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The Worker

NEW YORK, JANUARY 12, 1902.

AGENTS, ATTENTION!

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VOL. XI.—NO. 41.

PRICE 2 CENTS

GOV. ODELL ON LABOR. It Gets Little Attention in His Message.

Four Hundred Words Out of 19,000 Are Devoted to Labor Interests—An Ambiguous Reference to Employers' Liability and a Recommendation for Compulsory Arbitration.

Governor Odell sent to the Legislature last week an annual message of some 19,000 words, of which he dedicated to devote about 400 to "labor interests."

TWO RECOMMENDATIONS.

The repeated demands made by those interested in labor for a uniform law in relation to the employer and the employee is again presented to you, with a recommendation for favorable action.

The consolidation of the various labor bureaus has been in the main satisfactory. It could not be expected that such a radical change would produce in a short time the results aimed at.

The Longshoremen's Union has arranged to hold a series of lecture meetings on the second and fourth Sunday evenings of each month at the Hoboken Labor Lyceum, 110 Grand street.

The public is told that it was a good job which the Low crowd did to New York at the recent election when they overthrew Tammany.

EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY.

It is a pity that the Governor would not speak a little more definitely on the subject of an employers' liability law. This is a subject of the utmost importance to the working people.

A bill was introduced in the legislature last year, the readers of The Worker will remember, at the instance of the labor organizations of the state.

The bill was sent to a committee and kept there almost to the end of the session. Then it was reported in an amended form, passed, and sent to the Governor for his signature.

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ODELL NON-COMMITTAL.

The Governor does not, in his present message, indicate what kind of a bill he would recommend, further than

to say that it should "protect the interests of both the employer and the employee."

He remarks that "the courts have laid down rules which cover almost every possible contingency in negligence cases," and seems to think that nothing more is to be desired than the compilation of these rules into statute.

The railway and manufacturing companies have too much influence at Albany for the workmen to have any ground for even a half-way just employers' liability law until they begin to elect class-conscious workmen to the legislature to look after working-class interests.

DANGEROUS PROPOSITION.

The Governor's recommendation of a compulsory arbitration law has already evoked a protest from the New York central labor body. Such a law would be nothing less than a legal recognition of class slavery.

It is proposed that the board of arbitrators be given power to decide questions of wages, hours, shop rules, etc., out of which strikes may arise, and when approved by a single justice of the Supreme Court, to compel employees to continue to work under the rules so established.

The workmen of this state have had a good deal of experience with the Supreme Court. It has issued injunctions against them, and it has declared labor laws unconstitutional, but it has never deflected their interests against the aggressions of the capitalists.

The Legislature will probably be too wise to follow the Governor's recommendation. Should it do so, it would do much toward overthrowing capitalism by the indication such an outrage would arouse in the working class.

At the last state election the workmen had a chance to put one of their own class—Benjamin Hanford, candidate of the Social Democratic Party—in the Governor's chair. Had they done so, we should have heard very different recommendations in regard to labor legislation.

HUDSON COUNTY, ATTENTION.

Regular semi-annual meeting of Local Hudson County for the election of officers and perfecting organization, will take place at Central Hall, 344 Central avenue, Jersey City Heights, Sunday, January 12, at 9 a. m.

HOBOKEN LONGSHOREMEN.

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THE LOW CROWD.

The public is told that it was a good job which the Low crowd did to New York at the recent election when they overthrew Tammany.

LADIES' WRAPPER MAKERS STRIKE.

The wrapper makers have been on strike at the shop of Michael Cooper, 25 and 35 Houston street, for some weeks past, and are now said to be in a fair way to winning.

THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

Continued Discussion in the C. F. U.

Gompers' Reply Received, as Also Condemnatory Resolutions from Painters' Union—Socialist Delegates Secure Referendum Vote of Unions.

The question of the "industrial peace conference" and of the participation of prominent labor leaders in it will not drop. It came up once more in last Sunday's session of the New York Central Federated Union.

The statement goes on to say that mistaken friends of labor have urged the legislatures in the states of this country to enact laws for compulsory arbitration of labor disputes.

GOMPERS' REPLY.

President Gompers sent a synopsis of the proceedings of the famous conference and also a lengthy personal statement of his own position. He wrote, in part:

"By the very order of things the workers have but, little materially to concede. They get too small a share of the products of labor to be able to make many concessions.

"Much as absolute industrial peace may be desirable, not even the most sanguine friend of participant in this new effort entertains the belief that strikes and lockouts will be entirely eliminated from our industrial life.

"The statement goes on to say that mistaken friends of labor have urged the legislatures in the states of this country to enact laws for compulsory arbitration of labor disputes.

"The conference," he continued, "and the establishment of the Industrial Department of the National Civic Federation is the effort to do so by the initiative of both parties in industry, the workers and employers.

PAINTERS CONDEMN THE CONFERENCE.

It was moved to have President Gompers' statement and the accompanying matter printed and sent out to the affiliated unions; but the Socialist delegates objected to this manner of getting rid of the question.

"Whereas, The conditions of the working class today differ radically from those of all former categories of labor; and

"Whereas, The product of the worker does not belong to him, but belongs to the capitalist, to the purchaser of his labor-power, to the owner of the instruments of production; and

"Whereas, The working class is paid for their labor by the capitalist, but the value of the wages is far below that of the product; and

Resolved, That we condemn such proceedings as the conference held by Hanna, Schwab, and others; and instead, appeal to all workers to use all

efforts economically and politically to secure a state of society, where exploitation will cease and labor will get the full value of its product."

Comrade Lot denunciated the conference as a farce and a trick. "Between Capital and Labor," he said, "there can be no harmony. The interests of the workers are altogether different from those of the capitalists.

"The industrial peace conference" farce—or confidence game, whichever it may be termed—continues to arouse lively discussion in all labor circles. It is evident that the capitalists who planned the conference have failed utterly in their main purpose.

"The Socialist Party of Pennsylvania, representing the class-conscious toilers, has been in an arduous struggle in which the opposing forces of Labor and Capital confer upon the terms, upon which Labor surrenders to Capital.

AGAINST COMPULSORY ARBITRATION SCHEME.

Delegate Barr of the Sheet Metal Workers called attention to that part of Governor Odell's annual message suggesting a State Board of Arbitration with power to enforce its decisions against employers and employees.

"The price at which labor should be bought and sold is an inherently irrefragable issue that cannot be eternally arbitrated. The difference between voluntary arbitration and compulsory arbitration is the difference between being robbed according to agreement and being robbed according to government.

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VAIL IN BOSTON.

The Boston Socialist Club has engaged Charles H. Vail for a series of four lectures on "Socialism" to be given Feb. 11, 12, 13 and 14 at Every Day Church, 307 Shawmut avenue, between Canton and Brooklyn streets.

"The class-conscious workers fight capitalism from the standpoint of the necessary social revolution for the emancipation of their class. If they sacrifice this point of vantage, they have no choice but to accommodate themselves to the structure of capitalist society with all its concomitant horrors.

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THE WORKER CONFERENCE.

Every subdivision should see that its delegates attend the next meeting of The Worker Conference, Monday, Jan. 18, 8 p. m., at 64 E. Fourth street, 10th floor.

Capital is dead labor, which lives, vampire-like, sucking in living labor, and lives the more, the more it sucks.

FOREDOOMED TO FAILURE.

"Industrial Peace Conference" Schemers Fail to Entrap the Working People—Socialist Comment.

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MILITARISM IN THE SCHOOLS.

Rebuked by Socialists and Trade Unions.

The fall campaign over, Local Yonkers started in on the next campaign and with a good opportunity to show to the workmen of Yonkers what their capitalist friends are getting ready for.

"You will remember the case of the students of Columbia University taking the place of striking machinists in New Jersey, and succeeding in breaking the strike. This was done with the consent of the authorities of Columbia University, and nobody except the workmen's press took any notice of it.

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LABOR'S PROTEST.

Jointly with the trade unions, we sent to the Common Council the following protest:

"We, the undersigned, representing our respective organizations, by their authority and order, hereby appeal to the Common Council of the City of Yonkers, and request them to pass a vote of censure on the Board of Education for the purchase of military equipment.

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

The General Committee of Local New York holds its regular meeting at the Labor Lyceum, 64 E. Fourth street, Saturday evening, Jan. 31.

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WHOLESALE CHILD-MURDER. WHY NOT PUT A STOP TO IT?

From a report of Ben Tillet's speech in Toledo we take this passage: "Speaking of the conditions in the congested sections of the large cities, Mr. Tillet said that out of every 100 children born in the congested districts of New York and London, 60 died under a year old.

"The difference between 12 and 60," said Mr. Tillet, "is the proportion of murder we are organized to stop. This sore on the body politic must be removed and we are organized to remove it."

"These were the words of a trade unionist who is also a Socialist. Trade unionism may somewhat reduce the frightful ratio of child-murder which the capitalist system involves; but trade unionism alone cannot put an end to it, because it cannot secure to the workmen the 'full product of their labor, the full power to which their toil entitles them to care for their wives and children and guard them from hunger and cold, from disease and accident."

"The working class builds and furnishes and equips the factories and workshops, the palatial mansions and the tenements and hovels. But because the working people do not own the factories and workshops, the tools and machinery, the means of production with which they work, they are doomed to inhabit the tenements and hovels, while others, who need no useful work, dwell in the mansions."

"Because one class of society owns the land and mines and railroads and mills and shops and factories, the people of the other class cannot work except by their permission. And permission to work is granted only on condition that the owning class, the master class, the non-producing capitalist class, shall get, in the form of dividends and interest and rent, the greater portion of the wealth that is produced by the toilers.

"You take my life when I live. Every dollar of profit pocketed by the capitalist class out of the product of labor means so much overwork for the

toilers, so much anxiety and hardship for working class mothers, so much want and suffering for their children. Whenever the organized capitalists reduce wages, whenever they raise the price of food and the rent of the people's dwellings, whenever they discharge a part of their 'hands' instead of reducing the hours of labor in proportion to the improvement of methods of production—whenever they do these things, which they are doing every day—they are driving so many men to crime or suicide, dooming so many women to starvation or to shame, consigning so many babies' bodies to the Potter's Field. Every act of capitalism is an act of murder.

"And yet the capitalist cannot help this, if he would. (Few of them would if they could—but that is beside the question.) The individual capitalist is almost as completely a victim of the private-ownership system as is the individual workman. He cannot exist as a capitalist without keeping pace with his brother capitalists in exploiting the workers. And even if he resolves to cease to be an exploiter, if he gives up his business and sells all that he has and gives to the poor, according to the Biblical injunction, he has done no permanent good. He has only turned over his wage-slaves to other masters and the system of social robbery and social murder goes on just as before.

"There is only one way out. The emancipation of the working class," as Marx has said, "must be achieved by the working class itself." United political action of the exploited working class, to put an end to private property in the means of production, which gives rise to class rule, poverty, and oppression, and to establish social or collective ownership in its place—that is the only course that can put an end to evils of which we complain, because it is the only course which removes their cause.

Your duty—YOU, every workman and every sympathizer with the cause of labor—is to join in this organized movement to stop that wholesale child-murder of which Ben Tillet spoke and all the other forms of social wrong which go along with it. There is work for you to do, right now. If you are willing to do it, join the nearest local organization of the Socialist Party and take your full part in its activities.

"The Socialist Party, called in the state of New York by its old name of the Social Democratic Party. If you do not know where your nearest local organization is, write to the editor of this paper and find out.

BUY UNION LABEL GOODS.

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NEW JERSEY CONVENTION. Held in Elizabeth on New Year's Day.

The annual state convention of the Socialist Party of New Jersey was held on New Year's Day in the Columbia Turnverein Hall at Elizabeth. Paul Koch, as Organizer of Local Union County, welcomed the delegates in a brief address, after which the Elizabeth Slinging Society gave the "Socialist March."

On reassembling the convention proceeded to permanent organization. Geo. H. Goebel and Frederick Krafft were nominated for chairman and the former was elected by a vote of 45 to 22. E. C. Wind was elected secretary.

The report of the Credentials Committee showed the following representation: Ocean County 2 delegates; Camden, 2 delegates and 15 proxies; Hudson, 34 delegates and 100 proxies; Somerset, 5 delegates; Union, 10 delegates and 19 proxies; Bergen, 4 delegates and 16 proxies; Essex, 33 delegates and 22 proxies; in all, 88 delegates, with 201 votes. Some other delegates were seated later.

The auditing committee reported finding the books of the State Committee in good order. The report showed receipts in the last year of \$746.75, with a present balance of cash in the Treasurer's hands of \$26.51.

On the report of the Committee on Constitution a lively debate arose on the proposition to have a permanent chairman for the State Committee. The proposition was voted down by 215 to 88.

Another point of difference was the use of the phrase "wage and salary proletarian class" in explanation of the word "proletarian class" in the platform. Some delegates opposed the inclusion of the word "salary."

IMPRESSIONS OF THE CONVENTION.

A few weeks prior to the convention it occurred to several comrades to appeal to the locals for a referendum to revoke the former decision for a delegate convention. This was the subject of the word "salary" in the platform.

There was a conflict for the position of National Committeeman. Geo. H. Goebel, E. T. Nelson, Charles Ufert, and E. C. Wind were nominated. After the voting began, Nelson withdrew in favor of Ufert and the latter was elected by a large vote.

AS TO PATERNALISM.

A leading retail firm of grocers and provision dealers in Liverpool, Pa. has issued the following notice: "MATRIMONY-A WARNING. We fear that some of our assistants are entering into matrimony without our consent."

CAMPAIGN FUND.

To the Holders of Subscription Lists for the Campaign Fund of the Social Democratic Party of the City of New York: Comrades and friends who have subscribed lists in their possession are requested to send the lists in at once.

The sentimental, Christian Socialist was also in evidence. One may recommend to him a diligent perusal of scientific Socialist literature, which ought to convince him that the call "Workers unite" is not a religious injunction.

An important plank appealing to the proletariat as "wage and salary workers" should be abolished. It may not be out of place to advise new members to submit their views to a prior discussion within their respective locals, or through a party organ before attending a convention.

The moral problems of the country are closely allied with the industrial problems, and a solution of the latter would disintegrate the former. Dr. C. H. Russell.

WORKERS: the clause was adopted by a large majority. Branch autonomy was defeated after a lengthy debate.

There are excellent and indefatigable workers in our ranks who, in a laudable desire to be of the utmost value to the party, set the machinery of organization in motion to obtain this or that office in the service of the cause.

The convention adopted an excellent constitution and platform and to the best of our belief ways and means have been found to further spread the cause of Socialism and strengthen party organization.

CHILD SLAVERY IN OLD ENGLAND.

A return published by the Education Department in June, 1896, calls attention to a large class of children in our elementary schools, who, while nominally attending school full time, are employed as casual wage earners.

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CIGARMAKERS ON STRIKE IN ONEIDA.

The cigarmakers at Powell & Goldstein's shop in Oneida, to the number of 60, have been on strike for six weeks to compel the firm to keep its promise and discharge an obnoxious foreman, one Sanders, who used all the power that his position gave him to abuse the men, to persecute those who did not cringe before him, and in general, to play the petty tyrant.

The men endured this foreman's abuse as long as they could without forfeiting their self-respect and their status as free men, and asked for his removal. This was promised, while the union consented to a delay of six weeks to give the new foreman time to become accustomed to his duties.

This house ordinarily employs the great majority of the cigarmakers of Oneida, and since the strike began the few small shops have been shut down, in order, it would seem, to help the firm.

This was not all, however. Mr. Goldstein, one of the firm, was then Mayor, used his official and social influence to prejudice the people—especially the business men—against the strikers, with the result that they have been reduced by half in the number of their customers.

Resolved, That there never can be close and friendly relations between the capitalist and the laboring man so long as the one is protected by the administration of government and the courts of law, while the other is forced to sell his labor for what Capital says is worth, which at the present time is but 14 per cent. of the value of what he produces.

Resolved, That the secretary pursue the same course with this resolution as with the first set.

LABOR NOTES.

Cremo, Geo. W. Childs, Tom Moore, Robert Burns, Gen. Arthur, and Henry George cigars are scab products. Smoke union label cigars only.

THE "SUN" BOYCOTT.

Typographical Union No. 6 and its friends have prevailed upon Adams & Co. to withdraw their advertising from the "Sun" and that firm has therefore been placed upon the "fair" list.

LOCKOUT IN BIG HAVANA HOTELS.

The union cooks and waiters in Havana, Cuba, are engaged in a fight with the proprietors of the largest hotels and restaurants of that city, and wish their fellow craftsmen in this country to take note of it, so that none shall be misled into going there and taking their places.

THE TRUE UNION MAN.

He takes a labor paper, which he pays for, and reads it. He takes a labor paper, which he pays for, and reads it. He takes a labor paper, which he pays for, and reads it.

AS TO FOREIGN TRADE.

Nations, like individuals, cannot continue to be buyers without at the same time being sellers. With great European industries paralyzed by the depression, does it not follow that the workers once engaged in those industries must cease to become our customers for food and other products in the proportion that their earning capacity is reduced by lack of employment?—Reginald Knapton.

THEY CONDEMN THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

At the last regular meeting of Branch 2, Hoboken, N. J., the following resolutions were adopted: "Whereas, A meeting of capitalists was held recently in the city of New York, the ostensible purpose of which was to bring Capital and Labor into closer relationship, and at this meeting there were present and participating in its deliberations, a number of persons holding high offices in labor organizations, and who, by their presence and their voice, gave color to the statement, that they endorsed the proceedings of this body, among whom were several avowed enemies of organized labor; and

Resolved, That we condemn those who, by their knowledge and ignorance, lead the laboring man to the slaughter, and that we denounce all such farces as this New York meeting as abortive and useless, retarding the growth of organization and misleading to those who do not weigh well the facts and connect them with past history; be it further

Resolved, That the secretary pursue the same course with this resolution as with the first set.

Resolved, That we warn the people of the United States against the present effort to unload upon them this vast worthless machinery which will soon be reduced by a wireless system.

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WHAT WE STAND FOR.

Here is a sentence we take it from a card issued by the Socialist Propaganda Club of Brooklyn which clearly and briefly expresses the fundamental purpose of the Socialist movement: "The right of every man to the great natural resources and to the use of the most scientific machinery of production, and to the most orderly adjustment of his labor in co-operation with his fellows."

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TRADE UNIONISM AND SOCIALISM.

Are you a trade unionist? Do you believe in the necessity of a closer affiliation and heartier co-operation with each other? Do you believe that by concentrating our efforts we will be better able to promote our welfare, protect our rights, and forward our interests?

Resolved, That we condemn those who, by their knowledge and ignorance, lead the laboring man to the slaughter, and that we denounce all such farces as this New York meeting as abortive and useless, retarding the growth of organization and misleading to those who do not weigh well the facts and connect them with past history; be it further

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SOCIALISM VS. CHRISTIANITY.

Socialism is a science; Christianity a speculation. The proofs of the inevitability of Socialism can be demonstrated by present and past evolutionary processes which are governed by demonstrable laws.

Resolved, That we condemn those who, by their knowledge and ignorance, lead the laboring man to the slaughter, and that we denounce all such farces as this New York meeting as abortive and useless, retarding the growth of organization and misleading to those who do not weigh well the facts and connect them with past history; be it further

Resolved, That the secretary pursue the same course with this resolution as with the first set.

Resolved, That we warn the people of the United States against the present effort to unload upon them this vast worthless machinery which will soon be reduced by a wireless system.

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WHAT WE STAND FOR.

Here is a sentence we take it from a card issued by the Socialist Propaganda Club of Brooklyn which clearly and briefly expresses the fundamental purpose of the Socialist movement: "The right of every man to the great natural resources and to the use of the most scientific machinery of production, and to the most orderly adjustment of his labor in co-operation with his fellows."

LABOR NOTES.

Cremo, Geo. W. Childs, Tom Moore, Robert Burns, Gen. Arthur, and Henry George cigars are scab products. Smoke union label cigars only.

THE "SUN" BOYCOTT.

Typographical Union No. 6 and its friends have prevailed upon Adams & Co. to withdraw their advertising from the "Sun" and that firm has therefore been placed upon the "fair" list.

LOCKOUT IN BIG HAVANA HOTELS.

The union cooks and waiters in Havana, Cuba, are engaged in a fight with the proprietors of the largest hotels and restaurants of that city, and wish their fellow craftsmen in this country to take note of it, so that none shall be misled into going there and taking their places.

THE TRUE UNION MAN.

He takes a labor paper, which he pays for, and reads it. He takes a labor paper, which he pays for, and reads it. He takes a labor paper, which he pays for, and reads it.

AS TO FOREIGN TRADE.

Nations, like individuals, cannot continue to be buyers without at the same time being sellers. With great European industries paralyzed by the depression, does it not follow that the workers once engaged in those industries must cease to become our customers for food and other products in the proportion that their earning capacity is reduced by lack of employment?—Reginald Knapton.

National Platform of the Socialist Party.

The Socialist Party of America 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. To-day the machine, which is but an improved and more developed tool of production, is owned by the capitalists and not by the workers.

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