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The Worker

AGENTS, ATTENTION!

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VOL. XII.—NO. 12.

NEW YORK, JUNE 22, 1902.

PRICE 2 CENTS.

NEW YORK STATE.

Report of Meeting of State Committee.

John Spargo Nominated for Fraternal Delegates to Canada—Preparations for State Convention on July 4. Comrade Phillips occupied the chair at Tuesday's meeting of the New York State Committee.

Reports from the Field. Reports were received showing that Comrade Vall had held successful meetings in Schenectady, Catskill, Troy, and Newburgh.

Preparations for Convention.

Comrades Hlobodin and Spring were elected to prepare the report of the State Committee to the Convention on July 4.

Organizer Spargo made a report on the condition of locals throughout the State.

Julius Gerber, Organizer of Local No. 10, reported that he had secured with instructions of the State Committee, he had sent out the call for the State Convention.

Every local in the state should make a special effort to be represented by at least one delegate in the convention, as steps are to be taken to put the state organization in the best working condition for the campaign.

Work of Vall and Spring.

Comrade Vall's dates for the coming week are as follows: June 18, Watertown; June 19, Dexter; 20, Cornwall; 21, Hornellville; 22 to 24, Buffalo. The comrades in Watertown are just in the mood to work enthusiastically to make his meeting a success.

Organizer Spring is now at work in Westchester County. Last Thursday he addressed a business meeting of local workers, and on Friday a good street meeting was held.

COUNTY CONVENTION.

A convention of the Social Democratic Party of the County of New York to elect delegates to the State Convention of the Social Democratic Party of the State of New York, and to nominate candidates for the general election, will be held on Saturday, June 28, 7 p. m., at the Labor Lyceum, 64 E. Fourth street, in the city and county of New York.

PRIMARIES IN NEW YORK COUNTY.

Primaries of the Social Democratic Party of New York County, to elect delegates to the State Convention, Senatorial and Assembly District Conventions, will be held on Saturday, June 21, from 7 p. m. to 9:30 p. m., at the following places: Borough of Manhattan. Second A. D., at 184 William street, office of the "New Yorker Volkszeitung."

FOR THE DAILY.

Report of Progress in Gathering Funds.

Organization Committee at Work—Comrades Volunteering to Assist—More Helpers Needed. The Organization Committee of the Workingmen's Co-operative Publishing Association met last Monday evening at the Labor Lyceum for the purpose of organizing committees to visit the trade unions of New York, explain to them the plans for the Socialist Daily, and ask their co-operation to the extent of sending delegates to a conference to be held at the Labor Lyceum on Thursday, July 24.

Amounts Pledged.

Following is a statement of amounts pledged for the Socialist Daily Fund up to June 16: Previously acknowledged \$5,985.00. Jos. Barondess, City 10.00. John Szarko, Tuscan, Ariz. 25.00. A. F. Simmonds, Peekskill, N.Y. 10.00. Soshinsky, Newark, N.J. 5.00. D. Micholowski, City 6.00. Max Diamond, City 5.00. Carl Steinko, Norwich, Conn. 3.00. Chas. Schuefel, Newark, N.J. 6.00. Otto Schuefel, Newark, N.J. 5.00. Fritz Von den Stienen, Newark 5.00. Rich Vonden Stienen, Newark 5.00. Wm. Hill, Newark 5.00. Emil Zimmermann, Newark 5.00. Carl Schneider, Brooklyn 15.00.

Cash Receipts.

The following amounts have been received on pledges and donations: PAID ON PLEDGES. John F. Handlon, City 33.00. E. M. Meltzer, City 1.00. D. Micholowski, City .50. Soshinsky, Newark, N.J. 1.00. Max Diamond, City .50. Dr. Girsadanski, City 3.00. E. Spranger, City 2.00. W. Bryner, City .50. W. C. Burgwald, City .25. M. Guenther, City 1.00. Carl Steinko, Norwich, Conn. 1.00. Carl Chasen, City 2.00. H. D. City 1.00. W. Butcher, Brooklyn 1.00. Ph. Lane, City 2.00. Emil Zimmermann, Newark 1.00. Wm. Hill, Newark 1.00. Chas. Schuefel, Newark .50. Edw. Rau, Newark 1.00. Fred McIntosh, Newark 1.00. Andrew Moeller, Newark 1.00. Timothy Ivra, Granville, Vt. 1.00. Carl Schneider, Brooklyn 2.00. J. C. Brann, City 1.00.

District Organization.

The district managers are as follows: 4th A. D.—Dr. J. Halpern, 250 East Broadway. 6th and 10th.—Henry L. Hlobodin, 60 Second avenue. 11th.—Geo. Brown, 423 West Thirty-eighth street. 12th.—Wm. Halpern, 492 Grand street. 13th.—Hugo Pick, 326 W. Thirty-eighth street. 15th and 17th.—Wm. Meyer, 408 W. Fifty-fifth street. 18th and 20th.—J. N. Wood, 321 E. Sixteenth street. 19th.—M. L. Klauber, 187 W. Sixty-first street. 21st.—E. M. Martin, 382 Columbus avenue. 22d.—A. Mayfel, 220 E. Fifty-second street. 23d.—E. P. Clark, 501 W. One Hundred and Sixty-fourth street. 24th.—Sliskind Goldbarth, 311 E. Fifty-fourth street.

NOTICE.

Subdivision of Local New York are called upon to elect delegates to the General Committee for the term beginning Saturday, July 12. Financial Secretaries of subdivisions are called upon to send in their membership reports at once.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS.

To the State Committees and Comrades of the Socialist Party: Pursuant to an invitation extended through G. Weston Wrigley, Provincial Secretary, the National Committee of the Socialist Party at its meeting in St. Louis, Mo., decided to send a fraternal delegate to represent the Socialist Party at the Canadian Socialist Convention to be held in Toronto between September 1 and 13 (approximately), 1902.

Notice to Contributors.

Pledges should be drawn and checks and money orders made payable to the Workingmen's Co-operative Publishing Association. All communications should be addressed to the newly elected Agent of the Association, Wm. Butcher, Labor Lyceum, 64 E. Fourth street, New York.

WESTERN UNIONS.

President McDonald Re-elected in A. L. U.

President Boyce of the W. F. of M. Declines Re-Election—Choice of Officers Confirms Progressive Resolutions—Boys Says Only Danger is in Too Rapid Growth. FAIRMONT, W. Va., June 12.—If anyone wishes to see to what an extent a gigantic trust can control the courts and apply their own laws, he need look no farther than Fairmont, the town from which Morgan's soft coal trust takes its name.

THE STRIKE OF YONKERS HATTERS.

Eleven Hundred Men Listen Gladly to Socialist Speakers—National Union Regretting Its Duty. YONKERS, N. Y., June 16.—The strike of the eleven hundred men at the Yonkers Hatters' mill is still continued and the strikers are holding ground, principally in becoming more conscious of the fact of the struggle between the working class and the capitalist class, our comrades not sparing any efforts to enlighten the strikers on the subject and to show them the real meaning of the strike.

Boys' Comment.

Comrade Debs, who took an active interest in the work of the convention and was greeted with the greatest enthusiasm by the assembled workingmen at Denver, writes to the "Social Democratic Herald" of Milwaukee, under date of June 6: "The conventions will close to-day or to-morrow and their work will be complete and glorious. The old politicians and their henchmen who did all in their power to defeat political action on the part of organized labor are stamped and thoroughly alarmed. You would be surprised could you realize what a tremendous change has taken place during the past few days."

Boys' Retires.

Edward Boyce, who has held the office of President of the W. F. of M. through the days of its early struggle and to whose ability and devotion those who are familiar with its history agree in ascribing a large share of the credit for its growth, declined re-election on the ground that he needs a period of rest after ten years of hard work in the organization. The justice of his request to be excused was recognized, although he would have been the first choice of the convention, and Charles H. Mayer of Deadwood, S. D., was elected in his place.

Trust Owns the Court.

The case is being tried before a Justice who is a brother-in-law to the Watson, millionaire coal magnate and held official of the Fairmont Coal Company, and his rulings are apparently all in favor of the Trust. The strikers' lawyers are C. B. Johnson of Clarksburg and A. G. Fickelsen of Wheeling, both able young men, who are making a strong case under the circumstances.

United Brotherhood of Railway Employees.

The "Railway Employees' Journal," the organ of the United Brotherhood of Railway Employees, published at San Francisco, advocates Socialism in every issue. The Brotherhood is growing rapidly. The "Journal" says that at the present rate the organization will have a million members in 1905—which is nearly the number of men now employed on the railways of the country.

Krell Pianos Still Boycotted.

The official organ of the Piano and Organ Workers' International Union, denounces the widely published statement that the boycott on the Krell Piano Company of Cincinnati has been lifted. The boycott is still on, affecting the Krell, Royal, and Studio pianos, and should be observed everywhere, as the Krell Company has paid no attention to the employees' demands.

TRUST RULE IN WEST VIRGINIA.

Court Helps Morgan to Crush Coal Strike.

Judge, Interpreter, Stenographer, and Witness, All Tools of the Soft Coal Trust—A Traveesty of Justice. FAIRMONT, W. Va., June 12.—If anyone wishes to see to what an extent a gigantic trust can control the courts and apply their own laws, he need look no farther than Fairmont, the town from which Morgan's soft coal trust takes its name.

Condition of the Miners.

It is a well known fact that the miners of this district are the worst oppressed and the least organized in the United States, and it is the attempt of the officers of the United Mine Workers to organize them that has brought down upon them the wrath of the combined millions of Wall Street.

No Rioting or Intimidation.

When the strike order was issued on June 7, all the union miners came out. They were promptly warned not to trespass on the Company's ground. At the mining hamlet of Monongah, the men rented and paid for a building to stay in and, in fact, called it a "home." Here they congregated to talk over their affairs and listen to speeches and induced such of their friends as they could get to come to the meetings; they held several parades; but at no time did they trespass on anyone's land, simply using the public roads.

Confidence in Mitchell.

How much of the solidarity displayed by the men is due to a conscious desire to remove the conditions oppressing them and how much to a feeling of loyalty to President John Mitchell is an interesting question. Mr. Mitchell is the hero of the anthracite region. The coal business has been unbroken and extends among the workers of all trades. They believe in his honesty and have faith in his judgment. In my association with the miners and other working people, since arriving here, I have not heard a single word that can be construed as reflecting upon Mitchell's character or intentions. This accounts in a great measure for the present situation, but it also makes Mitchell's responsibility a heavy one.

The Miners' Homes.

There is a marked difference between the clean, well preserved towns of New England and the mining towns of Pennsylvania. Here the streets are poorly tended and the houses dirty looking and seldom painted, though this is by no means a criterion of the interior. Glances through open doors invariably show cleanliness and attention. The inmates are apparently making the best of what's within their reach. Here and there are gardens, with rose bushes climbing round the porches, but the fences are decrepit and needing repair. The best looking houses are those owned by the workers and tended by themselves.

BUY UNION-LABEL BREAD.

It does not establish the fact of a man's honesty to prove that he only steals or robs a little or a part of the time, or to show that his victims still have something left, or that his stealing or robbing actually benefits a lot of people.—Wm. T. Brown.

IN THE COAL STRIKE FIELD.

William Maily Writes on Conditions Prevailing in the Anthracite Region.

A Well Conducted Strike—Miners' Confidence in Mitchell—Class Lines Sharply Drawn—Life of the Coal Miners. (Special Correspondence to The Worker.) WILKES BARRE, June 15.—Whatever doubt existed in this region as to the early settlement of the miners' strike was almost wholly dispelled during the past few days, and the sixth week begins with every probability of an existence of the struggle for at least several weeks longer.

Class Lines Clearly Drawn.

The class lines are drawn in this fight with a vengeance. The strikers admit of no equivocation or hesitation in a person showing on which side he or she stands. It is a case of being either for or against, and the merchant, politician, hotelkeeper or what else that hesitates or shows courtesy or shelter to the enemy or its satellites suffers for it. This feeling extends even among families, and civil war never stirred up more bitter strife between relatives than this strike has.

What will be the outcome of the struggle is, of course, problematical.

At present the operators are making no efforts to run the mines, other than an attempt at keeping out water and preventing gas from accumulating. They are having a hard time doing this even, and they will suffer greatly financially; for in addition to the damage done to the mines, must also be reckoned that inflicted upon the machinery by the incompetent men brought from the outside. For instance, I am told that a valuable air-compressor, at the Cuyungham mine here, has been nearly ruined since the strike began.

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(Continued on page 4)





AMERICA'S NEW PRECEDENT.

BY HORACE TRAUDEL.

President Roosevelt thinks that our history with Cuba establishes a new precedent. So it does. But we have been the first to offend against our own precedent. We came up against our own precedent in the Philippines and finked. Mingling the glory and the shame, mixing the moral pro and con, we have no basis for self-glorification. We invited ourselves to a task. We then forgot our engagement.

America is not geographical area. America is not an army or navy. America is not even the extension of a trade. America is a dream. America is an ideal struggling for practical utterance. America is a new advance of the spirit. America is achieved, in so far as its dream is fulfilled. America may have its greatest successes under some other name. That race which best fulfills democracy is America. If America defaults in the test America is dead. It may subscribe to what creed it chooses. The spirit is departed. No victory can be victory if it is won only in the interest of the letter of our compact. Such victories are defeats and shame.

We have but one precedent. That precedent is freedom. We honor our precedent in the proportion that we subvert the requisites of the free life. It is nothing to have added one more example of rulership to the ancient list. It is everything to have effected a departure towards the open where liberty may be granted its expanding opportunities. And the opportunities of liberty are not of plunder but of life.

Two countries in especial put on airs at the Hague Conference. These countries were the two grandees of

the Anglo-Saxon alliance. The first offenders against the articles of the conference were these moral upstarts. If anything adds to the emphasis of crime it is the apostasy of the hypocrite. Our worst offense is not in conquest. Our worst offense is in hypocrisy. It is consistent enough for the old regimes to go about the earth seeking lands they may devour. But it is in violation of all our history and our ideal for us to enter ourselves for the race of the robber.

America does not make a splendid robber. As robber she is clumsy, not picturesque. America as robber is tawdry and without assurance. She has the look of guilt. That is both her mockery and her salvation. As long as America confesses judgment by this realizing suspicion of guilt America may retrieve her moral disasters. What amount of material glory can atone for a spiritual default? America as magnate does not excite respect. America as a democracy should not be a tyrant but by the sufferance of freedom. That one virtue which all governments so far existing have missed should be the one prerogative which America should assume. America should not discover an ancient precedent. America should be a precedent. America should not receive sanction by one act of gracious fatherhood. America should be that fatherhood in symbol and act.

COAL STRIKE.

(Continued from page 1.)

average house. The rooms have low ceilings and the windows are small, often with broken panes. These snails look more like overgrown rabbit hutch than the residences of human beings. In the several camps I have visited some of the houses show up better than others. In Nanticoke, where I was told many of the miners own their own homes, the houses made quite a brave appearance. In Luzerne, a domineering house called Payne's Patch defied adequate description for decrepitude and ugliness. For these the miners paid \$7.50 a month, with coal thrown in about a ton a month.

Work and Wages.

For one goes the same story. Excessive docking, unreasoning and monotonous. One of the next place visit—change, some lively madmen—comes the last elements the one before the dismal series would cause a man to wonder how these people can retain their cheerfulness, for they do. It is as well for their masters perhaps that they can still smile through it all. As I told I have not seen the worst yet.

It is difficult to strike an average of the wages received. This varies in the different localities, according to the number of shifts worked and the price paid per car. At Ashley I was told the miners averaged \$20 every two weeks, at Sugar Notch \$30 a month; at Nanticoke \$25 a month, and at Luzerne the average would hardly reach \$30 a month. House rent ranges in these places four places from \$3.50 to \$8 a month, according to the size of the house. Coal for which the miner receives \$1.05 a car of three tons costs him for home use \$3.50 a ton delivered by the company. This is not good coal either, the docked or cast off coal called "honey" being supplied to the miners. The price of coal has also been increased since the 1900 strike.

An ordinary shift of nine or ten hours is supposed to consist of six cars on the average. These cars hold three tons at some places, which means four tons "topping." When the company means two and a half and three with topping. While a miner and laborer may be in the mine all the from six to ten hours, a full shift of cars is rarely had. More often any three or four cars are loaded. The laborer receives 35 and 40 cents a car, as the rule may be, while the miner receiving the remaining two-thirds pays all expenses of the two. The miner may sometimes work only six hours, for when he has enough coal on hand for the laborer to fill the shift, he can go home.

When the miner demands eight hours he does so more often for the laborer and the other men and boys paid by the day than for himself. He argues that with proper regulation the same number of cars can be supplied as now, and if not, then more men can get employment to facilitate operation. It appears to be true that the laborer frequently comes out ahead of the miner, because of the expense the latter incurs, though this is not the rule. Conversing with different sorts of workmen, I find the story of an organization of laborers separate from the miners is a canard.

The demand for coal to be weighed is the most important one. The mine cars are supposed to hold by cubic feet measurement, from one and a half to three tons, according to size of car and height of vein. But they always hold much more. In order to save himself from being docked when the car reaches the top, the miner heaps up "topping," which will mean half a ton more. If there is a round in the car may reach the outside without the "topping" knocked off on the journey. This will mean perhaps a whole car, or a half, docked by the company for "light weight."

Docking for slate is the most irritating grievance. How much the miner loses by this is incalculable. At some places, 5 per cent. is allowed the operator for slaty coal, but it reaches 10 per cent. more often. Miners calculate upon losing at least five cars a month through this. There is no system of

judging "dirty" cars, docking being done by guesswork. Sometimes one car is allowed an unloading and for every one hundred pounds of dirt the miner is laid off a day. It is impossible to keep all the dirt out of the loaded cars. At Luzerne before the strike two years ago, at one mine the average docking per month amounted to 15 and 16 per cent. At another it amounted to five cars a month. At both places it is less than half that now. When a man is known to have a "clean" place, his checks are lost from time to time in a mysterious way and he is docked for the cars. The miners demand tonnage weight and checkweighmen on the tipple.

Child Labor.

There are reported to be fewer boys at work in the breakers now than two years ago, but the stranger would not think so. Nearly every boy appears to be either a door boy, a breaker boy or something else around the mine. The age limit is 12, but it is admitted on all sides that boys much younger than that, ten, nine and sometimes eight years old, are employed. I saw several boys who appeared hardly big enough to be able to carry their dinner pails. They are thin little fellows, and they seem to be enjoying their vacation. Their wages run from 50 cents a day up to \$1.10 cents, according to class of work. This means a day of ten hours—less than that (which often occurs) reduces their wages in proportion. There is a farcical attempt to educate them at night school, farcical because the boys are not able to imitate education after working all day. Few of them are therefore able to read and write very much.

The parents' through necessity, falsify their boys' ages in order to lure them into the mine. It is one thing to allow his children to go to work so young? (ten years).

"When a man has five children and only gets 80 cents to \$1.25 a day, how can he help it?"

I didn't know and I said so. The day workmen paid by the day—drummen, pumpmen, etc.—receive more than the miners, sometimes \$60 a month, because they usually work every day. But they have their grievances also, of which more later.

The culm piles surrounding the mines are veritable mountains, and at a close distance, obscure the foliage covered hills lying beyond. These piles of cast off coal represent unpaid labor of the miners ever since the mines opened. This inferior coal, for which the miner was docked, is used to fire the boilers at the collieries, and is the basis of the firemen who are forced to use it. But it is frequently run through the washers by the operators and sold in the Eastern markets as buckwheat and similar grades, so the operator makes a profit out of what cost him nothing. I saw one culm pile from which coal for this purpose had been taken daily for two years at the bare labor cost of running it through the washers.

Company stores no longer exist at many collieries. Where they do, there is no absolute rule compelling employees to trade in them, but the man who does is favored accordingly. The prices are usually 10 per cent. higher than in other stores. The one place where I learned that dealing in the company store was compulsory was at the Chauncey mine near Nanticoke—run by an individual operator, who is in turn run by the railroad companies. At Nanticoke conditions seemed better than anywhere else I have been. This is attributed to the fact that the miners here were the first to organize in the anthracite region after years of disorganization. A five months' strike in 1896, which ended successfully in an increase of wages, started the organizing boom in the region which resulted in the 1900 strike. The docking system in Nanticoke was reported in good shape, there being checkweighmen on the tipple protecting the men's interests. But the union has bettered conditions, more or less, everywhere, bad as they are now.

A Sign of Progress.

The majority of those on strike are non-English speaking, Poles, Hungarians, Austrians, Slavs and Italians predominating. It is admitted that these constitute the most determined among the strikers. They say they will never yield. And these are the men, and the sons of men, that came into the region during the last thirty years and worked for lower wages than those already here. They have progressed and demand more now—a sign

of the working class should be glad to recognize.

The support of the Wilkes Barre newspapers is of the usual sort, half hearted and insincere. They are afraid to take the other side openly, excepting the "Leader," a Democratic paper, which was dying, like its party, when it was revived, report says, by the receipt of 60 tons of coal from a local coal company. Now it is the special organ of the mine owners against the strikers.

THE MINE FIREMEN.

Secretary, Mullah, Gives a Statement of Their Reasons for Striking.

(Special Correspondence to The Worker.)

WILKES BARRE, Pa., June 16.—Secretary-Treasurer J. F. Mullah of the stationary firemen unions in the anthracite field speaks as follows regarding the conditions of these workmen: "That the firemen are justified in striking for an eight-hour day is plainly proven by considering the hardships they have to endure. A fireman works twelve hours every day in the year, while his work is proportionally less, according to the number of boilers he is tended, yet in no case has he less boilers than should rightfully receive the attention of two men. They are obliged to use culm for fuel and this culm has lain from five to twenty years; the life is burnt out of it, and this makes a great difference to the firemen who have to use it. The work itself is very trying. The temperature of a steam boiler in the summer is 180 degrees, and in the winter is seldom under 200. The fireman, when in contact with the heat of the fire, makes the work very exhausting. The majority of the boilers are fitted with steam blowers, which are turned on full blast and are therefore deafening and disagreeable. "Firemen receive on an average of 14-23 cents an hour, which is less than many unskilled laborers receive. "In many cases the firemen are unable to eat from breakfast time until late in the afternoon, because in the large firerooms there are from eleven to twenty-seven boilers for two men, and they cannot draw their fires until they are required two hours to do that. They seldom get fifteen minutes to eat their lunch. "It should be remembered that the fireman assumes the responsibility for the lives of all those working in and around the colliery and if he should, through overwork or any other cause, neglect his duty, the results might be disastrous. For this reason alone, we should have an eight-hour day and we're going to have it."

THE MINERS' GRIEVANCES.

False Weighing and Docking the Chief One.

Systematic Frauds by "Operators"—Relations of Miners and Laborers—Reports of Friction Unfounded.

(Special Correspondence to The Worker.)

WILKES BARRE, Pa., June 16.—The miners have many grievances, so many that it is somewhat difficult for an outsider to settle upon which is the principal one, but the odds seem to be in favor of the demand to have coal weighed. This is a mighty grievance and means much in profits to the mine owners and in wages to the miners. Before the strike coal was paid for by the car, which was usually supposed to hold three tons, but which actually held much more. The car was paid for according to the thickness of the vein worked in, but the docking system, practiced by the operators made the amount paid for much less than the amount really mined.

The Dockage System.

This docking system consists of taking off the miners' car one-quarter, or sometimes one-half, either for supposed light loading or for slate and dirt in the coal. Through this a miner would carry a month, the "operators" having the sole power to judge of weight and dirt, and thus receiving for nothing the coal docked from the miners. The miners, in addition to the weighing of coal, desire the right to have a checkweighman at each mine, who will be paid by themselves and will protect them from unjust docking and false weighing. It can be imagined how bitter the operators' opposition to this kind of a system, that would so materially affect their profits.

Miners and Laborers.

The report spread broadcast throughout the country that the mine helpers or laborers were organizing against the miners seem to have been a false one, or else the effort instigated by the mine-owners, proved abortive. It is not likely that such a movement would succeed, if, indeed, it would ever reach proportions that would make success or failure a question. The fact is that the helpers and miners are members of the same organization and there seems to be no friction of any sort between them.

The laborer system, however, is one that exists in coal mines all over the country and for years its abolition or readjustment has been a vexed one. It varies in detail according to the conditions in vogue in each mine or locality.

In this, the upper anthracite region, the laborer is employed by a miner and they work a chamber together. The laborer receives one-third of each car loaded, the other two-thirds going to the miner. If, therefore, the miner receives \$1.05 a car (of three tons) the laborer receives as his share 35 cents, the coal to the turn, would bring the laborer \$2.10 or \$2.45 a day. But the turn rarely reaches that amount, for often only three or four cars are loaded in a day.

In return for his wage the laborer loads the coal into the cars; the miner mines it, drills the holes, fires the shots, sets the timbers, and provides the skill and experience. The miner also pays for the powder, oil, lamp-wicking, shovels, picks, machines, tool sharpening, and all other expenses. These expenses go on, no matter how many cars are loaded, and so it frequently happens that when the turn runs slow, the laborers come out ahead of the miners on pay day. In the event that the cars are docked by the mine-owners the miner bears the brunt of the docking, which amounts sometimes to a considerable sum.

Hours of Labor.

The charge against the miners that they only work from four to six hours a day, while their laborers work ten, holds good only when the miners have an "easy" place—that is to say, one where the coal can be got out easier than in others. These places are much rarer than they are used to be, and that miner is accounted fortunate who can get out under eight or nine hours. The demand for eight hours will mostly affect the workmen around the mine, who are paid by the day and who are also members of the miners' union, as well as the miners' laborers. This will enable the latter to do the same amount of work in less time underground.

In many mines in this locality laborers are not employed by the miners where the height or thickness of the coal permits. When, two years ago, the miners succeeded in securing a ten-cent increase, the laborers received it also. The latter are usually new-comers, who serve their apprenticeship as laborers and eventually become miners themselves. The miners are not contract

with the operator to load a certain amount of coal in a given time. The miner simply takes what care he can to receive the coffee of a day, the laborer receiving his share, whatever that day may bring. I learned of one case of an old miner who had \$11 left after paying his laborer and all expenses, for two weeks' work—and this was nothing unusual. W. M.

PLAN TO BEAT CAREY.

Republican Politicians of Haverhill Detail Democrat to "Fix" List of Voters.

The Haverhill politicians are trying hard to prevent Carey's re-election in November. The Massachusetts lay puts it practically in the power of the Assessors to fix the polling lists and so to disfranchise voters by "neglecting" to put their names on the list. The Assistant Assessor for Ward Five, Carey's district, is Charles H. Morrill, a Socialist. Although no charge of partiality has been made against him, the Board of Assessors, a majority of whose members are Republicans, has detailed a Democrat to "assist" him, taking a part of the work in the ward completely out of the hands of the official to whom the voters of the ward entrusted it.

A vigorous protest has been made against this arbitrary action by the voters. About a hundred signed a written protest which has been presented to the Board, but, as a local official says, the list of names "contains but a small number of the TAXPAYERS of the ward and its effect is slight." In the eyes of old-party politicians, only tax-payers and tax-doggers are entitled to consideration.

MISSOURI CONVENTION.

Full State Ticket Nominated—New Headquarters at Sedalia—Resolutions Inviting Farmers Adopted.

The Missouri state convention of the Socialist Party at Springfield was in every way a success. Thirteen parties were represented, as follows: Liberal, Sedalia, Kansas City, St. Louis, Springfield, Aurora, Galena, Joplin, Beyler, Greenfield, Monett, West Plains, and Poplar Bluff. Geo. H. Turner of Kansas City and Caleb Lipscomb of Liberal, president, with H. Ballard Dunn of St. Louis, secretary.

The Platform Committee made a report in line with the general policy of the party in Missouri, which is to use the national platform with local variations. The platform as thus reported was adopted, with an additional declaration, demanding the election of Labor Commissioner, Factory and Mining Inspector by direct vote, instead of by appointment.

Among the other resolutions adopted was the following: "Whereas, the development of capitalism has practically reduced the farmers of this country to the condition of the wage working class; and whereas, the speculation and investments by the larger capitalists, directly and indirectly in, farm lands and improved machinery, render the farmers' position more and more precarious; and whereas, the conditions tend to bring the farmers to the same state of economic dependence occupied by the wage working class; therefore, be it resolved, that we call upon the farmers of this state to study the labor question and ally themselves with the wage workers under the banner of the Socialist Party."

MOTHER JONES IN VIRGINIA.

Mother Jones is performing valiant service for the cause of unionism in the Virginia mining districts. The operators in the Virginias are the most brutal exploiters of their kind to be found anywhere. They look upon miners as being no better than slaves or dogs, and any person who attempts to organize them is threatened with imprisonment or death. Recently the scoundrelly operators, and their hirelings threatened Mother Jones with the same. She called a meeting and beat the bosses and their infamous methods, declaring that she had arranged matters in such a way that if she was killed, two prominent operators would accompany her to the great beyond. Instead of frightening her, the threats only served to increase the ardor of Mother Jones, and it is largely due to her determination and pluck that nearly twenty thousand miners were brought out on strike in districts where such a movement is a recent and unknown-Cleveland Citizen.

Mother Jones is a Socialist and a trade unionist in every fibre, and she is not afraid to say exactly what she thinks and feels. The miners have learned to respect and love her and, although it is hard work to introduce new ideas of freedom and manhood among workers who have been systematically oppressed and deceived for so many years, her work in Virginia and West Virginia is last year's to bear fruit.

FATHER HAGERTY.

The Cleveland "Citizen" gives the following account of Father Hagerty, the Catholic priest who, like Father McGrady, of Bellevue, Ky., is a agitator for revolutionary Socialism: "Father Hagerty, the Catholic priest who has given up his pulpit to take the platform to advocate Socialism, has already become a great favorite with the working people of the West and is being deluged with invitations to speak. He first became interested in labor affairs about 1896, when he gave up his charge in Chicago and went to Cleburne, Tex., where he revived the spirit of trade unionism among railroad and other workers, and it was largely through his persistent efforts that the Texas State Federation of Labor was formed. Father Hagerty has likewise done some organizing in New Mexico, and, as he masters eight languages, he spends his spare moments in translating the best things on Socialism from the English, German, and French into Spanish for the Mexican working people. Father Hagerty, besides being a natural orator, is a scientist and possesses a wide knowledge of medicine. He is 37 years of age."

WHO'S PAYIN' FOR IT ALL?

Most every day we hear about some rich chap with a daughter. Or maybe an ambitious wife to take across the water? He buys a yacht and gets a lot and hires crews and cooks. And sends his women folks with gowns supposed to help their looks. And maybe he may think the price the spurge'll cost is small. But still can't help wonderin' who's payin' for it all. The man who heads the steamship trust or some big corporation. Has planned to blow a million in to see the coronation. He'll be away all summer long and travel like a king. While I'll be workin' on the crops. He'll rent a castle from some lord that's crowded to the wall. And I can't keep from wonderin' who's payin' for it all. The man whose mines are closed to bring the miners to submission. Will go on buyin' everything for which his heart heaves wishin'. He'll take his women folks to court, and Moses, how they'll blaze. With diamonds strung across their shapes in forty-seven ways. They're goin' in their costly fashions; they won't keep away the thought. "Who's payin' for it all?"—S. E. Kiser in Chicago Record-Herald.

THE AGRICULTURAL PROLETARIAT.

Many writers, particularly among Socialists, have considered the "hired man" of the farm as analogous to the city wage laborer and as therefore the one to whom an appeal must be made in the social conditions of the United States, which is in the hands of the farmer and his "hired man." A little closer understanding of the situation will remove this impression. The ordinary farmer hires a man only during seed time and harvest—perhaps for three or four weeks altogether. During many other weeks in the year the farmer himself lies idle. Instead of making any "surplus value" from the laborer whom he does employ, and whom he often drives to such extreme exertions, a more rational way to consider it is to look upon the farmer as little more than an employing agent and resident supervisor for the exploiting class who are really extracting "surplus value" from both the farmer and his "hired man."—A. M. Simons, in "The American Farmer."

LAW AND ORDER IN PUERTO RICO.

Trade Union and Socialist Meetings Attacked by Riotous Mob—Authorities Convinced at Persecution.

The trade unions and Socialist organizations of Puerto Rico are being severely persecuted by the agents of the capitalists who control the island. Press dispatches—mostly suppressed or garbled by the American papers—state that numerous labor meetings have been broken up by riotous Republican mobs, and the Federation Libre, the central labor organization of Puerto Rico, has cabled to President Gompers of the A. F. of L. in these words: "More than six assaults have been made upon Federationsists within a week, seriously wounding unprotected men. Protest to President Roosevelt."

The United States authorities have utterly failed to give the labor organizations protection against mob violence.

GOOD VOTE CAST IN WATERTOWN.

Workingman on Social Democratic Ticket Polls 27 Per Cent. of Votes—Old Parties Combined.

WATERTOWN, N. Y., June 12.—A city election was held here Monday, to choose a Water Commissioner for a term of five years. John C. Knowlton, the old incumbent, ran for re-election, supported by Republicans and Democrats alike. Against him was the candidate of the Social Democratic Party, Charles Byron, President of the Trades Assembly, an iron-molder in the foundry of the New York Air Brake Company.

Mr. Knowlton is a very good man, as capitalists go. But he is a capitalist and stands for capitalists, and on that basis the campaign was carried on. Comrade Byron stood clearly for uncompromising Socialism and the working class.

Many workingmen did not have a chance to vote, as the polls were open only from 9 a. m. to 4 p. m. and not every workingman can afford to risk his job by taking time off on Election Day—especially if it is suspected that he votes for his own class.

When the ballots were counted, both sides were surprised to learn that we had polled no less than 27 per cent. of the votes—Knowlton having 805 and Byron 283. The local "Daily Times" complains bitterly of our action in nominating a candidate against such a "good man" as Mr. Knowlton, which, it declares, was "an uncalculated thing," as "Mr. Knowlton has always been the best friend the workingmen have had in this town." The "Times" cannot understand how it is that three hundred workingmen in the city should choose to have one of their class rather than a friend of their class to administer their public affairs.

The "Times" admits that "any citizen has a right to aspire to an office," but finds that Comrade Byron's action in running against Mr. Knowlton was "revolutionary and anarchistic." In other words, the "Times" would say, any citizen has a legal right to run for office, but a workingman has no business to do so except at the dictation of "eminently respectable citizens." The "Times" is welcome to its opinion. The workingmen of Watertown are coming to the point where they can form opinions of their own, without the help of capitalist newspapers. T. P.

A MEXICAN WHO KNOWS.

The writer who penned the following sub-editorial in the New York "Press" of May 20 thinks he is real funny, but he is not half so knowing as the "Aztec organ of enlightenment" which furnishes him the theme: "Another ray of light is sent forth by a Mexican paper which chronicles the rapid growth of a great Socialist party in the United States, which is ultimately to play the part of Aaron's rod to the other political organizations. Already the multi-millionaires are so scared by it, the paper says, that they are 'contributing their vast fortunes by many millions of dollars to the establishment or support of libraries, universities, hospitals, technical schools, and the like.' This is a point well worth the consideration of that free-handed liver and celebrated bon vivant, Uncle Russell Sage. But the discovery of the Aztec organ of enlightenment which touches us most nearly is that the newspaper offices of the United States are simply swarming with editorial writers who are avowed Socialists, but who are forced by tyrannical and plutocratic editors-in-chief to write the other way.

"This really is a serious condition of affairs. Suppose all the editorial writers in the country should band together, and, rising simultaneously some day, bind and gag their editors-in-chief and turn every newspaper in the country into a Socialist organ the next morning! The possibilities recall the very worst excesses of the French Revolution."

THE SOCIALIST PARTY.

At present the boards of education are more easily captured for our purposes than the legislative chambers, and in my opinion are more desirable. Committees may call at board meetings, especially when sister comrades, and object to this or that taught in the schools and offer, or even demand substitutions. A member in the board with progressive ideas is of course a consumption devoutly to be arrived at. Our children may be induced to ask perplexing questions at school and Sunday-schools. Open-air speakers should not ignore the juvenile audience, on the contrary they should address them exclusively until a large overthrust attracts them. They can adult assemblies which they never learn at school. The children in turn will mention much of what they have heard to their parents. I have found this maneuver to be quite effective, as children afterward have frequently accosted me on the street asking when I shall speak again. Above all we must either publish, without delay, juvenile literature in hand-bill form or standing of the situation will remove this impression. The ordinary farmer hires a man only during seed time and harvest—perhaps for three or four weeks altogether. During many other weeks in the year the farmer himself lies idle. Instead of making any "surplus value" from the laborer whom he does employ, and whom he often drives to such extreme exertions, a more rational way to consider it is to look upon the farmer as little more than an employing agent and resident supervisor for the exploiting class who are really extracting "surplus value" from both the farmer and his "hired man."—A. M. Simons, in "The American Farmer."

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National Platform of the Socialist Party.

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 of the transition to Socialism also depend upon the stage of development reached by the proletariat. We, therefore, consider it of the utmost importance 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:

1. 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, or combinations. 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 the rates to the consumers.

2. 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.

3. State or national insurance of working people in case of accidents, lack of employment, sickness and want in old age; the funds for this purpose to be collected from the revenue of the capitalist class, and to be administered under the control of the working class.

4. 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.

5. The education of all children up to the age of eighteen years, and state and municipal aid for books, clothing, and food.

6. Equal civil and political rights for men and women.

7. 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.

SOCIALIST EDUCATION FOR THE CHILDREN.

The mind of every human being at birth is a blank. The brain of the infant is ready to receive whatever impressions of the world its immediate surroundings choose to make upon it. Let every one remember that no one is born with his entire nativity stamped upon his physiognomy except in a limited sense. In other words, no one enters this world with an American, English, German, or any other nationality. Assuming that all human beings were endowed with the gift of speech with their advent into life, it is safe to say that not one would utter the creed of the Protestant Church, declare its allegiance to the Pope, profess its undying faith in the Koran nor pledge to sacrifice itself for Old Glory or any other standard. This is only too well recognized by Church and State, and both bodies not only allow little children to come into the world, but employ every stratagem, use every and all means to attract and influence the minds and hearts of the impressionable innocents. The result we know. This is the method responsible for the world as we now find it, and a similar method adapted to our reasoning will secure us the future, the near future.

The rising generation now five to fifteen years old will be entitled to suffer within the next short period ranging from six to sixteen years. What an opportunity offers itself to Socialists! Within one generation an army of thoroughly trained voters imbued with the Socialist spirit will march to the polls, to demand its own rights.

At present the boards of education are more easily captured for our purposes than the legislative chambers, and in my opinion are more desirable. Committees may call at board meetings, especially when sister comrades, and object to this or that taught in the schools and offer, or even demand substitutions. A member in the board with progressive ideas is of course a consumption devoutly to be arrived at. Our children may be induced to ask perplexing questions at school and Sunday-schools. Open-air speakers should not ignore the juvenile audience, on the contrary they should address them exclusively until a large overthrust attracts them. They can adult assemblies which they never learn at school. The children in turn will mention much of what they have heard to their parents. I have found this maneuver to be quite effective, as children afterward have frequently accosted me on the street asking when I shall speak again. Above all we must either publish, without delay, juvenile literature in hand-bill form or standing of the situation will remove this impression. The ordinary farmer hires a man only during seed time and harvest—perhaps for three or four weeks altogether. During many other weeks in the year the farmer himself lies idle. Instead of making any "surplus value" from the laborer whom he does employ, and whom he often drives to such extreme exertions, a more rational way to consider it is to look upon the farmer as little more than an employing agent and resident supervisor for the exploiting class who are really extracting "surplus value" from both the farmer and his "hired man."—A. M. Simons, in "The American Farmer."

THE TWO WAYS.

Young men, life is before you. Two voices are calling you—one coming from the swamps of selfishness and force, where success means death; and the other from the hills of justice and progress, where even failure brings glory. Two lights are seen in your horizon—the first, fading, marsh light of power, and the other, the slowly rising sun of human brotherhood. Two ways lie open for you—one leading to an ever lower and lower plain, where are heard the cries of despair and the curses of the poor, where unnumbered shrivels and possessions rot down the possessor; and the other leading off to the highlands of the morning, where to be heard the glad shouts of humanity and where honest effort is rewarded with immortality.—John P. Altgeld.

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