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WHOLENUMBER 356

Labor's Political Struggle

NOTES INDICATING THE PROGRESS OF THE WORLD'S SOCIALIST MOVEMENT.

GERMANY.

Three Socialists have been elected to the Landtag of Sax-Altenburg; this gives them eight members out of a Parliament of thirty. The following sketch of the electoral systems shows what good organization can do. Nine of the members are chosen by the highest taxed inhabitants, and the remaining twenty-one are chosen by seven constituencies. The voting is open, but only persons having a home of their own are allowed to vote. In spite of all these precautions the authorities have not been able to keep the Socialists out.

AUSTRIA.

At present in Austria the imperial family must not be criticised. Recently the heir presumptive to the throne has been strongly backing up the Clericals and taking part in meetings protesting against the conversion of Austrians to Protestantism. I do not state that an Archduke should not have his opinion like any other citizen, but it is manifestly unfair that he cannot be criticised. The Socialist deputy Pernstorfer has called attention to this anomaly; he has not yet succeeded in getting the law altered. In one way the more foolishly the royal persons act the better it is for democracy.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Labor candidate in Cork, Ireland, was elected to the British Parliament.

BELGIUM.

A new bill relating to accidents among workmen has been introduced. At present, in order to recover compensation, the workman must prove that there has been negligence on the part of the employer. But by the proposed bill this is no longer necessary, and the workman is only prevented from recovering if he has willfully caused the accident. The amount that can be claimed is also increased.

A New York daily gives a description of the "People's Home" of Brussels, Belgium, controlled by the Socialists and trade unionists. On entering the ground floor the visitor finds a splendid cafe, lighted by electricity and fitted with the most luxurious appointments. It will hold at least a thousand persons with comfort. On the first floor, approached by two staircases, are the administrative departments, all conveniently equipped. There are halls of various sizes for public meetings, trade union conclaves and social gatherings. On the roof of this delightful palace is a theater and concert hall, which will seat more than two thousand persons. There is also an outside promenade and refreshment room. The labor palace is constructed almost entirely of iron, cement and glass. It is not very decorative, but the lines of the building are artistic, dignified and simple, and it is erected solely for comfort and use.

HOLLAND.

The general election will take place on June 11th and 13th, and second ballots, if necessary, on June 25th.

Social Democrats of Holland held their annual conference and adopted a proposition of an earlier convention of trade unions and a combination should be effected between the S. D. P., the trade unions and the co-operative societies, and that those three organizations should be recognized as mere parts of the one organization of labor in the class struggle. The conference also declared against militarism, decided to make a strong fight for universal suffrage and to forward candidates in every district at the next election.

DENMARK.

Official returns of the recent national election in Denmark are as follows: Radical party, 96,500 votes, loss 1,572; Conservatives 51,555, loss 7,220; Moderates 22,260, loss 14,137; Social Democrats 42,955, gain 11,830. There are the figures in black and white, and they show plainly that Socialism in Denmark, as in other European countries, is the only growing political force.

NORWAY.

In Norway, in a district "way up at the North Sea, the Socialists elected their legislative candidate by a big majority.

FRANCE.

The Government has been successful in finding places for the workmen who cannot find places at Montceau Les Mines, and will pay their fare to their new place of employment. I may point out that this strike really took place because the company refused to take back men who had been out on a previous strike.

Paul Leroy-Beaulieu, one of the leading capitalistic writers of Europe, makes the charge that France has become the country par excellence of strikes, and that the present ministry is directly and wholly responsible, since the presence in the Cabinet of M. Millerand, an avowed Socialist, is a "constant incitement to violence." The latter, according to M. Leroy-Beaulieu, is the "open enemy of private property, of private capital, the absolute advocate of the socialization of all production." The writer continues: "There is no country in the world where we find such a phenomenon as a collectivist, avowed and militant, taking part in the government, dominating the departments of commerce and industry, preparing all the laws, and presiding at the passage of all measures which should be permitted to merchants and tradesmen."

The Combination Leaders' Union.

There was an angry and determined look in the eye of President Rockefeller when he rapped the Combination Leaders' Union to order. Reading of minutes was dispensed with, several delegates were obligated, and the credentials of the Clare Portland Cement Company, a million-dollar concern, were returned, because it was a dual body and had not grabbed land in South America, and was, therefore, working below the scale.

Temporary Business Agent Flint reported that owing to troubles in "the street," where he had used all his efforts to prevent panic and disruption, he was unable to form new unions of capital of any consequence. Received.

Communications were received from several machinery manufacturers stating that their machinists were about to go on strike for less work and more pay, thus cutting down profits, and requesting that the business agent form the trade into a trust as a means of protection. Referred to business agent.

Chicago building contractors wrote that their workmen are reorganizing to carry on sympathy strikes, and advice was asked for. On motion the Chicago bosses were desired to apply for an injunction to prevent their workmen from affiliating in a coercive combine, and if that step proved ineffective to puncture their full dinner pail with a lockout.

A request was received from the National Civic Federation that in future all troubles with working people be referred to that body, as it is now prepared to arbitrate all differences and make everybody happy. Filed in the waste basket.

On motion, roll call was dispensed with.

President Rockefeller surrendered the chair to Vice-President Whitney and took the floor. "There are two important matters that should receive immediate attention," he said, with strong emphasis. "One is that something must be done to curb the ambition of certain upstarts, and thus in the future prevent the recurrence of such scenes as took place on the street the other day. Here Brothers Morgan, Vanderbilt, Gould and I have been quietly working to secure control of the Northern Pacific and other big national organizations when a few little knockers get their hammers out the moment Morgan and Vanderbilt are temporarily absent. That's not good unionism. What sense is there in playing the hog? Why should brothers become impatient? The would-be rich capitalist families outside of our glorious organization are our meat anyhow, and there is no sense in frightening the great, respectable mass of sheep by fleecing and skinning them all at once. They like to have things done to them gradually, a step at a time. Barnum would said that the people like to be humbugged, and our aim should be to nurse the idea that all can become rich, stand shoulder to shoulder, frown down all impatient upstarts, and play the game quietly and smoothly. (Applause.)

"Now, another matter. I notice that many of our work people are becoming rankly ungrateful. They are solidifying themselves in unions in imitation of this body, and they have started a loud cry for more money and less work. Some of them are even talking of socializing industry. It's outrageous, brothers; it's time to take a dose of our rankly speculative members for them to do! (Loud applause.) I repeat what I have said before: It has always been my pleasure to make others give—to give up all they had—and I shall continue to live up to that ideal principle. (Prolonged applause.) Now, brothers, I hope some action will be taken to disorganize our rankly speculative members, and to stamp out the greed of the work people."

Delegates Gould, Vanderbilt and one or two others spoke in the same strain.

After several motions and amendments had been made a substitute for the whole carried to elect Bros. Rockefeller, Vanderbilt, Morgan, Gould and Loeb a committee to harmonize the Western railroad trouble and guard the lambs in Wall street against hasty and undue slaughter. Any disobeying of the committee is to be punished by expulsion.

During the debate, which was highly acrimonious, Delegates Harriman and Hill denounced each other as being not good union men, each claiming that the other was responsible for the Wall street panic, and exchange of blows was narrowly averted. The discussion also brought out the fact that all the members are anxiously awaiting the return of Business Agent Morgan from Europe, where he had gone on an organizing tour and to console the Russian Union and President Rothschild, of the European C. L. U. on important business.

Brother John W. Gates, having been caught in the recent squeeze for four million dollars, the hat was passed to raise some money to put him on his feet again.

Thereupon the meeting adjourned.—Cleveland Citizen.

The "Social Economist" is the name of a new weekly just published as the State organ of the Social Democratic Party in Texas. It is edited by Comrade W. E. Farmer.

In the local election at Plattsmouth, Neb., Social Democratic candidates for marshal, councilmen and members of the school board received votes ranging from 66 to 322.

The Pittsburg "Kansan" says the Social Democratic Party seems to have a good foothold in Cowley county. Luella R. Kraybill of Winfield, the well-known and glib writer and speaker on economic questions, has received a commission as Organizer from headquarters at Chicago.

"Christian Service" Insufficient.

Proper Social Conditions Needed for Human Regeneration.

By Chas. H. Vail.

One frequently hears it remarked, "Yes, things are not as they should be, but it is only through individual influence and Christian service that the change so much needed can be wrought." A statement like this seems strange to a Socialist, who realizes that the change needed is economic. Those making it fail to trace the evil to its source. Individual influence and Christian service are well in their place, but they constitute no remedy for social wrongs. Where the evil is social, it can only be removed by social readjustment. A man might be the recipient of both the influence and service and still be the victim of an unjust social system. Individual influence and Christian service is only applicable where the fault is purely individual, and even here the effort to uplift the individual is rendered nugatory by our false economic order—the system unregenerating one as fast as he is regenerated. No one can live out the Christ life and succeed in our commercial life. Christianity and capitalism are incompatible. The love principle is inapplicable under the reign of the competitive principle. Capitalism breeds mean and negative every act of Christian service. The Socialist does not object to the exercise of individual influence and Christian service in their proper field; he only insists that the method offers no solution for economic evils, and has but little effect on the individual under the present system. The Socialist points out that it would be wiser to establish an environment where the individual can be practiced. Surround men with proper conditions and most of the "individual influence and Christian service" now exerted to induce men to do right could be dispensed with. The efforts of reformers, Christian and Social, are merely to off-set the present organized temptations to evil. Remove the cause and nearly all the effort could be spared.

The church is not battling inherent evil, but merely the results of the profit principle. The principle of private profit is always demoralizing. Man is not naturally bad, he is merely the child of economic conditions. The economic conditions control all conditions—our social institutions, and, in fact, civilization itself rests upon an economic foundation. It is our economic and social relations that determine good or bad of beings we are. The Socialist insists that the primal change necessary is one of environment. We cannot live honest, noble lives in our present state of temptations and dependence and insecurity. The change needed is a complete revolution in our industrial system. No mere reform will suffice. Civilization itself must be created anew—it can be born again. There must be a complete change in our economic base.

If a change of system is necessary, it must be evident that individual influence and Christian service alone will not suffice. There is not an instance in history when a ruling class has ever been "influenced" to surrender an economic privilege. Changes that make for social progress do not come that way. They result from class struggles, which in turn are caused by economic conditions or changes.

The remedy cannot change the system nor do away with the evils within the system. Individual influence and Christian service abolish the evils of chattel slavery? It may have tended to make good masters and obedient slaves, but the very condition of master and slave was wrong, and continued to exist and would until this day, for all of mere preaching individual influence and Christian service. So, today, the evils of wage slavery cannot be abolished by preaching individual influence and Christian service. It might make better masters and contented slaves, but the very condition of master and slave is wrong—the dependence of some upon others for an opportunity to live is unjust, and can only be abolished by the abolition of the system. Our business is not to make good and contented slaves, but free and independent men.

The method of individual influence and Christian service has been tried now for nearly two thousand years, and the results are not such as to unqualifiedly recommend the method. The outcome evidences that something is lacking. It may be good in its place, but it surely fails to touch the root of the evil.

Socialism, friends, furnishes the only solution of the problem. It will not only reduce the present anarchistic system to order and harmony, but it will elevate and ennoble humanity.

UNITED STATES.

The label recently adopted by the International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths is printed in blue ink on white paper. It will be used especially on finished tools, axes, miners' tools, etc.

Silk weavers' strike at Scranton, Pa., has been won by the girls. Monday the strikers held a big parade and were addressed by Mother Jones and William Mailly of the New York "Worker."

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Labor's Economic Struggle

NOTES SHOWING THE STRIFE BETWEEN ORGANIZED LABOR AND CAPITALISM.

NORWAY. The Norwegian trades unions have been holding their annual meeting at Christiania.

FINLAND. The Federation of Workingmen's Associations in Finland has been holding its annual meeting at Helsinki. It represents about forty associations, and has 1,900 members, of whom 300 are women. The associations publish a newspaper, and are going to build a house for meetings, etc., at Helsinki.

SPAIN. During the past eleven years the General Workers' Union in Spain has grown enormously, in spite of the difficulties of all kinds which are put in the way of workers wishing to organize themselves. In 1887 there were twenty-seven groups with 3,354 members; today there are 172 groups with 30,000 members, 10,000 of whom live in Madrid.

CANADA. Unionists of Manitoba are angry because the government has allowed the factory acts to become dead letters.

UNITED STATES. Car repairers are organizing a National Union at Buffalo this week.

J. R. Sovereign has become editor of the "Idaho State Tribune" again.

In Kansas City 20,000 cigars were discovered bearing counterfeit Union Labels.

Brewers in New York have been enjoined by the courts against boycotting a scab concern.

It is said that the bricklayers and masons have an eight-hour day in 153 cities in the United States.

New York "Sun" has again been placed on boycott list for shamefully breaking agreement with printers.

The "Midland Mechanic," trade union paper of Kansas City, Mo., has suspended. It was twelve years old.

Silk mill strike at Paterson, N. J., has been broken. Court slapped a blanket injunction on the strikers. They got scared and broke and ran to cover, and the capitalists smile.

THE RUSSIAN OVERGROWS.

The International Socialist Bureau at Brussels has addressed the following circular to the Socialist and labor parties of the world: "To the Labor Parties of All Countries: It is unnecessary to recount in detail the important events which are now taking place in Russia. Our comrades have learned the facts through the reports given by the press and through the communications of our Russian brothers in the Socialist papers."

"As the Russian delegates to the International Socialist Committee have written, the events of the last few months mark a turning point in the history of the Empire of the Tsar. The troubles which began in the universities have developed into deep and serious troubles, which agitate all Russia, which call in question the very foundation of the Russian society, which unite the intellectuals of Russian cities with the proletariat of the industrial centers in a long and difficult, yet hopeful, struggle against the brutal forces of tsarism."

"In Russia the thousands of workmen in the factories and workshops and thousands of citizens of all classes are full of courage in the great task they have before them and full of confidence in the solidarity of their brothers in Europe, in America, in Austria, and in Asia, because they know that in battling against capitalism and against Russian despotism they are fighting for the emancipation of all lands."

"Already in France public meetings have been held for the purpose of rousing public opinion to the revolutionary situation in Russia. In Belgium meetings are being organized. It is hoped that the Socialist parties of England, Germany, Austria, Denmark, Holland, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, the United States, and all other countries will follow this example, in order that the international proletariat may be unanimous in its protest against the brutalities of tsarism."

"We urge that, in all large cities, industrial centers, and university circles, meetings be organized, and that resolutions of protest be submitted to the vote of the audience and, if practicable, such protests be circulated for signatures. We propose to you the following form of resolution to be ratified by such meetings: 'The citizens assembled in mass-meeting at— extend their greetings to the Russian proletariat. We recognize our solidarity with the workingmen and intellectuals in their conflict with the coalition of capitalism and tsarism. We express our sympathy with the Russian revolutionists and encourage them to continue the battle to a victorious end.'"

"We desire you to inform us with the least possible delay what will be done in this matter and to transmit to us copies of the resolutions adopted, in order that we may organize the movement of condemnation against the acts of an odious and barbaric government. Fraternally, 'THE INT. SOCIALIST BUREAU, 'VICTOR SERWY, Secretary.' Brussels, April 21, 1901."

ADVANCE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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Unity? A long time ago we said we wanted unity and we were going to get it.

The "National Single-taxer" has suspended publication. The single-tax grows like a cow's tail—downward.

Remember the Party meeting next Wednesday, June 5th, at 8 p. m., Labor Bureau, 915 1/2 Market street.

We hate to call a union leader names, but when Mr. Gompers comes out in a circular and tells the trades unions to concentrate all their efforts on having a "prevailing rate of wages law" passed, after what we have done to such effect by the Supreme Court of New York, he must be a fool or a knave, or both.

LIBERTY—the right to quit your job and go hungry.

EQUALITY—living on your bank account while the boss lives on his.

FRATERNITY—liberal over compromise terms after getting a blazing dose of cold steel and hot lead.

POLITICS—something to be avoided as it will secure what you want without privation or bloodshed.

The Chicago Board, S. D. P., has accepted the request for an early time for unity convention and has named July 20th for the date. This we believe will be highly satisfactory, and the prospects are now brighter than ever.

We have it on good authority that the wholesale grocers issued a letter to the retailers saying that while the machinists' strike is on no credit shall be given. Of course, the order is preposterous, but it is an indication of what the conspirators of the organized capitalist class will attempt.

In his book, "Faith and Folly," the Rev. Mgr. Yanga writes of the social difficulty: "Over and above the privileges that the civil law may confer, every man by virtue of his birth into the world and simply because he is a man possesses certain definite and inalienable rights. He has a right to live—so long as he commits no act by which his life becomes forfeit to the state. And the right to live carries with it the right to all that is requisite to preserve life."

YOUR IMMEDIATE DUTY.

Reports from various parts of the country show that Socialist agitation is progressing very favorably. Especially encouraging are the reports from Chicago. Since the establishment of the "Workers' Call" in that city and the acquisition of many earnest, enthusiastic and able comrades, matters have been on a steady boom there.

is its organization. In most of our cities only one in ten, fifteen or twenty of the Socialist voters is a member of the party. In Chicago, with a vote of 100,000, this is an excellent showing and is a sure guarantee that all the work possible to do, is being done. With such an organization the future of the movement is assured.

And in subsequent elections we may look for a large increase of votes. When of such a body of voters can be got into an organization, it means that in that place there is a regiment of workers who can and will devote time to the propaganda of the Social Revolution. When, furthermore, this regiment sets about its work with systematic energy and devotion, organizes its efforts and directs them according to a carefully prepared plan, which includes content and method, and readily adopts improved methods, then we may be sure that it will accomplish what it sets out to do in the quickest and most effective manner.

But the purpose of this is not to throw bouquets at the comrades of the portkoplots. They have their hands full of more important things than that they pick them up and make the proper bow. What we wish to do is to point a moral and adorn this tale with a few words to our San Francisco comrades—and others can take the hint.

In the fall of this year there will be a municipal election. Last fall we polled 2,000 votes; this year we can get 10,000 more. This we can do by our comrades will work. With the proper amount of effort there is an easy possibility of doubling the vote. All the indications are of a quiet campaign, and under such circumstances we can more readily get the ear of the individual citizen. The necessary time is activity on our own part. The strike has opened the eyes of members, but the conflict between the two sides of the trust has aroused the people to a fear for liberty, with the concentration of capital; the Republican party is well known as the rich men's party; the Democrats are disgraced as corrupt and discredited as being incompetent. The times are most propitious for our cause.

Now, comrade reader, our remarks are not addressed to an indefinite Tom, Dick or Harry—not to the other fellow; they are addressed to you, you! Do you understand? YOU!!!

1. ARE YOU A MEMBER? Your immediate duty is to become one if you are not. You should be a member because it costs only 25 cents a month, and you will do the work that will do the work. It goes into the organized propaganda, and thus is spent in the most effective way. You yourself then have a voice and a vote in the management of the organization which controls Socialist propaganda.

With your money, comrade reader, your advice and vote, this result is attainable—that the money which Socialists spend in San Francisco will be spent in the most effective and fruitful manner. There is no further advantage—besides furnishing a regular income which can be figured on in making plans, your presence, even though occasional, at party meetings, encourages others; it is a visible evidence of progress; it furnishes the reward of visible results which a party worker needs to keep him encouraged and spur him on to further efforts. Beyond this, again, is the fact that you yourself, comrade reader, will find something to do for the cause. There is plenty to be done. If you cannot do it you are excused; but if you can then join, and take up your share of the burden of the emancipation of society from wage-slavery. You hope for Socialism; you long for rest from this desperate struggle; you wish to see your world on the top floor, free from the barbarous competition of the day and enjoy the peace, prosperity, and freedom of the cooperative commonwealth. Then do not hang back. Do not remain withdrawn from those who are working to realize the noble ideals we hold.

Next Wednesday evening, June 5th, at 8 o'clock, in the Labor Bureau, 915 1/2 Market street, in the front hall on the top floor, is held the regular monthly meeting of the Local San Francisco Social Democratic party. COME TO THIS MEETING, and join the party then and there. Do you know what work there is to be done which we need you to help do? There is speaking to do. Can you speak to a literature to do? There is writing to do. This you certainly can do. There are petitions to circulate to have referred to a vote of the people the two propositions of employing unemployed citizens and building a Palace of the People. Ten thousand names must be secured for these to become effective. It can be done, and will be far better propaganda, when done, than any other made in San Francisco. This is plenty of work to suggest for the present. When it is done we can suggest more. But we again ask you, Are you willing that few should bear all the burden of this? Or are you a true Socialist? Will you join with your comrades in the common struggle? Answer by your presence Wednesday night, June 5th, at 9:15, Market street, second floor, from front

IN THE Industrial Arena

BY JOE J. NOEL.

One of the peculiar features of President McKinley's little junket is that he quite forgot to visit Mare Island Navy Yard. Perhaps the owners of the Union Iron Works induced the forgetfulness. It might be inconvenient for these builders of warships to have the knowledge blazoned forth to the country that Mare Island Navy Yard is equal to the task of building as large a ship and as swift as are the Scotts. The contrast between the treatment accorded mechanics in the employment of the government at the navy yard and the same class of mechanics employed at the Union Iron Works might cause some people to think that Irving M. and his associates are constitutionally opposed to any one thinking who is not of their ilk.

Up at Mare Island the United States transports are fitted for sea at less cost than they can be fitted at either the Risdon Iron Works or the Union Iron Works. The machinists in the privately owned yards are on strike for a nine-hour workday, the machinists employed by the government at the navy yard work eight hours a day. The pay per hour of the government machinist is much more than the pay of the privately exploited machinist. The same holds good with every mechanic and laborer employed by the two parties concerned. The government employee is relatively better off than his brother workman engaged in a question of the Risdon company. This brings us to another question: If the work on the transport fitted out at the government yard is as good as the work on the transport fitted out at the Union Iron Works, and if the price is less, or even the same, and the employees get more wages for the number of hours worked and better treatment generally, why not have all the transport fitted out at the government yard? And if the transport were not the warships; and if the warships, why not the ships of peace?

Another question might be asked concerning the surplus value created by the machinist at the government ship yard as well as at the privately owned yard but to make it understandable to the machinists who have been so busy working for Mr. Scott that they have had no time to think for themselves or develop their brains, the comparison between the Union Iron Works and the Navy Yard will be maintained. For the sake of convenience, let us concentrate our remarks, we will imagine that one hundred men in each yard are working to create value. The concrete thing upon which they expend their labor power is the building of a ship. In the government yard they work eight hours per day, in the privately owned yard they work ten hours per day. The amount of value created by each man of course we say will be the same, one dollar, to use the standard known to everybody. Now, looking at the thing in this relation, the Scotts take two dollars from every man each day more than the government. This, in the illustration, amounts to two hundred dollars a day from the one hundred machinists. Applying it concretely, that is, applying it to all the men employed by the Scotts, the relation holds good. That is, the volume of value created by workmen and turned over by them to this one company is about two dollars per man every day more than the government takes for the same work. But the actual volume is far in excess of this. Leaving all comparison to the one side for a minute, it can be conservatively estimated that every man working at the Union Iron Works creates value every day which would exchange for ten dollars in gold in the open market. To make it more clear, take for example a ship the company would charge \$100,000 to repair. The actual wages paid the mechanics during the repairing would amount to \$30,000, or the other \$70,000 would be the profit. The man who gets the \$60,000 or \$70,000? If you decide that the Scotts get this value that you and your fellow-workmen have created, will you please tell us why? Surely this question might be discussed in your union without offense to the sensibilities of your leaders. At least you could ask, in all kindness, why you wear out your feet on the streets every day into the pocket of Irving M. Scott more than the government wants from you for exactly the same work.

You cannot escape the truth contained in the illustration, nor can you escape the further deductions from the premise established. If the amount of food, clothing and shelter the men who worked on the ship were conservatively estimated with any part of the ship, machine were exchangeable with one of the engines and two pieces of armor plate. Who gets the rest of the value created by your human labor? Who takes as his own the results of your sweat and toil? Irving M. Scott, of course. That's why he is a millionaire. That's why the President was a guest of his family, and that's why he kept the President from visiting the Navy Yard, lest the fact be advertised that facilities for creating values in warships there were equal to his own, and that the workmen are more contented, receiving better wages and a shorter work-day, together with the possibility of having the warships of the future built there because it would be cheaper.

This is an illustration from the facts which confront the striking machinists, to prove that under government ownership of the means of production and distribution you would be infinitely better off than you are now, working for the Scotts and the Dows. But under no consideration must you confound government ownership with Socialism. One of the chief differences is this: Under government ownership you would get three dollars' worth of value of production to speak, every day, and get about three dollars' worth of it back to feed yourself and buy clothing and pay the landlord, the government taking the balance, as it does now in the case of the Mare Island Navy Yard. You would still be an exploited man, under government ownership of the means of production, as it is today. You would still be wearing out your life for the benefit of a class. Under Socialism all your crystallized labor in the shape of ships, or engines, or plows, or mills, or bread, would belong to you. The energy, the effort, the thought, the sweat you put into the creation of these things, would be paid for by a possession of these things. You ask

why? Because you produced them. And the capitalist, you ask—what of him? Your peculiar ethics, my dear workman, and your absurd concern for the welfare of other people who have no concern for yours, keep you wage-slaves. Do we need capitalists to run the post office, or the weather bureau, or the Navy Yard? Are they not run economically, even under this government?

The capitalist has no rights you need respect. The farther back you go to find the origin of capital the less excuse you find for the capitalist. All his possessions are the unpaid wages of workmen. And the passing of the years gives no title to property that was wrongfully acquired. Just as each of us today create ten dollars' worth of value, so to speak, every day you work and get merely enough of it to keep you alive, so your forefathers, back to Garth, hind of Sergus the Saxon, with the iron band around his neck, produced relatively ten dollars' worth of value every day, and got only enough of it to keep them alive. And just as each in his right to rob the poor, helpless women and children, and weak-hearted, unprotesting men of today, so the capitalist of early days was secure in his right to exploit your forefather Garth, and to that end placed the iron band around his neck. The capital that was honestly obtained in the same manner as the other; there is no difference in the methods used. The iron band Garth wore around his neck you wear around your stomach. You cannot escape your masters; you are theirs for life. True, you may sometimes change them; but the second has you bound to him as firmly as the first. You can accept his terms or you may not work. Without work you may starve. I think of it today; think of it tomorrow; and when another crisis comes to bid you good morning, and hint that you had better submit to your masters' terms, still think of it. And every time you deposit a ballot in the box that is not labeled "Socialism," that is not labeled "The Working Class," take a step out in a vacant lot and kick yourself good. Your freedom from the modern collar of Garth lies in voting for your own interests. And those interests are not the same as the interests of the men who make you wear the collar. Your interests are not the same as the interests of the men who control the means for the election of a Republican or a Democrat. If you would learn where you rightfully belong, study what the Socialists have to say on the subject.

Another strike Monday may be inaugurated to keep up the interest in local affairs. This time it is the butchers. One would naturally think from 6 a. m. till 5 p. m. is about as long as a man could be expected to work and be respectable, yet the owners of butcher-shops think otherwise. A wisely drawn schedule of prices and hours would be called for an eight-hour day. In the first place eight hours is long enough for any man to work; in the next, it is well to ask for anything, though a man would be a fool not to take half. A strike may result from placing the weak-kneed demands before the masters. Nothing worse could have happened if the demands had been strong. Then, a show of strength by the men who control the means of the fellow and often keeps him at bay; evidence of weakness only earns his contempt and causes him to fight. If the butchers allowed themselves to be lulled into the sleep of security by the siren voice of a leader, next Monday they may be rudely awakened. It is well always to think of yourselves, workmen. Sometimes there is a great deal of work in the air, and the trouble is only a few of you are in on the vision. Always be suspicious of too much anxiety for peace at any price.

The same time ago we said that a fund of \$50,000 had been raised by the Employers Association to fight union labor in this city. We beg to apologize. Our natural conservatism made us reluctant to publish such a bit of news. \$50,000 is such a large sum to us. It would buy so many things we need. It would do such an immense amount of propaganda. We could elect a Social Democrat for Mayor in this city next November if we had that amount to fall back on. Is it any wonder we cut the amount reported in two and used only one-half. Fifty thousand dollars was enough we thought. But we were wrong. We should have added another cipher and made it \$500,000. Think of it! Half a million dollars subscribed to fight the Cooks and Waiters by capitalists, who have no connection with the restaurants, only to eat an occasional meal in one of them. There is no evidence of a class struggle in this. Not at all. The money is contributed out of love for the Cooks' and Waiters' Alliance.

Three hundred and twenty-seven restaurants display union cards in their windows in this city. Gradually the fight narrows itself down to the few big places that have always stood against union demands. Johnson is, of course, the leader, though lately he talks less. He has an official photograph in the person of one of his Michaels. This Michaels is a lawyer, though he does not work at his trade all the time. He is otherwise engaged. A committee, with the esoteric philosopher, Johnson, at the head, keeps him busy making resolutions. When the committee leaves him he fondly imagines he can have a few minutes to ply his trade of law-monering. Not so, however. The reporters disburse his mind on that point. One after another they drop a nickel in the slot and Michaels grinds out the same old song for each: "That the strike is over; it was the last three days more; we have eleven thousand cooks on the way and seventy-five thousand waiters. We pay more than the union demands, and work our men only two days a week. We are really good. The Cooks and Waiters are the most ones who are bad. They want to be idle. They are looking for it," then there's a bur-r-r goes on somewhere in Michael's internal economy and he begins all over again.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. C. City.—The Mutual Electric Light Company would pay Gibson's rent to help him fight the Union. Can you not see the economic basis for the generosity? L. F. Santa Barbara.—We are doing our best. Many thanks. McG.—I do not wish to risk my reputation as a prophet. No man can predict the outcome of the present struggle. Capital is strongly entrenched, but the workers have learned considerable.



