

READ **TRIALS AND TRIUMPHS OF LABOR**

Enclosed: Program of the Labor Exchange
By G. B. De Bernardi.
The Root of all evil
(German)

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CALIFORNIA OFFICE

LABOR EXCHANGE PROPAGANDA.

CARL GLEESER, ORGANIZER.

Independence Bldg., Dec. 26, 1896
San Jose, Cal.

Henry Kubler, Esq.

Brooklyn, N. Y.

Esteemed Sir: - Like the Socialist Labor Party we are striving for the disappearance of the wage system, but we think that we cannot afford to do nothing until a majority of the nation become converted to socialism and effect the reform through government. Neither do we as an organization advocate any special political reform because to do so would estrange large numbers of well meaning people because of their prejudice and ignorance from the comprehensive co-operative movement we are now engaged in inaugurating. What co-operation even on a small

scale can accomplish has well been demonstrated. Now instead of factional co-operation, we propose to form an association embracing a sufficient number of workers of various necessary and useful trades and occupations so as to be able to afford each other mutual employment and support. We have already 175 branches with a membership of 8000 and already are advancing abroad.

I can assure you that our case is not at all as hopeless as may appear on the surface. We workers hold the power of production without which the human race could not long exist.

We have it in our power to make, or unmake, the fortune of a city or town, of a railroad, a mine, a factory, a commercial house, in fact of any locality or enterprise whatever, by the simple

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exercise of personal liberty in going to or leaving a locality, working or refusing to work for, dealing or refusing to refuse to deal with as you may choose. Whatever may be said about the stoppages of industries by strikes or the damage done to enterprises by boycotts and treating strikers and boycotters as conspirators, the case involves more serious questions than the profits of capitalists or the wants of some people. It involves the question of individual liberty. The right to pursue happiness in his own way is inalienable in each American citizen. He can work or stop, deal or quit as he chooses, and as long as he does not interfere with the same liberty of

others, he has the protection of the United States Constitution.

Workers yet possess vast material resources, mostly in the hands of farmers. True enough many farms have already fallen into the grasp of the money power but many yet remain in possession of the cultivators.

Upon these resources you can concentrate your labor and custom and make them the foundation of your financial independence.

The value of real estate in city and country depends upon your presence. It results that if a city is crowded and rent high, you can avoid it and settle upon other virgin localities of equal natural advantages. Such localities are very numerous in America; Capital, in money, holds but a secondary and indirect influence upon the value of real estate. Its influence is pro-

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portionate to its ability to draw you to localities and have you to improve them, capitalists would never buy a piece of land or a lot, build a house or factory, if assured, before hand, that labor would not cultivate the land, rent the house or run the factory.

It is upon the workers they speculate, not upon the land, mines, factories, grain or material objects.

By a process of associating or combining industries - now a means of aggrandizement and power in the hands of capitalists, the workers can capture and bring to harmonious co-operation, farms, factories, mines, etc. by simply bestowing their labor and custom on one in preference to another. And this

would be right and proper. Bring the idle property and the idle worker together, they have demands, let them supply their own demands.

By issuing also their own labor checks to be used in the distribution of wealth, thus dispensing with the use of money great purposes can be accomplished.

Soon we shall have German literature setting forth our objects and methods in details. If you are sufficiently interested in this subject, please inform me to that effect and I shall take great pleasure in supplying you with additional information. Wishing you the best of success I remain with best regards

Fraternally yours

Carl Geeser