

MISSOURI SOCIALIST.

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF ST. LOUIS.

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Number 12.

MERIWETHER AS A DECOY

Workingmen Should Not Be Fooled.

Meriwether Movement Not Socialism.

Two-Cent Street-Car Fares for Hungry Poor --A Friend of Corporations--An "Elect-Me" Movement.

[REPUBLISHED BY REQUEST.]

A demagogue. Who seeks to hide into office on a wave of sentiment created by the street car strike.

Who proposes reducing gas bills while workmen burn coal oil?

Who talks of reducing taxes to workmen who are propertyless?

Who talks of public swimming baths while he upholds a system of industry that causes human beings to end their lives in the black waters of the Mississippi?

Who proposes good street car fares, but ignores the fact that inside the car are dozens of little girls who have spent the weary day in a miserable factory or workshop?

Who offers 3-cent car fare to men who are robbed out of \$5 a day by their industrial masters?

Who wants public ownership of street cars, but opposes public ownership of hundreds of other industries the proper management of which is equally important?

In a word, a man who, when the people rise to demand bread, points to a more crust and says follow me and we will seize it.

Such a man is Leo Meriwether, candidate of the Public Ownership Party for Mayor of St. Louis.

The great street car strike of 1900 aroused the working class to a partial realization of the wrongs it filled their hearts with hatred for the men who stood at the head of the company that oppressed its 4,000 employees. The working people do not yet fully realize that every big factory in the city is but a counterpart of the Transit Company, that they are all engaged in oppressing their employees, because the facts are not brought so conspicuously before them. Now, Mr. Meriwether seeks to take advantage of this state of affairs and by playing upon the aroused sentiments of the workmen hopes to place himself in office.

If Meriwether is in earnest, why does he not advocate the public ownership of the Hamilton-Brown Shoe factory, a place where hundreds of children work for a mere pittance?

Why does he not advocate the public ownership of all industries? Is it not as important that the people should have shoes, clothing, food and shelter as it is that they should have low street car fares?

Not Socialism.

"Oh, this is a step in the right direction," say some. "It is the beginning of Socialism."

It is nothing of the kind. Socialism will come only through the capturing of the powers of government (which are now in the hands of the capitalist class) by the working class. To do this the working class must be organized for that specific purpose and with their object clearly defined. Mr. Meriwether does not even pretend to be organizing the working class. He does not even oppose the capitalist class, for his platform says: "We are not opposed to corporations; on the contrary, we recognize their importance in the business world and favor such free switching and other privileges as will make St. Louis the greatest commercial and manufacturing center in the country." Mr. Meriwether is appealing to the capitalist class. No man can do that and be true to the working people. He cannot serve two masters. This is a conflict between the toilers of all lands and the men who are robbing them of the results of their labor. No man can pretend to be on both sides of this conflict without being a demagogue.

Socialist Municipal Ownership.

It is true that Socialists when placed in power will establish public ownership of the street railways, but it will be with a view to benefiting the employees, and all revenue derived therefrom will be used in the interests of the working people and not to reduce

the taxes of business men. Socialists would not stop at public ownership of street railways, but would hasten on to public ownership of every other industry. Socialists claim that municipal ownership of street railways alone even under a Socialist administration would only benefit the working class a trifle when compared with what is yet to be done, and that therefore, even though municipal ownership was all that the Public Ownership Party claims it to be, it would not be worth while dropping the more important fight for the emancipation of all workmen in order to take up the fight for municipal ownership alone.

Cheap Living.

But even the little benefit that would accrue under properly conducted municipal ownership would not be had under a Meriwether administration. He proposes low street car fares. The absurdity of offering a man a reduction of 1 cent a day in his expenses, when he is getting only 17 per cent of what his labor produces is apparent. But suppose the workman's expenses were reduced. Would not his employer immediately seize upon that as an excuse for reducing his wages?

The managers of a Southern cotton mill once established a savings bank for the benefit of their employees. At the end of six months the managers found that their employees had saved 10 per cent of their wages (which showed that they could live at 10 per cent lower wages), and they immediately reduced wages 10 per cent. So it will be if the cost of living is reduced 10 per cent for St. Louis workmen. They will have to work for 10 per cent less wages. It is the inevitable law of competition that among the workers compels them to work for what it costs to live. The only remedy is to have all industries owned by the people and give every man the full value of his labor.

Mr. Meriwether, led by his ambition to get into office, is one of the worst enemies of Socialism, because he is attempting to profit by the sentiment Socialist agitation has created.

A Dangerous Enemy.

The working class has no more dangerous foes than such men, who seek to take advantage of the gradually awakening class consciousness of the workmen and divert it to the furtherance of their own selfish ambitions. The struggle that is now beginning to attract the attention of the country is one solely between the working class and the capitalist class for the possession of the powers of government. Whoever seeks to divert the efforts of the working class from their attack on the present ruling class is an enemy.

The Class Struggle.

What is the real mission of the working class? It is to change the entire system of industry, to overthrow the present ruling class, the capitalists, who own the factories, railroads, mines, etc., the tools of production, and establish a democracy in industry, have all industries owned and operated by the people collectively with the sole view of producing goods to satisfy the wants of the people, and not for the profit of individuals. In order to accomplish this the working class has to combat the class that has everything to gain by the retention of the present system, the capitalist class—the employing class. This capitalist class is powerful, cunning and resourceful. It will not yield without a bitter struggle. When it sees itself in danger it will attempt to compromise to delay, to hoodwink the workers, and one of the methods it will use is to offer the public ownership of street-railways, railroads, telegraph lines, etc., and through its agents tell the workers that this is Socialism, that they had better stop and make a fight for it for a few years. In this way they hope to disorganize

the forces of the working class and prevent them from seeing the real issue between the workers and their masters.

Here and there this plan may work for awhile. Occasionally a demagogue like Meriwether will perform this work for the capitalist class, without any suggestion from them, and actuated solely by ambition. But the coming of Socialism cannot be retarded. The stooped silent toilers of the earth will hear and understand and will unite into one solid organization for the great struggle for freedom. Let the Socialists of St. Louis fight manfully onward, fearlessly exposing the fallacies of such movements as the Municipal Ownership League and the result will be our reward.

Our Arguments.

For the benefit of new readers let us again repeat our arguments against the municipal ownership movement:

1. It cannot benefit the working class to any material extent, because it covers only one out of hundreds of industries.

2. The administration of municipal ownership by representatives of any but a Socialist party, which has a clear conception of the struggle between the workers and their masters, is only too likely to be carried on for the benefit of "business interests," instead of for the benefit of the employees.

3. Reduction of fares and lessening of taxation, etc., only makes living cheaper and this is of little advantage because the competition of workmen for employment always tends to reduce wages to the cost of living, and in spite of trades unions your wages will ultimately go down in proportion to the reduction in your cost of living.

WARNING.

Make no mistake. Our ticket is headed "Social Democratic Ticket" and Leon Greenbaum is our candidate for mayor. The "Socialist Labor" ticket is not our ticket. The "Socialist Labor" Party fights trade unions. The Social Democratic Party supports trade unions.

TAKE YOUR CHOICE.

Issues of the Present Campaign Parties, Platforms and Candidates.

By Leon Greenbaum, Candidate of the Social Democratic Party for Mayor of St. Louis.

Workingmen of St. Louis:

In voting at the ballot box on April 2, you are virtually voting on a political contract between the working class (including yourself) and the political party whom you and they elect to power. Shall the party elected to power be one that shall represent the working class or its oppressor, the capitalist class? Shall we elect a party to power which will do justice to the working class or shall we elect a party which shall continue the evils from which the workers suffer? If there is a political party in the field which proposes to abolish all of the evils complained of by trade unions, and you are a union man, can you vote against such a party, and be at ease with your conscience? There are four great parties in the field in this municipal campaign each of whom claims to be willing to give the working class what they want.

They are the Republican party, Democratic party, Public Ownership party and the Social Democratic party. The working class should be just as particular in voting on their contracts with political parties as they are, in voting on contracts between the trade union and their employers. If there is any doubtful language in the contract, if there are any words susceptible of a double meaning, or if there are sentences that can be interpreted in various ways or are contradictory with each other, such a contract with your employer would not receive your approval and you would consider the officers of your union as traitors or fools if they accepted such a document. Now in the present campaign, the platforms of political parties are the contracts which the capitalists want the working class to accept on election day, and if you accept a political contract that promises little or no relief, that abounds with sophistry, doubtful words, and contradictory sentences, are you not guilty in the political field of the same folly that you would soon to commit on the industrial field?

The greatest evils the working class suffer from today are of the character which can only be removed through legislation by political parties. In voting for a political party on election day you are voting for the kind of legislation you want for the working class and you may judge what this legislation will be by the platform and record of the party you vote for. The Republican, Democratic, Public Ownership and Social Democratic party platforms contain planks on union labor, but the platform of the Social Democratic party is the only one that promises to use all the powers and influence of the municipal administration in support of the principles of organized labor.

The Public Ownership party platform alludes to labor unions as educational but it does not endorse their protective principles or promise to uphold them. I urge you to get a copy of their platform and analyze it. The Republican and Democratic platforms contain glittering generalities about organized labor without a single definite promise to inspire hope in the hearts of the workers. The Public Ownership party apart from its reference to labor unions as educational societies favors, the employment of organized labor on public works.

Now every non-union contractor in St. Louis favors the employment of organized labor on public works—on his own terms. There is no excuse for a political party to draw up a platform in such doubtful terms, especially when its candidate for mayor, Leo Meriwether, is a lawyer, a profession in which to be successful, one must strictly adhere to right words in the right place. The Social Democratic party platform pledges eight-hour work day, minimum wage of two dollars per day and union scale and conditions on all public work. The Democratic, Republican, Public Ownership and Social Democratic platforms contain public ownership planks, the first three in favor of public ownership of public utilities, while the Social Democratic platform demands the public ownership of all the means of production and distribution. If we could ride free on the cars, have free gas, free water and no taxes whatever to pay, and our living expenses were thereby reduced ten per cent, of what help would this be to the working class, whose living expenses may be raised twenty per cent by the five hundred trusts whose motto is "charge all the profit the market will bear." Will you vote at the ballot box on April 2nd, will you as a union man who knows a good contract from a bad one, vote to be relieved of the profits of a street railway monopoly and vote to continue to be led by five hundred others which are just as bad or worse; or will you

vote for the platform and ticket of the Social Democratic Party, which proposes the public ownership of all the monopolies, trusts and industries, and that the workers who produce all of the capital shall enjoy all of the profits in the Co-operative Republic? The Democratic and Republican party platforms do not promise free switching and other privileges to corporations and franchises when desirable, but all of these things are promised in the platform of the Public Ownership party.

The Public Ownership party is the only one in the field whose platform promises favor to corporations. The Democratic and Republican parties are too crafty to confess their friendship for corporations, because they know that corporations antagonize union labor and are making millions out of convict labor, child labor, low wages and long hours.

The Public Ownership party platform contains an insult to organized labor in the form of a written invitation to union men to vote for the corporations that oppress them. It must be apparent to any man that the Democratic and Republican platforms cannot be sincere in favoring the abolition of profits in municipal or national monopolies, all of which are the offspring of those parties. It is my conviction that the Public Ownership party if sincere could not enforce public ownership if elected to power, because to do so it would require the consent of the state and national supreme courts who are today the representatives of the Wall street interests who own public utilities in St. Louis. Mr. Meriwether has already confessed his impotence, for in his speech at North St. Louis Turner Hall on April 21, 1900, he complained bitterly that the Court of Appeals, four years ago, interfered in his attempt to tax franchises. And now he is trying to get elected Mayor on the presumption that the courts which prevented him from taxing property will allow him to take the possession of it. The Social Democratic party is composed of workmen who have had experience with courts and government by injunction and who have not forgotten the income tax decision. Mr. Meriwether may point to the public ownership victory in St. Charles, Mo., and London, England, but Wall street is not interested in a one-horse monopoly at St. Charles, Mo., and in England (where the capitalist class have admitted to an income tax for years), there is no Supreme Court of lawyers, who like Mr. Meriwether are friends of corporations and who will not allow the public to tax or take possession of the property of the capitalist class. The Social Democratic party, not being merely a local or municipal party, will when it captures the government, have the power to ignore the interference of the courts, following the example of Abraham Lincoln, or else it will change the personnel of the courts, by forcing resignation, removal or impeachment. The Democratic and Republican platforms utterly ignore the principle of "direct legislation," while the platform of the Public Ownership party merely "favors the principle." The Social Democratic platform "demands the adoption of the principle." The Democratic, Republican and Public Ownership platforms do not contain the slightest protest against the use of police during strikes, when all the police power of the city is placed at the service of the corporations which oppress union labor. Thus the police protect the life and property of the capitalist class, while the children of the working class starve and the workers are forced to accept wages that barely provide an existence. If the Social Democratic party were elected to power in this city, the Socialist Mayor who would be a member of the Police Board, would insist in all disputes between capital and labor, that the police power of the city be used to protect the lives and property of the working class from the greed and oppression of the capitalist class. This is the part that has just been enacted by the Socialist Mayor of Marseilles, France, one of the large cities in Europe. Would Meriwether, Parker or Wells follow such a policy, and if not, how can a worker consistently vote for them? Parker, Wells and Meriwether are all gentlemen in the worldly acceptance of that term. So is Mark Hanna. The trouble with all of these gentlemen is that they are on the backs of the working class, through platforms which the workers vote for on election day, and afterwards, discover to be devious webs of confidence men. None of these gentlemen can logically or consistently attack the other on the ground of impure political associations. Parker has his



LEON GREENBAUM,

Candidate for Mayor of St. Louis, Social Democratic Ticket.

TWO BIG MEETINGS To Discuss Socialism.

Dewey Hall, 2301 S. Broadway, Thursday, March 28th, 8 P. M.

Leibinger's Hall, Park Ave. and Broadway, Friday, Eve. March 29th, 8 P. M.

Speakers, Leon Greenbaum, Social Democratic Candidate for Mayor; Wm. Brandt, C. R. Davis, M. B. Dunn and Others.

You Are Invited.

THE SOCIALIST VOTE.

Do you think the Socialists are weak and that they will never amount to much? Do you think Socialism will never come and that there is no use wasting your time reading about it? Then read this record of the Socialist vote of Europe and America and tell us whether a movement that has eight million supporters does not deserve your attention. This list does not include the Socialist strength in Canada, Australia, Japan, Brazil, Puerto Rico and dozens of small countries where we have an organization.

United States

Table showing Socialist vote in the United States for years 1890, 1892, 1896, 1900, and various countries including Austria, France, Germany, etc.

Table showing Socialist vote in various countries including Denmark, Great Britain, Italy, Serbia, Spain, Switzerland, Belgium, and Germany.

Total Strength in the World . . . 8,000,000.

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EDITORIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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MUNICIPAL TICKET.

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- For Auditor: F. O. Salisbury
- For Treasurer: Wm. H. Baird
- For Register: C. R. Davis
- For Collector: John Mueller
- For Inspector of Weights and Measures: Julius Rudolph
- For Marshal: John C. Cross
- For President of Board of Assessors: G. A. Hoehn
- For President of Board of Public Improvements: Bernard McCaffery
- For President of the City Council: John Zach
- For Members of the City Council:
 - WM. J. HAGER, H. STRUCKHOFF, JOHN A. KREIS, H. P. NELSON, PHIL MUELLER, JOHN G. GOEDEKER
- For Members of the Board of Education:
 - HENRY MAACK, GEORGE GRUND, DR. L. H. DAVIS, H. J. STEIGERWALT
- For House of Delegates:
 - 1st Ward—Albert E. Sanderson.
 - 2d Ward—Fred Spalti.
 - 4th Ward—A. Lippard.
 - 6th Ward—Wm. Verge.
 - 8th Ward—G. B. Nelson.
 - 7th Ward—A. J. F. Smith.
 - 5th Ward—Wm. Joos.
 - 9th Ward—Leonard Stoll.
 - 10th Ward—John Sheer.
 - 11th Ward—Francis J. Krause.
 - 12th Ward—Julius G. Friton.
 - 13th Ward—ROBERT KALL.
 - 14th Ward—L. F. Gomes.
 - 15th Ward—Louis Froelich.
 - 16th Ward—John P. Larkin.
 - 18th Ward—J. H. Buttrell.
 - 20th Ward—L. E. Hildebrand.
 - 21st Ward—Jas. R. Tiernan.
 - 22d Ward—L. Walker Evans.
 - 23d Ward—Henry Benner.
 - 24th Ward—M. B. Dunn.
 - 25th Ward—F. P. O'Hare.
 - 26th Ward—Chas. Hahn.
 - 27th Ward—Hy. Ruesche.

Subscribe to this paper, 1 year 50c.

Attend our meetings and hear our arguments.

Socialism is not "anarchy." Read our platform.

Socialism is not "a utopia." Read our platform.

If you are a workman vote the workingman's ticket.

The Socialist movement is the only international political party.

Socialism will not suppress individuality. Read our platform.

Socialism is not "dividing up." Read our platform and see what we want.

The Capitalistic system of industry has outgrown its usefulness. It is time for the next logical step—Socialism.

If you are a Socialist join the Social Democratic Party. See the Directors in another column and visit the ward branch nearest you.

Our regular readers will find some articles repeated this week that have appeared heretofore in these columns. This is done for the benefit of the thousands of strangers who will see this number.

Do not scratch the Social Democratic Ticket. One vote is a matter of principle and if you don't vote the ticket straight, you are not a Socialist and your vote is of no value to Socialism.

The supreme political issue in America to-day is the contest between the working class and the capitalist class for the possession of the power of government. For which class will you vote?

Stand by the working class party.

Killed at Work.

London, March 3.—Some startling figures are given in an official return of the number of workmen killed and injured in the course of their employment in the United Kingdom last year. The total number of fatal accidents was the highest ever reached, namely, 4,822, or more than thirteen per day all the year round, while the number of non-fatal accidents was also a huge total—194,338.

The figures for the first five years show that, despite acts of Parliament and every preventive measure, the art of peace are daily growing more dangerous than those of war, and the total number of casualties fatal and otherwise is necessarily increasing.

The fatalities last year exceeded those of five years ago by 672, and the non-fatal accidents show an increase in the same period of 49,888, the numbers being uniformly progressive year by year.

The above item appearing in the daily press contains food for thought. "Workmen killed and injured in the course of their employment." In nine such cases out of ten the accident is due to some defect in machinery or to something else which with proper care could have been avoided.

Under Socialism the greatest possible care will be taken in order to reduce accidents to a minimum. No one will be making a profit out of cheap machinery, etc., then; human life will be considered of more importance than property, and only the safest methods and appliances will be used.

Notice to Members.

The members of local St. Louis are hereby called upon to attend a special conference to be held in the interest of this paper at Metal Trades Hall, Monday, March 25, 3 p. m. A special report has been prepared, which should be heard by every member. Do not forget this. By order Board of Directors, M. B. DUNN, Secretary.

Modern Slavery.

In many parts of South Carolina chattel slavery is still in full swing, according to the Philadelphia North American, which reprints from a photograph a picture illustrative of its assertion. What is represented therein is described as follows: "High on the hill top of the neighborhood of the stockades, the guards with Winchester still stood, waiting to shoot down the laborers in the cotton fields below, if these unfortunates tried to run away. Some of the blacks thus guarded were the striped uniform furnished by the state to its convicts, but others were in rags, doled out by the planters to the slaves held under the labor contract in spite of the Thirteenth amendment and the Emancipation Proclamation. Bloodhounds waited at the knees of the overseer, hungry to spring at the throat of any fugitive negro."

This condition of affairs is said to be an outgrowth of the convict labor



Wm. J. HAGER For Member City Council.

law, and "free" negroes are now to be found working side by side with convicts, bound by a contract (of which a fac simile is given), which reproduces every feature of chattel slavery with the exception of the slave market.

The grand jury of Anderson county, S. C., it is stated, have visited the stockades and did nothing, the planters declaring that any effort to check the system will result in a terrible massacre of the black men.

And while this infamy is flourishing in the South, William McKinley, apostolic successor of Lincoln makes an inaugural address at Washington in which he informs all whom it may concern that "The American people, INTRENCHED IN FREEDOM AT HOME, take their love for it wherever they go, and they reject as mistaken and unworthy the doctrine that we lose our own liberties by securing the enduring foundations of liberty to others." The Workers' Call.

To give us a boost—Monday evening.

In a table compiled by the Public Ownership party and appearing in a recent issue of their party paper under the head, "Where the Money Goes," they show that \$1,528,624 goes to the support of the police department and \$1,572,882 goes to four other departments—"Where the Money Goes"—Mr. Workingman, don't think that is the only place where your money goes. Chamberl. M. Dewey says that you own out of this country every year \$2,000,000 worth of wealth, and Rockefeller, Morgan and Hill have a little of it. While you sell, it will not take you long to find out how much you have, and when you realize how much wealth you have made and have not, you will feel like calling a man a fool who attempts to blind your eyes to your real condition by such means as the Public Ownership party employs.

Be at the conference Monday evening.

THE GLASS STRUGGLE.

Capitalist Class Versus Working Class—A Conflict of Interests.

The Triumph of the Working Class Will Put an End to Class Rule.

BY WM. H. BAIRD.

Socialists define class consciousness as the "recognition of one's own interests as a member of a class and knowledge of the fact that his interests can best be advanced by advancing the interests of the class to which he belongs." It also implies a knowledge of what those interests are and how they can best be subserved.

Socialists do not believe that there should be class divisions in the ranks of society, but they do believe and assert that such a division exists to-day; that it is based upon the conflicting



Wm. H. BAIRD, For Treasurer.

material interests of the different classes, and that it leads to a continual warfare between these classes, which we designate the "class struggle," and we further believe that the only way to end this struggle is to carry it to its logical conclusion—the complete triumph of the class that is fittest to survive. This class, we assert, is the working class, who alone can and do produce all wealth, but are exploited by the capitalist class. The capitalist class is divided into two branches, which we for convenience call large capitalists and middle classes, who have conflicting interests, as between themselves, but whose interests and the working class interests are always opposed, so that the real class division and class struggle is between the working class and the whole capitalist class. We believe further that this division of interests and the resulting struggle arises out of the development of industry made possible by the discovery of steam and electrical power, and the invention, adoption and improvement of labor saving machinery and methods, and that the economic power of the capitalist class is derived from the private ownership of these improved means of production and distribution. We hold further that the conflict between the large capitalists and the middle class, nearly always, takes on a political aspect and that the working class is constantly being appealed to by both the large capitalists and the middle class to assist them at the ballot box. Sometimes this appeal is to their patriotism, sometimes to their prejudices, and sometimes to their cupidity. In the shape of bribes which range all the way from a full dinner pail to so-called labor legislation. But the whole capitalist class is a unit in always opposing any proposition looking toward securing to the laboring class the full product of their labor. It has been truly said that "The hell will do anything in the world for the poor except to get off their backs."

In the present campaign the two regular old party organizations stand for practically the same principles and uphold the existing system in its entirety. They are simply fighting for the spoils of official patronage—a fight in which the working class can have no interest. It is true both these parties profess to believe in municipal ownership, but as they are and have been in possession of all branches of government and have done nothing toward bringing it about, their professions are not entitled to any consideration.

The Public Ownership party advocates a departure from present methods in their demand for the municipal ownership of certain public utilities, and we will concede that they are sincere in their demands. But in this movement Socialists recognize the middle class interest and their attack upon the large capitalists who own and control these various public utilities, and again, we see the usual bribe offered to the working class. This time in the form of reduced car fare, cheaper gas, etc., but as usual, no guarantee to the working class of the full product of their labor. Simply an offer of cheaper living. They will only be required to handle packages where they now handle mules, but the net result will be the same. The end, Cheaper living will attract to St. Louis more workers seeking employment, in competition with those already here, making it harder for the unemployed to secure work and rendering the position of the employed more insecure and uncertain. The middle class would be benefited by the reduction of taxation in so much of the revenue derived from the publicly owned utilities, and the shifting of the burden of taxation from the middle class to the large capitalist class, who in turn would be enabled, through the increased competition among the workers and the cheapened cost of living, to reduce wages, or resist any demand for an increase of wages, which always tend downward toward the simple cost of a bare existence.

The Social Democratic party presents to the working class their platform, based upon the fact of the "class struggle." We state in plain and unequivocal language, in both platform and propaganda, that while we favor municipal ownership of public utilities, we regard it as a means to an end, and that end we boldly declare to be the

complete overthrow of the present capitalist system of production and distribution, and the inauguration of the public ownership and operation of ALL the means of production and distribution. We contend that the present system is wrong in principle and wrong in practice, and that the exploitation of the working class by the whole capitalist class must cease. We declare that the poverty, crime and degradation so prevalent in private life, and the demoralization, inefficiency and corruption in public affairs are the logical outcome and the direct result of the capitalist system, or rather lack of system. We hold that the time is ripe for its complete overthrow and the establishment of an industrial democracy founded upon the principles of liberty, fraternity and equality. We hold further that this consummation will never be brought about by the beneficiaries of the capitalist regime, that it can only be accomplished by the working class themselves, and that the working class can only accomplish this purpose by supplementing the trade union movement with united political action at the ballot box. The Social Democratic party is organized for the express and avowed purpose of uniting the working class into a class conscious political party which shall gain control of the machinery of government, municipal, state and national, and through the agency of government secure possession of ALL the means of production and distribution, to be democratically owned and operated. We neither ask nor expect material assistance from either branch of the capitalist class, or from any political party dominated by capitalist class interests. While some of the capitalist class, from purely ethical motives, seeing the economic trend and perceiving the ultimate outcome, will join the revolutionary forces of International Socialism, their number will be small and their influence limited. The working class must accomplish their own emancipation by destroying that which creates conflicting class interests—the private ownership of the means of production. Hence, the S. D. P. appeals to the working class and to that class only, to unite in opposition to any and all political parties which uphold the present system or any modified form of it. By this action and in no other way can the co-operative commonwealth be inaugurated and maintained, and the brotherhood of man realized. These, in brief, are the principles, aims and methods advocated by the Social Democratic party. We believe that the logic of events, the demands of justice and the interests of a common humanity all unite in sustaining the correctness of our principles, the equity of our demands and the wisdom of our methods.

The Social Democratic party in its own organization is governed by the principles of pure democracy. There are no rings, cliques or machines within the organization, and there can be none. Every question of importance is submitted to a referendum vote of the party membership. We want every Socialist voter to become an active party member and participate in its management and propaganda, and we call upon the working class, without regard to race, color or previous condition of either economic or partisan political attitude, to study the principles and learn the objects of the Socialist movement. Having done this they will then see that it is to their interest to approve our methods and that they will vote our ticket and join the only political party organized and supported by and devoted to the interests of their class.

An Awful Thing.

In a speech made by F. P. Lawrence, candidate for the House of Delegates on the Public Ownership ticket in the Twenty-fourth Ward, and published in the "Public Ownership," the organ of that party, he sets forth in such language as he can command the horrors of a city without municipal ownership. He relates the awful fact that we cannot cross the street without getting our shoes muddy to our ankles, that when we get to the crossing we are compelled to wait 15 minutes for a car and when we have boarded it we are insulted when we ask the reason for the delay.

That must appear as something horrible to the working class. Mud on our shoes and an impudent conductor? Forsooth, we should think that these were at the bottom of all our ills, that all our other wrongs, all our long days and nights of endless toil, all our misery and helplessness, the fact that we produce all wealth for others to enjoy, and are shot down if we attempt through individual or organized efforts to obtain more of that wealth. Yes, all this and more pales into insignificance when it is compared with the muddy shoe and the impudent conductor.

Yes, Mr. Workingman, there lies your interest. Vote for the party which promises you clean streets, but allows conditions to remain that prevent you from seeing the streets except when you are going to and returning from your toil.

That promises to remove a conductor who is a workman like yourself and doubtless goaded on to be impudent by just such causes as compel you to swear once in a while.

But when you cast that vote bent in mind the Social Democratic party, which says, let the streets stay dirty unless the workingmen who built those streets can have leisure to enjoy their use.

Let the impudent conductor remain until the conditions of oppression are removed which make him impudent.

Notice Street Meetings.

Whenever the weather will permit you will find our speakers out every evening holding street corner meetings. We propose to keep these meetings up the year round.

An Amended Circular.

The Public Ownership Party is circulating a little dodger that needs amplification. We undertake the task of amending it. The words in parenthesis are our answers to the questions.

"Was your gas bill \$2.00 last month? It should have been but \$1.00."

"I do not use gas. I am a workman and cannot afford it. Coal oil costs me 40 cents a month."

"Was your boy drowned last summer while swimming in the river or in a quarry pond?"

"He would be with you to-day if St. Louis had public swimming baths."

"My boy had no time to go swimming. The capitalist would not give me enough to support my family, so my little boy had to go to work in a big factory where his health was ruined and he died last summer as a victim of the capitalist system, which I understand you are in favor of retaining, inasmuch as you do not denounce it."

"Were your bones broken by a street car running you down?"

"You wouldn't have been hurt had the car been provided with the proper sort of fender."

"No, I was not hurt by a street car, but my arm was broken by a piece of defective machinery in the shop where I worked. The boss thought it cheaper to run the risk of my being injured, which would be no loss to him, than to pay for repairing the machinery. There are hundreds of other industries besides the street railways where workmen's lives and limbs are sacrificed for profit and it seems rather hypocritical for you to pick out this one and not mention the others."

"Did you pay \$100 taxes on your home last year?"

"You should have paid only \$41.15."

"Well, I don't own any home. My brother does, but the few dollars he loses on high taxes are very insignificant compared with what he is fleeced out of by the capitalist class he works for. He gets \$7.19 for making a wagon that sells for \$75. The material used costs \$15. So he loses on every wagon he makes almost as much as you claim he pays in excessive taxes in a whole year."

"Is your rent too high?"

"Your landlord will gladly reduce it if you will reduce his taxes."

"My landlord will not gladly do anything that prevents him from getting all the money he can. The chances are he would not reduce rent one penny. But suppose I say to him: 'Here your expenses, your taxes, are less, therefore, you ought to reduce my rent,' and suppose he does so, then would not my employer come to the aid and say: 'Here, John, your expenses, your rent, is less; therefore you ought to work for less in order to enable us to continue in business.' Would not his argument to me be as logical and as effective as my argument to the landlord?" My dear Municipal Ownership enthusiast, you are barking at "the moon yet."

Six Big Meetings!

TO Discuss Socialism.

YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT IT.

Attend One of These Meetings.

- SPEAKERS**—LEON GREENBAUM, Candidate of the Social Democratic Party for Mayor; Wm. H. Baird, Bernard McCaffery, M. B. Dunn, C. R. Davis, Wm. Brandt, G. A. Hoehn, L. E. Hildebrand, E. Val, Putnam and others.

- 1—March 24, Southwest Turn Hall, Potomac and Ohio Ave., 3 p. m.
- 2—March 24, Metal Trades Hall, 1310 Franklin Ave., 3 p. m.
- 3—March 26, Benton Hall, 14th and Benton sts., 8 p. m.
- 4—March 26, Spieker's Hall, 13th and Wyoming, 8 p. m.
- 5—March 28, Dewey Hall, 2301 S. Broadway, 8 p. m.
- 6—March 29, Leibingers Hall, Park Ave. and Broadway, 8 p. m.

OH, MY! WHAT A TIME

We'll have! There is going to be a meeting of ALL the friends of this paper. It will take place at METAL TRADES HALL, 1310 FRANKLIN AVE., MONDAY, MARCH 25TH, 8 P. M.

The paper is desirous of making a little tour. It wishes to visit the home of every workman in the city, but it needs the wherewithal and its friends are going to meet and talk the matter over. A number of other important matters will also be considered.

Every friend of Missouri Socialist is expected to be present, as much depends on the success of this meeting.

The P. O. P. platform favors only study the development of trusts and such as street railways, gas works, and monopolies with a view to nationalizing water works. The flour trust and the sugar trust are private utilities according to the P. O. P., which is opposed to their public ownership and is in favor of incorporation. The P. O. P. is not in favor of labor unions as such, but it favors the American Federation of Labor, which passed the following resolution at Detroit in December, 1899: "This convention calls upon the trade union municipal administration to be used in workingmen generally, to carefully labor."

THE SOCIALIST'S POSITION.

Society Divided Into Two Classes—The Profit Makers and the Profit Takers.

Trusts Paving the Way for Socialism—The Working Class Preparing for the Social Revolution—No Compromise.

Socialism can hardly be defined in a few words. To give a clear explanation of the true meaning and purpose of the socialist movement in a single paragraph is impossible. Socialists propose the public ownership and operation of all industries, to be managed in a strictly democratic form of government. But a mere statement of this does not convey any adequate idea of the scope of the Socialist movement.

Socialism is not a mere theory, is not a scheme or plan drawn up on paper by some individual who offers it to the world to be donned like a new garment.



BERNARD McCAFFERY

President Board of Public Improvement

On the contrary, it is nothing more than a science. It teaches that history has passed through different stages of evolution and that we have reached the point where another change is necessary and inevitable. It summarizes the situation to-day as follows:

Two Classes.

The natural evolution of industry has brought us to the point where society is divided into two principle classes. One of these, the capitalist class, owns the means of production and distribution. The other class, the working class, owning no tools of production, have no alternative but to sell their labor to the capitalist class for a small portion of what they produce.

The rapid development of labor saving inventions during the last few years has displaced thousands of skilled workers and thus increasing the competition, compelled the working class to sell their labor for a song.

The capitalist class, demanding an ever-increasing portion of the workers' product, grows more and more powerful and aggressive and the small middle class is being rapidly destroyed.

The evils attendant upon such a division of society into the rich and the poor are innumerable. Wars are incited for the advancement of commercial interests; women and children are forced into the factories and workshops; public institutions are made an adjunct to private enterprises of officeholders; crises occur at frequent intervals inflicting great hardships on the poor, who must live from hand to mouth; the pulpit and the press are controlled by the ruling class; human energies are wasted; ignorance is fostered; science and invention are used to increase the oppression of the working class and their lives and freedom are being sacrificed for profit.

So long as this method of production exists the interests of the two classes, the capitalists and the workers—the profit-takers and the profit-makers—are directly antagonistic, the former endeavoring to obtain the labor of the latter as cheaply as possible, while the latter strive to secure as large a portion of their products as possible.



JOHN MUELLER, For Collector.

Unconsciously realizing this the trade union movement has endeavored to organize the workmen for their own defense, and in this work the Socialists will find an ever willing and valuable ally in the Socialists.

Mission of the Working Class.

The working class has a greater mission to accomplish. While it is to defend itself against the capitalist class, it is to abolish the present inequalities, history proves that a ruling class will not voluntarily abandon its selfish interests for that which is less selfish—nobler—the interests of the human race as a whole. Therefore it devotes upon the workers themselves, the oppressed who have something to gain and nothing to lose by a change, as being about the greatest revolution in all history—a peaceful revolution effected by means of the ballot, but nevertheless the most widespread that has ever occurred. They will in a few years, forced by the pressure of class interests, march to the polls through-

out the world and, overthrowing kings and dynasties, place their own representatives in power and, abolishing private ownership in the means of production and distribution, substitute Socialism—a co-operative system of industry under which there will be no classes.

The Social Revolution.

A nobler or more inspiring movement cannot be imagined. Let us picture the situation. Across the waters of the Atlantic, the Irish, the English, the Italian and the Russian workers bend their backs beneath the lash of industrial slavery; beyond the waters of the Pacific the Jap writhes under the same cruel blows; and here in the western hemisphere the tolling millions are fettered by the same chains. It is universal and embraces the globe and nine-tenths of the civilized members of the human race are under the bondage of the wage system. Toll, toll, toll is their lot. Their intellects are dwarfed, their bodies are wrecked and ruined and their lives are wretched. Lower and lower they bend beneath the lash of Greed. Higher and higher rise their oppressors. The world is sinking. The torch of civilization grows dim and the voices of freedom are drowned in sounds of luxurious revelry and means of the dying.

Civilization is declining. Will the banqueter leave the feast; will the reveler cease his riotous living; will the wielder of the lash pause to save the human race? No. There is but one hope—that dumb, toll-worn creature there in the mine, in the field, in the factory. Will he awake, will he arise, and shaking off the traditions and prejudices of centuries, save civilization from destruction? Yes. Listen. A voice is calling to the industrial slaves of all lands: "Working-men unite; you have a world to gain and nothing to lose but your chains." The workers hear it and begin to lift their blanched faces, first a few, then others, and now seven million men have heard the watchword and it resounds throughout mine, field and factory. The Social Revolution is on! The scowped, stunted fellows of Europe, Asia, Africa and America and of even the islands of the sea are rising, one vast army of the oppressed, and are preparing with the ballot as their weapon to overthrow their industrial masters, and in freeing themselves to free all men.

Such is the revolution upon which the Social Democratic party and the Socialist parties of other countries have entered. Pledging themselves to the interests of the toilers alone, they have set to work to organize the international working class for its own emancipation.

Arrayed Classes.

Those who are profiting by the continuance of the present system decay all reference to the existence of classes as an attempt to incite class hatred. In his inaugural address Governor Dockery, of Missouri, said:

"All sinister efforts to estrange our people by attempting to array one class against another, should be shunned as the pestilence that walketh in darkness. It is an occasion of real pleasure that I am able to enter upon the duties of the chief magistracy without having made one forcible appeal to class prejudice. I have not posed as the special exponent or champion of any one class, however worthy it may be. I renew my pledge to be Governor of all the people."

Ho, ho! So there are classes in grand old Missouri? What causes the existence of these classes? What is the difference between the classes, and to which of these classes do you belong, Governor? If we are divided into classes you necessarily are in one or the other, and if one class is oppressing the other and you are opposed to arraying one class against another, it must be because you belong to and sympathize with the dominant class. If there are classes there must be class interests, and these interests must conflict, otherwise they would not be class interests, but common interests. And if these interests conflict, then you cannot govern in favor of both, but must take your choice. As you prefer not to take up the fight, inasmuch as you do not declare yourself in favor of the working class, the class that is suffering, it is reasonable to presume that you are against them, that you are satisfied to have the capitalist class continue to fleece and rob the workers out of the greater part of their products, and that you are only indulging in these general phrases to order to delude the workers into the notion that they should not defend their class interests.

When a class, consisting of the great mass of the people, are oppressed and downtrodden by a ruling class that owns the tools of production it is not noble to appeal to them to unite and defend their common interests. On the contrary, it is the noblest thing a man can do to fight the battles of the oppressed. The Social Democratic party wrenched the Social class alone, the work-stand for one class alone, the working class, and when it places a Socialist in the gubernatorial chair he will not hesitate to say that he owes his allegiance to and intends to govern for the working class.

Wage Slaves.

What a contrast between the attitude of a Socialist and the attitude of Missouri's governor! Why should we not

spout out the truth? The wage worker of to-day holds a position strongly analogous to that formerly occupied by the chattel slave of the South. Let us say so frankly.

The Slaveholder bought a man, put him to work on a plantation producing commodities, gave him what he needed in the way of food and clothing, gave him medical attendance, and all of the slave's products above this cost of keeping him alive and in good health the slaveholder APPROPRIATED TO HIMSELF.

The Capitalist buys a machine, puts a man at work with the machine producing commodities, gives him sufficient wages to buy what food, clothing and shelter is absolutely necessary, and all the man's products above what it costs to keep him alive the capitalist APPROPRIATES TO HIMSELF.

No Compromise.

The Socialist will accept no compromise. He demands nothing less than the complete emancipation of the tolling wage slave. He will not be turned out for himself by the silly twaddle of would-be reformers who want to patch up a system that has become worse than an inferno.

The "reformers" say: "Elect these highly respectable business men to office, and our streets will be cleaned and lighted and paved, our city beautified, and its affairs conducted economically and honestly."

The Socialists reply: "Your highly respectable business men have fattened on the earnings of the toilers who built this city; your streets will never be cleaned while poverty's walls have no other playground; your streets will never be lighted so long as they are darkened by the sorrow-stricken faces of the poor; and never paved so long as they are trodden by barefoot children; your city will never be beautiful while its workmen dwell in hovels; and its affairs will not be conducted economically and honestly until every man receives the full product of his labor."

To "honest government" parties the Socialist says:

"When denouncing corrupt officials, you should remember that these men are only the agents of the capitalist class who are using the powers of government as a means to protect themselves while they fleece the worker out of the greater part of his product. The real corruption lies in the very heart of the system. Eradicate the whole system and you will abolish the corruption, and not before."

Wars and Imperialism.

The cry is raised against imperialism and efforts are made to turn the Socialist by appealing to the dread of militarism. But the Socialist knows that to stop the war while the system remains is impossible and foolish.

Wars of "criminal aggression" are the logical fruit of capitalism. The laboring class receives in wages only enough to purchase in the market a small portion of what it has produced.



JOHN ZACH

For President City Council.

The remainder belongs to the capitalists, but they cannot consume it all, so they leave it on the market in hopes of selling it. The laborer cannot buy it for the above named reason. Thus the market becomes crowded and there is a cry of "overproduction." Then one of two things must happen. Either a market must be found for this surplus product fleeced from the laborers in the form of profit, or some of the factories will have to shut down. But when the factories shut down the working people, who constitute the bulk of the consumers, have still less money with which to buy in the market. So more factories shut down, followed by more and still more, and there you have a panic, or crisis, such as we had in 1893. Therefore, to prevent a panic a market must be found in foreign lands! An excuse is sought and easily found. A flag is declared, the jingo patriotism is aroused, the tom-toms are beaten, the flag is unfurled to the breeze and our workmen are called upon to murder their fellow men of other times in the highly artistic fashion known as warfare. The heathen is conquered and the market is extended. What is the result? Only this. The capitalist does not give his goods away. He never did. It is not his habit. He takes them to the heathen land, buys cheap labor with them and with that labor produces still more commodities, which the heathen can't buy, because it has only received a portion of the products of his labor as wages; which the laborer at home can't buy for the same reason. The situation is the same as before, with the exception that the crisis will now include the heathen land. Another market must be found. We must keep on expanding or that dread specter, the crisis, will overtake us. It may be found and it may not. It is immaterial. Some day the limit will be reached and capitalism will have committed suicide for want of more worlds to conquer. The time must soon come when the old rickety system will just tie itself up in a knot and refuse to work any longer.

Wars and imperialism are only a means of prolonging the days of a dying system, and we are opposed to them because we oppose anything that will add a single day to the reign of a system that has outlived its usefulness, a system that breeds vice and crime and pauperism, a system under which one class of men are worse than slaves to the other class; a system which makes a hell of this world and

renders life almost intolerable to two-thirds of the people.

Trusts.

The trusts are preparing the way for Socialism. They are the natural outgrowth of the system and they cannot be destroyed. It is as foolish to attempt to destroy the trusts as it would be to destroy all labor-saving machinery. By bitter experience business men found competition unprofitable, so they began to combine. First came the partnership, then the company, the joint stock company, the corporation and then the trust, and that process could no more have been prevented than the earth could be made to stand still in its path around the sun. It is as impossible to return to the days of the stage coach. The trust is a labor-saving device. It can produce more cheaply than the smaller concern. It gives work. That is the good feature of the trust. But it is privately owned. That is the bad feature of the trust, and the Socialist proposes to abolish this bad feature by taking the trusts and all industries under public control and operation.

The trust is the crowning point—the perfection of the capitalist system. It is time for the next logical step—Socialism.

This is the position of the Social Democratic party. Will you vote for your own interests, or the interests of your masters?

SOCIALISM AND MEN OF BRAINS.

Some of the Famous Men of the World who Espouse the Cause.

CHARGE OF IGNORANCE REFUTED.

By Leonard D. Abbott, in The People.

"The vapors of the Socialists can never command any serious attention, for the reason that they come from a section which is notoriously ignorant and illiterate."—Daily Press.

No taunt is oftener on the lips of the opponents of Socialism than this taunt of ignorance and illiteracy. Almost invariably, in the capitalist press, the Socialists are pictured as a mob of irresponsible and ignorant men—the dregs of the community. Almost invariably the Socialist leaders are held up to contempt as dangerous demagogues or as paid agitators.

Now the actual facts of the case are these: "If the Socialist army of the past half century could be gathered together in one spot, that army would include not only some of the most brilliant orators, writers and thinkers on economic questions that our generation has produced, but it would also include the majority of the men who have moulded the art, the literature, the music and the science of our age.

In literature, the Socialist thought can claim the allegiance of almost all the great figures. Tolstoy, of Russia; Ibsen, in Norway; Bjornsen, in Sweden; Zola, in France; Hauptman, in Germany; d'Annunzio, in Italy; Howells, in America, have all set up the standard of revolt from existing society, and are all in heartiest sympathy with Socialist ideals.

In the field of art, we have seen an even more remarkable spectacle. We have seen the two foremost English artists of the century—John Ruskin and William Morris—both declare themselves Communists. Both were agreed that under the capitalist system any true art was impossible, and that the flower of art could only bloom under industrial conditions diametrically the opposite of those existing around us today. William Morris, poet and artist, gave the fifteen best years of his life to the Socialist propaganda. His disciple, Walter Crane, one of the most talented of living decorative artists, is a well known figure in the revolutionary movement, and much of his best work has been dedicated to Socialism.

In the world of music it is only necessary to mention the name of Richard Wagner, by all odds the greatest musician of the century. He was an avowed revolutionist, and fought at the barricades with his workmen comrades in the stirring period of '48.

Kropotkin, the regular scientific correspondent of the leading English monthly, "The Nineteenth Century," is an avowed Communist. So also is Elise Reclus, recognized as one of the first European authorities on geography. Alfred Russell Wallace, the friend of Charles Darwin, and co-discoverer of the theory of evolution, gives both time and money to the Socialist cause. It is most significant that this profound writer and thinker has found the completest harmony existing between Darwinism and Socialism, as have also such other scientists as Dr. Edward Aveling and Grant Allen.

In the world of economics, it is only necessary to mention two names—Karl Marx and Frederick Engels. The writings of these two men have permeated the whole of the political economy of our age. Whatever critical position may be taken toward their theories, they are universally recognized as two of the leading economic thinkers not only of our age, but of the world.

The science of Socialism has found expression in the books of a Marx and a Lassalle. The ideas of Socialism have stirred the hearts of a Morris and a Howells. Socialism has been advocated, and is to-day advocated by some of the ablest, brainiest and noblest men of our generation. The Socialists today are the cream of the working class; they are the men who have thought and have studied. When you meet a Socialist you may be sure that you meet a man whose heart beats time to the divine sentiments of Liberty, of Equality, and of Fraternity.

We've got something to tell you—Metal Trades hall, Monday evening, March 25.

Fire!—Fire!—Fire!—Fire those subscriptions in.

MUNICIPAL PLATFORM.

Social Democratic Party of St. Louis—Read This and Compare it With Old Party Platforms.

The Social Democratic party of St. Louis in convention assembled reaffirms its allegiance to the revolutionary principles of International Socialism and declares the supreme political issues in America to-day to be the contest between the working class and the capitalist class for the possession of the power of government. The party affirms steadfast purpose to use those powers, once achieved, to destroy wage slavery, abolish the institution of private property in the means of production, and establish the Co-operative Commonwealth.

In the United States, as in all other civilized countries, the natural order of economic development has separated society into two antagonistic classes—the capitalists, a comparatively small class, the possessors of all the modern



HENRY MAACK, For Member Board of Education.

means of production and distribution (land, mines, railways and means of transportation and communication), and the large and ever-increasing class of wage-workers possessing no means of production.

The evil effects of the private ownership and operation of the means of production and distribution are intensified by the recurring industrial crises continually rendering the existence of the greater part of the population more precarious and uncertain, which amply prove that the modern means of production have outgrown the existing social order based on production for profit.

Human energy and natural resources are wasted for individual gain. Ignorance is fostered that wage slavery may be perpetuated. Science and invention are perverted to the exploitation of men and children. The lives and liberties of the working class are recklessly sacrificed for profit. Wars are fomented between nations; indiscriminate slaughter is encouraged; the destruction of whole races is sanctioned in order that the capitalist class may extend its commercial dominion abroad and enhance its supremacy at home.

The notorious corruption and inefficiency so prevalent in the administration of this and other large cities are the logical fruit of capitalism. The working class has no interest in common with what are designated "Business Men's" tickets or "Good Government" parties. They should not be deluded by promises of clean streets while their wives and children are in hunger and want.

The introduction of a new and higher order of society is the historic mission of the working class. All other classes, despite their apparent or actual conflict, are interested in the upholding of the system of private ownership of the means of production. We, therefore, charge that in this country the Democratic, Republican and all other parties which do not stand for the complete overthrow of the capitalist system of production are all the tools of the capitalist class.

The working class cannot, however, act as a class in its struggle against the collective power of the capitalist class except by constituting itself into a political party, distinct and opposed

to all parties formed by the propertied class.

We, therefore, call upon the wage-workers of St. Louis, without distinction of color, race or sex, and upon all citizens in sympathy with the historic mission of the working class, to organize under the banner of the Social Democratic party, as a party truly representing the interests of the toiling masses and uncompromisingly waging war upon the exploiting class, until the system of wage slavery shall be abolished and the co-operative commonwealth shall be established.

While we recognize that it is not in the power of the municipality to restore to the people all of their rights, we are fully conscious that the municipality can, and should place at the disposal of the people and of civilization every power that it possesses, to the end that no further injustice be done, and that mankind may be permitted to

continue to progress to a greater and nobler life, therefore we demand:

1. Such amendments to the city charter as are necessary to enable the people to effect a municipal programme in accordance with the principles of the Social Democratic Party.
2. Adoption of the principles of the initiative and referendum and proportional representation. All officers to be subject to recall by their constituents.
3. Public ownership and operation of street railways and gas and electric light plants.
4. Public construction, ownership and operation of all subways and underground conduits and all overhead wires to be removed and placed therein.
5. Public ownership and operation of brick yards, stone yards and asphalt plants.
6. Public ownership and operation of Parks and Merchants' bridges or the erection of a free municipal bridge across the Mississippi River.
7. Substitution of public ownership and operation for private ownership wherever feasible through the exercise of municipal power.
8. Construction and operation of free municipal hospitals, foundlings' and orphan's homes, homes for abandoned women, a modern insane asylum adequate to the needs of St. Louis, and homes for the aged, crippled and disabled poor.
9. Establishment and maintenance of modern public lodging houses as resting places for the poor instead of police stations.
10. Erection of a suitable building for the Public Library.
11. Abolition of the contract system on all public work. Street sprinkling, sweeping, removal of garbage, dead animals, etc., to be performed by the city with its own outfits and by its own employees.
12. Classified civil service; all appointments and promotions to be based upon merit and not for political reasons.
13. On all municipal work an eight-hour workday, with a minimum wage of two dollars per day, and the union scale of wages and union conditions to govern on all public work.
14. All the powers and influence of the municipal administration to be used in support of the principles of organized labor.
15. The inauguration of great public works by the city whenever necessary to provide a livelihood for unemployed workmen.
16. Prohibition of child labor under seventeen years; compulsory education; the municipality to furnish free books, meals and clothing when necessary.
17. Establishment of a Municipal Labor Bureau.
18. Inspection of factories and workshops with reference to health and safety of the workers. Suppression of the so-called sweating system.
19. Rigid system of food, milk and dairy inspection.
20. Establishment and maintenance of public bath houses.
21. Public ownership and operation of laundries.

friend Ziegenfain, Wells has his friend Hawes, and Mr. Meriwether, notwithstanding his pretense about political purity was only a cent and still is on the same political level. Is he not a member of the Jefferson Club, the Tammany of St. Louis? Four years ago he publicly boasted at the Music Hall meeting, that Ed Butler was his friend and during the recent presidential election Meriwether stood on the same platform and worked shoulder to shoulder in the same party with Ed Butler.

Four years ago Meriwether denounced Dick Croker and David W. Hill of New York, but during the recent presidential campaign they were political associates in the same party on the same platform. But this is not the worst. In that same party and on the same platform in political association with Meriwether, was Bill Phelps of Missouri, that official lobbyist of the Missouri Pacific railroad. But after all, this should not be surprising. Mr. Meriwether openly acknowledges that he is the friend of corporations, Workmen of St. Louis, beware of political demagogues. Scrutinize the platform you vote for. It should be the political embodiment of all the rights which you demand—through your trade union. What right have we to condemn an officer of a union who happens to prove unfaithful to our interests, if we, the rank and file of the unions, go to the ballot box and instead of selling out, actually give away our interests?

A vote for Parker, Wells or Meriwether is a vote thrown away. Don't object to voting for the Social Democratic Party because you think it is a small party and has no show. You will never get what you want by voting for what you don't want.

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friend Ziegenfain, Wells has his friend

THE STRIKERS.

"It is better to starve than live on the terms you give us. Our lives, the lives of our wives and children, we set against your gains."

From DeLany's "Equality," sent postpaid for \$1.25

The following extract is taken from DeLany's "Equality." The time of the conversation quoted is supposed to be the year 2000 and between an American of that date and the narrator, a man born in the nineteenth century and restored to life in the year 2000 after a long sleep.

Presently, as we were crossing Boston common, absorbed in conversation, a shadow fell athwart the way, and looking up, I saw towering above us a sculptured group of heroic size.

"Who are these?" I exclaimed. "You ought to know," my companion said the doctor, "they are contemporaries of yours, who were making a good deal of disturbance in your day."

But, indeed, it had only been as an involuntary expression of surprise that I had questioned what the figures stood for.

Let me tell you, readers of the twentieth century, what I saw up there on the pedestal, and you will recognize the world-famous group. Shoulder to shoulder, as if rallied to resist assault, were three figures of men in the garb of the laboring class of my time.

They were bareheaded, and their coarse-textured shirts, rolled above the elbow and open at the breast, showed the sinewy arms and chest. Before them, on the ground, lay a pair of shovels and a pickaxe.

The central figure, with the right hand extended, palm upward, was pointing to the discarded tools. The arms of the other two were raised on their breasts. The faces were coarse and hard in outline and bristled with unkempt beards.

Their expression was one of dogged defiance and their gaze was fixed with such scowling intensity upon the void space before them that I involuntarily glanced behind me to see what they were looking at. There were two women also in the group, as coarse of dress and features as the men.

One was kneeling before the figure on the right, holding up to him with one arm an emaciated, half-clad infant, while with the other she indicated the implement at his feet with an imploring gesture. The second of the women was plucking by the sleeve the man on the left, as if to draw him back, while with the other hand she covered her eyes.

But the men heeded the women not at all, or seemed, in their bitter wrath, to know that they were there. "Way!" I exclaimed, "these are strikers!"

Immediately on a par with the pioneers of all the great liberty revolutions, the minutemen at Concord and Lexington, in 1775, did not realize that they were pointing their guns at the monarchial idea. As little did the third estate of France, when it entered the convention in 1793, realize that its road lay over the ruins of the throne.

As little did the pioneers of English freedom, when they began to resist the will of Charles the I., foresee that they would be compelled, before they got through, to take his head. In some of these instances, however, has posterity considered that the limited foresight of the pioneers led to the full consequences of their non-lessering the world's debt to the noble initiative without which the fuller triumph would never have come.

The logic of the strike meant the overthrow of the irresponsible conduct of industry, whether the strikers knew it or not, and we cannot rejoice in the consequences of that overthrow without honoring them in a way which very likely, as you intimate, would surprise them, could they know of it, as much as it does you.

Let me try to give you the modern point of view as to the part played by their originals. We sat down upon one of the benches before the statue, and the doctor went on: "My dear Julian, who was it, pray, who first roused the world of your day to the fact that there was an industrial question, and by their pathetic demonstrations of 'passive' resistance to wrong for fifty years kept the public attention fixed on that question till it was settled?"

Was it your statesmen, perchance your economists, your scholars or any other of your so-called wise men? No, it was just those despised, ridiculed, cursed and hooted fellows up there on that pedestal, who with their perpetual strikes would not let the world rest till their wrong, which was also the whole world's wrong, was righted.

Once more had God chosen the foolish things of this world to confound the wise, the weak things to confound the mighty. "In order to realize how powerfully these strikers operated to impress upon the people the intolerable wickedness and folly of private capitalism, you must remember that events are what teach men that deeds have a far more potent educating influence than any amount of doctrine, and especially so in an age like yours, when the masses had almost no culture or ability to reason.

There were not lacking in the revolutionary period many cultured men and women, who with voice and pen espoused the workers' cause and showed them the way out; but their words might well have availed little, but for the tremendous emphasis with which they were confirmed by the men up there, who started to prove them true. Those rough-looking fellows, who probably could not have constructed a grammatical sentence by their combined efforts, were demonstrating the necessity of a radically new industrial system by a more convincing argument than any rhetorician's skill could frame.

criticisms of the mistakes of the workmen, as if it were possible to make any mistake in seeking a way out of the social chaos, which could be so serious or so criminal as the mistake of not trying to seek any."

HOW WE STAND

Extracts from the National Platform and Resolutions, etc., of the Social Democratic Party, Showing Its Attitude Toward Trades-Unionism.

We hold the trade union movement to be indispensable to the working people under the prevailing industrial system in their struggle for the improvement of their conditions, as well as for the final abolition of the wage system; we further recognize the present need of thorough organization among the workers.

Independent political action and the trade union movement are the chief emancipating factors of the working class, the one representing its political, the other its economic wing, and both must co-operate to abolish the capitalist system.

The working class and all those in sympathy with their historic mission to realize a higher civilization should sever connection with all capitalist and reform parties and unite with the Social Democratic Party of America.

We commend an honest co-operation to that end by the members of the Social Democratic Party by becoming members of the unions in their respective trades or callings, or of the Federal Labor Unions, and strive to organize all such trades as have heretofore not been organized and assist the organization of labor in every way possible.

We reaffirm the truth expressed in the proceedings of the International Labor Congress, held in London in August, 1896, that while it is absolutely necessary for the working people to make use of the political power in order to secure and enforce the demands of labor, yet differences of political views held by members of the labor organizations should not be a reason for separate organization in the economic struggle causing dissensions and disruptions.

We consider strikes and boycotts as historically necessary weapons to obtain the demands of trades unionism; we further recognize in the union label an important factor in strengthening the power of organization, and educating the public to demonstrate in a practical way its sympathy and assistance to the cause of labor; and we therefore endorse all the labels of the bona fide trades unions, earnestly recommend to the membership of the Social Democratic Party to patronize only such concerns selling products bearing the same.

In order to more effectively resist the encroachments upon labor we advise organized labor to combine into national and international unions, pledging ourselves to extend to them all possible assistance to accomplish this end.

We condemn the attempt to disrupt the labor movement by organizing rival unions to the bona fide trades unions.

We encourage the movement of organized labor for the establishment of a legal eight-hour workday and the Saturday half holiday.

The solidarity of labor connecting the millions of class-conscious fellow-workers throughout the civilized world will lead to international socialism, the brotherhood of man.

Trades unions are by historical necessity organized on neutral grounds, as far as political affiliations is concerned. The trades union is the arena where all wage-workers may be brought together for joint action to resist the encroachments of capitalism on the economic field and to participate in the class struggle of the proletariat which will finally develop into the political alignment of the forces of labor in the struggle for proletarian emancipation.

The present system of social production and private ownership is rapidly converting society into two antagonistic classes—i. e., the capitalist class and the propertyless class. The middle class, once the most powerful of this great nation, is disappearing in the mill of competition. The issue is now between the two classes first named. Our political liberty is now of little value to the masses unless used to acquire economic liberty.

Our friends will meet Monday, 8 p. m.

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SOCIALIST MASS MEETING
AT
2367 Wren Avenue,
WALNUT PARK.
Wednesday, March 27th, 8 P. M.
Wm. H. Baird, M. B. Dunn and
Others Will Speak.
COME AND HEAR ABOUT SOCIALISM.

A COMMERCIAL CENTER.

Meriwether's Love for Corporations—Would Give Them "Privileges."

Wants St. Louis to be the Center of Capitalist Exploitation But Does Not Oppose Fleecing of the Workers.

BY M. BALLARD DUNN.

The difference between the Social Democratic party and the Meriwether Municipal Ownership party is a fundamental one, one that lies at the very base. All wealth is the product of labor, and labor is therefore entitled to all wealth.

If anyone but the laborer is enjoying wealth, then it is because he has been enabled to take from the laborer a portion of that wealth which is rightfully his. Does such a condition exist? We see persons enjoying wealth while, as they have not produced it themselves, they must have taken from those who did produce it. It is seen on all sides of us. Those who work hardest and produce most receive the least, while those who do not produce a dollar's worth of wealth are reveling in luxury. Then who are these individuals? By what means do they get all this wealth, and is the interest of such persons, since they appropriate that which belongs to others, opposed to the interest of those from whom they have taken?

They are known as capitalists, and by the workingman as the "boss," and they have been enabled to enjoy wealth created by others because they hold the title deed to the tools and machinery with which the wealth was produced.

And further, it can be readily seen that, as the share of both come out of a fixed sum, namely, the product of labor, the one will get little when the other gets much. In other words, whenever the capitalist increases his share, "profits," the portion of the laborer's "wages" is decreased, and when wages are higher profits are correspondingly low.

This is true of all capitalists. All employers, and whether little or big, whether they run but one machine or an entire factory, whether they employ one workman or thousands, whether they be known as partnership or corporation, a joint stock company or a trust, their interest is opposed to that of the laborers whom they have in their employ.

If this be true, can any workingman give his support to a party of the candidates of a party who declare that they will work in the interest of both capitalist and laborer whose interests we have shown to be entirely opposed to each other? Can such a party be true to the working class?

The Public Ownership party declares for such a contradiction in its platform. When it says, "We are not opposed to corporations; on the contrary, we recognize their importance in the business world and favor such free switching and other privileges as will make St. Louis the greatest commercial and manufacturing center in the country."

The Social Democratic party recognizes that if a party represents the working class it cannot be in favor of corporations or any other concern in the "business world," they declare strictly in favor of the working class and represent their class interest which demands the complete overthrow of the capitalist class, the capitalist, and the resulting overthrow of their class interest as the only thing that will give them the complete product of their labor through the collective ownership of the tools and machinery with which wealth is produced.

The last part of the above paragraph also deserves analysis from the standpoint of the Socialist. "We favor such free switching and other 'privileges' as will make St. Louis the greatest commercial and manufacturing center of the country."

Workingmen, stop and think what that term means to you? Have you not enough toil to-day? Do you not produce sufficient wealth to live in comfort? and yet through this very commercialism, which Meriwether favors are you not robbed of it all except barely sufficient to enable you to live and return on the morrow to again take up your endless toil?

Do you not see sufficient misery around you, men old at 40, bent, crippled and maimed, worse than the galley slave of old and with no more hope; women searing out their lives in stifling factories and sweat shops, working under worse conditions than were dreamed of by Thomas Hood in his famous poem, women who have been compelled to leave their children to grow up without a mother's attention, some of them who are at work with their little babies still at their breasts? All this the result of this very "commercial-center." Little girls who are grinding out their childish lives that this hellish "commercial-center" may thrive and have sufficient profits.

Think of these things, my brothers, and a thousand others, and then decide whether or no you want it increased a hundred fold. It is not more work you want nor an opportunity to produce more wealth at the present awful expenditure of your lives, but you want wealth which you are producing to-day and the only way to secure it is by voting the Social Democratic ticket, which is pledged to overthrow the whole system and substitute in its stead a system where labor shall be the only thing which will entitle humanity to a place in the world, where there will be no tolling millions and an idle and arrogant few, where there will be no longer any classes nor any conflicting class interests, but man will be enabled to live comfortably without working himself to death in order that he may live. It is nothing short of the complete overthrow of all corporations and business interests; in fact, the entire "commercial-center" of which the Public Ownership party prates so kindly which will accomplish this.

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ST. LOUIS CITY CENTRAL COMMITTEE meets every Monday evening, 8 p. m., at Room 1, 22 N. 4th St.; Wm. J. Hager, Secretary, Room 7, 22 N. 4th St. Office hours, 1 p. m. to 6 p. m.
LOCAL, ST. LOUIS, meets every Sunday at 3 p. m., at 1310 Franklin Ave. Membership dues, 25 cents per month and 10 cents additional at beginning of each quarter. Each member receives a weekly paper.

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1ST WARD BRANCH—Julius Blumenthal, 557 Cowan St., Org.
2D, 4TH AND 6TH WARD BRANCH—Meets every Saturday 8 p. m., at Room 7, 22 N. 4th St. Sec. C. R. Davis, 217 Market St.
11TH WARD BRANCH—Meets every 2d Tuesday of the month, 8 p. m., at 1631 S. 12th St. Sec. Chas. Specht.
17TH AND 8TH WARD BRANCH—Meets 1st and 3d Wednesdays at Dewey Hall, 250 S. Broadway. Sec. Geo. Schleifstein, 282 S. 9th St.

9TH WARD BRANCH meets 2d and 4th Tuesdays, 8 p. m., at 1311 and Wyoming Sts. Sec. L. Stoll, 2643 Salena St.
10TH WARD BRANCH meets 2d and 4th Wednesdays, 8 p. m., at South-west Turner Hall, Potomac and Ohio Aves. Org.—Wm. Ruesche, 3734 Oregon Ave. Edw. Ottersky, Sec'y, 2821 Wisconsin Ave.
ELEVENTH WARD BRANCH meets second and fourth Wednesdays 8 p. m., at Huth's Hall, Broadway and Stein Sts. Sec. Louis Meyer, 8312 Water St.

12TH WARD BRANCH meets 4th Friday of each month, 2:30 p. m., at 1211 A Armstrong Ave. Sec.—Wm. E. Eckart, 1211A Armstrong Ave.
15TH, 16TH, 17TH AND 18TH WARD BRANCH—Meets every Sunday at 2 p. m., at Metal Trades Hall, 1210 Franklin Ave. Sec. Rich Murphy, 826 N. 16th St. Org. C. Scheffler, 1448 Mullanphy St.

22ND WARD BRANCH meets every Tuesday, 8 p. m., at 2206 Locust St. Sec.—Wm. J. Hager, 2206 Locust.
KANSAS CITY CENTRAL COMMITTEE meets every Thursday night at 267 Whitney Building. Sec. J. A. Clarke, 267 Whitney Bldg.

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