

ST. LOUIS LABOR

OFFICE: International Bank Bldg., 4th and Chestnut Sts.....PHONE: Kinloch, Central 1577

Workmen of All Countries, UNITE!

You Have Nothing to Lose But Your Chains, and A WORLD TO GAIN!

VOL. VI

ST. LOUIS, MO., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1907

NO. 357.

Bebel Accuses Princes

The Leader of the German Socialists Says That Berlin Has 40,000 Men Out of Employment.

Berlin, Nov. 29.—Referring to the recent trial of Maximilian Harden, who was sued by Count Kuno von Moltke, a former military governor of Berlin, for defamation of character, August Bebel, the Socialist leader of the Reichstag, during the discussion of the 1908 budget, asserted that the vices revealed in the trial were so prevalent that if the police department brought all the guilty parties to justice a scandal exceeding that of the Panama Canal would be caused.

The guilty persons, the speaker averred, are to be found in the higher social circles, and they include Princes of ruling houses.

The police know the names of the victims, but they are afraid to attack lest the victims blurt out the names of the high personages who are guilty. A number of tragedies already have resulted from this state of affairs, Herr Bebel concluded.

Bebel also called attention to the condition in the country and declared this indicated that a crisis was at hand. He said the unemployed in Berlin already number between 30,000 and 40,000.

Owing to industrial conditions, price agreements and high duties, Bebel declared, Germany was paying the highest prices in the world. Holding up a loaf of bread, which caused prolonged merriment among the members, he said:

"They still say this is a big loaf, but a loaf that weighed 4½ pounds eighteen months ago, now weighs scarcely three pounds."

Continuing, he said that official inquiry showed that the number of public school children in Berlin who never got dinner had risen to 4,841, while a large number of them had only bread and coffee for dinner.

Turning to home politics, Bebel announced that he disagreed with the declaration made before the Reichstag by Chancellor von Buelow, that no Camarilla existed in Germany. He quoted from Prince Bismarck and Prince von Hohenlohe to prove the contrary.

The Evolution of Society

A SOCIAL STUDY

Political, in "The New Emancipation"

Slavery is an ancient institution. It is not, however, the most ancient. Freedom is older.

Researches into primitive history reveal that the eras preceding civilization, so-called, the savages and barbaric, were eras not of slavery, but of freedom. Among families, clans and gentes prevailed a condition of substantial equality. The means of production, the land and the simple tools used in hunting and fishing, were common property. The government was democratic. Substantially equal opportunity to produce the necessities of life and to enjoy them when produced existed among the various members of society. That such conditions existed among our Germanic ancestors, the Germania of Tacitus gives proof. Slaves there were, it is true, and laets or renters; these, however, were but the exceptions that proved the rule. Of the other Aryan people—the stream that flowed from the primitive Aryan home beyond the Hindoo-Koosh mountains into India, and the other that flowed westward into Greece and Rome—the same was true. Freedom was the rule; bondage the exception.

Slavery came in time, at the close of the barbaric and the beginning of the civilized era. Its cause was war. Its occasion was expansion among the tribes, necessitating the struggle for territory to sustain the increased number of flocks, herds and human beings. Conquest followed. Captives were made slaves of the victorious tribes.

But war raised up the military leader. With power and authority developed in the field and backed by victorious hosts, he returned to his tribe to establish there like power. Usurpation ensued. The primitive democracy gave way to monarchy. Communal land became the privately owned land of king and chiefs. Women were subjected; communal slaves became royal slaves, and fellow tribesmen followed captive tribesmen into bondage.

Thus arose slavery, the dominant industrial institution of the ancient world. Egypt, Chaldea, Assyria, Babylonia, Medea, Persia, all rested upon this basis. Greece, with whose annals Freeman begins modern history, was a slave power. Even Athens, in that splendid period, in politics, art, literature, poetry, oratory, philosophy, history so nearly ideal, Athens in the age of Pericles, rested upon a basis of slavery. Plato and Aristotle thought of slavery as an essential feature of human society. Rome, growing from the village by the Tiber into the one world power, was a hideous slave pen. The Roman slave, often a scholar, poet, philosopher, artist, infinitely the superior of his brutal, corrupt, plutocratic master, had no rights which that master was bound to respect. Life itself hung by a thread which the master might at any moment snap.

Slavery underwent transformations. In the closing period of Roman rule it began to merge into serfdom. When the waves of barbarian migration overwhelmed the empire, serfdom gradually became the dominant industrial institution. Its basis differed from that of slavery. The slave was the personal property of his master. The serf, instead, was attached irremovably to his master's land. His condition was, in some respects, better than that of the slave. He had a habitation; he could maintain family life. Like the slave, however, his subsistence came in time to depend wholly upon the will of his lord. When, as the modern trust has developed out of competing corporations, the monarchy developed out of competing feudatories, serfdom received a new and harder status. As king ruled lords by absolute power, so, in turn, he permitted his lords to rule their serfs. Serfdom now degenerated into a species of galling and bitter bondage, whose cry yet reaches us from medieval chronicles and from such a spokesman as "The Mad Priest of Kent."

Serfdom in time waned. The hostility of monarchs toward rival and jealous barons, the growth of towns in which burgherism or modern business took its rise, the invention of gunpowder, "which made all men of the same height," and levelled feudal castles like so many mud huts, the printing press, whereby the absurdities and barbarities of feudalism might be exposed by burgherism, and the discovery of America, opening to the Old World a new, with vaster possibilities, made for the decline of the old regime. Serfs, no longer needed by their lords and retainers, no longer tolerated by the monarchs as such, flocked to the towns seeking employment. Here arose a condition unknown either under slavery or serfdom; the battle for a chance to earn one's bread. The wage system was born.

The wages system was slavery in a new form. The worker was neither the property of his master, nor yet was he bound to the soil of his lord. He was free to move from place to place and seek employment. No lash revived his drooping energy. No auction block loomed before him. He was free to accumulate property, to own a

home, to marry and rear a family, to become himself a business man. All of these things some wage-earners did, and the theory obtained that all might do so.

In fact, but few did accumulate or own. Wages were determined by competition. The "iron law," as explained by Ricardo and popularized by Lasalle, fixed the worker's share at the subsistence level—"the natural wage," in the parlance of Ricardo; "great economist of the nineteenth century."

That European wage service is equivalent to slavery, is virtually conceded by American leaders of opinion; for who has not heard of "the pauper labor of Europe?" That American wage-earners are, however, in like state, America has been slow to recognize or concede. National pride accounts for this in part; the feeling that "America is another name for opportunity" is one that dies hard. Further, American wage-earners long enjoyed an advantage, unknown to their European brothers.

Our civilized skirted the eastern coast and spread slowly to the westward. But for distance, seemingly illimitable, farther westward stretched the public domain. To this, the worker dissatisfied with his lot was ever legally free to betake himself, establish a home, rear a family, and acquire a competence and independence. For years this outlet was a real relief. Carlyle, ever skeptical of democracy, saw in this the substantial ground of America's comparative social peace and prosperity. Macaulay foresaw that, with its disappearance, would come in our eastern cities the economic pressure so well known in the Old World, and the familiar contest between "the statesman" urging "patience" and "the demagogue" pleading with the servile hordes to burst their bonds. Later, "The Prophet of San Francisco" pointed out the significance of the public lands as a safety valve from economic stress and painted in terrific rhetoric the conditions which must follow the exhaustion of this empire. Further, until settled and "settled right," the only labor question of which the American people could take serious cognizance was the question of black slave labor.

But that not all were insensible to the fact that the wages system is a slave system is shown by the following striking letter said to have been sent by Horace Greeley in 1845 in response to an invitation to attend an anti-slavery convention:

"What is Slavery? You will probably answer: 'The legal subjection of one human being to the will of another.' But this definition seems to me inaccurate on both sides—too broad, and at the same time too narrow. It is too broad in that it includes the subjection founded in other necessities, not less stringent than those imposed by statute. We must seek some truer definition.

"I understand by slavery that condition in which one human being exists mainly as a convenience for other human beings—in which the time, the exertions, the faculty of a part of the human family are made to subserv, not their own development, physical, intellectual and moral, but the comfort, advantage, or caprices of others. In short, wherever service is rendered from one human being to another, on a footing of one-sided and not mutual obligation—where the relation between the servant and the served one is not of affection and reciprocal good offices, but the authority, social, ascendancy and power over subsistence on the one hand, and of necessity, servility and degradation on the other—there, in my view, is slavery.

"1. Wherever certain human beings devote their time and thoughts, mainly to obeying and serving other human beings, and this not because they choose to do so, but because they must, there (I think) is slavery.

"2. Wherever human beings exist in such relations that a part, because of the position they occupy and functions they perform, are generally considered an inferior class to those who perform other functions or none, there (I think) is slavery.

"3. Wherever the ownership of soil is so engrossed by a small part of the community that the far larger number are compelled to pay whatever the few may see fit to exact for the privilege of occupying and cultivating the earth, there is something very like slavery.

"4. Wherever opportunity to labor is obtained with difficulty and is so deficient that the employing class may virtually prescribe their own terms and pay the laborer only such share as they choose of the product, there is a very strong tendency to slavery.

"5. Wherever it is deemed more reputable to live without labor, so that a gentleman would be rather ashamed of his descent from a blacksmith than from a mere idler or mere pleasure seeker, there is a community not very far from slavery. And

"6. Wherever one human being deems it honorable and right to have other human beings mainly devoted to his or her convenience and comfort, and thus to live, diverting the labor of these persons from all productive or general usefulness to his or her own special use, while he or she is rendering or has rendered no corresponding service to the cause of human well-being, there exists the spirit which originated and still sustains human slavery."

With the destruction of the slave power came the blossoming forth of capitalism in the New World. Factory systems, railway systems, banking systems, mercantile systems, flourished like the green bay tree. A rush, unprecedented, for the public domain followed. Soon came the time of industrial pressure, the labor troubles of '77, the Henry George movement, the Farmers' Alliance, the People's party, the panic of '93, the railway strike of '94 and the never-to-be-forgotten campaign of '96, all followed in their order. And in 1900 the mask was boldly torn off. The pretense that America spelled opportunity for the working man was abandoned. The old notion that, with industry and economy, the worker could climb the golden stair and become a merchant prince or industrial magnate, was thrown to the winds. The bald, brutal fact that the existing system had for the worker no other economic reward than that enjoyed by the slave, a bare subsistence, was acknowledged; and workers were invited to vote for the maintenance of the status quo and "prosperity," their reward to be "a full dinner pail."

Then came the opportunity for Socialism. To such a pass had four centuries of New World "progress" come at last. What might be hoped from coming centuries? The time was ripe for American workmen to seek the mastership of their own destinies, to "protect" themselves, to strike for freedom and opportunity to dwell in houses which they themselves had builded, and sit under vines and fig trees planted by their own hands.

THE CLAIMS OF A STRIKE-BREAKER AGENCY.

The Eastern capitalist dailies have been giving big write-ups to the strike-breaking agency of Waddell & Malion, of New York City. This concerns claims to have a correspondence list of 225,000 men in different trades throughout the United States, and can throw an army of strike-breakers into any industrial center almost instantly. Every known trade is said to furnish its quota of traitors and there are also myriads of representatives of lost manhood who act as special "guards" to harrass strikers, so that another band of prostitutes known as lawyers can begin legal proceedings against honest workmen. Even photographers are supplied to take snapshots of strikers for court purposes, as well as other riff-raff that is on the outlook to turn a few dirty dollars. One would think that in this age of enlightenment such shameless acts of prostitution would not be paraded in jubilee, but the vicious scoundrels engaged in that sort of work glory in their own infamy.

The Brewery Workers' Case Before A. F. of L. Convention

From the Official Proceedings of the Norfolk Convention of November 21, 1907.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON BREWERY WORKERS' CHARTER.

Resolution No. 127—By Delegate J. H. Walker of U. M. W. of A.:

Whereas, The revocation of the charter of the United Brewery Workers of America marks a break with the old established principle, that the American Federation is a voluntary association of sovereign unions; and,

Whereas, "Inherently an international union is sovereign unto itself, and our Federation can rightfully exercise only such functions as are delegated to it by the component parts which have instituted it and which constitute its make-up," as the President so well expressed in his report; and,

Whereas, The American Federation of Labor can only act as a mediator and conciliator in the disputes of the affiliated international unions, and has no right to enforce its decisions in an arbitrary manner. Such powers have never been delegated to the American Federation of Labor by referendum vote of all the international unions affiliated, nor in any other legal way; and,

Whereas, The members of the United Brewery Workers' Union have always been true union men, always conscientious in patronizing the various union labels and always eager to assist both morally and financially every union in trouble; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the twenty-seventh annual convention of the American Federation of Labor considers the policy of, as inaugurated in New Orleans of the case of the United Brewery Workmen as very dangerous to future success, and as diametrically opposed to the "first essential principles upon which our federation is founded." And furthermore, be it

Resolved, That we hereby instruct the Executive Council to return to the United Brewery Workmen of America the same charter which that International Union has possessed before.

MINNEAPOLIS DECISION.

Your committee endeavored to have the representatives of the above organization try and agree among themselves on a settlement of their differences. We believe that the best interests of the rank and file of those organizations would be protected and promoted, if the Engineers, Firemen and Brewery Workers could mutually agree on a reasonable basis of a settlement of their differences. The representatives of these organizations failing to reach an agreement, your committee recommends the following:

1. All brewery employes now members of the United Brewery Workmen's Union may remain such provided that such members of said United Brewery Workmen's Union as are now employed as engineers, firemen and teamsters may withdraw from that organization and join their respective unions, representing these crafts, without prejudice or discrimination on the part of their former associates.

2. Hereafter the United Brewery Workmen's Union shall not admit to membership any engineer, fireman, or teamster, but shall refer all applicants, members of these trades, to the respective organization of these trades, not affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, where such organizations exist.

3. All engineers, firemen and teamsters employed in breweries shall conform to the laws, rules and regulations made by that organization of which the majority of the members of the respective crafts employed in each brewery are members.

4. Whenever a majority of men employed as engineers, firemen or teamsters in any brewery are members of the respective unions of these crafts, the organization or organizations representing such majority shall appoint a committee to act conjointly with the United Brewery Workmen's Union in any negotiations which may arise with the employers, provided that the United Brewery Workmen shall have equal representation with all the other organizations in joint conference.

5. It shall be the duty of the Executive Council of the Federation and all National, International, State, City, Central and Local Unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor to exert every influence and power at their command to make the above decision operative and effective.

6. Any of the organizations interested in this controversy violating the provisions of this report, the Executive Council is instructed to immediately revoke the charter or charters of the organization or organizations violating this decision.

The committee reported as follows:

Committee recommends reaffirming the action of the Minneapolis Convention of the American Federation of Labor for the following reasons:

1st. That the first Section of the Minneapolis decision left it entirely optional for the Engineers, Firemen and Teamsters who were members of the Brewery Workers' Union to remain in the Brewery Workers' Union or join the Unions of their craft.

2nd. The second clause of the Minneapolis decision prohibited the Brewery Workers from initiating engineers, firemen, or teamsters into the Brewery Workers' Union in towns or cities where those organizations had local unions of those trades established, but did not prevent the Brewery Workers from initiating engineers, firemen or teamsters into the Brewery Workers' Union where local unions of Engineers, Firemen or Teamsters did not exist. The second section of the Minneapolis decision clearly states that men working in breweries, and applicants for initiation, who are engineers, firemen or teamsters, shall be referred to the Engineers, Firemen or Teamsters' Local Unions when such local unions exist.

3. The Minneapolis Convention decision provides that where a majority of the Engineers, Firemen or Teamsters in a brewery are members of the Brewery Workers' Union, then the Engineers, Firemen or Teamsters employed in the brewery shall be governed by the rules of the Brewery Workers' Union until such time as a majority of the Engineers, Firemen or Teamsters working in a brewery are members of their respective organizations.

It seems to the members of the Adjustment Committee that a very wrong impression prevails in regard to the intent and purpose of the Minneapolis decision. For this reason the committee recommends that the charter of the Brewery Workers be restored, on condition that the Brewery Workers agree to accept and abide by the intent and spirit of the Minneapolis decision.

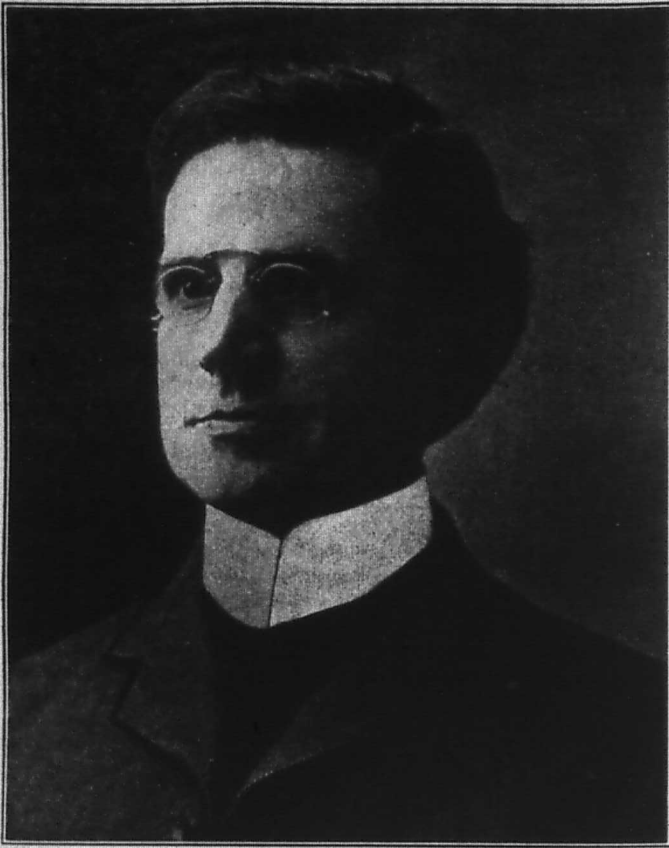
The committee further recommends that the rights of all employes interested or affected by the controversy brought about by this jurisdiction dispute be fully protected by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor.

The committee further recommends that central bodies shall take no action toward seating or unseating representatives of Brewery Workers' local unions without first receiving instructions from

1877-THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY-1907

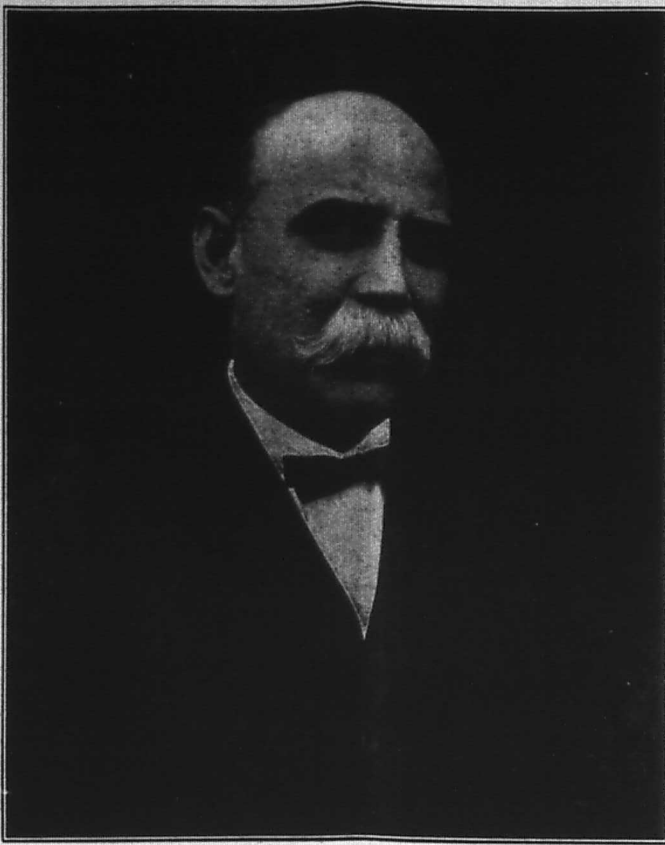
Cigar Makers' International Union Local No. 44, of St. Louis, Mo., Wednesday, December 11, at 8 p. m., at the Odeon, Grand and Finney Avenues—Admission Free! Admission Free!

Cigarmakers' Union No. 44 of St. Louis will celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the organization in a manner which, to say the least, will be elaborate. The celebration will be held at the Odeon on Wednesday evening, December 11, and will consist of a musical and literary entertainment, with speeches by Samuel Gompers, president



G. W. PERKINS, President.
Cigar Makers Int. Union.

of the American Federation of Labor; George W. Perkins, president of the International Cigarmakers' Union, and David Kreyling, secretary of the Central Trades and Labor Union. Special invitations have been sent to all the old-time members of the union, wherever they could be reached, and the celebration will partake somewhat of the nature of a home-coming and reunion of old friends as well as a commemoration of the union's birth. The committee in charge of arrangements is composed of the following: Charles Goodman, James Conlon, Philip A. Hoffer, Fred Altheide and Philip H. Muel-



DAVE KREYLING, Secretary.
Central Trades and Labor Union.

ler. This committee has worked hard to make the celebration a success and, judged by the interest being displayed by members of their own as well as other unions, they will not be disappointed. Invitations also have been sent to the various business and civic bodies. The union was chartered in 1877, has been in continuous existence ever since and today has a membership of about 1,000. Cigarmakers' Union No. 44 is an organization which has gone along through its 30 years of life performing its functions in a quiet, unobtrusive manner. It has had no great strikes to attract public attention and whatever it has done for its members in the way of advanced wages and improved conditions in the workshop has been done around the conference table. This union, together with several more of the older unions, has been the mainstay of the labor movement in this city. The members and their friends are looking forward to a pleasant evening's entertainment. The following talent has been engaged for the occasion: Miss Ranny Frankel, soprano; Mr. John Rohan, baritone; Mrs. Samuel Baldwin, pianist; the Mendelssohn Quartet; Miss E. Holland, elocutionist; Miss Celie Bergherm, pianist, and Mr. William May, elocutionist.

PROGRAM.

- Address Chairman
Mr. Charles Goodman.
1. Piano Solo—"L'Argentine Maz, Silvery Thistle"....E. Ketterer
Mrs. S. H. Baldwin.
 2. Recitation—a. "Gone with a Handsomer Man"....Will Carlton

- b. "Man Was Made to Mourn".....Robert Burns
Mr. William May.
3. Address.....Secretary Central Trades and Labor Union
Mr. David Kreyling.
4. Mendelssohn Quartette—
a. "On Venice Waters".....Nevin
b. "Old Black Joe".....Parks
Theo V. Westhus. J. C. McConnell.
Edw. J. Zaenglin. Hy. Bachman.
5. Piano Solo—"Martha"Sidney Smith
Miss Celia Bergherm.
6. Address.....President Cigar Makers' International Union
Mr. G. W. Perkins.
7. Bass Solo—"Over the Desert".....Kellie
Mr. John Rohan.



SAMUEL GOMPERS, President.
American Federation of Labor.

- Accompanist: Mr. G. R. Saylor.
8. Recitation Selected
Miss E. Holland.
 9. Vocal Solo—a. "Fanella" Kaiser
b. "While You Are Mine"..... Kremer
Miss Fanny Frankel.
Accompanist: Miss Linda Franklin.
 10. Address..... President American Federation of Labor
Mr. Samuel Gompers.

people who entrusted their money to the banks are told in plain language:

Keep quiet! Don't get nervous! Go to sleep! We'll take care of your money! You can't get it no matter how urgently you may be in need of it!"

This is the way the system works—the system built up on the exploitation of labor and skinning of the people.

What has brought this present crisis about?

We hear many of our comrades give the old stereotyped expression: "Overproduction and under-consumption!"

Let us not be to superwise. Let us not use old stereotyped phrases that neither Marx nor Engels would use were they living today and could judge the conditions which produced this latest financial trouble.

III.

It is generally admitted by the leading Socialist thinkers and writers that the present crisis was neither caused by overproduction nor by under-consumption, but by the capitalist madhouse speculations with other people's money.

In a very ably written editorial the Berlin Vorwaerts discusses the presents situation and comes to the conclusion that this crisis will not be confined to the United States, but will also make itself severely felt in Europe. The moment the trouble began in America, when the Knickerbocker Trust Co. crash created consternation among the American financial world, the German Reichs-Bank and the Bank of England increased their discount to 7½ and 7 per cent. This was done to limit the export of gold to America. The American credit crisis originated in the crash of the copper speculation. By all imaginable means the prices of copper were forced up until the catastrophe was at hand. The crash in the market values of copper shares and securities came and hundreds of millions of dollars were lost. For the month of October alone the total shrinkage amounted to over \$600,000,000.

These copper speculators had carried on their desperate swindle games not with their own money, but with the money which other people had deposited with these-called trust companies, and these trust companies were "owned" and managed by these very same speculators.

When the crash in the copper market values came and it was found that half of all these values were wind, one of the trust companies went to the wall. This was the Knickerbocker Trust Co. in New York. The excited depositors almost stormed the building demanding their money. It required several hundred policemen to club "confidence" into this excited army of confidence-losing depositors whose money was blown into the copper speculation swindle. With a capital stock of less than two million dollars the Knickerbocker Co. had accepted deposits totaling almost \$70,000,000, and most of these millions were loaned out for windy speculation schemes.

The panic in Wall Street was followed by "runs" on several other banking institutions in different parts of the country, with the result that the public confidence was gone. That prolonged industrial depression will be the outcome of this financial "flurry" no one will doubt. Thousands of people are already out of work, not on account of overproduction or under-consumption, but as the result of the desperate speculations of the financial highway robbers.

Modern industry and commerce is carried on mostly on the credit system. Why have the banks increased their discount rates? The withdrawal of gold means for the bank a necessary limitation in the granting of credit to industrial and commercial institutions. By demanding high rates of interest on the money loaned out the banks practically enforce the limitation and curtailment of industrial and commercial operations. To limit commercial operations means curtailment of industrial production. Industrial establishments are thus prevented from fulfilling their financial obligations, because their products fail to find the ready market. For a while industrial and commercial concerns will try to have their credit extended and postpone more serious trouble. But the banks, with their own limited credit at this time, must insist on payment, and bankruptcy is the result.

The Berlin Vorwaerts concludes as follows:

"The American crisis has already affected the industrial activity. The American iron market is completely demoralized, but it is not yet sure whether the Steel Trust will proceed with a more radical limitation of production. If further great quantities of American iron is thrown on the world's market, it will tend to lower prices, and accelerate the international crisis. If on the other hand production is curtailed, the result will be equally discouraging. Men will get out of work, and this industrial crisis will hit the working class especially hard, because hand in hand with the crisis goes the shameful increase in the cost of living. Capitalism is better organized today than ever before, and all that remains for the working people to do is to strengthen and solidify the organization of labor. Every union man must become an agitator and organize for his union, and at the same time he must strain every nerve to build up a strong Socialist political movement, in order to check the anarchy of Capitalism!"

IV.

The old crisis theory of overproduction and under-consumption does not seem to hold good for the present crisis and depression. There is no longer the old "planless, capitalist production," of which the Socialists of twenty years ago spoke in their party platform. Since the crisis of 1893 capitalist production has been wonderfully systematized. Don't imagine for a moment that the Standard Oil Co., the United States Steel Corporation, the Chicago Meat Trust and all the hundreds of other powerful corporations are carrying on a "planless capitalist production." Nothing of the kind!

These concerns take good care of the "overproduction;" they see to it in due time that the market which they alone control shall not be glutted, because with them it is a question of securing the highest possible prices for their products, hence the market must be protected against overproduction.

These arguments may have been perfectly in order years ago, but we must not forget that conditions have changed most radically. Neither Marx nor Engels intended to lay down a law on the origin of crises and industrial depressions which should be applicable to all cases, or which should be accepted as an eternal truth.

Editorial Observations

JOIN THE SOCIALIST PARTY! Join the union of your trade! Assist in the organization of the proletariat!

THE JAMESTOWN EXPOSITION has been an absolute failure. With a debt of at least \$2,500,000, this great capitalist show will close its doors.

SECRETARY TAFT WAS BANQUETED by the military governor of Moscow. Toasts were given in honor of Nicholas II, the murderous Czar, and in honor of President Roosevelt. Solidarity of interests!

J. PIERPONT MORGAN had a conference with President Roosevelt at the White House. Morgan, the man whose business interests have been well taken care of during the present financial flurry, has become the idol of Roosevelt. He is no longer an undesirable citizen. A great patriot is J. Pierpont Morgan!

YOU CAN NOT STUDY SOCIALISM without studying Socialist and labor literature. You can not understand the Socialist and labor movement without taking an active part in the proletarian class struggle. Socialist literature for sale at the St. Louis Labor Book Department, 324 Chestnut street, St. Louis.

THE PETERS' SHOE CO. OF ST. LOUIS will hold a stockholders' meeting on Dec. 16 for the purpose of voting on a proposition to increase the capital stock from \$1,250,000 to \$1,750,000. This would indicate that the shoe workers' strike put the company in the hole and that some of the profits formerly accumulated must now be put forth as increased capital stock.

THOU HAPPY NEWPORT DOG! A Newport (R. I.) dispatch says: Mrs. Burke-Roche Batonyi's only companion these fall days is a small Italian greyhound, just the size for the arm, which she carries through the streets carefully blanketed in dark green broadcloth. There was surprise when Mrs. Batonyi sat in a street car and taking a handkerchief from a pocket in her canine's blanket, gently wiped the eyes and nose of the dog.

WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN is hunting for an issue. With Roosevelt as a trust-tamer and corporation regulator, Mr. Bryan is placed in a somewhat peculiar position. What issue can the statesman from Nebraska select? Roosevelt has monopolized all the Bourgeois radicalism which Bryan might have used for his next presidential campaign. With Roosevelt on the one side and Socialism on the other, Mr. Bryan will have a hard road to travel.

SOME ST. LOUIS RETAIL MERCHANTS' Association protests against any attempt to establish a parcel post. The private express companies applaud. These much troubled middle class merchants are afraid of the big mail order houses that might extend their sphere of activity if Uncle Sam should go into the express business. Thus the same small dealers who are being crushed to the wall in the great process of industrial and commercial concentration, become a reactionary factor in the social reform movement!

ONE MILLION THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND divorces in the United States within the last twenty years! Who is to blame and what is the cause? These questions were asked in last Sunday's St. Louis Republic, and some of the leading men tried to answer them. Queer as it may seem, not one of them, not even Archbishop Glennon, had the audacity to make Socialism responsible for these 1,300,000 divorces. As a rule, the same gentlemen insinuate that Socialism would destroy home, family life, marriage, and God knows what else.

SIGNS OF RETURNING CONFIDENCE are freely advertised by the capitalist newspapers of the country, but we fail to see where the confidence comes in. More and more men are getting out of work, even thousands of Hungarian, Italian and Slavonian wage-slaves are making strenuous efforts to escape the blessings of Republican full dinner pail prosperity by returning to Europe. While the great financiers may succeed in establishing some resemblance of order in the present chaotic financial conditions, they will not be able to prevent the industrial crisis which has already set in on both sides of the Atlantic.

THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CAMPAIGN machinery has been put in motion. Some of the periodical cablegrams about the end of Socialism everywhere have made their appearance in the Globe-Democrat. About a month ago we read the one full column cablegram from Australia, where Socialism was now a thing of the past. A week or two later came the London cablegram about the final deathblows to Socialism in England, and last Sunday the G.-D. informed its readers, by means of a Paris cablegram, that Socialism in France was soon to be buried, that Socialism ruined a French town, that the capitalists would now have to save the people from Socialist misrule, etc. We shall get more of this anti-Socialist information before November, 1908.

SLAVES IN ST. LOUIS SHOE FACTORIES. In olden times, under the feudal servant system, no man or woman could leave the employ of the "lord" or "master" without his written permission. In Eastern Prussia, in Russia and Southeastern Europe this system is still in vogue. We have the same system of chattel service in the shoe factories of St. Louis. Here is a copy of the so-called release slip: "Date: Nov. 30, 1907. Release. This is to certify that John Chatselave, who left our employ on Nov. 10, without giving three days' notice, has this day returned and volunteered to resume his former work. We have the position filled. Member: The Brown Shoe Co. Location: Buster Brown Factory." This is the Citizens' Industrial Alliance blacklist system, to which Honorable Van Cleave would like to have every American wage worker slavishly submit.

