

HEADQUARTERS



California State
Executive Committee
SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY
OF THE U. S. OF A.
115 TURK STREET,

San Francisco, Cal.,

Jan. 22- 1897

Mr. B. F. Keimard,

Dear Comrade:-

Your letter of
the 16th inst came to hand yester-
day. Wilkins also showed me your
letter to him.

Enclosed I send you the letter
sent to the different Sections in the State
by the State Ex. Com. The result has been
that the largest Sections have been heard
from and all have approved the
newspaper agreement with Mr. W. Wilkins.
This has justified me in entering upon
the terms of the agreement and the paper
will make its appearance on or about
February 10th as the official organ of the
State Organization.

I am candid enough to admit that I would

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prefer the control over our paper that actual
possession gives. But our wishes are limited
only by the bounds of our imagination. We
are confronted by a condition and not a theory.
We expect to organize 150 Sections in this
State before next election and we are also going
to send a wagon and speakers into the fields
with this idea in view. The Section are clam-
oring for an official State organ, The People is a
good paper but is too far away to render any
assistance in the work of organization; we cannot
know from previous experience publish a paper
and foot the expenses without overburdening
the organization. Wilkins is perfectly willing to turn
his paper over to us, and work on salary but will
want the right to walk every week.

Now as to the paper. Wilkins is known through-
out the United States as an able newspaper
man. He and his devoted wife have alone and
unaided built up a paper of 4000 circulation,
which was the organ of the middle-of-the-road
Populists in this State until the St. Louis Convention
to which he was a delegate and was leader of the
anti-fusionists. On returning home he took the
Populist ticket, refused an offer of \$1000 to advocate
Bryan and Watson, advocated Thatcher and
Maguire traveled to Los Angeles and with Harmon
worked for the G. L. P., then joined the Party
and was arrested for speaking on the streets.
His paper was also the organ of the Labor Exchange
in this State but he saw the fallacy of this long
ago but could not break his business contract
with a Mr. Earl Glaser a Labor Exchange man
who controlled half of the paper, but he got rid of
him as soon as possible. Come. Wilkins is clear
on the class struggle, trade unionism, is opposed
and never believed in free silver has education



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himself out of the Labor Exchange." He will with proper treatment make a splendid man. He is a finished and eloquent speaker and willing and anxious to learn, he is also what may be called "desperately honest." This will do the technical work while he travels in the country getting subscribers. He is one of the best organizers known, admitted to be as by all. That he will make money out of the paper need not arouse our misgivings. He and his wife have starvation down to a science bring in 20 cts. a day. That's the kind of man we need. To give him ^{the} full income of the paper will be an incentive to him. The middle-of-the-roaders are the people who do not generally believe in free silver, have no economic interests, stuck on the excess of Populism and are accountable to the S. L. P. The paper shall have its tactics guided by the Natl. Ex. Com. & in other words by the People, tho' of course every editor has his individuality. It is however very clear on all essential points. Whatever happens may turn out to be in the future, "Goin' abie?" The paper will cost the Party as such only \$30.00 and should he at any time fly the track, we have access to his sub. list enabling us to at any time undermine his business and start our own paper. He cannot do any harm in the long run and

will surely do us \$1.00 worth of good.

Your quasi refusal to club with the "New Charter" appears to many of us picayunish, as it is an arrangement any paper will accept and from a business not considering a propagandistic point of view. The People can only gain thereby considering Mr. Wilkins' following among the middle-of-the-road Populists.

On the matter of literature I will say that any literature sent to him is perfectly safe and moreover you can always bring pressure to bear upon him through the Nat. State Ex. Com. should he at any time be doubtful in his obligations. Besides it seems to me that the Nat. Ex. Com. should always embrace any opportunity for bringing Socialist literature before the public and should never allow anything that may smack of red-tape to interfere. Wilkins ^{wishes} does it less for the sake of profit that may be in troops, but rather to spread our literature. By any means let him have what you can it need not be so much. \$100 worth of literature thus eminated is better than the same amount spent on sending out speakers.

Hoping that you will from this be enabled to grasp the situation and our opinions in regard to questions mooted in your letter, ever tho I may be over candid, I remain,

Yours fraternally,

Edw. Hecht. Secy. State Ex. Com.