

MISSOURI SOCIALIST.

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF MISSOURI.

Volume I.

St. Louis, Mo., Saturday, November 23, 1901.

Number 45.

To Trades Unionists.

A CHALLENGE.

The ultimatum has been sent. Organized Labor of St. Louis has been given to understand that the capitalist class of the city is determined to rid themselves of organized opposition to their wishes and before the World's Fair has been fairly begun, we are almost certain to be plunged in a bitter struggle in order to maintain living conditions.

The Contractors' and Manufacturers' Protective League, the style under which the most prominent of capitalist associations is known at this time, has sent the following communication to the Building Trades Council of St. Louis and to every union affiliated with them:

"Gentlemen—At a recent meeting of the Contractors' and Manufacturers' Protective League it was ordered that the league extend to those contractors whose work is stopped by reason of sympathetic strikes such actual and financial support as may be necessary to complete such work with labor NOT AFFILIATED with the Building Trades Council, and that the officers of this league notify the Building Trades Council that unless such sympathetic strikes are called off labor unaffiliated with said Building Trades Council will be procured here or elsewhere and used to complete such buildings.

Respectfully,

CONTRACTORS AND MANUFACTURERS' PROTECTIVE LEAGUE.

MORITZ EYSSEIL,
President.

W. ARTHUR WAIDE,
Secretary.

If the Contractors' Association carry out their threat, it can only be through the utter annihilation of the Building Trades Council, and that organization is now called upon to meet an issue which will require their very best mettle to combat. In all such conflicts as these the very first essential is that the men in charge of the affairs shall be men of undoubted loyalty to the interests of those who are under their direction.

In the Building Trades Council there are no such men in its officers at this time. On the contrary, they are men who are constantly on the look out for personal advantage. If the union is to weather the coming storm its first duty lies in getting rid of these men. Those who will conduct the coming battle, if it is to be conducted properly, must be men who thoroughly understand the class conflict between capitalist and laborer, and who will accordingly be proof against any advances made by the enemy based upon the so-called mutual interest between the capitalist and his workmen.

Aside from the threatening danger which confronts the Building Trades Council, and which, if not properly met, will result in its complete disruption, is a still graver danger confronting the entire body of organized workers of St. Louis.

The contractors' ultimatum, coming as it does on the eve of the World's Fair, indicates completely the attitude which will be taken, not only by the contractors but by the World's Fair managers themselves.

This action of the contractors is mainly done as a means of feeling the pulse of the workmen of St. Louis. If

they allow this first step to go unanswered, if the contractors come out victorious as a result of bad management on the part of this union then the rest of the programme will be quickly put into practice.

As was stated in the last issue of Missouri Socialist, the problem before the Fair management is one of making it pay, and to that end cheap labor must be obtained.

The contractors' ultimatum is the entering wedge in this direction, and it must be bitterly fought.

If they succeed in this the rest will be easy. They will import non-union labor, house them in their "Taylor City," and use the United States cavalry to protect them. It is incumbent upon the Central Trades and Labor Union to take a determined stand at its next meeting. Ultimatum must answer ultimatum. The working class of St. Louis must show themselves equal to the emergency.

Gov. Dockery has given the working class of St. Louis the startling news that there are no trusts in Missouri. "The laws of Missouri protect her against such things," he declared at the Planters' Hotel Tuesday morning in an interview regarding the recent railroad trust. What of the St. Louis Transit Company, Governor?

The laws of Missouri provide that no company shall be organized with a larger capital than \$10,000,000, yet somehow the Transit Company has a capital stock of \$90,000,000. There must be something wrong somewhere.

No, Governor, trusts will organize whenever they see fit, even if they have to buy out the entire legislature and the Governor himself.

"We have no fear of them in Missouri," he continued. No, not so long as the Governor is in the "we" class. It is a "good thing" sometimes that trusts should be formed and of course when they reach that stage then "we" have no fear of them.

Gov. Van Sant of Minnesota is working himself into a passion over the formation of the great railroad trust. It is the logical outcome of capitalism,

and those who support the system have no right to complain. If they admit that two men can get together and form a partnership with \$100,000 capital how can they deny the right of ten men to form a partnership with \$100,000,000 capital?

Socialists deny the right in the first place and they look upon trusts as the means of teaching them the ends to which such a system leads. Socialists deny the right of one man or a dozen men to own that upon which all depend. They would have society as a whole own its means of production. And that is the only cure for trusts.

A smelter combine is under way, and it is rumored that the cement manufacturers are forming into a trust. Keep it up, the more trusts we have the sooner we will have Socialism. But before that time comes we must have a working class combine. When it comes look out for the rest of them.

The Supreme Court of Germany has recently decided that workmen on strike may employ pickets to prevent their places being taken by other men. They have 2,500,000 Socialist votes in Germany.

THE TRUST QUESTION.

—ITS MEANING.

The working class of recent years have viewed with apprehension the growth of the trust in America. Great combinations of capital have gotten complete control of the machinery of production and the condition of the workers has steadily grown worse. With every new trust goes a corresponding reduction in wages and an ever increased uncertainty of employment. The worker who was already under the control of his employers has become absolutely dependent upon these gigantic combines and the average member of the working class dare not call his soul his own. Along with the reduction of wages has gone the destruction of unions. The trust will brook no "dictation" from its employees and in its position of absolute power it is able to destroy any organized effort looking toward a raise in wages or a betterment of conditions.

This destruction of unions has reached such a stake, that nearly all trust

made goods can today be regarded a non-union goods and as such under the ethics of all union men should be avoided. If these trusts have been able to accomplish so much, they will be able to accomplish more, and under their dictation labor promises to be reduced to the very lowest level. The trust presents a question which must be reckoned with and it remains to determine the best method for this reckoning.

The method of the strike has already been tried and found wanting. The great Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers was unable to cope with them. After their long strike during which the mills of the United States Steel Co. were practically idle, still the trust emerged unhurt, and within a few weeks after the strike was settled they declared the largest dividend in their history. The remedy which still lies within the power of labor to use, is the ballot.

With this weapon they can put an end to the system which breeds trusts. The trust is merely the right of private individuals to own the tools of production, carried to its logical conclusion, and if we admit the first we cannot deny the second. The duty then of the working class is to get possession of the powers of government and through the exercise of those powers take possession of all the tools of production which are now so largely under the control of trusts.

These tools to be operated by society as a whole for the benefit of society. This will insure to the worker the full product of his labor and will deprive one class of society of the power to say whether or no the other class shall live.

Until this time, however, in order to insure the best conditions possible under capitalism the working class could be of great help to each other in the purchase only of goods bearing the mark of union labor, namely, the union label. It will at least insure that living wages are paid. The working class are called upon to solve the question, others will not solve it for you. It is your duty to help the conditions of your fellow workers so long as capitalism lasts and it is your higher duty to put an end to capitalism by voting representatives of your class into power, pledged to its destruction.

"REDUCE WAGES"

The working class of New York recently elected a "reform" mayor whose duty it will now be to "reduce taxes." Already agitation has begun in that direction. A Brooklyn "taxpayer," that is a property holder, recently sent a communication to a New York paper in which he set forth the horrible fact that the wages paid city employes were too high. "It is simply robbery," he declares, and demands that their wages be cut so that taxes can be reduced.

See the capitalist? When the working class elected Seth Low as mayor of New York, most of them were fooled into the belief that his administration would in some way benefit their condition.

The very first fruit of it is as demand for reduced wages. Remember, workmen, that capitalists reap their profits through the reduction of your wages, and a bowl of the sort just raised in New York is a regular capitalist bowl!

Seth Low is pledged to run the city of New York on a "business" basis, and as the cardinal principle of business is the making of profits, so the mayor of New York will endeavor to get as much profit as possible.

Profit only comes with reduced wages, and we may rest assured that Seth Low will set about the business as soon as possible in order to reduce the "taxpayers."

But how about the fellow who is drawing the wages, with a reduction relieve him?

Maybe it will relieve their brains of some of the clouds which have gathered around them, so that when the next election comes around they will vote for the party which will RAISE wages instead of reducing them, as they should have voted for Ben Hanford at the last election.

It is rumored that there is a possibility of a big strike among the anthracite miners. They complain that the mine-owners are using a "black list" system, which prevents a miner from getting another position if he is luckless enough to lose the one he already has. If they are going to strike at all it would be better for them to strike at the ballot box.

The capitalist class couldn't get out an injunction against that strike, nor put the strike breakers in their places. Just one strike will settle it all.

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"WATERED STOCK"

A New York paper recently contained a most brilliant editorial wherein, to its own satisfaction, it solved the "labor question." They occupied nearly an entire column in recommending the use of "watered stock" as a cure for strikes. Thus, they contend, "It would be, to some extent, for them to say whether, by greater economy of time and material and greater devotion to work, that stock should pay dividends. But in any event, they would share the prosperity of active business and high prices and thus would be avoided that sort of conflict most disastrous to the general welfare, the 'good-times' strike."

Happy solution, give the working class just a little more "jollifying" and the question is settled.

They further contend that the men are entitled to a "share" in that which their brains help to create.

They would be those whose brains contribute something to the success of the corporate undertaking, or whose brains can aid in strike leading and other devilries, subtract something from that success.

Another happy thought. But we would ask them if they were to give stock to those whose brains contribute to the production of wealth, how can they justify the giving of anything to those whose brains

do not so contribute; the capitalists themselves.

They do not produce any wealth, they merely sell that which others have produced.

The greatest reason of all, however, is that concerning the man whose brain will lead him into "strike leading and other devilry." He is the man to pacify, make him believe that he is a capitalist and the rest is easy.

We are afraid that our New York contemporary will have to make another guess. Their wrongful "solution" won't solve, there still remains the capitalist, who produces no wealth but merely buys and sells that which others produce, enjoying the luxury of life, while the producer himself is compelled to exist upon that which he is able to wring from those who do not produce, by the aid of these very strikes and other devilry.

The working class will solve the problem in due time and without any charity from the capitalist class.

They are beginning to realize that there is no reason for supporting a class in luxury whose only function is class in luxury and selling the products of labor. They are beginning to see that they should use that wealth themselves for their own enjoyment.

In the State of Massachusetts a law exists which compels every man to work for his living. Our Socialist comrades of that State can make good use of such a law when they get into power. They could set the capitalists, who all these years have been living on the labor of others, to doing some of it themselves.

The Paris police recently arrested a man for vagrancy who turned out to have been a man who had risked his life in a Paris fire in order to save the lives of others. When arrested

he explained that he had had nothing to eat for hours. But then there should be nothing startling about such a matter; we are living under capitalism, and no matter how faithful men may be, if they cannot keep up with the struggle they go under.

Newspaper accounts of Li Hung Chang's funeral declare that there were tons of food piled on his coffin, which it was believed would be needed by the gentleman in the other world. That must have been some of the \$2,000,000,000 worth which Chauncey Depew says "we" can't consume.

The capitalist class is compelled to feed hundreds of thousands of persons who cannot find work to feed themselves. The number is growing every year. They will next have to establish theaters and circuses for their amusement if they would keep them silent. It was the experience of Rome; its duplication is natural.

Wealth belongs to those who can work the workers.

Thanksgiving dinners are now being arranged for those whom society denies an opportunity to work. Who gives the thanks? The fellow who gets the dinner, the other man can't eat or the fellow who had more than he knew what to do with.

"Our" representatives in Congress are very much worried over the best way to get rid of the \$2,000,000,000 surplus wealth created by the working class.

The working class seems to be the very best of Christians. They are constant devotees of the doctrine that, "it is more blessed to give than to receive."

Second Every Saturday at Rooms 9 and 10 No. 21 N. 17th Street, St. Louis, Mo.

Published and Printed by the Socialist Party of Missouri, under the supervision of the State Committee.

Editor: E. VAL PUTNAM, Business Manager; M. BALLARD DUNN, Editor.

Subscription Rates in Advance: One Year, \$1.00; Six Months, \$0.50; Three Months, \$0.25.

Editorial Announcements: Communications should reach the office Monday evening preceding the issue in which they are to appear.

Copyright: The fact that a signed article is published does not constitute Missouri Socialist as an agent for its reproduction.

Advertisement Rates: The labor movement is the only one that is not being crushed by the power of the capitalist class.

Entered at the Postoffice at St. Louis, Mo., as second-class matter, in December, 1900.



NOTICE: If the number on your label is 45 your subscription has expired.

IN CHICAGO

If recent press dispatches are correct our Chicago comrades will soon have to wrestle with the problem of conducting a successful Socialist campaign in the face of a capitalist "union labor" party.

The comrades in Chicago will have the advantage of the previous experience of the movement in these other cities.

The greater portion of the working class we know still regard capitalism as a finality and any chance for a change of capitalist administration satisfies them.

It is hoped that the story will not be repeated in Chicago but it will be the most heroic work which will prevent it.

THE PARTY EMBLEM.

Comrade Charles H. Kerr, Secretary of the Illinois State Committee, has recently designed a party button which has several good features.

Its only figure is a representation of the rising sun, a very appropriate one for the Socialist movement.

There is absolutely no background to the button, and the tenement houses stand out like so many white streaks in the red.

SOCIALISM AND THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

The devotees of the prohibition of the liquor traffic forget one thing in their arguments, and without it they are useless.

guiding star. Under capitalism the means of production are used by one class for their personal advantage.

Socialists demand that the shoe factory shall be owned by society, and that the shoes produced in it shall be for the use of society and not for the profit of a few.

With the establishment of Socialism production will be carried on for use and not for profit. It would not be in the interest of society under such conditions to produce such large amounts of liquor.

THE BLACK LIST.

The "black list" is one of the thorns in the side of labor to-day. It is a very powerful weapon wielded by the capitalist class.

Without this opportunity the worker must become a tramp or a criminal, the capitalist does not care which.

The "black list" is one of the cruel attributes of capitalism, which will disappear with the destruction of capitalism.

It is only by force that capitalists are able to rob the workers, and every increase in robbery is brought as a result of increase in force.

The workers must control the methods by which wealth is produced if they are to prevent another class robbing it from them.

A DEFECT.

The great defect of our public school system lies in the fact that there is no attempt made to teach the lower grades anything concerning the relation of man to man.

Most of his time is taken up with a study of wars, court intrigues, murders, massacres and assassinations.

Count Tolstoi.

His Death.

The press dispatches of Thursday announce the death of Count Leo Tolstoi of Russia.

His life was spent as a simple farm worker and he spurned the luxury which his position in Russian society would have given him.

While Socialists have endorsed that part of his writings in which he describes the criminality of our modern society they have been unable to agree with the measures which he proposed for their remedy.

The basis of his philosophy was non-resistance to evil. He declared that it was necessary to teach the ruling class in society the wrongs of which they were guilty.

Arguing from history they contend that no ruling class ever surrendered its power voluntarily but only after the hardest struggle.

His writing will long stand as some of the world's best and in his death the oppressed of the earth lose an ardent, though we believe mistaken, friend and their oppressors are relieved of a presence which they naturally regarded as odious.

THANKSGIVING.

Under Capitalism.

The police department of Worcester Mass. are making elaborate preparations to provide the poor of that city with Thanksgiving dinners.

In short, instead of being conducted on the usual pharisaical, sounding the trumpet style, it is to be a real sneak affair.

Rome's decadence began when her ruling class proved their unwillingness to rule by having not only to maintain, but to amuse the three hundred thousand paupers who were the product of their rule.

"It is hoped the amount of money this year will be larger than ever before, as the number of worthy persons deserving of aid INCREASES YEARLY."

He learns much about the barter and sale of wealth, but with its actual production he is taught no concern.

POPULATION AND WEALTH.

At such a stage "it becomes evident that the bourgeoisie (now the capitalist class) is unfit any longer to be the ruling class in society."

Chauncey Depew.

His Marriage.

The champion post-prandial lawyer, Chauncey Depew, railroad president and United States Senator, is a prospective Benedict, a consummation devoutly to be wished.

But, now I come to think of it, I cannot understand why he should be so solicitous about celebrating the anniversary of the birth of one born in a stock yard.

Election News.

Encouraging Returns.

Belated returns are still coming in which show a very decided gain. In Cincinnati, O., the increase was 200 per cent and the Socialist ticket is now on the official ballot.

The vote in OHIO is very reassuring. Thompson for Governor received 7,359 votes in the State, a gain of 2,799 within the year.

The vote in LOUISVILLE, KY., was 80. This was a loss to our comrades but the S. L. P. made a very good gain on account of a very vigorous campaign.

NORTHPORT, KY., made a very decided gain, the vote in this election being 437 as against something over 200 one year ago.

In the 16th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT of New York the Socialist Party ticket polled 252 - a slight increase.

Kerens-Hitchcock.

"Bosses"

The St. Louis papers for the last few days have been full of the "Kerens-Hitchcock controversy."

Kerens is an old time Republican "boss." Hitchcock is the representative of one Aikins, chairman of the Missouri State Republican committee.

What is a boss anyway? Why should either Kerens or Aikins have the whole say as to who shall receive government appointments and who shall not?

ITS WORK.

Congress will assemble on December 2d and the nation's representatives will assemble to carry out the purpose of their election.

Those who urge the passage of these measures contend that the growing foreign demand for American made goods, and a consequent growing foreign market, require that the American capitalist should have the greatest possible liberty in dealing with these various countries.

The next measure is that providing for the construction of an Isthmian canal. The failure of this measure will enable the American capitalist to transport his goods to the foreign markets at much less cost.

So long as that class votes into power men whose whole time will be spent in quarrelling over the surplus wealth robbed from the class who elected them, just so long will both the robbery and the quarrelling continue.

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A boss is a man who "controls" of that question.

It will be a veritable robbers' rans, quarrelling over the division of the spoil.

Upon this occasion we must repeat the oft-repeated statement of the Socialist, that labor is the creator of all wealth.

One other point, while they are in office to carry out the interests of the working class, there is not one of them who was not elected by the votes of the working class.

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The Value of a Child.

UNDER CAPITALISM.

Value of a Child.

When the life of a child is worth to his parents from 6 cents to \$1. The death of a laboring man makes \$5.00 a day. Is not worth as much as the death of a millionaire. The pecuniary value of a child is fixed by law. As a general rule, it is merely nominal.

The law does not consider sentiment. It is purely a matter of money. Chief Justice Gummere of the Supreme Court of New Jersey.

Chief Justice Gummere of the New Jersey Supreme Court in a recent decision made the above declaration. Human life measured in dollars and cents, with the cruel exactness of a capitalist.

When he declares that "Law does not consider sentiment, but is purely a matter of money," he is right. All law to-day is capitalist law, and under capitalism the dollar is the standard of value. The law is as cruel as the capitalist class in whose interest laws to-day are passed. The capitalist measures the value of any life by the amount that the exertions of such life would be worth to him; that is the place for which he could purchase his labor power on the market. He employs labor, not out of sentiment, but for the profits it will yield him.

When the execution of his laws he inflicts his damages, not out of sentiment, but for the money it has cost him. He can obtain the life of a child of five years at from 6 cents a day to \$1.

The working class have had to bear the burden of the injunction a sufficient length of time, and turn about is fair play. It is now time that the working class enjoined the capitalist class from holding office. Judge Ballot will declare the injunction, and if the capitalists don't obey, the working class can call out the militia to preserve the peace.

The latest is the fruit trust. Press dispatches announce that bananas and oranges have been cornered. A few more such corners and the working class will go into the cornering business. They could corner all their votes in the ballot box and corner all the other fellows corners.

EVERY SUBSCRIBER TO MISSOURI SOCIALIST in the 5th, 6th, and 14th wards should attend the agitation meeting at 312 South Broadway, Tuesday evening, November 26th. It is necessary to double the present membership of the 6th ward club and this is the way to do it. Every subscriber at all interested in Socialism should join. Good speakers will address the meeting.

M. Ballard Dunn,
Secretary.

CHILD SLAVERY.

The following newspaper item should in itself contain for every thinking man an insurmountable indictment against the capitalist system.

"A novel step in the direction of educating cash girls and boys and the other children forced to work throughout the day in the large department

a week. Why should he pay more for its death. If it should succumb under his cruel treatment. There are many more such children in the world, he argues, whose lives he can buy at the same price, and who will be my willing slaves, producing wealth for my enjoyment. Why should I pay more for its crushed and lifeless body when it is no longer able to minister to my wants?

Six cents is the market value under capitalism, and six cents is all the law will sanction for its death. "The death of a laboring man making \$1.50 a day is not worth as much as the death of a millionaire."

Another capitalist measurement. The value of the man is determined the same as is that of his baby, whom the capitalist has robbed of its childhood, its right to the free air, and finally of its very life. His labor power can be bought for \$1.50 a day, and his death is weighed in the same scales. The millionaire is not compelled to sell his labor power at such a figure, and his death is correspondingly higher. But let him lose that which makes him a millionaire, let him be placed in the same position with the other man and his death will be represented at a like figure.

Justice Gummere was elected by the working class; he administers laws passed by Congressmen and legislators elected by the working class.

If working men would change these laws and correct their enforcement they must elect representatives who will pass laws in their interest and do away with a system based upon such fiendish calculations.

stores was recently introduced by James A. Hearn & Co. "SO MANY CHILDREN AT WORK FROM MORNING TILL NIGHT IN THE BIG STORES ARE UNABLE TO GET THE TIME FOR AN EDUCATION THAT THE FIRM DECIDED TO OPEN A SCHOOL OF ITS OWN."

Why are these children COMPELLED to work from morning till night?

Why are they thus denied time to receive an education?

Are they not entitled to as much pleasure in childhood as any child alive? Why should any child be COMPELLED to work?

Our present capitalist system is no respecter of persons, ages or sex. The capitalist class in its mad scramble for profits, makes use of those whose labor will yield them the greatest profit. The James O. Hearn Company can obtain more profit in the employment of girls and boys than he could in the employment of men for the reason that it is not necessary to pay them as large a wage. This is but one of a thousand cases. We are told that there are nearly three million children now employed in the factories and workshops of this country, COMPELLED to work from morning till night in order that their employers might have profits.

A society which condemns its children to such a hellish existence as this certainly deserves the condemnation of every honest citizen. And its destruction would be a detriment only to those who to-day reap a profit out of its existence.

The basis of this system of child-slavery lies in the private ownership of the tools of production, and will cease only with its destruction.

Socialism demands this destruction, and further demands that society as a whole shall own and operate collectively the entire machinery of production, thus putting an end to the power of one class over another, and the consequent destruction of all that grows out of it. The destruction of child slavery and every other form of slavery.



What could not the working class accomplish if they arose in all their might?

There are two ways of voting. One in the interest of the capitalist class and the other in the interest of the working class. A man who lives on the profits of his business, the interest of his money and the rest of his land in the broadest sense is a member of the capitalist class. Profits, interest and rent are just so much robbed from the working class. If there was no labor power applied to the forces of nature there would be no wealth; in other words, wealth is the product of labor. Every boy is taught at school that enjoyment is only the pleasure of those who work for it. If this be true, then, as it is, labor alone which creates wealth, the wealth thus created belongs to those who labor—the working class.

We know full well that they do not enjoy it. We also know that those who do enjoy it are those who are living on rent interest and profits, and who perform no useful labor. If this be true, they are wrongfully enjoying it, and it would be but justice to put an end to that which is wrongful and restore that which is rightful. If this class is able to continue this wrongful system they must do so under some form of force, through some

advantage which they hold over the workers.

This force is nothing less than the capitalist system.

While it is labor's power which creates wealth, this power can only be exercised with the aid of tools, machines and without the free access to these machines the worker is helpless and is compelled to submit to those who hold the power of permission, those who hold this power are capitalists and it is only through their ownership of the machines that they are enabled to hold this power.

This private ownership of the machine is the basis of the capitalist system, and so long as this system continues the workers will continue to produce wealth for others to enjoy. This system can only be abolished through the ballot, and so long as the working class vote for the continuance of this system so long will their robbery continue. It is only by rising en masse and casting a vote for the collective ownership of the machines that this robbery will cease. The collective ownership of these machines would be Socialism; it is the Socialist ticket then that the working class should vote.

The American Federation.

—ITS DUTY.

The twenty-first annual convention of the American Federation of Labor will assemble at Scranton, Pa., on December 5. The delegates assembled here held? What is it that has made opportunity of making out a programme for the emancipation of the working class of America, which will insure to that class the full enjoyment to which their labor entitles them. And there will be those who attend this convention who will have the ability to shape this course for them.

The question which should be uppermost in the mind of every delegate to that convention should be: Why is this congress of the workers here will have before them the opportunity necessary for the working class of America to organize into trades unions?

There must have been if reason, and in order to act intelligently the delegate to the coming convention must know it. It is a self-evident truth that labor is the creator of all wealth. At present this wealth is divided into wages and profits, wages being the portion which sustains the laborer and profits being the portion enjoyed by capitalists.

The laborer on one hand and the capitalists on the other are constantly striving to increase their respective shares. The working class realized early in the warfare that the best method for them to adopt was one of organization, and trades un-

ions were organized. Admit the power of the present weapon of the trades unions, the strike and the boycott, which, however, is becoming more doubtful every day, and still it is only an increase of the "share" which is achieved. If labor creates all wealth then labor should enjoy it; this is impossible as long as we strive for only a part of it.

The coming convention should demand the entire product of labor as labor's reward and further declare for a plan which will insure it. When an army sets out for the field of battle it should arm itself with its most powerful weapon. In America that weapon is the ballot, and it is in favor of the use of that weapon, which the coming convention should declare.

Our strikes on the industrial field will be useless unless we follow them with a strike at the ballot box. Not against a particular capitalist, but for the full product of our labor, and against the entire capitalist system. It will take a majority of votes to accomplish it in any event and those votes had as well be cast for the entire programme as for only a part of it. With the power of the American Federation of Labor exerted in this direction it would be only a question of a few years until the working class of America would be enjoying the full product of their labor and the labor problem would have been solved.

Entertainment.

—A Good Start.

Arrangements are well under way for the entertainment at Druid's Hall Saturday evening, November 20. The Socialist Women's Club has the matter in charge and a good program is assured. Every member of the party should attend this entertainment as the proceeds will go to help on the movement. We would also like to see every subscriber to Missouri Socialist on hand.

A general party meeting has been called for December 15. The meeting place has not yet been arranged, but it is desired to have every member of the party present.

The comrades in the 18th Ward held a very successful meeting Tuesday evening, taking in a number of new members. This branch has only been organized a few weeks and it promises to be one of the best in the city. Comrade Greenbaum spoke in English, devoting his time in Archbishop Corrigan's recent article in the Post-Dispatch. Comrade Christ Rucker spoke in German. Master Harry Froelich also spoke.

Comrade Rucker has not been heard for some time but we hope he will again put his shoulder to the wheel. The hall was crowded and the speeches were well listened to.

North St. Louis will be heard from at the next election.

A general agitation meeting will be held in the First Ward Thursday after-

noon, December 5, at Niekum's Hall, 4828 N. Broadway. Comrades Julius Blumenthal and Tyson have the matter in charge and it is expected that a good branch will be the result in that ward. It only remains for the Second Ward to be organized to complete the organization of North St. Louis. Our South Side comrades will have to get a hustle on themselves in order to catch up.

The 17th Ward will hold its third regular monthly agitation meeting at Winkleman's Hall, 23rd and North Market streets, Wednesday evening, December 4. Speakers will be announced later. This club has been holding very successful meetings and their next one promises to be as good as any from the efforts which are being put forth in that direction. Every working man in the neighborhood should attend.

The 24th Ward Club held a very well attended meeting at Gross' Hall, Morganford Road and Juniata street, Tuesday evening. Comrade Dunn spoke. The party members in that ward are getting down to work and they promise to have several clubs meeting in various parts of the ward in a short while. The 24th Ward is the largest in the city and it will require several meeting places to accommodate them. We can trust our comrades in that district to see to it. All Socialists in the ward and all subscribers of the paper in that district should communicate with Felix Lawrence, 4274 Hartford street, and help out with the work.

Negro Disfranchisement.

—THE ENTERING WEDGE.

The negro of Alabama has been disfranchised, and one more Democratic State has registered its assent to the plan of government without the consent of the governed, which the Republican party has inaugurated in the Philippines and Porto Rico. The Republican party finds nothing wrong with such a government in the Philippines, and the Democrats find it a "necessity" at home.

Both parties clamor about the interest of the working class, and as soon as they get an opportunity to grind the members of that class they hasten to take advantage of it.

If the black working man in the South can be disfranchised without a protest from a democratic people, it is but a step to the disfranchisement of the white working man of the North. This action in the Southern States is but the entering wedge. The capitalist class of America understand better than the workers themselves, the power which that class possess in the ballot, they also see that a day is coming when those ballots will be used, and they understand that with the use of those ballots their dominion ceases. It is therefore to their interest to deprive the working class of this weapon.

It is not to be many months before a property qualification act will be passed in most States of the Union unless the working class awake in time to prevent it.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE NOTES.

The National Committee is still hard at work and if we are to judge from the news received at the national office the vote for Socialism in 1902 will be a stunner. Comrade Theodore Debs has sent the effects of the old Chicago Board thus sealing forever all animosities of the past. Two new charters were granted at the meeting Friday night—one to Etowah, Oklahoma, and the other to Nashua, New Hampshire.

The comrades of Kansas have chosen E. Bachus as their organizer and they write that he has organized nine or ten branches within the past month. If they keep up that lick we want to look out for Kansas. We may yet be taking pointers from the Sunflower State.

The Kentucky comrades have chosen F. E. Seeds as their national committeeman. This makes only five so far selected. The first yearly meeting takes place January 24 and the comrades in the states which have not yet acted should set about the matter at once.

Another big fight is on in the sugar market. The trust and the independent concerns will now wage a bitter war over the product of the sugar laborers of the country, while the men who produced it will take their coffee without sugar. Such is capitalism.

Dispatches from Texas announce that the inhabitants of Zopate county are starving to death, and a collection has been taken up for their benefit. Where is that \$2,000,000,000 worth of wealth that Chauncey Depew said we couldn't consume.

The working class can at least give thanks for the ballot. If they wait much longer they won't even have that blessing.

Comrade Brandt will speak before the Carriage and Wagon Workers Union on Sunday, November 25.

In fact a great many of the so-called negro disfranchisement laws are based upon this sort of qualification, and in South Carolina and several other Southern States thousands of white workers have been denied the use of the ballot.

Actions of this sort demand vigorous action from working men if they are to preserve at least the semblance of liberty.

It is this power of the ballot, equal with the power of every other man, which gives to the workers of America a power in the government which no other worker in the world possesses. It lies with the workers to use their weapon in the method which will insure to them the greatest enjoyment of life. Unfortunately they are divided to-day, half of them casting their votes in the interest of one capitalist party and a great majority of the other half casting their votes for another capitalist party, both voting for their enemies. As yet there are but a few who are casting their votes as a class, registering their disapproval of the present system of robbery. It lies with those few, however, to blaze the way for others to follow; it is but a question of time until every workingman casts his vote with his class, provided he has a vote left, and it is the duty of every working man, wherever he is, to be black or white, to raise his voice in protest at the disfranchisement of any portion of his class.

The Eighth Ward Club will hold their next agitation meeting at Dewey Hall, 2301 S. Broadway, Tuesday evening, December 10. Comrade Greenbaum will speak on "What is a Socialist?" The comrades have gotten out some very attractive dodgers and are circulating them from house to house. A rousing meeting will be the result.

The 10th Ward meeting at Schlappizzi's Hall was well attended and a good organization started. The club will start with a good membership and it will not be long before the 10th Warders are down to work again. A committee was selected to arrange for a permanent meeting place and an agitation meeting will be held early in December. Comrade Leonhardt was chosen secretary and Comrade George Herget organizer.

The 19th Ward will be organized in a few weeks and it will doubtless duplicate the work of our other North St. Louis clubs.

NOTICE.

The members of the PUBLIC FUND AND WELFARE ASSOCIATION are hereby notified that the meeting for the election of directors of the Association will be held at Walthalla Hall, 10th and Franklin Avenue, Thursday Afternoon, November 28th, at 3 o'clock. All delegates from unions must bring their CREDENTIALS with them.

Louis Kober,
Delegate from C.T. & L.U.

The 27th Ward Club holds its weekly meetings on Tuesday evenings. They are also arranging some very successful agitation meetings.

TO THE CHILDREN.

—A LESSON.

Following our previous argument let us look into the facts as they actually exist. What opportunity is there for the ambitious boy or girl in the future? What chance have they among the trades? Is there an opportunity in the professions? Is there still a chance for a boy or girl of the working class to rise out of their class and become capitalists, and if so by what method? We will examine this week the chances offered in the trades.

The first fact with which we are encountered at the outset is that there in reality no longer any trades.

The great machine performs their work for them. The carpenter is no longer the mechanic he was 50 years ago; formerly he was required to make a house from floor to ceiling—doors, windows and all; to-day the most difficult portion of the labor is performed by machinery and the only need of a carpenter is that he shall be able to set together the things which he finds ready made at his hand.

How about the machinist? His trade while it offers more chance for originality than a great many other occupations is itself being reduced to very simple labor and the skilled man is becoming scarcer and more unnecessary. In every line of trade the same condition prevails; the machine has supplanted the man. And with the growth which machinery holds for the future, these conditions will become more intensified.

Where a few years ago the skilled laborer was, with the aid of small tools, able to control the speed with which he worked, today, with the machine, the laborer's motions must be tuned to that of his machine. He has become in fact instead of a skilled mechanic a mere appendage to the machine with but very little originality of his own.

The greatest change, however, which has come over the condition of the—at one time—skilled laborer is that of the uncertainty of his employment. This change has also been wrought as a result of the machine.

With the aid of these machines labor is enabled to produce vastly more wealth than formerly and the number of laborers needed for the work is not as great in proportion as it used to be. As a consequence there is a great number of men who are constantly out of work and who travel from place to place in search of employment.

The condition of those who are employed is becoming more uncertain every day and they are often compelled to be idle at various times throughout the year.

The future for the boy or girl who would embark in this field is very dim indeed. It remains to be seen what chances exist for them in the other directions. Are the professions also closed? Is there no opportunity to become capitalists? We will examine these questions in subsequent papers.

PEDAGOGUE.

Bloodshed in Kentucky.

THE OLD STORY.

Again in Kentucky, capitalists and laborers have clashed, this time in the coal mines near Madisonville, the mine labor has been called out and the "labor trouble" will be "put down." It is the old story; the men, goaded on by hard toil and meager wages, could stand the strain no longer; they struck, their capitalist employers had them out to call upon the army of unemployed on the outside, vainly seeking an opportunity to work and compelled to take the first thing offered even though it be the place of a striker. The strikers, finding their places being taken, and realizing the failure of their strike, in their desperation resorted to arms in an attempt to drive out the company guards and take possession of the mine. Two men were killed and others wounded, and in the end, under the guns of the militia and the fear of starvation, they will be compelled to go to work under their old conditions of slavery.

One thing should stand out as a lesson to the working class in such massacres as these.

Every power of government in the State of Kentucky is directed against these strikers and they cannot hope to contend against such odds.

It is the government which breaks the strike for the mine owners.

They furnish their militia their policemen and their courts.

The strikers are enjoined, imprisoned and shot, all in the interest of the capitalist mine owner, and why? The

present system of society is based upon the private ownership of the tools of production. The owners of these tools run them for the profit it yields them, and all governmental powers are directed to the upholding of this system, and the defense of the right of the capitalist to rob the working class. The success of a strike means a lessening of profits and under the demand of the capitalist whose profits are thus endangered, the forces of government are put in action in order to thwart the threatened attack. The working class, completely at the mercy of their capitalist masters dare not make one protest against their wrongs without bringing upon them the powers of the State.

It is this club, the government, then, which the workers must have in their possession in order to back up any demands which they may make.

The present Governor of Kentucky, Beckham, owes his election to the very men against whom he has now sent the militia.

If these men can elect an officer of the enemy they can as surely elect a member of their own class, a man who is pledged against the whole damnable system of capitalism, with its strikes and its militia, its all but slavish workmen and its militia of the working class. The salvation of the working class lies, not in the strike, but in the ballot.

Unite on election day, strike once at the ballot box and put an end to the hellish strife of capitalism.

Socialist Clubs of Missouri.

—WHAT THEY ARE DOING.

Nearly all the old branches of the party in Missouri have applied for and received new charters as clubs under the new organization. A few are yet to be reviewed, but the activity displayed is gratifying. The State Committee expects to be able to make a good report for November. It must be remembered that the organization in Missouri has been in very bad shape for over a year, dues being paid by only a few branches. The causes of this disorder having been removed by the unity convention, it is a great pleasure to note how rapidly things are adjusting themselves. The matter of dues is being attended to properly, the clubs are keeping in close touch with the State office and the whole machinery of organization is beginning to run like clock work. The State Committee has changed its weekly meeting night to Saturday instead of Monday, so as to devote more time to the work. Circular matter on organization has been prepared and is being sent to every address of a Socialist obtainable. Comrades can render valuable aid by immediately forwarding the names of any Socialists at unorganized points. The cause is marching on in Missouri. Let all comrades rally to the front.

LAMAR.

The two members of Lamar Socialist Club are active and write that they think they are doing some work which will bring good results. A. W. Heamer is organizer and A. W. Dyer, secretary.

MANSFIELD.

Mansfield Club is another club with a small membership, but it is doing good work. Its six members are scattering plenty of literature. Its officers are H. B. Blair, organizer, and Frank Peacock, secretary.

SPRINGFIELD.

Fourteen members are enrolled in the Springfield Club. The officers are: Chairman, O. H. McMurray; vice-

chairman, N. W. Farris; recording secretary, J. Chamberlain; corresponding secretary, F. Taylor; treasurer, Wm. Taylor; organizer, Chas. Bigbee.

JACKSON COUNTY.

The Socialists of Kansas City, Sheffield, Centropolis and Independence are organized in one club as the Socialist Club of Jackson County, with headquarters in Kansas City. One hundred and one members are enrolled. Garnet Entwistle is secretary and keeps things moving.

LINCOLN.

Socialists of Lincoln were granted a new charter at Monday's meeting of the State Committee. Eight names were signed to the application. C. F. Beck is organizer and L. G. Wear, secretary.

BEVIER.

The club at Bevier is composed of 23 coal miners. It has an English and a German branch and is doing excellent work. A special committee was appointed immediately after the State convention to solicit subscriptions for Missouri Socialist. Seventeen have already been forwarded by this committee. Every club would do well to follow out this plan and appoint a committee at once. Henry Thompson is organizer of the Bevier Club and Herman Peukert, secretary. With a hundred aggressive clubs like this one in Missouri there would be trouble for the enemy.

The Socialists of Reeds, Mo. (Jasper County), will hold a meeting Saturday, November 23, to organize a local club. Ten charter members are already in sight.

GREENFIELD.

The comrades at Greenfield got together again on the 12th and sent in an application for a charter with ten signatures. N. A. Carroll is organizer, and W. C. Starr is secretary. The charter was granted Monday evening.

Branch Meetings.

The Sixth Ward Club will hold its second regular agitation meeting at 312 S. Broadway Tuesday evening, November 26. This ward needs building up and the comrades have set to work in earnest to accomplish it. Comrade Putnam will speak. We would be pleased to see the subscribers to Missouri Socialist attend and get acquainted. All Socialists should be friends.

IF YOU ARE A SOCIALIST you have no excuse for not joining the party. You deserve censure if you do not. Attend the next meeting of the branch in your ward and put in your application.

Members will take notice of the fact that under the new city constitution they must attend at least once in every four meetings or be suspended.

SIXTH WARD BRANCH (including 5th ward) meets every Tuesday evening at 312 S. Broadway.

EIGHTH WARD BRANCH (including wards 7 and 9) meets every Tuesday evening at Dewey Hall, 2301 S. Broadway.

16TH WARD BRANCH (including wards 14, 15 and 22) meets every Thursday evening at Smith's Hall, 21st and Franklin avenue.

17TH WARD BRANCH (including wards 2, 19 and 20) meets every Wednesday evening at Winkelman's Hall, 23d and North Market streets.

26TH WARD BRANCH (including 28th ward) meets every Thursday evening at 4014 Evans avenue.

SOCIALIST WOMEN'S CLUB meets on the 2d and 4th Thursdays of every month, 8:30 p. m., at room 7, 22 N. 4th street.

27TH WARD BRANCH meets every Thursday evening, 8 o'clock, at 2315 Gilmore avenue.

STATE COMMITTEE meets every Saturday night at 22 N. 4th street. E. Val. Putnam, Secretary-Treasurer.

CITY CENTRAL COMMITTEE meets every Monday evening at 22 N. 4th street, room 2. M. Ballard Dunn, Secretary.

18TH WARD BRANCH meets every Tuesday evening at Benton Hall, 14th and Denton streets. J. H. Buttrell, organizer.

24TH WARD BRANCH meets every Tuesday evening at Gross' Hall, Morganford road and Juniata street. Felix Lawrence, Secretary.

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How to Organize a Local Branch of the Socialist Party.

NOTE—These directions apply to unorganized states where the charter is to be issued by the National Committee. In organized states the charters will be granted by the state committee.

- Five or more persons may organize a local branch, provided they subscribe to the platform and constitution of the Socialist Party, and sever their relations with all other political parties.
 - The officers to be elected are:
 - A Chairman at each meeting.
 - Recording Secretary.
 - Financial Secretary.
 - Organizer.
 - Literature Agent.
 - Order of business—
 - Reading of the minutes.
 - Admission of new members.
 - Communications and bills.
 - Report of Organizer.
 - Reports of Committees.
 - Unfinished business.
 - New business.
 - A monthly payment, computed on a basis of five cents for each member, for the maintenance of the National organization, shall be paid to the National Secretary. Local branches may levy dues if they so choose, or may raise funds altogether through voluntary contributions and pay National dues out of their general funds.
 - A full report of the meeting in which organization was decided on, the names of persons participating, together with five cents for each member, should be sent with application for charter; after receipt of which, upon approval of National Committee, charter will be granted.
 - Each local branch should hold a meeting at least once a week, for the transaction of business or the discussion of political and economic questions.
 - Semi-annual reports of the membership and the financial condition of each local branch, as well as upon the progress made by the Party and its prospects in the locality, shall be sent regularly to the National Secretary.
 - Any person living in a city or locality, where no local branch exists, may apply directly to the National Secretary for admission to the Party, enclosing one month's dues, and will be enrolled as a member-at-large.
 - For further information not contained herein, address Leon Greenbaum, National Secretary, Room 427, Emille Building, St. Louis, Mo.
- HOW TO ORGANIZE AND BUILD UP A LOCAL BRANCH WITHOUT PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE.**
- The following instructions are offered solely in the form of suggestion and not as set of rules for the government of organizers. It is impossible to submit a method of organization, that will apply without modification, in every locality. It is not necessary in order to be a successful organizer to be a silver-tongued orator or a master of arts, but is

absolutely essential in order to reach a fair degree of success that the organizer be a man of ordinary tact and judgment, able to control his own temper. He should not attempt to impress other Socialists with his superior knowledge, nor permit them to practice their science on him, which always results in loss of time, sometimes less of temper and often failure in attempted organization.

SELF-EQUIPMENT.

The National Committee does not empower local organizers, the same being elected by the local branch. In localities where no local branch exists, any Socialist may assume the work of organization until the local branch organizes and elects an official organizer. An organizer should properly equip himself with a small supply of materials, such as platform, constitutions, applications for membership and charter, directions on organization, etc., all of which may be obtained from the National Secretary. By carefully reading the above at intervals during leisure moments, he will very quickly familiarize himself with essential information, which will enable him to answer the usual questions. Valuable ideas about organizing will be obtained by subscribing to one or more party papers, which give weekly accounts of what is being accomplished by National, State and Local organizers in their respective fields.

CHARTER APPLICATION.

Assuming that the Organizer has thus equipped himself, the next step is to obtain signatures to application for charter. Upon reference to charter application it will be seen that qualifications for membership are recognition of the class struggle between the capitalist class and the working class, renunciation of all other political parties and indorsement of the platform and constitution of the Socialist Party. Do not waste much time on men with incongruous political beliefs, who claim to have Socialist leanings, and beware of the capitalist politician who is a Socialist "at heart." Men who claim to have been Socialists "before you were born," but "who haven't got time" to read a Socialist book or paper, do not make good material for a Socialist branch.

The organizer would do well to remember that the local branch, properly organized, is a powerful engine. It should be built of a membership that will neither rust, rot, jar or wear out. The best material for starting a local branch, are men who are more or less known in the community to be Socialists, and have stood the "disgrace" without shrinking.

Other men who have heretofore supported the capitalist parties, but who are now reading Socialist books and papers and avow their readiness to assist in the complete overthrow of the capitalist system of production, and in addition, sign the application for membership, should be gladly wel-

comed to comradeship. Do not forget that women are eligible to membership and office in the local branch, and their participation accomplishes political results that can not be achieved by men alone.

TEMPORARY ORGANIZATION.

A meeting should be held by the intended signers to application for charter and any others whom they admit to membership. The Organizer should take the floor, state the object of the meeting and call for nominations and election of temporary chairman. After the election of temporary chairman, the latter will proceed in the same manner to bring about nomination and election of the balance of the officers temporarily. A collection should be taken up, and it should amount to at least sufficient to pay the first month's National dues, which should be forwarded by the temporary Recording Secretary, together with application for charter to the National Secretary.

PERMANENT ORGANIZATION.

After charter has been received from National Headquarters, another meeting should be held for the purpose of effecting permanent organization. The first set of permanent officers should not occupy office for a longer period than three months. This will give the local branch an early opportunity to replace officers who show poor abilities, with men who have the required degree of fitness for the work.

A committee should be appointed on Constitution and By-Laws; a place for permanent meeting and headquarters should be secured; public speakers engaged from time to time, and a constant distribution and sale of literature maintained. Every member of the local branch should be urged to subscribe to at least one party paper, and every attempt made to induce Socialist sympathizers to subscribe to party papers, purchase Socialist literature and join the local branch.

It has been found that the best results are accomplished with weekly meetings; therefore, this provision in section 5. of the foregoing directions. Each member should be required to attend at least one meeting in each month, a record of which should be kept by roll call and membership cards.

The attendance and interest is thus continuous and constant, the regular weekly meeting becomes a fixed event looked forward to by every member, and larger and better results are accomplished. By adopting methods of this character and others, which will naturally occur to the wisdom of the comrades, the local branch will grow steadily in numbers and influence, finally obtaining a majority of the voters, capture the local public powers, thereby inaugurating Socialist laws and systems locally in the interest of the working class, and assisting so far as possible in the final triumph of the principles of International Socialism and the establishment of the Socialist Commonwealth.

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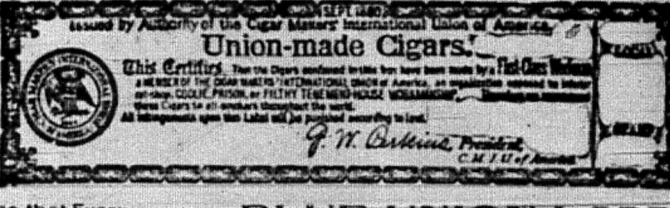
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National Platform of the Socialist Party.

Adopted at Indianapolis, July 31, 1901.

- The Socialist Party, in National convention assembled, reaffirms its adherence to the principles of International Socialism, and declares its aim to be the organization of the working class, and those in sympathy with it, into a political party, with the object of conquering the powers of government and using them for the purpose of transforming the present system of private ownership of the means of production and distribution into collective ownership by the entire people.
- Formerly the tools of production were simple and owned by the individual worker. Today the machine, which is an improved and more developed tool of production, is owned by the capitalists and not by the workers. This ownership enables the capitalists to control the product and keep the workers dependent upon them.
- Private ownership of the means of production and distribution is responsible for the ever increasing uncertainty of livelihood and poverty of the working class, and it divides society in two hostile classes—the capitalists and wage-workers. The once powerful middle class is rapidly disappearing in the mill of competition. The struggle is now between the capitalist class and the working class. The possession of the means of livelihood gives to the capitalists the control of the government, the press, the pulpit and school, and enables them to reduce the workingmen to a state of intellectual, physical and social inferiority, political subservience and virtual slavery.
- The economic interests of the capitalist class dominate our entire social system; the lives of the working class are recklessly sacrificed for profit, wars are fomented between nations, indiscriminate slaughter is encouraged and the destruction of whole races is sanctioned in order that the capitalists may extend their commercial dominion abroad and enhance their supremacy at home.
- But the same economic causes which developed capitalism are leading to Socialism, which will abolish both the capitalist class and the class of wage-workers. And the active force in bringing about this new and higher order of society is the working class. All other classes, despite their apparent or actual conflicts, are alike interested in the upholding of the system of private ownership of the instruments of wealth production. The Democratic, Republican, the bourgeois Public Ownership parties, and all other parties which do not stand for the complete overthrow of the capitalist system of production, are alike political representatives of the capitalist class.
- The workers can most effectively act as a class in their struggle against the collective powers of capitalism, by constituting themselves into a political party, distinct from and opposed to all parties formed by the propertied classes.
- While we declare that the development of economic conditions tends to the overthrow of the capitalist system, we recognize that the time and manner reached by the proletariat also depend upon the stage of development for the Socialist Party to support all active efforts of the working class to better its condition and to elect Socialists to political offices, in order to facilitate the attainment of this end:
- As such means we advocate:
- The public ownership of all means of transportation and communication, and all other public utilities as well as of all industries controlled by monopolies, trusts, and combines. No part of the revenue of such industries to be applied to the reduction of taxes on property of the capitalist class, but to be applied wholly to the increase of wages and shortening of the hours of labor of the employees, to the improvement of the service and diminishing of rates to the consumers.
 - The progressive reduction of the hours of labor and the increase of wages in order to decrease the share of the capitalist and increase the share of the worker in the product of labor.
 - State or national insurance of working people in case of accidents, loss of employment, sickness and want in old age; the funds for this purpose to be controlled by the government and to be administered under the control of the working class.
 - The inauguration of a system of public industries; public credit to be used for that purpose in order that the workers be secured the full product of their labor.
 - The education of all children up to the age of eighteen years, and state and municipal aid for books, clothing and food.
 - Equal civil and political rights for men and women.
 - The initiative and referendum, proportional representation and the right of recall of representatives by their constituents.
- But in advocating these measures as steps in the overthrow of capitalism and the establishment of the Co-operative Commonwealth, we warn the working class against the so-called public ownership movements as an attempt of the capitalist class to secure governmental control of public utilities for the purpose of obtaining greater security in the exploitation of other industries and not for the amelioration of the conditions of the working class.