The majority of the articles were remarkable as indicating the depth of darkness that seems to have settled down over the average bourgeois writer when confronted by this latest development of capitalism. There is one article, however, that has a few points that redeem it from the almost silly mediocrity of the remainder. This is the contribution of Clinton B. Evans, editor of the "Economist" of Chicago, which is herewith produced:

Class Rule in Cuba.

That the class struggle is evident in Cuba and that the ruling class there are in strict sympathy with the capitalist class of this country is shown by the following statement by Brig.-Gen. L. H. Carpenter former military governor of a Cuban province: "The opinion seems to be gaining ground that America does not intend to vacate the island and that all this talk about educating the people to self-government is simply a means of prolonging the deception. Among the wealthy men of the country and the Spaniards no such feeling exists. They are just as anxious for speedy annexation to the United States as the other class is for independence. They realize that annexation would mean free trade with the United States, whereas, if they were independent, they would be compelled to pay a heavy duty on their goods. There would be no market open to them and the republic would find it a hard matter to woo prosperity. The Spaniards in Cuba, I do not think, are a desirable class of citizens. They own nearly all the stores, and are, almost without exception, well-to-do men, yet they never invest their money in Cuba. They either hoard it or invest it in Spain, and consequently they impoverish rather than benefit the island. Havana, I believe, is the third largest port in the western hemisphere, but despite that fact the city is poor, because most of the business is done by Spaniards, and they are not at all public-spirited."

Will the laborers ever come to understand that just as the capitalist ignores all boundaries of race and nationality in a common union of greed so they must unite across all such lines in a common brotherhood of revolt? There can be no doubt but what the government of the United States is one of, if not the most favorable to capitalism on earth, but the Spanish capitalists are much mistaken if they fancy they will be allowed to participate in the rich pickings to be found in Cuba. The American trust manager will rapidly show his Spanish competitor that he did not carry on the war for the Spaniard's benefit any more than for the benefit of the American laborer.

Single Tax Cowardice.

At a recent meeting of the Single Tax Club Comrade Wilson spoke upon the subject of socialism. As he showed up the ridiculousness and contradictions of the Single Tax superstition the audience found their bourgeoisie politeness fading away and he was repeatedly interrupted and contradicted notwithstanding he was acting as their guest. At its close the chairman stated that this would be the last time a socialist would be allowed to address them as he did not believe that such discussions "helped their agitation." This is the only proper and correct position to take. For two or three years they have made themselves most intolerable nuisances at the socialist meetings with their interminable explanations of their befuddled "philosophy." But we have always been careful to treat them gently and allow them all opportunity to talk (and shall continue to do so in the future) because they made such magnificent "awful examples." But, as we stated before, since they came on to the street they have adopted all manner of means to keep us from even asking them questions and have in general played the "baby act." They have placed lawyers, judges, and "professors" on the streets only to see them routed by uneducated workmen. At one time they were eager for debate with the socialists. But as debate after debate, no matter who the speakers, always ended in the audience all siding with the socialists they finally became tired of it and now seem to have "crawled into their hole and pulled in the hole after them."

As long as they could remain in high-priced halls and talk only to dilettante bourgeois audiences their gentle doctrines were unharmed, but as soon as they were brought out into the open air of the streets the rough rude comment of the great unwashed played havoc with them. They ought to put these doctrines away in cotton batting for a few weeks until they have recovered when they might be again brought out and if there are no socialists around they may be preserved for a few years longer within the occult circle of small shop-keepers, if brought out only before audiences of highly cultivated professional parasites of plutocracy. If this program is carefully adhered to they may be able to be the last knot in the tail of the Democratic kite for some time to come and in this capacity may occasionally lead a few bemuddled and deceived laborers into continued slavery.

Some names of subscribers from West Superior have been lost in transit and if any of our subscribers in that city know of anyone who has not received his paper properly we would be glad if he would notify us or Com. Otto Stege, 1801 Third street, W. Superior, Wis.

Are you going to send in a club to The Workers' Call this week?

THE TRUST QUESTION.

Some Socialist Philosophy From the Camp of the Enemy—A Few Explanations.

The Chicago Inter Ocean recently had a symposium on "Trusts" to which a conglomerate mass of people were asked to contribute. The majority of the articles were remarkable as indicating the depth of darkness that seems to have settled down over the average bourgeois writer when confronted by this latest development of capitalism. There is one article, however, that has a few points that redeem it from the almost silly mediocrity of the remainder. This is the contribution of Clinton B. Evans, editor of the "Economist" of Chicago, which is herewith produced:

Trusts—using this term in its popular sense, as covering business combinations in general—are a natural development in the evolution of business and the progress of the human race. Their existence could no more have been prevented than any other phenomenon of nature, for man is a part of nature, and cause and effect operate in the course of human affairs just as truly as in purely material things. The primary cause of a trust is the discovery made by men long before history recorded any of their acts, that one person can be helpful to another person, that by co-operation two persons can do more than twice as much work as one person. The principle under which 20,000 men work toward the same purpose is not different from the motive which actuates two men who are helping each other. It is only the bigness of the trusts and corporations that has frightened the world. We do not yet comprehend the magnitude of modern commercial and industrial operations, and we are startled by the idea that the flat of one man may move or stop a hundred trains of cars, or perhaps a thousand, or a score of a hundred railroad cars. The trusts exist because more economical of brain, muscle, material, danger and money to administer an industry on a large scale than on a small scale. A manufacturer of a certain article having mills in forty-five states can fill an order for goods in a matter of days, whereas if he had only one mill, that one in the state of Maine, and his customer were in the state of Oregon, he would have to send the goods across the continent, and the consumer would be obliged to pay so much more.

There is a shadow side to this proposition, it is true, and an extreme danger to those people who happen to have the shadow cast upon them. Many men are thrown out of employment by these economies in manufacture and transportation, and many men who would like to go into a certain industry are prevented from so doing because, on the small scale on which they would be obliged to start, they would be unable to compete with the big operator who has at his command capital, skill, experience unlimited, and the country or the world for his field. But society never yet took a step forward without first having stumbled over a thousand of the cruelties of nature that progress means suffering. We cannot refuse to go forward because somebody will be hurt. That would be the suicide of civilization.

Combinations being a product of nature, it is impossible to prevent their formation. And experience confirms this view of the case, for ever since corporations began to make their appearance there has been resistance to them; laws without number have been made as obstacles to them, and yet they are today more powerful than ever before in history. The present position to trusts and combinations is simply the successor to the old crusade against corporations, which are now looked upon as absolutely necessary. The time will come when hostility to so-called trusts will pass away. It does not follow that these aggregations of capital and intelligence are entirely desirable. The aim of the state should be not to stop this development of civilization, but to regulate and guide it, and make it subservient to the highest interests of the human race. Society will be in a much better position when it has a few large trusts than when it has a mass of small ones, but simply the enemy of any oppression or other wrong that may be committed by organized industry. The laws of the United States and of the various states, generally speaking, are severe enough now—indeed too severe, but their motive and purpose are wrong. They are trying to do something more powerful than they, instead of making it a friend and guiding it toward the best end.

While the principle involved in the formation of large business combinations is one which the human race can not escape, and, while the direct influences of these combinations will be good, it is still true that huge abuses and wrongs are connected with the formation of these organizations. The prime cause of these evils is the avarice of the promoters and the various parties to the combination. This avarice leads to great overcapitalization, the payment of excessive promotion fees, manipulation of the stock market to give a false valuation to the securities, and deception generally for the purpose of attracting support to the new undertaking. The practice of overcapitalization is now so well understood by experienced investors and speculators that it ought to deceive no longer, but there are always inexperienced and unwary men looking for a chance to buy something that will pay big percentage, and many are deceived by the false lights thrown upon the trust securities. And then the aggregation of so much capital places a vast power in the hands of a few men, who are apt to make improper use of it. It is toward such evils as these that the public and the law should look. Here is the place to strike for the benefit of the people and ultimately for the benefit of the very men and corporations who are guilty of these abuses. You cannot prevent trade combinations, but you can, to a large extent, prevent the parties to those combinations from robbing innocent people. You may be sure that the new idea in commerce has come to stay, therefore do not try to kill it, but make it work for you.

Mr. Evans is, of course, retained by the capitalist side, and writes as an attorney for them. The one thing that is perhaps most significant in his position is the complete abandonment of the cry that "trusts must be suppressed." This indicates that this observer and tool of plutocracy believes that the great mass of the people will no longer believe him if he takes the position that the trust must be abolished. This is a distinct advance from the position of a few years ago. With the general discussion of trusts the socialist has no particular quarrel although he might take exception to particular statements. But on the whole the socialist and the capitalist have found a point of agreement in that both believe the trust to be an inevitable result of competition and on the whole an improved method of production. The last paragraph, however, is largely bosh and is quoted only to show the weakness of the position which the defender of capitalism is at present forced to take. But the closing sentence is one that might well be the text for a socialist sermon. "You may be sure that the new idea in commerce has come to stay, therefore do not try to kill it, but make it work for you." Now that is just what we socialists have been telling you all along—that the trust and the improved machine were all right but that you wanted to make them work for you. How shall we do this? Why simply take it away from its present owners and place it in the hands of those who are alone able to use it—the workers of the world. When this is done they will use it to produce goods because they want to use those goods. Then the less the energy that is necessary in production the greater the amount that can be produced, the more comforts to be enjoyed by the producers, the more time for culture and pleasure. But this can never be secured so long as Mr. Evans and his class have possession of the public powers and determine in what manner the trust and all the powers of production and distribution shall be managed. So long as they occupy that position they will see to it that those powers are owned and controlled by them and that you must come to them to sell your labor power to operate those powers. But they can not retain this position for a moment except through the consent of the workers whom they rob. At each recurring election they must again receive the consent of the laborers to the institutions and laws that make them slaves. There is only one party in America that stands squarely upon the position we have just stated, that holds that these great engines of production should be in the hands of the users and that this should be secured by the laborers themselves using their ballots to conquer the powers of government. That party is the Socialist Labor party and unless you voted its ticket last election you consented to your present condition, and unless you vote it next time you have no right to complain of the treatment you receive for the next few years to come.

Modern Agriculture.

(Continued from page 1.)

tree, the first one is easily pulled over by ropes and sawed up by a huge saw operated by another motor. To complete the picture of the model farm the owner should travel from one part of the extensive estate to another in his automobile, or upon a motor bicycle. Here electricity can be obtained so cheaply, thousands of the newest inventions can be introduced without difficulty. In his spacious living quarters his wife no longer stews over obstinate wood or coal fires; she simply turns on the electric current when needed and cooks the dinner without fuss or worry. Electric fans turned by the power that cooks her dinner and lights her house makes the atmosphere of the midsummer day delightful and refreshing. There is no longer any tri-weekly churning to try one's temper, for the nearby creamery converts the milk into butter by the latest and most approved methods. Even the drinking water is pumped up from artesian wells by electricity, and supplied in a cool and refreshing stream to all who ask for it.—New England Magazine.

The above article is chock full of socialist argument. Under capitalism the introduction of such improvements as are described above must mean the steady displacement of countless well-to-do workers who find themselves cast out with no opportunity to produce. Under socialism every such advance would mean that all laborers concerned would find their work easier, their hours shorter, their labor lighter.

Again this constitutes a complete answer to the argument, if it ever was an argument, from the theory of overpopulation. It shows that the full capacity of the soil to produce food for man has never been even dreamed of, to say nothing of being exhausted.

It gives one a glimpse of what might be possible when the productive powers being the property of all should no longer be instruments in the hands of a few to the oppression of the many, but should be a help to lighten the burdens of all.

Human Life Wasted.

It is stated that nearly ninety per cent of those who apply for enlistment at the present time are rejected because they are physically unfit. Laborers of America, do you understand what this means? It indicates that the conditions of modern industry are such that practically everyone who enters it as a laborer is rendered a physical wreck before he reaches the age of maturity. Here is a waste of competition that is seldom touched upon. We talk much of the waste of labor—of the unnecessary drummers, milkmen, small stores and establishments of various kinds, of the waste through advertising, and duplicate plants but we seldom notice this much more important but more insidious waste of human life that goes on continuously.

This is a waste that no process of concentration affects, the formations of trusts does not lessen, municipal ownership does not abolish or reform legislation check. It is a waste that is inseparable from a system whose motive power is profits. So long as labor-power is purchased the same as iron and steel only that it may be used in addition to the purchaser's wealth this condition must continue.

Have you always a card in pocket on which to take three cent subscriptions to The Workers' Call? Not drop a postal for a supply any more as you read this.

Belgian Socialists.

(Continued from page 1.)

ability of the orators had been able to attract the crowd, these meetings had met with little success.

It was then that the Parti Ouvrier (Laborers' Party)—without refusing to ally itself with other parties—resolved above all else to count first upon itself, and to put in motion its own organization. The Brussels Federation, meeting in the great hall of the Maison du Peuple, laid its plan of campaign.

The professional unions, consulted through a secret ballot, pronounced themselves in favor of a strike, a necessary prelude to action in the street. Open air meetings were conducted nearly every evening on the street corners. Eight days later the mobilization of the Socialists was completed. The world knows the rest.

In Parliament there were four sessions of continuous obstruction, of debate and disorder, one of my colleagues is said to have used a hunting horn, but the uproar was such that I heard nothing. In the street the riot increased, in spite of the gendarmes—what did I say? in spite of, because of the gendarmes—professional soldiers, brought in from the provinces, and whose brutal ferocity exasperated the populace. This lasted for a week.

On the seventh day M. Van den Peereboom gave up. The Tuesday following his project was in commission. This was the victory. Notice now the political and moral consequences that followed. From the political point of view at first it is infinitely probable that the next election will take place under the status quo. It is equally probable that all the democratic parties—Liberals, Christians and Socialists—will unite at Brussels and Antwerp upon the common platform of universal suffrage.

In taking this position the Parti Ouvrier does not discuss the question of the class struggle, for the only reason of being (raison d'être) of the coalition will be the conquest of universal suffrage—the indispensable instrument to the proletariat for the conquest of public powers.

On the other hand, even if conditions are dangerous at the beginning of the proletarian movement, when class-consciousness is feeble, the organization rudimentary, and the other parties more powerful than the socialists, they are not in any way able to compromise the advance or the direction of the movement, when the working class has arrived at the degree of consciousness and organization possessed by those of Belgium, and when the Parti Ouvrier is the most powerful of the allies and constitutes, so to speak, the backbone of the coalition. Add to this the fact that they as we, had been compelled for five years to submit to the domination of the Clericals and an idea is given of our great desire to be rid of this yoke.

The Christian Democrats also—persecuted as we, or even more so by the priests—no longer protested when in the public meetings the old cry of "down with the priests" was raised. This definite separation consummated by these last events, between the Catholics and the Christian Democrats, is a very important fact and one whose consequences it is difficult to measure. The latter are given the names of "Schismocrats" or "green socialists" or "Daenists" from the color of their clothes or the name of their leader—the abbe Daens.

It goes without saying that these democrats have absolutely nothing in common with pseudo-democrats of Garnier, Lemire, Gayraud and such people. The Christian Volkspartij, such is their official title, are an exclusively Belgian product or rather exclusively Flemish, because our Wallonia, socialist and free-thinker, the pretended Christian democracy, are implacably hostile to the Daenists, and have no other end or raison d'être than the fighting of the Social Democrats. In Flanders, on the contrary, where it may be said that practically all the workers, save in a few villages, have preserved their religious convictions, the party of abbe Daens is composed almost exclusively of proletarian elements, principally agricultural, demanding the immediate application of reforms almost identical with those inscribed upon our program, and conducting a truly class struggle against the patrons, the landed proprietors and country squires who oppress the Flemish country. Their conception of society in other ways approaches more and more to that of ours. The other evening in Brussels, Debacquer, one of their chiefs declared himself a communist. In short the "green socialism" is a socialism which is ignorant of itself, or rather an amorphous, embryonic socialism, mixed with small bourgeois elements, impregnated with religious survivals, but which is fated by the very nature of its composition to turn more and more towards the true socialism. If the leaders of the movement stop on the way, which is quite possible, not to say probable, the movement will continue without them. In any case the union is now complete and will be maintained at least until the conquest of universal suffrage. Aside from the political results of the movement which our triumph has gained, there are other results more important still in our eyes.

In the first place, without underrating in the least the energy and the prowess of our allies and the powerful support that was given us by the entire opposition press, the Parti Ouvrier has the right to say—and they invoke the testimony of the Liberals themselves—that they have been the heart of the resistance and that it has been to them, to their organization, to the discipline of their militants, to the class-consciousness of the Belgian proletariat, that a large part of the success attained must

be attributed. The Belgian socialists come out of the struggle stronger and more conscious of their power. It is hereafter established that the power of the tentative reactionists is broken upon the rock of our organization: the Maison du Peuple is not alone a magazine and a factory; it is one of the fortresses of the revolution.

In the second place the government ought to know, if their information is in any way as complete as ours, which is quite probable, that they can no longer count in any complete manner upon the support of the bayonets.

It was shown that a part at least of the 2,500 guards which were supposed to constitute a solid praetorian guard, and of the army—composed exclusively of proletarians—is profoundly impregnated with socialist propaganda. It is not necessary to repeat here the numerous recent facts that authorize this statement. It is sufficient to state that the three conservative burgomasters of Liege, Brussels and Antwerp, received in audience by the king during the troubles, declared to him that they were not able to execute his orders because the police and the guards had refused to act and that "the intervention of the troops would be the signal of the revolution." This is the first time, we believe, the "men of order" have made such statements and above all have communicated them to the press.

Another fact which is worthy of our attention, especially in a time when it is the fashion to affirm the approaching abandonment of parliamentarism—is that, if we had not had the parliamentary immunity and absolute freedom of speech, if we had not been benefited by the several centuries of struggle, it is very probable that the movement could not have been produced, and in any case it would have been suppressed. It was the insurrection in parliament that led to the insurrection in the street. It was the parliamentary obstruction, stopping the legislative machinery, at the very moment when the insurrection rumbled outside that paralyzed the governmental action.

There have not been lacking those who cried out about the scandal, and the people of "good breeding" have been virtuously indignant against the socialist deputies, who drew back at nothing, joining in the debate or introducing revolution into the legislative semi-circle, chanting the sonorous Marcellianes under the gavel of the President and gaining parliamentary battles contrary to all rules instead of losing them in conformity with all traditions.

This is the end of all parliamentarism, says one.

Of bourgeois parliamentarism, undoubtedly.

There is no more to be seen the peaceable assemblages of counsels of administration of the ruling class, alternately directed by one of two historical parties, but fundamentally united by common interests, and separated only by shadows, or at least by primordial questions.

Now that the two classes are present, in parliament as in the senate, with education, thoughts, habits, language, interests diametrically opposite, it is natural that there should be collisions; it is almost inevitable that the miner Cavrot should come to blows with M. Count de Merode, Prince of Rubempre. Parliament, as a whole is the "mirror of the nation," the cinematoscope of the great popular movements. When the bourgeois reigns without opposition its polished surface reflects only the superficial agitations. It reflects today the tempestuous violence of the class struggle.

Certainly during the memorable sessions of these last weeks the Clerical deputies were forced to comprehend that they were losing ground and that the proletariat had commenced to be among them in the "House of the Nation." They have been made to feel that their rude companions of the Social Democracy represented a force which would soon dominate all other forces, and when from the height of the balcony we harangued the ardent and disciplined crowd, more than one, without a doubt, has had a vision of the approaching time when the foundations of their class rule would give way to the joyous acclamations of the freed workers.

In connection with the above article the following clipping from the Chicago Democrat will be of interest as showing the latest developments:

Brussels, Aug. 1.—The Belgian ministry under the presidency of Vandepereboom has resigned.

The cabinet was composed as follows: Minister of finance, M. Vandepereboom; minister of foreign affairs, M. de Favereau; minister of justice, M. Begeer; minister of agriculture and public works, M. L. de Bruyn; minister of interior and public instruction, M. Schollaert; prime minister, minister of war, minister of railways, post and railways, M. J. Vandepereboom; minister of labor and industry, M. Cooreman.

The fall of the ministry is the result of a crisis caused by the government's attempt to pass the electoral law bill which is a bill to gerrymander the country in favor of the Catholics.

This was a month ago, and the attempt very nearly ended in a revolution through the strenuous opposition of the radicals and socialists to the measure, which they perceived was only another attempt of the clericals, through a clerical ministry, to make their political supremacy still more secure.

Mass meetings of socialists were held in all the large towns of Belgium to denounce the bill, and disturbances of a serious character took place. Labor leaders threatened to send 50,000 men out on strike if the bill was not withdrawn.

At the same time the chamber of deputies was the scene of wild tumult and hand-to-hand conflicts between the socialists and clericals, and Premier Vandepereboom was openly denounced.

On June 30 the ministry yielded to the stress and announced an important amendment on the strength of which a truce was declared until July 4, when the obnoxious bill was virtually withdrawn by the announcement that in order to conciliate the public mind the

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.

government had decided to submit various proposals for electoral reform, which had been tabled, to a committee on which all parties would be represented.

This announcement was greeted with cheers by the opposition, whose leaders declared they had won a brilliant victory.

The government's change of heart was mainly due to the efforts of King Leopold, who did not favor the electoral bill and who is desirous of harmony in the kingdom.

Senator Bars ten days ago openly advised Premier Vandepereboom to resign, saying that if the people discovered that the appointment of the suffrage commission was only a ruse to gain time, trouble of a more serious nature than before might be expected. Since then the premier has received many intimations that his position was untenable.

A dispatch from Brussels yesterday said that the suffrage commission had rejected all the electoral reform proposals, and that the situation was critical.

King Leopold is now conferring with M. de Smet de Nayer, the former premier, regarding the formation of a new cabinet.

General Otis has decided to give the island of Negros in the Philippines "self-government." As this is the only time that the present administration has had an opportunity to explain their idea of self-government the plan adopted will be of interest to American workmen as giving an idea of what rights the present ruling class thinks the laborers ought to have in a political way. The qualifications for suffrage, according to the press dispatches are to be determined as follows:

"All males of 21 years of age who are able to read and write English, Spanish or Visayan understandingly, or are the owners of \$500 in realty or are the renters of \$1,000 in realty and have resided in their respective districts one year are qualified as voters in the election, which will be by ballot. The military governor will prescribe the time and place of the elections and all other provisions, including the registration of the voters."

That means that practically every laborer in the Philippines is to be disfranchised and the fact of class rule to be in no way disguised. We welcome them in their new found "freedom." By the way did anybody say anything about the "consent of the governed?"

IMMEDIATE DEMANDS.

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

1. Resection 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 employee 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. Unabridged 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 average weekly wages of the men employed in the cotton mills of Maine are \$7.85, of the women \$5.60, and the children \$2.73."

Is it hard to tell of which there will be the most employed as the years go by. The cheapest labor must displace all others.

We do not ask for cash contributions but if you have a dollar that you think you can spare toward securing your freedom, send it along with ten names and addresses and it will help you and

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TWENTY-SIXTH WARD, corner Southport and Belmont Aves., every Mon. evening Sec. Thos. Carr, 678 Osgood St.

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

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