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Labor's Political Struggle

Notes Indicating the Progress of the World's Socialist Movement.

GERMANY.

It is reported in the daily press that the Social Democratic Party has opened a campaign against the threatened increase of the corn duties. The leaders of the party expect to obtain millions of signatures to their petitions to the Reichstag, protesting against the increased tax. In connection with the proposed corn duties it is pointed out by the "Vorwaerts" that the price of wheat in the greater part of Germany is already higher than in any other country of Europe. In this connection it is interesting to observe that the German Socialist party is pledged by its votes to a policy of free trade. At the last conference at Mayence a resolution was passed in this spirit, and the speeches which supported it were almost entirely in harmony with the resolution.

AUSTRIA.

The other day no less than fifteen persons selling the "Arbeiter Zeitung" in the streets of Vienna were arrested, their papers confiscated, and the machines seized. This shows what difficulties the Austrian Socialists have to contend. It is illegal to hawk papers, though it is done, and the other papers are not interfered with, but the Socialist never knows when the police will drop in him.

HUNGARY.

Two well known Socialists caused excitement in the lower house of the Hungarian parliament by showering from the gallery a number of pamphlets entitled "Bread and the rights of the people." The Socialists were arrested.

BELGIUM.

In Brussels, owing to the large number of children (70 per cent.) whose parents have signed forms requesting that they be withdrawn from religious instruction, the Catholic authorities have not yet decided whether they shall or not give this instruction. The energetic action of the Brussels Socialists has thus so far succeeded in keeping the priests out of the schools.

RUSSIA.

St. Petersburg dispatch says 300 students have been arrested for circulating Socialist literature. University bulletins mentioning this have been suppressed.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The Local Government Information Bureau was founded in 1899 in order to give information on the work and powers of municipal bodies, Boards of Guardians, School Boards, and other local authorities. It is conducted by the Independent Labor Party and the Fabian Society, and has already a membership of 124 with a subscription of 2s. 6d. per year.

The election for members of the London County Council resulted as follows: Progressives, 82; Moderates, 27; Independents, 1, and Independents, 8, including the city's four members. The old council contained 71 Progressives and 47 Moderates. Among the candidates elected as Progressives, is John Burns, M. P., the labor representative. London will now own its water, gas, lighting and transportation, taking the present plants out of the hands of private companies.

UNITED STATES.

Socialists of Rock Island, Ill., have put up a municipal ticket and are very active.

Socialists of Wallace, Idaho, have a column in the "Idaho State Tribune" every week.

Social Democrats of Spokane, Wash., have had to move into larger headquarters to accommodate increase in membership.

A French branch of the S. D. P. was lately organized in Lawrence, Mass., by Comrade L. B. Talbot of Haverhill. It started out with thirty members.

Local Catskill has made valid nominations for the election to be held March 26th, as follows: For trustee, Jos. G. Doll; for assessor, Louis Gottschalk; for collector, Joseph Thorne; for treasurer, Conrad J. Hamner.

Comrades of the S. D. P. in Saginaw, Mich., have nominated Paul Schneider for Superintendent of Schools in that city. An excellent platform was adopted and enthusiasm prevailed.

The vigorous fight of our able colleague, the Seattle "Socialist," has aided most materially in defeating the primary bill which threatened the organization of the Socialist party in Washington.

In Vermont city elections were held. In Rutland, Comrade Jas. M. Lull, Social Democrat candidate for mayor, polled 173 votes, as against 65 polled for Corcoran James Pirie for governor last September, a gain of 108 and a gratifying increase.

In Maine the Socialists made another stride forward. Comrade W. G. Haggood writes from Skowhegan that in the annual town meeting on Monday last the Socialist ticket polled 288 votes, a gain of 154 over the vote of Debs and Harriman in November last. Well done, Skowhegan!

An effort is on foot to have Professor George D. Herron visit the Twin Cities this spring during the course of a Western lecture tour. If pending negotiations materialize, students of the social question here will have the privilege of hearing Professor Herron in Minneapolis.

Comrade Anna Maley reports that Local Minneapolis of the Social Democratic Party at its last business meeting, elected the following officers: Organizer, S. M. Holman; recording secretary, Anna Maley;

financial secretary, C. O. Huttress; treasurer, W. E. Brown; literary agent, Chas. D. Raymer.

From Amesbury we are pleased to note the re-election of Comrade Spofford for his third term as selection and overseer of the poor. Comrade Spofford received a vote of 948, as against 887 in 1900 and 523 in 1899, showing a gratifying increase each year. Comrade Spofford has been an excellent official and his re-election is a matter for congratulation.

All friends of Job Harriman will be glad to hear that he has been appointed Labor Secretary in New York, opening on March 1st the Labor Secretariat, an association formed for the purpose of giving legal services free of charge to all the members of affiliated labor organizations and looking after the legal interests of the working class in general. The first day in the position Harriman had six cases to file, all for cigar makers who had been cheated out of their wages. Washington now boasts of thirty-seven S. D. P. locals.

Comrade Isaac Cowen is doing good work in Western Pennsylvania. He finished his labors for the Amalgamated Society of Engineers in Pittsburg on February 23d. His work there has strengthened both the trade union and the Socialist movement. On the 4th he addressed a splendid meeting for Local Pittsburg, S. D. P. That organization is growing and will be heard from. During the following week he was at Altoona, speaking for the S. D. P. on Sunday. The meetings were well attended and the audience showed much interest.

The Central Trades and Labor Union of St. Louis passed a resolution on Sunday, February 24th, requesting its president, Mr. McArthur Johnson, to resign, because he was a candidate on the Democratic ticket for inspector of weights and measures. This action was taken because the C. T. and L. U. in its declaration of principles, denounces the two old parties and the S. D. P. Johnson's two companions on the ticket were a majority candidate, who gave orders to shoot the striking street car workers last summer, and the manager of a notorious sack tobacco factory. The resolutions were passed by a vote of 95 to 71.

Higher education as exemplified at the University of Cincinnati has recently taken a decidedly queer turn. The doctrines of the socialists have become a fad there, along with long hair and spectacles, and many of the upper class students have become disciples of Karl Marx, and are enthusiastic students of his doctrines. Socialism and its theories number believers not only in the political economy classes, where they have been expected to originate, but in all branches of the academic department the students are engaged in debating the relations of capital and labor and the centralization of industry. The new ideas have taken root among the students and have resulted in the formation of a Socialist Society for the purpose of studying the doctrines of this economic party.—"Cincinnati Enquirer."

Labor's Economic Struggle

Notes Showing the Strife Between Organized Labor and Capitalism.

International Typographical Union now counts 38,646 members.

About 23 out of every 1,000 coal miners the world over are killed annually.

Nearly 14 per cent of the total number of wage earners in Minnesota are women, according to the report of the State Labor Department.

The New Jersey weavers are striking for the wages of 1894. If "prosperity" continues at this rate, they will have a good chance to strike in 1907 for the wages of 1901.

Two hundred employes of the Mann Edge Tool Company at Lewistown, Pa., have had their wages reduced from 10 to 20 per cent. Close competition with the trust did it.

On the first of April the window glass trust will shut down eighty plants in order to curtail production and keep up prices. About 30,000 men will be thrown out of employment.

The United Brewery Workmen of Guttenberg, N. J., have gained recognition in their struggle with the Standard Brewing Company. A committee of Local Union No. 10 waited upon the proprietors of the establishment and presented a contract, which was signed by them. They will also use the label on all barrels.

The recent cotton strike in Valleyfield, Quebec, in which the employes used the militia to coerce the unionists, is a subject that is being used by A. W. Puttee, the labor member of the Canadian Parliament, to prod the government. Puttee wants to know who was responsible for calling out the militia, who paid the bills and other interesting information.

After a three-days' strike the silk-weavers of Medford, Conn., located at Paterson, N. J., have succeeded to get a raise in wages. The new schedule of wages as submitted by the union was accepted by Medford and the men returned to work. The opinion is prevalent that, since Medford has yielded, all the other manufacturers will follow suit.

The labor commissioners of North Carolina report that wages of mechanics in that state increased 44 per cent in the last year, but that the workers receive but slight benefit from the advance in wages because of a proportionate increase in the cost of living. So that the workers really had the pleasure of holding a few dollars more than usual for a little while.

Class Consciousness.

BY CHAS. H. VAIL.

The Socialist movement is proletarian in character and based upon the fact of the class struggle. It emphasizes the need of class consciousness on the part of the working-class, for only as the laborers become conscious of their class interests will they unite to achieve their emancipation. Class-consciousness means a consciousness of one's own interests as a member of a class, and knowledge of the fact that his interests can best be subserved by advancing the interests of the class to which he belongs. It also implies a knowledge of what those interests are and how they can best be subserved. When a laborer realizes that he can only permanently improve his condition by improving the condition of his class, and realizes what his class interests are and how they can be advanced, he is said to be class-conscious. This class-consciousness enables him to see that his interests and the interests of his class are diametrically opposed to that of the capitalist class. He also apprehends the historical fact that the ruling class has always been since the dawn of private property, the class that owns the dominant factor of production. In feudal times it was the owner of the land, today it is the machine. Every step in the development of capitalism meant added economic power for the capitalist class, and political supremacy finally resulted from the growth of economic power. While this is true of the capitalist class, the class-conscious laborer realizes that for him political supremacy cannot thus be secured for the reason that every step in the development of capitalism has meant his greater subjection. Yet with this fact of economic power, due to the development of modern industry, there has come the possibility of political supremacy through the growth of numbers. Upon the political field, the working class can become supreme. It overwhelmingly outnumber the capitalists and its power is constantly increasing through the destruction of the middle class and the narrowing of the capitalist class.

It must be evident to all that the control of the political power is necessary to any class which desires to better its economic condition. For the working class to get control of this power there must be a united class-conscious movement. It is this that Socialists, the world over, emphasize the necessity of class-conscious action upon the part of the working class. The capitalist class is thoroughly class-conscious. The capitalists perceive the course of action necessary to maintain their supremacy. They make and enforce laws which enable them to keep the working-class in ignorance and subjection. They can always be relied upon to subserve their own interests.

The laborers, on the other hand, usually act in direct opposition to their interests. They support all the institutions and measures that suppress and exploit them, simply because they do not realize the opposition of class interests, and are not sufficiently informed to know that their interests are antagonistic to those of the master class. They have been accustomed to take their economic ideas ready-made at the hands of their employers. The capitalist class has seen to it that only such ideas were propagated among the workers as would result in the supremacy of capitalist class rule. Of course, as long as the workers look to their masters for guidance, they will be led as sheep to the slaughter. The position of the ruling class to maintain its position is to keep the workers must be kept in ignorance of the true situation, for if they remain in slavery it can only be by their own consent. This necessitates a wholesale deception. Were it not for this systematic perversion of the egoism of the subjected so that they do not see through the pretence of the real interests, the system could not be maintained. The laboring class is constantly deceived as to what constitutes its real interests.

To this end the workers are taught certain fictions. They are made to believe that the interests of labor and capital are identical, that every man has an opportunity to become a capitalist, and if he does not he is alone to blame, that the present system and laws are sacred and must be retained at all hazards, that patriotism—the upholding of the capitalist state which sanctions private ownership of the instruments—is a special virtue, that workers should be meek and content with their present lot and look to the future world for reward for present suffering, that the workers are impotent to help themselves—all benefits must come from above, etc. These are some of the doctrines which the capitalist assiduously teach. This they are able to teach, as they control the means of communication—the press, the platform and the pulpit. By this means they are enabled to impress these false conceptions upon the working class, and thus keep them in subjection.

We cannot expect those who are enjoying these special privileges to willingly relinquish their advantage. It is but natural that they should strive to maintain this system that enables them to live in luxury and idleness off the labors of others. This injustice is to blame, that the present system and laws are sacred and must be retained at all hazards, that patriotism—the upholding of the capitalist state which sanctions private ownership of the instruments—is a special virtue, that workers should be meek and content with their present lot and look to the future world for reward for present suffering, that the workers are impotent to help themselves—all benefits must come from above, etc. These are some of the doctrines which the capitalist assiduously teach. This they are able to teach, as they control the means of communication—the press, the platform and the pulpit. By this means they are enabled to impress these false conceptions upon the working class, and thus keep them in subjection.

The social revolution must come through the united action of the working-class. The mission of the Socialist is to prepare the working-class for this revolution. He aims to dispel the capitalist fictions which hold the working class in willing subjection, to arouse them to a sense of their rights and to point out the

way of their emancipation. This new gospel is spreading like a forest fire, in all directions; its seeds have fallen upon good soil and are sprouting. Conditions are ripe for the social revolution. All over the land, and, in fact, the whole civilized world, the working-class is organizing into class-conscious political bodies, having for their aim the mastery of the political powers to the end that the present competitive system may be supplanted by the Socialist commonwealth. This mighty movement has become international and world-wide, co-extensive with the domain of capitalism.

The sun of the co-operative commonwealth is beginning to redden the eastern horizon and already a streak of light breaks in the east, heralding the bringing promise of the gladsome day.

Socialism is the evangel of human brotherhood. It will realize the golden age of peace, justice and plenty on earth. All hail the kingdom of social justice, the co-operative commonwealth.—Social Democratic Herald.

The Maison du Peuple of Brussels.

The centre of activities, the focus of mutual interests, the living, animating symbol of Democracy and of Collectivism in nearly every town and village in Belgium, is the Maison du Peuple, whether it be the modest hired and adapted house of half-dozen rooms, such as one finds in the country, or the big, bright, or whether it be the modern building of appropriate design and construction, such as the Vooruit, in Ghent, or the Brussels Maison du Peuple, the photograph of which is reproduced in the present number of the "Social Democrat." The internal work and organization of the exterior propaganda and the well-being and recreative possibilities of this People's Home or Hostel, form the articulate self-expression of the Belgian Workman's Party, and are the result of a welding together of the forces of co-operation (used as a means and not as an end), of trades unionism, and of collectivism, which, in continental countries, is taught as an economic and scientific reconstruction of society, and not as an indefinite collection of emotional aspirations and beliefs.

The experimental ventures of the Workman's Party in Brussels in securing, through co-operation, a sound financial basis for propaganda were humble, for they commenced in 1886 with a capital of 600 francs (24s.) and with a membership of 88 families. Its first meetings were held in a cellar, and its first attempt at productive co-operation was the hiring of an oven at 30 francs a month, in which bread was baked and was afterwards distributed at a price which only allowed a profit of two cents to each of a farthing, on every heavy loaf sold. Nineteen years afterwards the yearly output of loaves was 4,994,850, out of which 22,153 loaves were distributed amongst the families of members where there was illness.

A focus or center having once been secured, and an administrative council formed, the material or trading side, and the intellectual and spiritual side, went on steadily hand in hand. It has decided in 1898 that the Workman's Party in Brussels was justified in building suitable and convenient premises for itself, to be the outward and visible sign of its prosperity and growth. The design was entrusted to one of the leading architects of the town, who was so evidently in sympathy with the feeling and work he had to express that when he was asked if he were not intending to have "Maison du Peuple" written large on the facade of the building replied, "Do you write 'Church' on the buildings that express your religious aspirations? No, you build them so beautifully and so expressively that they interpret to all corners the meaning of the building. I would have said I hope to work out my design for the People's Home that all my understand and read the symbol aright, and that the people when they come across it may recognize it at once as being the expression of their needs and aspirations."

Everything within and without the building speaks of light, strength, stability and cleanliness. A very lofty case, lighted by electricity, and capable of holding close on a thousand people, shades the ground floor with the various trading departments; on the first floor, and approached by iron staircases, are the public meetings, trade union meetings, and social gatherings. On the roof is a large theatre and concert hall, holding over 2,000, with an outside promenade and refreshment rooms. Iron, cement and glass are largely employed in the construction of the building and the architect has relied for decoration more on line and form than on color, with a result that makes for dignity and simplicity rather than for show and glitter.

Of the advantages of membership in this collectivist co-operative we may judge from extracts from the pamphlets of a Belgian writer, Zeo, on this subject. He writes: "In order to become a member of the Maison du Peuple, the name and address, accompanied by a payment of 25 francs (2s.4d.) must be sent into the administration, in exchange for a pass-book and a share (the rest of which is paid up in installments) is received. Every three or six months members on purchases are paid in the form of tickets, which can be exchanged for clothing or boots. Each member pays 2/4 a week, in exchange for which he has the right to the services of a doctor and to medicine free during a year, and six loaves of bread a week during six weeks. In the case of the death of a member the family receives 10 francs. Since 1892 the Ghent Co-operative has instituted a pension fund for its aged members. All those who buy goods for the amount of 60 a year, including their own, and who have been members for twenty years, can no longer be pensioned at the age of sixty. Women have a right to bread and

(Continued on Page 3.)

reach the crowd and are so successful, if used by the Socialists would give the same results. We have a world of living, breathing men and women to convert to our principles. These young journalists have had their fingers on the public pulse of this world. They know every flutter of the heart, they know every desire of the soul. Consciously or unconsciously they have become psychologists. They know the value of suggestion, they know how men are moved by the phrase that bleeds it out. They know better than to tumber their brains with lumber that hinders freedom of speech. All that is necessary to enlist this army on our side is the inculcation of the proletarian spirit among the reporters and the giving them an opportunity on our papers when the spirit displays itself.

A wisper body of men than the intelligent reporters are the brewers. They have learned how to stick together. Formerly they were treated to "details" and other things that brought as poor pay. They endured it as long as they thought necessary, then they rebelled. The rebellion was a short one; they were wise enough not to ask for too much and they won. The year after the first rebellion they demanded a little more and got it. Year after year they have done the same, and although the struggle was often a long one and a bitter, still the result, so far as the Brewers' Union was concerned, proved out all right. The members receive more pay for less work than ever before in the history of the craft. Not satisfied, as if to rebuke a certain New York "professor" and to show the idiosyncy of his philosophy, they have already drawn up demands for a uniform work day of eight hours and three dollars for the same, to be given all drivers, malsters, etc., engaged in the production of beer. And, as if to carry the rebuke to the aforementioned "professor" still farther, the brewers, although uniformly well paid, well clothed and well fed, are not content with either of the old political parties. They are socialistic in all their thoughts and actions. They support the Socialist press (this paper is their official organ), they aid Socialist propaganda, they vote before the free speech fund and they vote the Social Democratic ticket on election day. Their officers are always socialist. Ernest Koenig, now on his way to Germany, a Socialist who could stand as a model for all Socialists, was their secretary for several years. Comrade Berg, now in the production of beer, is secretary. The membership of this Union is about a hundred. Comrade Andre, former secretary of a subdivision of the Brewers' Union, is too well known to need further comment. These men were not born to betray the proletarians. It would be an injustice to them and a fraud on the Union to compel them to march in the ranks, as the "professor" would have it.

Men who used to believe in the tactics born in the teeming brain of this "professor" are every day turning from the darkness towards the light. The latest is George Bauer, late of the A. L. P. He organized the hatters of this city and was elected secretary. The membership of this Union is about a hundred, which is good after only one public meeting. Comrades Andre, Hamilton and Oliver aided and abetted Mr. Bauer in the crime of bringing these men together for their mutual good. The next meeting, to which all the hatters of the city are invited, will be held Sunday afternoon, at 2 o'clock, 32 O'Farrell street, Fraternity Hall.

We have it on good authority that Wolf & Frank got out an injunction to restrain the clerks from walking up and down the pavement in front of their store. These predatory haremsters, Wolf & Frank, who came here from nowhere in an articulated car, and eventually, to the same place, started out with the determination of fighting organized labor in this city. They had their store fitted up by non-union men and were among the first to oppose the early closing movement. An example should be made of them. No injunction can make people buy there. Every effort should be put forth to advertise the fact that they are antagonists to organized labor. A combination of Unions should be advocated to carry the injunction proceedings to the limit and make them ridiculous. One benefit that would occur would be the bringing home to an intelligible man of the proletarian army the truth that all courts are sub-committees of the capitalist class, as the legislatures are the major committees. This would be excellent propaganda. A truth appears doubly true if it comes in direct and personal contact with a cherished illusion. Most of our liberties under the system of brute force are illusions. The Retail Clerks will be in a position to sympathize with others who are restrained from exercising a natural right, after all the majesty of the law has been brought to bear upon them to keep them from walking up and down the pavement with a badge pinned on the breast, marked "Don't shop after six."

To correspondents: C. Ross, Los Angeles, and others: Thank you for your appreciation. S. A. Stockton:—Yes, the teamsters really won their strike. B. R.: The bakery wagon drivers are already organized.

The Bryanistic legislature of Alabama has again turned down a child labor bill. The former law, fixing the limit when children might be employed by capitalists at 12 years, was unrelentingly repealed six years ago, and ever since that time the labor organizations have pleaded for a new law, but just as often the ex-slave owners have spurned them. At present Alabama mill owners can hire infants if they want to: It would be well for someone to point out the difference between the "workingman's friend" Bryanites of the South and the "dinner pail" McKinley plutocrats of the North. Democratic papers, please copy.

When the South Carolina house rejected the bill to restrict child labor in the cotton mills it passed a resolution for the appointment of a commission to investigate the conditions of child labor in factories and report to the next session. But the senate, having passed a child labor bill, has rejected this house resolution on the ground that no further information on the subject is needed. There the matter rests, as the legislature has adjourned.

When purchasing goods see that they bear the union label.

LABOR and Politics.

Writus for ADVANCE by JOHN PENNY.

ACCIDENTS TO WORK-PEOPLE IN 1900.

According to the statistics compiled by the Labor Department of the Board of Trade, no less than 4,823 work-people met with fatal accidents while at work in 1900. In 1899 the number was 4,458; in 1898 it will be seen, therefore, that 1900 was a very black year from this point of view.

Of these 4,823 people, 1,886 were engaged in the shipping trade, 1,049 in mining, 626 on the railways, and 1,258 in factories. The shipping employes have naturally fared the worst, for the proportion of railway men killed is terribly large.

The number of non-fatal accidents was also very large in 1900, being 104,354, as compared with 96,248 in 1899, 79,869 in 1898, 63,005 in 1897, and 57,472 in 1896. The steady increase during the past five years is a frightening thing, and is not worsening so rapidly as appears on the surface, because now we have much more complete returns than in previous years. Probably the exact state of affairs in 1900 is little, if any worse, than in 1896, although the figures show an increase in the number of accidents of almost one hundred per cent.

TRADE UNIONISM IN FRANCE.

At the end of 1899, there were 2,685 trade unions in France, the total membership number being 492,647, an increase of 73,000 as compared with the year before. It will be seen, therefore, that Labor is organizing rapidly in France, but it will be a good many years before unions become as powerful in membership and funds as they are on this side of the channel. At present there are nearly two millions of trade unionists with funds approximating to four millions sterling.

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

The recent judgment by Justice Wills and Kennedy to the effect that School Boards have no power to spend money on science and art classes has aroused a storm of indignation throughout the country. Meetings of School Board members without end have been held, and a vigorous demand is being put forward for a bill to be pushed through Parliament by the Government which shall legalize such expenditure. I notice that the Trades' Councils have been particularly active in this agitation and I have received reports from at least thirty of the most important in various parts of the country, showing that they have passed resolutions on the subject and forwarded them to every one likely to have any influence in the matter. It is noteworthy nowadays that up-to-date Trades' Councils are not content with simply passing resolutions on the conditions of labor in their respective districts, but discuss and pass motions upon all kinds of political and social questions. The development will probably have far-reaching consequences, and is causing some amount of disquiet to the official heads of the great political parties as it indicates a determination on the part of organized labor to dispute with them the monopoly in political affairs which they have hitherto enjoyed.

LONDON WATER.

The London Water Companies—there are eight altogether, making a total capital of over a million a year—are at present trying to get Parliamentary powers to compel users of water to put certain improved fittings in their premises. One of the improved fittings consists of a cistern to hold a supply of water sufficient for one day's consumption. It is reported that practically every local authority in London has kicked vigorously against this bill, because it means that the company could evade all responsibility to provide a constant supply of water. The use of cisterns is especially objected to because in large towns cisterns are generally very difficult to clean, and it has not infrequently happened that rats have been drowned in them and left to decay. Even under present conditions it is almost as dangerous to drink London water as Manchester beer. What it would be like with cisterns in general vague passes description.

MUNICIPAL TAILORING.

At a recent meeting of the Bradford Corporation it was proposed that a committee should be appointed to inquire into the advisability of establishing a municipal tailoring department which would make the clothing for the employees of the corporation. After considerable discussion the proposal was defeated by a majority of two votes. I venture to think that the last of this matter has not been heard of at Bradford.

AMALGAMATED SOCIETY OF MUSICIANS.

This is a union which is making good progress and it has achieved several important successes for its members. According to the secretary's statement at Nottingham the other night it is seeking to secure a weekly wage of 30s. for principal instruments and 27s. 6d. for second instruments in second-class places of amusement, while in first-class places it demands 35s. and 30s. respectively. Doubtless, there will be a rush on the part of the second-rate places of amusement to pay the higher scale, and thus be recognized as first-class. The union has been very successful in a number of large towns and its efforts on behalf of the great body of musicians who play at theatres and music halls is worthy.

Statistics have been published relating to infant mortality in Austria and Hungary. Out of 100 children no less than 38.12 per cent die in Hungary before they are five years of age, and 24.97 per cent in Austria. Infant mortality is great in England, yet here it is only 22.57 per cent.; this shows the need for reform.

The Russian government has decided that the Finnish recruits shall now be liable to serve in any part of the empire. By this measure the last remnant of Finnish home rule is taken away, as the garrisons will now be Russian soldiers, while the Finns will be sent to all parts of the empire. It is a great shame, but the wonder is that the Russian Government has allowed Finland to have home rule for so long.

CALIFORNIA ITEMS.

Local Los Angeles has organized a Karl Marx Debating Club, which meets every Wednesday evening. The following officers of the Club were elected: President, P. D. Noel; Secretary, Chas. H. Ross; Critic, Clifford McMartin. Quite a number of Los Angeles comrades have joined the club, and the indications are that the first debate took place last Wednesday night on the question: "Resolved: That under Socialism there should be no payment for special ability," and it proved a great success.

Comrade James S. Roche, one of the most active workers for our cause on the Pacific Coast, has removed from Los Angeles to San Bernardino, where he will start in business. Comrade Chas. H. Ross of Los Angeles gives him this send-off: "Jimmy, all though diminutive in stature, filled a pretty good sized niche in the Local here, and it was like pulling teeth to part with him. But what is our loss in San Bernardino's gain." ADVANCE extends its sympathies to Local Los Angeles and congratulations to Local San Bernardino.

Some of the merchants of Los Angeles have taken up a private subscription and engaged a band to play in the Sixth Street Park every day, claiming it to be for the benefit of the tourists, but their object being to drown out the Socialist street meetings. This is evident by the fact that a number of those "substantial business men" went around with a petition, praying the city council to pass an ordinance against speaking in the park. Our boys were quick to circulate another petition, protesting against the passing of such an ordinance, and secured nearly 1,100 names. Comrade Murray presented it to the council, and it was referred to the Police Commission, which, of course, "shelves" it.

Pasadena in the Field.

Editor ADVANCE: The Social Democrats of Pasadena have again entered the field for the coming municipal election with a full city ticket, as follows: For Mayor, Dr. Elias Smith; for City Clerk, D. E. De Laury; for Treasurer, F. Randolph; for Mayor of the City Council—First Ward, Joseph Stevenson; Second Ward, M. S. Plant; Third Ward, Carl J. Holdoff; Fourth Ward, Amos Bye; at large, J. Patton. The Auditing Committee are L. W. Whitehead, O. T. Fellows, J. C. Allen, H. Palmer, A. J. Bramley. These nominations were given at a mass convention, which adopted the following platform:

First—We demand that the full power of the city shall be exercised in providing employment for its unemployed citizens.

Second—Adequate school facilities for every child of school age in the city, including free books for all, and of schooling and meals where necessary, and that all children be kept in school until they are 14 years of age; enforcement of the law prohibiting child labor; and that in all schools of public education adequate kindergarten and primary instruction be the first consideration, and that in the higher grades manual training be introduced wherever possible, not as a means of learning a trade only, but as a means of education.

Third—That adequate medical and hospital care be provided for every sick and injured citizen.

Fourth—We demand that the contract system in public works be entirely abolished, and that all work for the city be done by the city itself, and that all men and women receive equal pay for equal work.

Fifth—We demand that the city obtain possession of the waterworks, gas and electric light plants, the street car lines, and all industries requiring municipal franchises, and that all the same be owned and operated by the city in the interests of the employees, and that any profits accruing to the city from such industries shall be used in extending and improving the services and providing pensions for disabled employees and otherwise improving the condition of the city.

Sixth—We demand that the city provide free public baths, gymnasia, parks and boulevards, and that seats or rest-rooms and toilet facilities be provided in such places.

There is a strong sentiment in Pasadena for the municipal ownership of water, but through the influence, apparently, of parties interested in the various water companies the way is blocked and little progress is made in that direction. At the last municipal election, the first time there ever was a Socialist ticket in the field here, we cast six per cent of the total vote, so that we are standing as a party and this year we make our nomination by ballot. We are in the field to stay, and you will hear from us again.

"O. T. FELLOWS."

City Central Committee

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City Central Committee of Local San Francisco, held at the Labor Bureau, Wednesday evening, March 6th, Comrade Bardon, Chairman.

Bill of \$4 for rent of piano; ordered paid. The report of Standing Committees, Secretary of Board of Advance and of delegates from the District clubs was received. The Treasurer reported that the total receipts for the week are \$55.10; the total expenditures, \$53, and the balance on hand, \$20.11.

Moved and carried that the Auditing Committee be instructed to make an inventory of all the property belonging to Local San Francisco. A motion was passed that the Auditing Committee shall examine the vouchers in the hands of the State Executive.

The Propaganda Committee was advised to advertise the Paris Commune meeting, to be held next Monday night at Turk Street Temple.

A motion was passed that the Debating Club commence its meetings and that a new program be arranged immediately.

It was moved and carried that an extra 150 sets of papers be ordered for the May Day celebration.

Comrade Spring of Los Angeles, who had just returned from his labors as Organizer in Washington State, was warmly welcomed and requested to speak. Comrade Spring gave an account of the progress of the movement in Washington, showing that everything there is more than promising. Comrade Spring strongly advised the committee to open a Socialist headquarters. The short address of the comrade was marked by its wise counsel and cheering words.

A motion was passed that a committee of four be appointed to look for suitable headquarters for the party. The committee consists of Comrades Lienthal, Johnson, King and O'Brien.

Adjourned to meet March 20th.

Respectfully,

ANNA STRUNSKY, Sec.

REVIEWS

We have received two books from Chas. H. Kerr & Co. "What Socialists Would Do if Elected in this City," by A. M. Sims, is the first one, outlining the municipal program in Chicago, and valuable also for other cities. It is commendable because it shows how proletarian socialism approaches municipal administration. From the standpoint of the interest of the working class and with the full realization that all measures classed as the first one, are of the highest importance, it is in the direction in which socialist governments should move. We cheerfully recommend it to all students of municipal administration who wish to know what the class-conscious Socialist regards as of prime importance to the working-class.

The second is "Being Good" is the second pamphlet. It is written by Comrade Kerr, and is intended for the young swains and maidens of the land. The relativity of the morality of specified forms of conduct is well explained. Amongst other things, Comrade Kerr strikes some vigorous blows at that accursed notion that the wife delivers proprietary rights in herself to her husband when she marries. It is to be hoped that to previous numbers of the Review it is intended for young people for whom this is a first lesson in profit by the bits of good advice contained therein. Address Chas. H. Kerr & Co., 56 Fifth avenue, Chicago, Ill. 5 cts. each.

The International Socialist Review.

The March number of the "International Socialist Review" will be superior both in quantity and quality to any previous number. It will contain eighty pages instead of sixty-four, having been permanently enlarged to that extent. The opening article is by Herman Whittaker, a California Socialist, who is well known as a writer for the magazines but who has not hitherto contributed much to Socialist publications.

His discussion, "Weismannism in its Relation to Socialism," and shows that the theory of Weismannism is ideas in biology, which is now an accepted fact, means that the fundamental principles of Socialism receive an additional support. Emile Vinck, of Belgium, the secretary of the League of Socialist Municipal Councils, contributes an especially timely article on "Municipal Socialism." F. Randolph of Los Angeles, in former position against the attacks of Professor Untermann and offers some very interesting arguments to sustain his contentions. "Mother Jones," who is just now leading the fight of the Scranton silk workers, has a letter describing conditions in the "New South" that reminds one of the Inquisition or the early English factory system. Another article, "The Social Defense vs. Class Defense," by Enrico Ferri, the great Italian Socialist and criminologist. Ernest H. Crosby has a charming little poem on "The Joy of Work" that will please all who read it. The departments also are especially strong. Prof. E. Untermann takes charge of the foreign department, which he will edit hereafter. The story by Caroline H. Pemberton entitled "A Charity Girl" begins in this issue. This is a remarkable novel of intense interest, not made up of long-winded speeches, but a story that will help make Socialists because it tells the truth about the social classes that are lying together in America. The subscription price of the Review is \$1, and single copies may be obtained at 10 cents each from news-dealers or from the publishers, Charles H. Kerr & Company, 56 Fifth avenue, Chicago.

Maisons du Peuple of Brussels.

groceries for a week after their confinement. Besides this, libraries and educational advantages are provided by the larger Maisons du Peuple for the benefit of their members.

We also have on Zee's authority the fact that these larger Maisons du Peuple have brought down the price of bread to such an extent that many of the smaller bakeries have disappeared; that at Brussels, Antwerp, and Liege they regulate the bread market; that their products are subject to rigorous analysis and criticism; that they have introduced into their establishment an eight-hour day worked on the system of three shifts; that their staff participate in the profits of the undertaking; that they have encouraged the organization of their staff, which, as a union, discusses, executes, and enforces measures likely to be of benefit to the working of the undertaking; that they are able to subsidize the workers during strikes and to help forward educational and social ideals in the interests of the workers.

Zee further gives a list of the conditions necessary to success in similar strikes, and it may be of interest to reproving them for the benefit of English comrades. They might, he says, be called the commandments of collectivist co-operation:

1. Sell only for ready money.
2. Do not sell at the lowest rates, but sell only goods of the best quality.
3. Adhere to the federation of co-operative societies.
4. Allow employees, managers and staff a share in the profits.
5. Distribute the profits according to the amount of purchases.
6. Give all one's custom to the co-operative trading center.
7. Interest the co-operators, especially the women, in the management of the business, and in social questions, and instruct them.
8. Exercise a serious control over the business through the intermediary of a commission, of a trusted administrative council, and by the aid of a clear and simple form of book-keeping.

This practical set of rules are of value as coming from the Secretary of the Federated Societies of Belgian Co-operatives, and that their application has been illustrated largely by the success of the collectivist co-operators in Belgium and in towns who has visited the Maisons du Peuple in Brussels and other centers, and who has studied their administration and watched the results of their political and social propaganda.—D. B. M., in London "Social Democrat."

San Diego, March 17th. Mayor Cuffs today signed contracts on behalf of the city of San Diego for the purchase of two water plants for \$600,000. This included the entire water supply from the Southern California Mountain Water Company, and will end the local agitation of the water question.

PROPAGANDA MEETINGS.

Meeting in the Academy of Sciences Hall was held as usual on Thursday evening. El. Rosenberg was on the program to lecture on "The Theory of the Trades Union," but an apology was made that he could not be present.

On Sunday evening, one of the liveliest debates in the history of the Club was held. There was a large attendance of about 400 members and guests.

SOCIALIST DEBATING CLUB

There was a large attendance of about 400 members and guests. The program was held on Thursday evening and was very interesting.

Table with columns for Question, Yes, No, and Total. Lists various questions and their respective vote counts.

Table listing cities and their corresponding values or counts. Includes New York, St. Louis, Chicago, etc.

Correspondence

We print here an interesting letter from a comrade who has given valuable service to the cause. It contains some suggestions worth considering.

"I hope the comrades will take up the question suggested above. It is a matter of great importance and one which should be considered by all of us."

William Crowley, a Colorado inventor, has perfected an automobile designed for farm work. It can be operated by gasoline or electricity.

Dividends On Your Regular Household Expenses.

The San Francisco Rochdale Company (co-operative), incorporated September 22, 1900, is doing a general grocery business at 1818 Market street.

The plan is not new, for it originated with twenty-eight weavers in Rochdale, England, 55 years ago, and has since grown to a membership of one and one-half million and over 500 millions of share capital in Great Britain alone.

Entertainment and Ball

THE GRAND SAN FRANCISCO, S. D. P. To Raise Funds for the Purchase of a Printing Press.

TURN VEREIN Hall, 423 TURK ST. SATURDAY Eve., APRIL 6, 1901

GRAND MASS MEETING IN CELEBRATION OF The Paris Commune THE TEMPLE, 117 Turk St. Monday eve. March 18, 1901

The Staff of Life

Advertisement for The Staff of Life. Includes text: "This is guaranteed only by THE UNION LABEL" and a logo of a staff.

Advertisement for Emblem of Fair Labor. Includes text: "MANUFACTURERS HAVING UNION LABEL THE ONLY GUARANTEE OF HOME INDUSTRY."

Ask the Shoemaker for his Union Card when you want your shoes repaired. The only American shoemaker who is not made by Convict or Slave Labor.

The Air Ship. Located in the most picturesque section of Marin County, one mile south of San Rafael.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

LOCAL OAKLAND. Of the Social Democratic Party, has held at Wednesday evening lecture at 7:30 P. M. in the Waldorf Hotel.

LOCAL ALAMEDA. Of the Social Democratic Party, has held at Tuesday evening lecture at 8:00 P. M. in the Waldorf Hotel.

THE SOCIALIST DEBATING CLUB. Regular Sunday evening meetings at 7:30 P. M. in the Waldorf Hotel.

Bottlers' Union Bulletin (Revised Weekly.) THESE SHOPS REEMPLOY ONLY UNION BOTTLED BEER.

THESE SHOPS REEMPLOY ONLY UNION BOTTLED BEER. SOAK ROCK (John Kroger) Wunder beer. National Bottling Depot, San Francisco.

Ask the Shoemaker for his Union Card when you want your shoes repaired. The only American shoemaker who is not made by Convict or Slave Labor.

The "Underwood" Visible-Ink typewriter. R. E. Revalik & Co., Agts. 409 California st. San Francisco

"The Waldorf" 7 Taylor st. San Francisco. J. L. HEDRICH, Prop.

A Strictly Union Place Telephone South 168 H. F. Suhr & Co. FURNERAL DIRECTORS.

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ELUO HOUSE 863 1/2 Market Street Opposite POWELL and BERRY streets

W. W. WALSLEY, Prop. Furnish Rooms, 7th and 10th streets

WM. SCHLOHAN 408 Fifth Street Dealer in Butter, Eggs and Dairy Produce

P. PARSONS General Blacksmith and Wagon Maker 421 1/2 St. bet. Harrison and Bryant

Abet Bitters The only Bitters for a disordered stomach. H. F. SAHLER, Sole Prop. 287 Natoma St., San Francisco

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WORKMEN'S BIKES and DEATH BENEFIT SOCIETY Meeting every Tuesday night

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