

Join The Union
of Your Craft

Join The Party
of Your Class

THE WORKINGMANS' PAPER

A CARTOON WEEKLY

To Organize the Slaves of Capital To Vote Their Own Emancipation

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A SOCIALIST
LOAD OF HAY



DON'T YOU WANT GOOD GOVERNMENT?

A local politician rushed into my room and shouted:
"Burgess, I want you to vote the Democratic ticket!"

"Why?" I asked.
"Because," he replied, "the Republicans of this town are corrupt as hell—and will steal everything in sight."

"Well," said I, "it makes no difference to me if they do."
"What?" said he, in astonishment: "don't you want good government, economical government, pure government?"

"Come," I said, and I led the way to an eminence near by where we had a view of the entire city, and then I pointed out to him the evidence of the wealth there before us and said: "I own not one cent of this vast wealth, few of my class own any. Now why should we care which set of thieves possess this wealth?"

"My friend was silent for several minutes and then said:
"I never thought of this before, but I shall study this phase of the subject."

Recently this man bought Marx's "Capital" and if he masters this he will know that the wage worker's class is not interested in taxation, pure government, economical government, nor in just government as understood by capitalists. We are only interested in abolishing the wage system.

To vote for either of the old parties is to give our sanction to our own enslavement.

A NEW DEFINITION.

Editor Socialist:
Enclosed are 25 cents in stamps for which please advance my date of subscription from No. 179, to which it is now paid.

In looking over the many excellent editions of Socialism, it has struck me as singular that so few emphasize the necessity, or advisability of "dividing up" on labor as well as on products. Perhaps they are not so lazy as I am; but to me the fact that I must work until too tired to enjoy recreation, while the sumptuous parasites who roll in wealth take their ease on the products of my labor, makes me "howling mad." I sometimes feel that I could be content on even less than I now possess, if only the Rockefeller's, the Vanderbilts and others of the class could be made to work as hard as we have to in order to support them in idleness and luxury. Some opponents of Socialism are so afraid of having their heads up with the poor tramp who is too lazy to work, but I tell them it costs us far less to give a "hand out" to a tramp than it does to give a yacht to a Vanderbilt or a Hapsburg idiot. I can't see that we give those things Strange! When will the awakening come? Yours for more light.

ELSIE COLE WILCOX.

WHAT IS SOCIALISM?

Socialism is an equitable division of the labor of the world, followed by an equal just distribution of the products of such labor.

ELSIE COLE WILCOX.

VIVE THE WORKERS.

Patent workers, world sustaining—
Up and act or cease complaining.
Know you not the few are reaping
All the wealth while you are sleeping.

With power to take all earth can give,
Why will you refuse to live?

Must we still from earliest breath,
Until our eyes are closed in death,
Live the slaves' ignominious life,
With all its grinding toil and strife.

With power to take all earth can give,
Shall we not live as men should live?

On varied issues we're dividing,
And so the master class is riding
On our backs with haughty frown,
We make the club that beats us down.

With power to take all earth can give,
We know not what it is to live.

Surely it's not your delight
To keep the lordly parasite,
Begging of him for leave to toll,
While he wanders in the spoil.

Unite, and take all earth can give,
And live the life that man should live.

Who has this land the right to rule?
The working class, or I'm a fool.
All there is, that's good and grand,
Is from the workers' brain and hand.

Then let us rule the world, and give
Ourselves the noblest life to live.

JOHN ROBERTSON.

Sept. 17, 1903.

WAGE WORKERS
PAY NO TAXES

I noticed in a recent issue of "The Socialist" an article from Olympia, critiquing my position on the tax question. I had hoped that the matter had been made very plain to my Olympia audience, but the article named is in evidence that even a bright man may be wedded to a delusion.

Last fall, in my home county in California, the so-called Union Labor party appeared in the political field with a ticket. The first plank in the U. L. P. platform called for a considerable reduction in county taxes; the thirteenth plank declared that the election of the Union Labor party "would benefit all classes, but specially the TAX PAYING CLASS." The Socialist party took exception to the U. L. P. position. The writer heretofore was instructed to prepare a leaflet stating the Socialist position, and analyzing the mistakes and inconsistencies of the U. L. P. platform. The argument being mainly on the question: "Who pay the taxes?" Very much depended upon a correct answer to that question. The political actions of men are determined largely by their understanding of principles and programs. Fusion schemes, etc., as far as the rank and file of voters are concerned, are the result of uncertainty rather than dishonesty. Men, as a class, vote for what they conceive to be their interests. Convince the program calling for tax reduction; yet it can be clearly proven that the wage workers vote to lower the taxes on property they move in a direction opposite to their class interests.

Now, the Socialists insist that labor creates all wealth. Hence it logically follows that labor creates the wealth that, having been exchanged for money, pays the taxes on the capitalist's property. From this the U. L. P. politicians argued that the workers paid all taxes. But they lost sight of the fact that the wealth which labor created, and which paid the tax on the capitalists' property, had already been filched from the worker by the operations of the principle of "surplus value," which bears no relation whatever to a tax levy, which is an arbitrary act. The "surplus value" is that portion of labor's product for which the workers receive no pay—that portion of labor's product that goes to swell the profits or wealths of the capitalists.

Let us waste no time sentimentalizing about the right or wrong of the system that permits capitalist exploitations of the workers. Rather let us keep clearly in mind, that taxes on property are paid only by property owners; and that the capitalist is in LEGAL possession of his wealth however unjust the laws or legal system that sanctions his exploitation of the worker. Hence, when the tax-paying time comes the wage workers do not go down into his pocket and take money which is LEGALLY theirs, but pay the taxes on the capitalist's property; but the capitalist goes down into his own pocket and takes money which LEGALLY belongs to him, and pays the taxes on his own property.

Therefore a vote by the wage worker to lower the tax on property, is a vote that the class which possesses the great bulk of the nation's wealth shall retain in its possession a large proportion of its annual filchings from the workers.

Let me illustrate: A certain capitalist has \$1,000,000 worth of taxable property. His business profit for the year, with all expenses paid except his taxes, is \$100,000. The tax levy is three per cent, making the tax on \$1,000,000 equal to \$30,000. Subtract that from \$100,000, it leaves a net annual profit of \$70,000 to the capitalist. A low tax party comes into power and reduces the tax levy to one and one-half per cent, which makes the tax on one million dollars \$15,000, leaving a net profit to the capitalist of \$85,000.

Remembering that but four per cent of the nation's wealth belongs to the wage working class, leaving ninety-six per cent to the capitalist class—the class that owns the means of production and distribution; and that conservatively stated, three-fourths of all direct taxes find their way true inwardness of a vote by the wage worker for tax reduction.

Keep clearly in mind that the minimum wages of labor are determined by the cost of life's necessities; that with surplus idle laborers in the field the tendency of wages is toward the minimum; that "surplus value"—the portion of labor's product for which the workers receive no pay—becomes larger or smaller as idle workers fall or become plenteous or scarce. Hence as idle workers become scarce, and falls as idle workers become plenteous, public employment follows that "public employment for the unemployed" together; while low taxes, decreased public improvements, and an increase in the army of idle workers go together.

To illustrate: The tax fund in a certain county is \$1,000,000. There are a good many idle workers in that county. A low tax party comes into office, and reduces the tax levy to one and one-half per cent, or \$150,000; the wage-workers pay taxes on 4 per cent of the wage or \$90,000. Reducing the tax 25 per cent will save \$10,000 to the tax-paying wage-workers; but it will save \$40,000 to the capitalist class. Leave out of the argument for the moment the \$100,000 paid in taxes to the wage-workers, and consider only the \$240,000 saved to the workers, then in reducing the tax on the capitalist class \$240,000, you have subtracted \$180,000 from the wage fund of the county. In other words, in saving \$10,000 to the wage-workers lucky \$100,000 of taxable property, the wage-working class has been deprived of \$180,000 of wages; and allowing \$90,000 to be the annual wage, 360,000 workers have been added to the army of idlers, to bid down the wages of workers holding jobs, and lower the standard of living for the whole working class. Is that a wise course of action for the workers?

But," say the tax-paying wage-workers, "we pay more taxes in proportion to what we are worth than the big capitalists." Admitted; then the sensible thing to do is not to reduce the taxes, and rob your class of a big wage fund, and throw a lot of workers into idleness; but force the tax-doctors to pay their share of the taxes.

In conclusion, let us consider briefly the attitude of the big tax-payers toward this question. Always and always they are to be seen, either by lowering the tax levy or the assessment of their property. How often do we hear them protest that, "the workers should not be allowed to vote taxes which they do not have to pay"; or changing their tactics, try to get cutting him out of a program by persuading the wage-workers that the latter pay the taxes."

If the tax burden could be shifted to the wage-workers, we would not find the capitalists struggling to lower the taxes. M. W. WILKINS.

Every labor union in America should commence the study of economics. Nothing but his ignorance of what really hurts him keeps the worker from curing himself. Ten men in every union thoroughly educated in economics would bring victory in five years.

A. M. SIMONS.

NO COMPROMISE IN GERMANY.

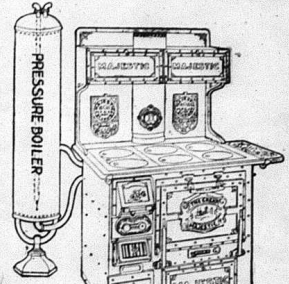
This year's national congress of the German Socialist Democratic party, which opened at Dresden, in the "Red Kingdom" of Saxony, on Sept. 13, has again most emphatically reiterated the oft-repeated statements of the capitalist press that the party in Germany has abandoned its former strict revolutionary position and become merely a party of radical reform. "The revisionists" have, indeed, made a great noise in the world. In their ranks were to be found a number of prolific and ingenious writers, some of whom did not scruple to use the columns of the anti-Socialist papers to criticize the party and have often made use of offensive personalities and insinuations in their attacks on Bebel and other party leaders. The reactionary press, moreover, has, of course, seen its opportunity and has sought both to foster dissension in the party and to create false ideas about it among outsiders by giving attention to the activity of the "revisionists" far beyond what their real importance deserved.

In the good German fashion, the party has allowed the most extreme measure of liberty of discussion both in party meetings and in the press. The "revisionists" have had every chance to convince the rank and file that the "orthodox" ideas of Socialism are out of date and must be abandoned. How little their efforts have availed in all the four years of their active campaign has been shown by the votes of the delegates at the Dresden Congress. Under the circumstances it has been decided to adhere to the old policy of "No compromise" is a most emphatic testimony to the correctness of Marxian principles and tactics when tested by long experience and free discussion.

Two decisive votes were taken. On Wednesday, Sept. 16, a resolution was passed in regard to the use of the capitalist press. It is not clear from the dispatches whether this resolution bars persons holding editorial positions on bourgeois papers from party membership and, if so, just where the line is drawn, or whether it forbids party members to use the bourgeois press to criticize the declarations of principle and tactics of the party. We shall have to wait a week for the text, but it is clear that the resolution was considered a test question against the "revisionists"; to several of whose leaders it would apply in either of these forms. It was adopted by a vote of 307 to 15.

On Sunday, Sept. 19, a second resolution was adopted on the motion of Bebel, Singer, and Kaunsky. It definitely declared against any modification of the proletarian tactics of the party—as advocated by the "revisionists"—or any reconciliation with any fraction of the bourgeois parties; and as a definite application of the proletarian policy so reaffirmed it declared that the party refuses to sanction any recognition of bourgeois concessions, such as presentation at court as a condition of the election of one of its members to a vice-presidency of the Reichstag. This resolution, an unequalled repudiation of the whole "revisionist" tendency represented by Bernstein, von Vollmar, Braun, Gohre, and others of whom we have heard so much as the new leaders of the new and "good" species of Socialism, was adopted by a vote of 388 to 15.

Holds to Working-Class Basis.
In a word, it may be said that the German Socialist Democratic party has reaffirmed, more emphatically than ever before, the proletarian character of the movement, its foundation on the class struggle between wage-workers and capitalists, its dependence upon working-class interest, working-class instinct, and working-class intelligence and organization, and its absolute rejection of all coalitions with other parties and refusal to modify its statement of principles or to relax its discipline for the purpose of attracting support from any other class. It welcomes all men, of whatever class, who support its principles and comply with its discipline; but it relies upon the mass of thinking workmen and not upon the learned "academics" or "intellectuals" for its guidance; if the "intellectuals" take pleasure in putting their abilities at the service of the working class, well and good; they expect to be regarded as leaders of the working class—"friends of Labor"—so much the worse for their ambition; but it relies upon the mass of thinking workmen and not upon the learned "academics" or "intellectuals" for its guidance; if the "intellectuals" take pleasure in putting their abilities at the service of the working class, well and good; they expect to be regarded as leaders of the working class—"friends of Labor"—so much the worse for their ambition; but it relies upon the mass of thinking workmen and not upon the learned "academics" or "intellectuals" for its guidance; if the "intellectuals" take pleasure in putting their abilities at the service of the working class, well and good; 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Full Statement of the Case by the Local Quorum—History of Former Working Class Socialist—Present Attempt to Support the Old Corruption—The Mills-Critchlow-Thompson Tactics Against Omaha—The Real Issue Clearly Presented—Read by Every Socialist—An Intensely Interesting Story.

State Headquarters
SOCIALIST PARTY OF NEBRASKA
519 North 16th St., Omaha, Neb.

To the Members of the National Committee: Socialists: Fellow Workers: Dear Comrades: The weekly reports of the National Secretary show that there is a motion offered by Comrade Turner of the National Committee, proposing that the charges preferred by the Nebraska State Quorum against Comrade W. T. Mills of Kansas, and W. G. Critchlow of Ohio, for violation of Section 6 of the national constitution be dismissed, and as the adoption of this motion would mean the exoneration of Comrade Mills and Critchlow, and a practical denial of the charges which have caused the complaint, and thus inflict an injury upon the party organization in Nebraska, the National Committee, consisting of the Nebraska Quorum, desire to submit another statement of the position and the charges against Comrade Mills and Critchlow in Nebraska to your Committee.

We are impelled to do this, because there is not so much clear understanding of the question at issue among the National Committee. We are sure that the National Committee, and the consequences following upon a decision upon the charges, are of such importance that without the aid of the National Committee there would be no hesitation in sustaining the protest and at least taking the necessary steps that would prevent a recurrence of the grievance and give the Nebraska Quorum the opportunity to present a case before a regularly constituted part of the national organization.

First, it should be understood that the Socialist party was organized in Nebraska by men in league with and aid by republicans in the state. Politically Nebraska is a doubtful state, as between the republican and democratic parties, especially since 1896, when fusion was consummated between the republican and the populists, who formed a considerable factor in Nebraska politics. This fusion was accomplished only because of the interest of the republican politicians to encourage any radical movement which would break the power of the fusionists. For this reason, the middle of the road populists received substantial aid from the government from the republicans in 1896 and afterwards. As a reward for this aid, the republicans have since then been enjoying a \$3,000 a year job by grace of the republican administration.

When it became evident that the populists were becoming less and less a factor in the state, the republican leaders turned their attention to organizing the Socialist party in Nebraska. A state convention was held at Lincoln on July 19, 1900, and about 100 men, 84 persons in attendance, 116 less than required by law, they were forced to adjourn without a quorum in the field. This failure compelled the middle of the road populists leaders, as A. Boyce, L. E. Deaver, and W. T. Mills, to come to Omaha to get a Socialist ticket in the field. Here they formed an alliance with the Kharas, Thomas Edwards, Geo. E. Baird, P. H. Alexander, C. S. Chamberlain, B. H. Kierpatrick, and the last named were the originators of the "Socialist Propaganda Club." A convention was held at Omaha, and a ticket was nominated with Kharas for governor, Baird for county clerk, Edwards for state senator. We have in our possession as follows: the following letter written by Kharas, of Ord, Nebraska, by Theo. Kharas:

T. A. Omaha, Neb., August 30, 1903.
T. A. Edwards, Ord, Neb.:
"The state convention is now set for the 26th of September, and for fear I will have round trip passes for both of you, and give me a tip if you can get anyone to go with you, or there or anywhere out there who will take a trip pass without quealing. I have this straight from Boyce, Geo. Deaver, who have established headquarters here. They promise us some material" help for the convention as well as all the trip passes we can use, but I tell you they have to be used with judgment. The Socialists are the queerest lot I know. Dear old me it was impossible to get any money by the time I got so near as hand, but if put off it would mean I had to come out with a rub, but I know where it starts from.

THEO. KHARAS:
After the election the gang quarreled, Baird and Edwards, K. S. Chamberlain—the proof of their guilt is also in our possession. Every one of the charges against Kharas, proved that he had received money from the republican party and expelled him from the organization.

In the meantime, real Socialists were joining the Socialist party, and it became necessary for the good of the party to clean up the mess. K. S. Chamberlain was found guilty of corruption, and was expelled from Local Omaha No. 1. The charges against Baird were pending. A contest followed between Baird, Alexander and Geo. E. Baird, and the result was that Baird was expelled from the state ticket, which was nominated at Omaha on July 1, 1902, which was the case into the courts, where the charges against the committee and Baird and the charges were finally shut out of the organization.

During the months following the local state campaign and following the close of this year, these expelled members were inactive, except for the quiet

work "on the side" they were doing to cause disaffection and disrupt the party in Local Omaha. But after the national development of the party was established here, not upon our party through suggestion, but practically through the action of the party, was well aware of the situation in Omaha, and Alexander became openly active through the party. He was shortly after that an announcement of the daily press that this crowd had been expelled from the party. Walter Thomas Mills, who was in charge of this engagement was definitely proved to be the secretary of the party, and was instructed to notify Comrade Mills of the character of the organization and to cancel the engagement. The result of this request was that he cancelled the engagement. The result of this request was that he cancelled the engagement. The result of this request was that he cancelled the engagement.

We wish to point out that the contest waged in Nebraska last year was the corrupt election, led by Geo. E. Baird, and the result was that the attention of the National Committee was called to the attention of the National Committee. The result of this request was that he cancelled the engagement. The result of this request was that he cancelled the engagement. The result of this request was that he cancelled the engagement.

We wish also to point out that the National Committee is incompetent to do so. The result of this request was that he cancelled the engagement. The result of this request was that he cancelled the engagement. The result of this request was that he cancelled the engagement.

It is claimed that the propaganda club was organized by the National Committee. The result of this request was that he cancelled the engagement. The result of this request was that he cancelled the engagement. The result of this request was that he cancelled the engagement.

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ing and interfering with the plans of the Quorum. So far, only three dates have been secured for Hanford, which are being held by his independent campaign. The Quorum has been arranging for the Quorum in the state of Michigan and Ohio. We have gone to some expense and labor to arrange these dates, and the Quorum has interfered with this work. When he visited Omaha last week he spent a whole day in the city and visited state headquarters, but consorted entirely with members of the party, and did not speak for the party in the state. The question may be asked, "Why do you not speak for the party?" Thompson disclaimed if he is a member of the party, and a request for party paper and writer and speaker how is down as "intolerant" and "bureaucratic."

Reports in the Socialist press also inform us that Walter Thomas Mills has been speaking for the party in the state, for locals in the state, and this without in any way consulting or notifying the Quorum. The Quorum has a state autonomy, of which Mills has been such an ardent advocate. The result of this request was that he cancelled the engagement. The result of this request was that he cancelled the engagement. The result of this request was that he cancelled the engagement.

In the matter of Comrade Hagerty, local Omaha declined his services because he did not come through the National Lecture Bureau, which we have no objection to. The result of this request was that he cancelled the engagement. The result of this request was that he cancelled the engagement. The result of this request was that he cancelled the engagement.

According to the reports of the National Committee, the National Committee has attempted to excuse Comrades Mills and Critchlow on the ground that Mills is acting as a propagandist in an individual capacity, and that Critchlow is acting as a propagandist in an individual capacity. The result of this request was that he cancelled the engagement. The result of this request was that he cancelled the engagement. The result of this request was that he cancelled the engagement.

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party organization, two more lecture stations were established at Columbus and Schuyler. The result of this request was that he cancelled the engagement. The result of this request was that he cancelled the engagement. The result of this request was that he cancelled the engagement.

Comrade A. J. A. Schiermeier, of Lincoln, has begun work along the line of the party in the state, and on September 24th. And Comrade Hyland will be sent over route No. 1 starting about October 15th. The result of this request was that he cancelled the engagement. The result of this request was that he cancelled the engagement. The result of this request was that he cancelled the engagement.

Realizing that for the best interests of the movement, something must be done to make the work permanent, each speaker will endeavor to establish a branch at stations where there are none for the study of Marx, Engels, Lenin and other Socialist authorities. The result of this request was that he cancelled the engagement. The result of this request was that he cancelled the engagement. The result of this request was that he cancelled the engagement.

Local Omaha is already planning for the coming of Ben Hanford, and the greatest Socialist meeting of the year in the object. It will be made to get the largest hall in Omaha, and also to get every worker out to hear one of their own class talk on "Socialism, the Hope of the World." The result of this request was that he cancelled the engagement. The result of this request was that he cancelled the engagement. The result of this request was that he cancelled the engagement.

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