

"To Organize the Slaves of Capital to Vote Their Own Emancipation."

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"A HAPPY NEW YEAR" -- NIT!

200 Workers of the Vulcan Iron Works Locked Out for Not Asking Boss's Permission to Lay Off New Year's Day

The cartoon on this page is not an exaggeration. It is true in every essential detail. When the workmen employed at the Vulcan Iron Works, Toledo, quit work on Saturday last, nothing was said to them about reporting for work on Monday morning. As New Year's day is a legal holiday, nearly two hundred of the men assumed that the shop would not run that day, and they did not go to work. On Tuesday morning when they showed up at the usual hour these men were notified they were discharged.

The scene that took place was pitiful. The men wanted to turn in their checks and get their tools and overalls. This was refused. They were ordered to leave the place. Many of them pleaded to be given another chance and some implored the boss with tears in their eyes to remember their wives and children, asking, "What about our families?" For answer the watchman (who is also a policeman) drove them out of the building using his club to do so. "Get out! Get out!" Mr. Backus is the only one for you to see. Outside in the street the bewildered men consulted in the cold what was best to do and decided they could do nothing until they saw Mr. Backus.

Who and What Mr. Backus Is. Mr. Backus is the manager of the firm. On Monday afternoon he called together the workmen who had not taken the day off and lectured them upon their duty to their employers. "You must be obedient to your superiors," he said. "Remember, I am the one who gives you employment. If I was not for me and my men you would have no work. You must do what we say, be faithful to our interests, because our interests and your interests are identical."

This was the New Year's sermon Mr. Backus gave to those of his slaves who denied themselves a holiday for his interests. "Discharge without notice" was the New Year gift Mr. Backus gave two hundred of his slaves who took their holiday.

The Dictum of Capitalism. "You must work when we say or you won't work at all." This is the declaration by which the capitalist class, of which Mr. Backus is one, proclaims its rule. The "free American workman" is at liberty to take a holiday--when the capitalist master allows him to.

The "free American workman" is not free. He is a slave. He only thinks he's free, because the daily press, which he supports, and the politicians, whom he votes for, tell him so. As long as capitalists own industry they will be masters and the workers will be slaves. If private (capitalist) ownership is right then the capitalists have a right to run their industries as they see fit and treat their slaves as they see fit. It is up to the workers themselves.

Why Mr. Backus Is Arrogant. Do not doubt those of the discharged workmen will be reemployed at the Vulcan Iron Works. If they beg hard enough and perhaps, if they will work a little cheaper the "good" kind Mr. Backus may permit them to go to work and make more profits for him. But he can do as he pleases.

For there are plenty of workmen who are waiting to take the places of the discharged men. That's what makes Mr. Backus so cocksure and so autocratic. He knows he can fill the vacant places as easily, and maybe as cheaply, as the places were vacated. That is one of the beauties of the system of private ownership. The continual introduction of improved machinery furnishes the capitalists with an ever fresh supply of surplus labor through which wages can be reduced and employed workmen coerced into submission to oppressive rules and robbing practices.

What Remedy, Mr. Independent? It is worth noting that this incident at the Vulcan Iron Works should occur at the very time that the Independents should come into control of the Toledo City government. It is probable that a majority of the discharged workmen voted for Brand Whitlock for mayor.

And yet what does Mayor Whitlock or his colleagues offer to offer or remedy wage slavery? Nothing, whatever. Instead, Mayor Whitlock breaks into print with a neatly turned declaration full of cloying phrases and seductive, self-satisfying sentences which mean nothing to any workman employed or unemployed.

How Long? How long will the workmen of Toledo, and workmen everywhere, continue to believe in and support a system which keeps themselves slaves and their masters masters?

How long will they believe in and support political parties and politicians whose only purpose is to maintain the present system and keep the tribe of Backus on the shoulders of the workers?

How long will the workers without their aid and support from the Socialist party, the party which proposes to abolish the existing system and to substitute a system which will enable the workers to be free and to enjoy the full fruits of their labor?

It is time the workers considered these questions and answered them as they should be answered, in tones so unmistakable that even the dullest of the Backuses cannot misunderstand.

One objection, however, to abolishing the use of railroad passes, except by employes of the companies, would be that it would leave most of the politicians with their passes.--The Atlanta Journal.

The "A. B. C. of Socialism," by Hermon F. Titus, \$1.00 per thousand, postpaid.

"What do you think of this reform wave?" "It's a good thing," answered Senator Sarghant. "It retires some of the old-time bosses from business and makes room for promotions."--Washington Star.

Look over our book list and see if there is not some book there that you would like to have.

Debs In Toledo

Eugene V. Debs, Socialist party presidential candidate in 1900 and 1904, will speak in Toledo at Memorial Hall, on Sunday afternoon, January 14, 1936. Debs is so well known that no extended notice of his personality and ability as an orator is necessary. The price of admission to this meeting will be ten cents, and tickets can be had at Bowers' barber shop, 415 Summit street. The Socialist office, 819 Jefferson avenue, and from the branch secretaries.



"You must work when I say, or you won't work at all."

THE ADVANTAGE OF "INDEPENDENCE"

The distinct advantage of being an "independent" is shown in the case of Reynold Voit, who has been appointed secretary of the new public service board of Toledo. Mr. Voit played the familiar trick of both ends against the middle in the recent election. He served as mayor's clerk to Mayor Finch and supported Finch in the latter's candidacy for mayor. Finch was the republican candidate. The understanding was that Voit would be reappointed mayor's clerk if Finch was elected. But Mr. Voit was taking no chances. He also supported the candidates on the independent ticket for board of public service, the understanding being that if the board were independent Mr. Voit would be appointed secretary of the board. Finch was defeated but the independent candidates were elected to the board and Mr. Voit has got his job. It is even said that Mr. Voit was more responsible for the agitation among the unions against Nolan and Taylor, the republican candidates for the board than anyone else. Whether this is true or not, it is known that whichever way the election went, Mr. Quillivan and Page are vigorous opponents of "politics in the unions"--Socialist politics, that is. The lesson of all this is that if you want to play politics the safest way to play it is to be an "independent." Then you can make any and all kinds of trades with any and all parties (except the Socialist party) and at the same time pose as an "independent" citizen, working for the "common good of all the people." To be identified with a regular political organization commits one to that organization. It is the republican or democratic parties one has to obey the boss of either one of the parties. If it is the Socialist party one has to obey the will of the party membership which governs that party. But as an "independent" one is responsible to only oneself, and there is perfect freedom to do what you please--all in the name of "good citizenship." It is, therefore, very convenient to be an "independent."

We are curious to know just how much good the appointment of Mr. Voit as secretary of the public service board, or of Messrs. Quillivan and Page to the jobs they want, will do the workmen who voted the independent ticket and elected the independents to control of the city government.

A French sculptor is very enthusiastic over Mrs. Potter Palmer's head. A fat purse is a great promoter of beauty.

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Every reader of The Socialist can make the new year happier for the publishers by getting a new subscription for the paper.

THE SOCIALIST office has been moved to 819 Jefferson street, Toledo. Before buying your Christmas books come and see us.

REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALISM AND REFORM SOCIALISM

BY HERMON F. TITUS

FOREWORD

This series of articles is intended to present the Principles and Tactics of Modern Socialism in so plain a way that one who has never heard of Socialism can understand it, yet in so reasonable a way that the student of Socialism will be convinced. It is written for the new Socialist and for the old Socialist alike, as found in the American Socialist movement in 1906. It will deal with the live facts of American society and American politics as seen and interpreted by Socialists.

CHAPTER I

Two Kinds of Socialism

Perhaps you thought there was only one kind of Socialism; or, maybe you think there are as many kinds of Socialism as there are Socialists. The truth is there are just two kinds, and only two kinds. You may have heard of "Fabian Socialism" and "Christian Socialism," and "State Socialism" and "Municipal Socialism," and "Utopian Socialism" and "Scientific Socialism." But these can all be boiled down to two. Some belong to one and some to the other, but all the different kinds can be called either "Revolutionary Socialism" or "Reform Socialism." If we understand these two, we understand all the rest.

Most Talked of Subject

Socialism is the one thing everybody is talking about now, though almost nobody knows what it is he is talking about.

A few years ago 99 out of 100 thought a Socialist was the same as an Anarchist. When McKinley was shot, the Socialists were charged up with the deed, though Czolgoz was an avowed Anarchist.

Now the pendulum of public opinion has swung over to the other extreme, and every Radical Democrat, like Tom Johnson or Hearst, is dubbed a Socialist.

It is even becoming popular to be a Socialist. Is not the Russian struggle for liberty, which now engrosses the world's attention and commands the world's admiration, led by Socialists? Socialists are becoming recognized as the world's heroes. If the tide keeps on running, Jack London will be honored more for being a Socialist than for being a successful story writer.

The Hearst newspapers tell us in flaming editorials that if we Americans lived in Germany, three-quarters of us would be Social Democrats--the German name for Socialists. And so stand a Republican journal as Harvey Scott's "Portland Oregonian" not long ago boldly declared in a leading editorial that it preferred Socialism to Trust Monopoly, if it came to a choice between the two.

What Does It Mean

All this looks as if Socialism might soon capture America. And many people really think so. Some hopeful Socialists have even prophesied that the Socialist Party would elect its president in 1936.

On the other hand, there are a great many Socialists who claim the times are not ripe for Socialist victory. They laugh at their sanguine comrades as dreamers, and argue that the working class in America is quite too ignorant of its own interests to be entrusted with political power at present.

What do these opposing outlooks mean? Why does it appear to some as if Socialism was at the very door and to others that Socialism is years and years away?

It is because they are talking of two different kinds of Socialism--some of Reform Socialism and some of Revolutionary Socialism.

Fall Elections of 1935

A significant fact appeared in the Socialist returns for last fall's elections. As a general thing, the Socialist vote of 1935 fell far below that of 1934. The vote for Debs and Handford in 1934 was nearly twice that cast for Socialist candidates in many city and state elections one year later.

But there were exceptions to this rule. In some localities the Socialist vote held its own, and even gained largely. In nearly all these places where gains occurred it is the Reform kind of Socialism which prevails.

In striking contrast with this, where Revolutionary Socialism was put forward most strongly, in platform and campaign, there were distinct losses in votes, or only slight gains.

Why Reform Socialism Succeeds Now

All over the country just now there is a great wave of Reform sentiment. President Roosevelt represents it, and it makes him popular. He is against railroad rebates; he would check monopoly; he is down on "graft."

Hearst represented this Reform sentiment in his candidacy as Mayor of New York. He was openly for Municipal Ownership. He was charged by his opponents with being a Socialist. He captured a great many Reform Socialist votes which had been given to Debs and Handford in 1934.

In New York City, notice, the Socialist ticket lost votes to Hearst. Now the New York Socialist Party is controlled by Revolutionary Socialists. Had the New York Socialist party stood for Reform Socialism, it

would undoubtedly have held many votes which it lost to Hearst.

This Shows the Difference

In New York City, Hearst stood for Reform Socialism. As a consequence, he captured the Reform Socialist vote.

It is claimed by some Socialists that the New York Socialist Party made a great mistake. They ought to have put forward a Reform Socialist platform and captured the Hearst thunder, so the Reform Socialists maintain. Then they might have equalled or exceeded the Debs vote. In this claim the Reform Socialists are probably correct.

If the Socialists take advantage of the great tidal wave toward Public Ownership as a preventive of Monopoly and Graft, they can undoubtedly gain thousands of votes, and even win many municipal victories.

Would This Be Socialism?

That is the question. The Revolutionary Socialist denies that such victories would be Socialist victories.

He claims that Reform Socialism is not Socialism at all. The Revolutionary Socialist claims that "Municipal Socialism" is not true Socialism.

The Revolutionary Socialist claims that Public Ownership is not Socialism. He says they have had that in Russia for years, but no Socialism by a long shot.

So then you see there are two kinds of Socialism in this country, Reform and Revolutionary. The question is, which kind is the real kind? Which kind deserves the name Socialism? Which kind ought you and I to support? In the following chapters we shall take up first one kind and then the other, their principles and their tactics, so as to make perfectly plain what they both stand for and which is most likely to win.

