

The Bricks, the Boy and "Pa"

What place is this, pa?
This is a brickyard, my son.
Whose brickyard is it, pa?
It belongs to me, my son.
Do all these big piles of brick belong to you?
Yes, my son, every brick of them.
My! How long did it take you to make them? Did you make them all alone by yourself?
No, my son; these men you see working here make them for me.
Do the men belong to you, pa?
No, my son, these men are free men. No man can own another. If he could, the other would be a slave.
What is a slave, pa?
A slave, my son, is a man who has to work for another all his life for only his board and clothes.
Why do men work so hard, pa? Do they like it?
Well, no; I don't suppose they do, but they work or starve.
Are these men rich, pa?
Not to any great extent, my son.
Do they own any houses, pa?
I rather guess not, my son.
Have they any horses or fine clothes and do they go to the seaside when it's warm, the same as we do, pa?
Well, hardly; it takes them all their time to work for their living.
What is a living, pa?
Why a living—well, for them a living is that eat and wear.
Is that board and clothes, pa?
I suppose it is.
Are they any better off than slaves, pa?
Of course they are, you foolish boy. Why, there're free; I don't make them work for me; they can leave whenever they choose.
And if they leave won't they have to work, pa?
Yes, of course they will; they will have to work for some one else.
And will they get any more than a living from him?
No, I suppose not.
Then how are they any better off than slaves?
Why, they have votes; they are free men.
If they get sick do you pay for the doctor, pa?
No, of course not. If they get sick they must pay for their own doctor.
If a slave gets sick, who pays for the doctor, pa?
Well, his owner does; he can't afford to lose his property.
Can you afford to lose one of these men, pa?
Well, it makes little difference. I can hire another any time.
You would care more about them if they were your slaves, wouldn't you, pa?
Yes, I suppose so.
Then how is it better for them to be free?
Oh, don't ask foolish questions, boy.
What are bricks made of, pa?
Of clay, my son?
Do the bricks belong to the men when they make them, pa?
No, they belong to me.
Why do they belong to you when the men make them?
Because the clay is mine.
Did you make it, pa?
No, God made it, my son.
Did He make it for you, pa?
No, I bought it.
Bought it from God?
No, from a man.
Did the man buy it from God?
No, of course not; he bought it from another man, I suppose.
Did the first man it was bought from buy it from God?
No; certainly not.
How did he get it then? How was it his more than anybody else's?
Oh, I don't know; I suppose he just claimed it.
Then, if these men should claim it now would it be theirs?
Oh, bother! don't keep asking such foolish questions.
If you didn't own the clay how would you get your living, pa?
Oh, I don't know; perhaps I should have to ask some one to give me work.
Would you make bricks, pa?
Maybe I would.
How would you like to make bricks for only your board and clothes, and let the man who claimed the clay have everything else?
Nobody'd care how I liked it. Poor people must live for their living.
If these men had brickyards of their own, would they work for you, pa?
Not likely; they would work for themselves, probably.
Isn't it lucky that that man claimed this land first and that you bought it?
Why?
If he hadn't maybe somebody else would have claimed it and one of these men would own it now, and then maybe you'd have to work for him for your board and clothes.

Maybe. You ought to be thankful to Providence that your father is not obliged to work for somebody in order to support you.
Should these men's little boys be thankful to Providence, too, pa?
Well, I suppose they should.
What for, pa?
Oh, because their pa's have steady work. It's steady work a good thing, pa?
Of course it is, my son.
Then why don't you work, pa? No body could keep you from making bricks, could they, pa?
No. But I don't want to take work away from the men. If I worked I should be keeping one of them out of a job.
That's kind of you, pa. But if you wheeled that man's barrow while he rested a little, would he feel bad about it?
Oh, pshaw! gentlemen don't wheel barrows.
What's a gentleman?
Why, gentlemen?—men who don't need to work—the upper class.
I thought there wasn't any upper class in this country. I heard a man say all men were equal.
The man who said it was a socialist or anarchist or a single taxer or something or maybe it was election time and he was trying to catch votes.
Say, pa, my Sunday school teacher says we are all God's children. Is she a socialist or an anarchist or a single taxer, or is she trying to catch votes?
Oh, no; that's the right thing to say in Sunday schools and churches.
Well, pa; honest, now; are these men God's children just as much as we are?
Why, yes, my son; to be sure they are.
Say, pa, do you remember when you bought those marbles for Jim and me, and I grabbed them all and made Jim give me his top before I'd let him play with them, and you called me a greedy little hog and took me down cellar and whipped me?
Yes, my son, I remember.
Well, did you think you did right?
Certainly, my son; a parent does right to correct his children and keep them from acquiring bad principles. I bought the marbles for both of you. Your brother Jim had as much right to them as you had.
Well, pa, if these men are God's children just as much as you are, then you and they are brothers, aren't you?
Yes, my son.
And didn't God make the clay for all his children?
Yes, I— I suppose so.
Then what right have you to have all the clay any more than I had to have all the marbles?
Oh, bother, don't ask such stupid questions.
Say, pa, aren't you a greedy little hog for keeping all the clay, and making these men give you so much work for such a poor living? Aren't you afraid God will punish you as a wise man?
Oh, don't talk so much! You make me tired.—Exchange.

Massachusetts, Deep in the Fight


Boston, October 7.—The campaign of Massachusetts may be said to have fairly opened last night when our candidate for Governor, John C. Chase, began his tour of the State at North Adams. Chase returned from the Pacific Coast on Sunday in response to the call of the party in Massachusetts for his services during the campaign. There can be no doubt that his selection as the Socialist candidate for Governor was a wise one. The events of the past few weeks have shown that he was the very man to head the ticket at this time.

All New England is stirred up over the prospect for the coming winter. Here, more than in any other part of the country, will the threatened coal famine, resulting from the coal strike, be felt. The people of the Eastern States are completely cut off from any other supply of coal for fuel except that which may be brought from England, and the quantity in that case would be too small to afford any great relief. In every city and town mass meetings are being held in protest against the coal barons, and relief committees are being appointed to see that means to tide over the coming emergency.

The politicians are entirely at sea, and though they are trying to present remedies, none of their utterances receive serious attention for their attitude towards the miners. We know, of course, that this is simply because the material interests of every person in New England have been actively affected. Were it not for this there would be little feeling except for the mines in their magnificent struggle. Confronted by a New England winter, with no fuel in sight, the people are beginning to think and talk Socialism.

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and we may expect a large number of them to vote for Socialism in November.

Government ownership of the coal mines is becoming a popular cry, and the only thing for the Socialist party to do now is to point out that the workers themselves must own the government, as government ownership with capital still in control by the government will give us little better than we have today.

It is fortunate, therefore, that the Socialist party in Massachusetts can present as its candidate for Governor a man who not only can state the Socialist position clearly, but whose record indicates high respect and consideration. We shall have a campaign this year such as we have never had before.

Socialism Among the Carpenters

Comrade Hy Metz, of Carpenters Union 162, San Mateo, arrived home from Atlanta convention of Carpenters and Joiners. He gave a most interesting account of the proceedings and told of the many Socialists who came from all parts of the country as delegates, nearly all of the delegates from Alabama, Texas, and Oklahoma being comrades. Of the six delegates elected to the A. F. of L. three were Socialists and ten out of the eighteen national organization officials elected were of the same persuasion. Comrade Fred C. Wheeler, the Socialist candidate for Secretary of State of California, received the second highest vote among the national delegates elected and his speech was one of the most brilliant in the convention.

Stanton, who was elected delegate to the A. F. of L. national convention, is the Socialist party nominee for Governor of Pennsylvania. He is making speeches throughout the coal fields and is the only candidate for Governor who has dared to personally appear before the miners.

Organizer's Fund

The following subscriptions to the Northern Organizer's Fund have been turned over by Comrade Reynolds to Comrade Brewer, per Richardson and King Jrs.: J. Barshun, \$1; O. Everett, \$1; H. Strunsky, \$1; Moller & Haas, \$2; J. N. Alfonso, \$5; Jas. Andrew, \$5; O. Gafford, \$1; G. Postler, \$5; C. Hermann, \$5; L. W. Lindgren, \$1; G. W. Shaw, \$1; T. P. D. Gray, \$1; C. H. King Jr., \$1; \$15.

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The Congress of the German Socialists

Our German comrades assembled in Munich on Sunday, September 14th, for their Annual Congress.

After then gave the report on the part of the Executive Committee, which contained among other things, the usual complaints as to the hurry of comrades

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that the Opportunist section does not win ground in the party, and it is noteworthy that in the election to the Control Committee

The Congress had the benefit of two highly interesting papers on workers' insurance and municipal policy, both of which had been very carefully thought out

A noteworthy debate was caused by a proposal to issue literature on the question of Christianity. Both Bebel and Vollmar protested, declaring unanimously that while every member had naturally the right to his own opinion

for the next Congress it was decided to accept the invitation of Desein, after a long discussion in which various towns put forward their plans to be visited.

Munich, September 21. J. B. Acker. The Great Change Coming

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State Central Committee

Meeting called to order by Secretary Harriman. Comrade Patton elected chairman.

2. To inform local at Riverside that Local Los Angeles has taken no steps as was charged in their resolutions.

Disbursements—Comrade Brower's railway ticket, \$25.00; stamps, \$1.50; notary fees, \$2.00; C. H. King, Sr., \$10.00; Pasadena, \$2.00; San Jose, \$3.10; San Pedro, 90c; Lafayette, Campbell, \$10.00; Organizer Fund, Desemo, \$1.00.

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