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The



People.

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VOL. IX.—NO. 17.

NEW YORK, JULY 23, 1899.

PRICE 2 CENTS.

SOCIALISM IN CALIFORNIA.

An Interesting Correspondence of Comrade Job Harriman.

Our California Party organ, the "Class Struggle" has the following letter:

"In Kern County is one of the hottest places in California and we arrived there on one of the hottest days. The intense heat robbed us of our appetite. For a time I thought I would have to lay off, I was unable to do the usual work, and was fearful that our comrades would be dissatisfied. But the meetings for the week having been advertised, and dates for the following week all set for Tulare County, we were forced to continue and to console ourselves by remembering that there is no rest for the wicked.

On Sunday evening an audience of 150 people assembled in Kern City, and seemed to realize that Socialism was the solution to the problems at hand. The audience gave close attention for more than two hours, and on the following day our principles were the talk of the town. It was thought best not to attempt an organization at present for local reasons, but a good organization will soon be effected there.

Comrade Richmond of Los Angeles and Comrade Larkin are doing excellent work and we have every reason to expect a strong Branch there in a few months, and a large vote on election day.

On Monday we drove over to Rosedale, where the agents of the Kern County Land Company hold the palm while the good farmer industriously milks in it, and I think that on that night, for the first time, some of them saw where the milk was going. There were a few who had seen before, but only a few. There are five Socialists at Rosedale who made application for membership. There would have been more but on this particular night the Land Company had turned on the water for the first time in weeks, and the farmers were compelled to irrigate. Yet the school house was well filled and a good interest was manifested. A Branch will soon be organized there.

On the following morning we drove over to Panama school house, fifteen miles away, where the meeting had been well advertised. We found, to our surprise, that the water had been turned on in that vicinity, also, for the first time for many weeks, and the good farmer was compelled to attend to his kitting and to forego the pleasure of a Socialist meeting, for I can assure you that Socialist meetings are a source of pleasure to these people, and it is certainly true. Notwithstanding the flush of water, the school house was well filled, and we organized a good Branch of 11 substantial men, with more coming. From present appearances we have reason to hope for a strong movement in Kern County.

Wednesday morning we drove 12 miles away, through a desert country, thinking that surely this time we would get beyond the flush of water, but, alas, the wily company had paid them a visit, for the first time in weeks, and the good farmer was holding his nose on the grindstone, and turning it with all the power he had. Many were kept away from our meeting, and they remained until after 10 o'clock, and a good Branch was organized. At last election they cast 2 Socialist votes, and they now number 12, with more coming.

On Thursday morning we made our way back to Bakersfield, but were compelled to stay over, waiting for the hall. On Friday evening 200 people were present in the opera house, and the meeting was in every way a success.

Of all the corporation-ridden counties in California, I am persuaded that Kern County is the worst. One company owns all the water and the major portion of the land upon which the people are living. The company has 400,000 acres and farms a large portion of all that is under cultivation. When the people want water, a conversation something like the following ensues:

People—Whose water is this?
Company—This is OTR water.

P.—What! all the water in the river?
C.—Yes, of course; this is all ours.

P.—How came it all to be yours?
C.—Why? We claimed it.

P.—But you do not need it all and we do. How can we get it?
C.—By working on the land and growing grain and raising stock with which to pay for it.

P.—Well, then, we will go to work, and what will you charge us for water on this piece of land?
C.—Ah, but that is our land.

P.—What! all this land where the ditches are?
C.—Yes, certainly. Why should we run our ditches and our water off of our own land?

P.—To be sure. Well, but how did you get all this land?
C.—Why, we bought it of course. You do not think that a respectable company would steal it, do you?

P.—Well, no, we did not think so, but how did you get the money?
C.—We sold the water which we claimed and bought it.

P.—But you cannot use all of it, nor do you need it all. Can not we have some land upon which to grow the grain with which to buy water?
C.—Yes, indeed; you can have all you want. We will rent it to you and sell to you the water and take the grain and the live stock which you raise and buy more land to rent and build more ditches to carry water which we will sell to other farmers, who will do as these faithful farmers are doing. Why if it were not for the company the farmers would have no water and

no land and would starve. Blessed be the name of the company.

On Friday evening we tried to show the people what a blessing this company has been to the population of Kern County. It is very much like the man who caught the bear and was compelled to call in his neighbors to help him let loose. They saw that not only Kern County but all modern civilization was likewise in the clutches of capitalism, and that only by a united effort can the awful grip be loosened. It is the final great struggle between the producer and the absorber, for slavery against liberty.

Though speakers are necessary to rouse the people from their slumbers and blaze the way to justice, yet there is a greater to follow and that is our literature. And I am glad to see that "The Class Struggle" is becoming popular among the people. They are recognizing it as an able champion of their rights. It is clear-cut, uncompromising, yet with a manly bearing and fair to all. It meets the expectations of all comrades, as well as the newcomer. Let me urge every comrade to get one subscriber within the coming month. There is not one who cannot do that much, and every subscriber means a stroke every week for one year upon the chains that bind us. It is only necessary to multiply these sledge-hammer strokes, by adding to the subscription list until the educational work will have been done and our liberties be won.

JOB HARRIMAN.

THE RECENT OCCURRENCES

At the Meeting of the General Committee Explained.

In addition to the recent occurrences in the New York General Committee, S. L. P., brought about by reasons of a nature more far-reaching than the blow by which Arthur Keep precipitated a riot among the delegates and culminating in a rebellion against the old National Executive Committee, the question should also be considered why it was that, when the disturbance created by Arthur Keep had subsided, the proceedings of the General Committee were not resumed?

An attempt to resume when the delegates had calmed down, after the pandemonium let loose by Keep's brutality, would have been successful without any doubt. The delegates had been quietly seated, impatiently expecting that the proceedings would be resumed, and many of them requested Organizer Abelson to re-open the meeting.

The meeting could have transacted its business in perfect order if the officers had acted in a legal and honest manner and if a newly elected delegates had been permitted to take part in the choice of a chairman pro tem. But this was just what Abelson, as a faithful tool of the hare-brained people forming the machine by which the Section had been terrorized, would not permit to be done under any circumstances!

For, it was to the greatest surprise of their lives that, in spite of being provided with a handsome number of bogus delegates from bogus American Branches, hastily organized, there was an overwhelming majority of newly elected delegates who appeared to be daring enough to vote against their own choice of an chairman. They were confronted with a revolution! It was a peaceful, legal revolution in the Section, and they had to ask themselves the question: "Is this really the result of our tactics of the iron fist which we imagined to be founded upon the 'rock of ages'?"

Well, it was the death-knell of the reign of terror of the "iron fist" with all its paraphernalia of condemnation, expulsion, slander and excommunication, hurled against all opponents with the ravings of intolerance and fanaticism. But these raving maniacs would not acknowledge their defeat, and that was THE REASON WHY ABELSON REFUSED TO RE-OPEN THE MEETING!

He, together with his bosses and their heelers set down on the desk of the presiding officer and secretary holding, in whispered conversation, a council of war, not heeding the demands of the delegates that the proceedings be resumed. The members of the "old regime" appeared to be deaf and they made no move to do their duty by the General Committee.

Hugo Vogt was overheard whispering to Abelson: "Wait until they are tired of waiting and, when they have left the hall we'll re-open the meeting."

But the majority were as smart as Mr. Vogt, and they did not stir to fulfill his expectations. And thus we sat, staring at each other, until the hall was cleared by the janitor. Nor did the rebels stir when the janitor appeared; and it was thus that the defeated big macho-mucks were at last compelled to file out of the hall, the rebels forming in line before which the big and little ex-bosses had to march out into the street.

It appears from these facts that, if the Section had waited for the old Organizer to call another meeting of the General Committee he would have become its ruler, instead of being its servant. He would not have called another meeting to order until sufficient bogus delegates had been procured to form a pliable majority.

SEVERAL DELEGATES.

Keep an eye on your wrapper. See when your subscription expires. Renew in time, it will prevent interruption in the mailing of the paper and facilitate work at the office.

MONOPOLY OR, HOW LABOR IS ROBBED.

By WILLIAM MORRIS.

(Conclusion.)

If, for example, there were a Monopoly of champagne, silk velvet, kid gloves, or doll's eyes, when you wanted any of those articles you would have to pay the toll of the Monopolist, which would certainly be as much as he could get, besides their cost of production and distribution; and I imagine that if any such Monopoly were to come to light in these days, there would be a tremendous do-do about it, both in and out of Parliament. Nevertheless, there is little to do about the fact that all society to-day is in the grasp of MONOPOLY. Monopoly is our master, and we do not know it.

For the privilege of our Monopolists does not enable them merely to lay a toll on a few matters of luxury or curiosity which people can do without. I have stated, and you must admit, that everyone must labor who would live, unless he is able to get somebody to do his share of labor for him—to be somebody's pensioner in fact. But most people cannot be the pensioners of others; therefore, they have to labor to supply their wants; but in order to labor usefully two matters are required: 1st. The bodily and mental powers of a human being, developed by training, habit and tradition; and 2nd. Raw material on which to exercise those powers, and tools wherewith to aid them. The second matters are absolutely necessary to the first; and the two come together, no commodity can be produced. Those, therefore, that must labor in order to live, and who have to ask leave of others for the use of the instruments of labor, are not free men but the dependents of others, i. e., their slaves; for, the commodity which they have to buy of the monopolists is no less than life itself.

Now, I ask you to conceive of a society in which all sound and sane persons can produce by their labor on raw materials, aided by fitting tools, a due and comfortable livelihood, and which possesses a sufficiency of raw material and tools. Would you think it unreasonable or unjust, that such a community should insist on every sane and sound person working to produce wealth, in order that he might not burden the community; or, on the other hand, that it should insure a comfortable livelihood to every person who worked honestly for that livelihood, a livelihood in which nothing was lacking that was necessary to his development as a healthy human animal, with all its strange complexity of intellectual and moral habits and aspirations?

Now, further, as to the raw material and tools of the community which mind you, are necessary to its existence: would you think it unreasonable, if the community should insist that these precious necessities, things without which it could not live, should be USED and not ABUSED? Now, raw material and tools can only be USED for the production of useful things; a piece of tillage, for instance, is not used by sowing it with thistles and dock and dodder, nor a bale of wool by burning it under your neighbor's window to annoy him; this is abuse, not use, of all these things, and I say that our community will be right in forbidding such abuse.

Again, would it be unreasonable for the community to say that these means of production, if they are to be used and not abused, must be used by those who CAN use them, that is, by all the sane and sound persons engaged in earning their livelihood in concert; that they are to be so used according to fair and natural regulations agreed upon by the whole community in its sane mind; and that, furthermore, since they are to be used by all, they must not be exclusively possessed, i. e., OWNED by any; because, if any private persons, or groups of such, held the exclusive possession or ownership of them, they could withhold the use of them from those who could use them, except on terms which would place the useful persons in a position of inferiority to the useless; in other words they would be their masters, and would impose such a life on them as they chose. Therefore, I say, those raw materials and tools would be the property of the whole community, and would be used by every one in it, on the terms that they should repair the waste in them and not engross undue shares of them.

Here, then, is our reasonable community, in which all can produce, all do produce, no one has to pay poll-tax to be allowed to work, that is to live; in which no man need be badly off, unless by his own will; a society whose aim it is to make the most of its natural conditions and surroundings for the benefit of each and all of its members. These people I call reasonable men; but they have been called by other names, as breakers of the eighth commandment for all the commandments in the lump, brigands, assassins, greedy pillagers, enemies of society,—in a word, Socialists.

Look at another society, and see if we like it better. In it, as in our first one, all sane and sound persons can produce wealth by their labor on raw material aided by tools; nor is there any lack of raw materials and tools in THIS society; yet there the resemblance ceases; for, one part of those

who could do useful work will not, and consequently another part cannot; some of this second part can get no work to do, and are starved outright; others can get nothing but useless work to do, and thereby help to starve their brethren; and all those who produce anything, as we have seen before, are in an inferior position to those who do not.

The law of nature, that livelihood follows labor, is thus reversed, since being employed as a rent-sneezing machine for the supposed benefit of an individual; and the like is the case with the tools of labor; the stored up labor of past generations, the machinery, the means of transit, all these things are no longer used merely as means of production; that has now become their secondary use, which the law does not trouble itself with at all, since it has all its attention turned to its enforcing their abuse (now become their primary use) for the benefit of the owners; their abuse as instruments for squeezing interest, and profit out of the producers.

Those that thus, according to the (middle class) ten commandments, are so anxious to prevent what they call theft, are, thus the masters—nay, the owners—of all society under our present system; outside them there is nothing whatever but machinery, metal, brutal, and human, for enabling them to produce, not the greatest amount of wealth, but the greatest amount of profit; and when the masters fall short in getting what they consider the due amount of profit produced by this said machinery, they say times are bad; even though the warehouses and granaries are full, and the power of producing wealth with decreasing labor is every day growing. High prices to them and also, unluckily, to their human machines, mean prosperity, because these latter are not in the least in the world rewarded for producing wealth for themselves, but for producing profits for their masters. The destruction of wealth by war and other calamities is good for their profit-grinding, therefore we have war. The waste of labor in all kinds of stupidities and fatuities is good for trade, therefore we have literature, sham art, sham enjoyment, newspapers, advertisements, jubilees, and all kinds of disgraces, to help our falling system to totter on a little longer, so that our sons instead of ourselves may have to face the inevitable ruin which, on these terms, must bring about the peace to come.

What help is there out of it all? I have spoken of the workers as the helpless machinery of commerce; and helpless they are so long as they are apathetically accepting their position as mere machinery in the hands of the masters of society; and yet it is they who have to bring about the change, and sweep away monopoly. The capitalists for any radical change are far more helpless than they are; because, as capitalists, as a class, they cannot even conceive of any other means of living except as pensioners on others, and it is their accepted duty, nay, their religion, to resist all change in this direction; nor as individuals have they any means of earning their livelihood, if you take away their pensions before they have begun to reconstruct a new world in which they would find a place like other people; it is, therefore, impossible that the change can be made from above to below. No, it is the classes which are necessary to what of real society still hangs together behind the monstrous machinery of monopoly, it is the workers themselves that must bring about the change. And it is at least an incidental purpose of Socialist propaganda that the change should be, if possible, brought about or at least guided by the conscious intelligence of the workers, that it must not be left altogether to the blind forces of hunger, misery, and despair, which the capitalist system is so steadily piling up for its own overthrow. Apart from all the conscious politics, all the pushing this way and that, of semi-extinct Toryism and vague crude democracy, which is undoubtedly paving the way for revolution, the time is coming when the monopoly of the means of production will lose its value, when the employers will begin to cease to employ. Cut-throat competition, ever cheapening means of production, and exhausting markets on one hand; on the other, the unceasing struggle of the workers to improve their condition at the expense of the capitalists, will make employment for profit more difficult both to get and to give; will, in fact, bring about deadlock and ruin in spite of occasional improvements in trade. But if the workers have learned to understand their position, which means if they have become determined to make

the best of the nature which they have so far conquered, in despite of artificial restrictions on labor for the benefit of a class, they need not fear the coming crisis. That very increase in the productivity of labor, which will ruin capitalism, will make Socialism possible, and it cannot be doubted that the progress of the cheapening of production will be quickened prodigiously in the very first days of the new social order, and we shall all find it easy enough to live a very few years after the time when we found it so difficult to make profits.

Nevertheless, it would be disingenuous if I seemed to try to create the impression that the abolition of monopoly—of the artificial restrictions on production—would be plain sailing, that it would come quite peacefully and without strenuous effort of various kinds. Things now going on do not encourage one to think that; hypocrisy where the movement seems weak in power or limited in aim, unscrupulous and relentless repression where it seems threatening and well instructed; no real signs of privilege yielding a jot without compulsion. And you must remember that all our law and government, from Parliament to a County Court, has now got to be just an elaborate defence of that very monopoly which it is our business to clear away, though they by no means began with that. True it is, that if the whole class of workers could be convinced on one day or in one year of the necessity of abolishing monopoly, it would pass away like the clouds of night. But the necessities of the miserable, and the aspirations of the intelligent, will outlast the slow process of gradual conversion, and the anti-monopolists will find themselves in a position in which they will be forced to try to get hold of the executive, in order to destroy it and thus metamorphose society, not in order to govern it and as they are now governed; in other words, they will have to sweep away all the artificial restrictions that stand in the way of free labor, and they will have to COMPEL this step by some means or other. Those who set before them this necessity will doubtless differ at present as to the means whereby this will be done; but they should at least agree, and will agree when the time comes for action, that any means that are means, and are not unhuman, are good to use.

I have, then, tried to point out to you that the producing or useful class are in an inferior position to the non-producing or useless class; that this is a reversal of the law of nature which bids all to labor in order to live. That this monstrosity is the necessary result of private persons being allowed to treat the matters that are necessary to the production of labor as their PROPERTY, and to abuse them by employing them as mere means of compulsion on the worker to pay tribute for leave to live. I have asked you to learn to agree with us Socialists in thinking it necessary to abolish this monopoly, and to combine together for its abolition and the reconstruction of society on the basis of the freedom of labor and the abolition of all privilege. I must add further, that no programme is worthy the acceptance of the working classes that stops short of the abolition of private property in the means of production. Any other programme is misleading and dishonest; it has two faces to it, one of which says to the workman, "This is Socialism or the beginning of it" (which it is not), and the other says to the capitalist, "This is sham Socialism; if you can get the workers, or part of them, to accept this, it will create a new lower middle class, a buffer, to push in between Privilege and Socialism, and save you, if only for a while."

But this true programme, which means the abolition of privilege, is enough, for it must and will lead directly to full Socialism. It will draw the teeth of the dragon of capitalism, and make a society of equality possible; a society in which, instead of living among enemies in a state of things where there is nothing but a kind of armed truce between all men, we shall live among friends and neighbors, with whom indeed our passions or folly may sometimes make us quarrel, but whose interests cannot really be dissociated from our own.

Indecency and Partiality.

At the last regular meeting of the Queens County Committee, S. L. P., held at Corona, L. I., Comrade Wenzel presiding, the following resolutions were offered by the delegate representing Section Wychoff Heights, and they were unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, We the here represented Sections of Queens County, find that in the discussion between the "Volkzeitung," "Vorwaerts" and THE PEOPLE indecency and partiality have been trumpeted into the dust recklessly by the Editor of THE PEOPLE; and

RESOLVED, That we condemn the Editor of THE PEOPLE for his unscientific and intolerable attacks upon the "Volkzeitung"; and

RESOLVED, That we also condemn the action of the National Executive Committee in regard to the aforesaid controversy, having shown a partial split, and, as such action is contrary to the independent and liberal ideas upon which our principles are based, we herewith request the National Executive Committee to make an end to this abominable controversy.

A fourth 5,000 edition of the pamphlet "What Means this Strike?" is now out. Its large sale is a gratifying sign of the times, and it is an evidence of the class of literature that is most useful and, consequently, best called for.

A second 5,000 edition of the pamphlet "Reform or Revolution" has also recently left the press.

NO DICTATORS NEEDED!

Shall the Party be Reduced to a Number of Idiots?

The subject of "The Differences Within Our Ranks" was discussed at a largely attended meeting of the Socialist organization of the 20th Assembly District, of Brooklyn; held at the Brooklyn Labor Lyceum on Friday, July 7. None but members in good standing were admitted. Comrade Scheppe was elected chairman and Comrade Frank Seubert was accorded the floor as first speaker. In a dispassionate matter-of-fact way he discussed several resolutions, recently adopted by the late General Committee of the New York Section, among which was one ordering candidates for members of the National Executive Committee to sign a declaration regarding their views upon the tactics of the Party. The speaker insisted that men, when joining the Party, they are required to pledge themselves, in writing, to always uphold the principles of the Socialist Labor Party, and by virtue of such pledge they become entitled to all rights and privileges of membership, including the eligibility to all offices within the gift of the Party. They, consequently, need no other certificate of eligibility. "In a Socialist organization," Comrade Seubert said, "I consider such a proceeding as that which was ordered by the General Committee as being contrary to the spirit and letter of our principles and constitution. It is worthy to be a member of our Party he is entitled to any office and his opinions in regard to tactics cannot debar him from any of the rights of membership. If we permit our committee and officers to continue in the direction they have been proceeding to, we shall soon be degraded to abject slavery and despotism. In the name of Socialism's Cause I protest against such arbitrary orders! It is a disgrace to enjoin members by special oaths and pledges, when they have already pledged themselves to uphold our principles when joining the Party."

Hereupon the speaker discussed the action by which the suspension of August Waldinger had been ordered for, as it is alleged, having "insulted" Daniel De Leon. Comrade Seubert declared emphatically that he always had been opposed to members insulting and slandering each other and, that he was always in favor of punishing members who saw fit to slander other members who are officers of the Party. But now, the General Committee has proclaimed the "theory" that "Whoever insults Daniel De Leon, insults the Party." "I read this several times," continued the speaker, "and I could not believe it. If it had been said that, whoever insults a comrade in the service of the Party should be punished for insulting the Party itself, it would have been all right. But, in the name of consistency, how can it be that by only insulting Daniel De Leon, the Party is to be considered 'insulted'? Why and wherefor is it, that the Party is not 'insulted' when some other comrade, or officer has been insulted?"

"It is impossible for me to arouse my enthusiasm for defending such resolution! If we should continue upon this road we shall soon arrive to a state of affairs when Daniel De Leon's hat will be placed upon a flag-pole for Party members to salute it, as the Swiss peasantry were compelled to salute the hat of Gessler, the Imperial Austrian dictator! It is our duty as Socialists to energetically oppose such arrogance. I am opposed to idols! The idea of Socialism, above everything else, is based upon the equality of human beings. I highly regard men working for the interests of our Party; but, my esteem for such men must needs emanate from my esteem and respect for their deeds, and not from mere orders of some committee."

The next subject considered by the speaker was the general vote of the Party called for by the National Executive Committee in regard to the severance of the contract made by the Socialistic Co-operative Publishing Association and the National Executive Committee for the publication of the Party's organs, THE PEOPLE and "Vorwaerts," by the first named party to the contract.

Proceeding in his argument, Comrade Seubert showed that the "Vorwaerts," when it no longer paid its expenses when published from the funds of the Party, it had been taken up by the "Volkzeitung," together with all of its debts and subscribers, reserving for the use of the National Executive Committee several columns of the weekly edition of the "Volkzeitung," adding to its title the title of the "Vorwaerts."

The founding of THE PEOPLE was likewise considered by the speaker, who proved that the "Volkzeitung" Association owned and published THE PEOPLE making great financial sacrifices for the paper, and then reserving for the use of the National Executive Committee five columns wherein to publish its official communications to the Party and also the correspondence from Sections and members. "National Secretary Kuh himself," said the speaker, "has acknowledged by a circular, issued by him, that the 'Volkzeitung' spent about \$12,000 for English papers, and now Mr. Vogt has asserted, at a meeting of the General Committee, that we are bent upon 'stealing' the Party's organs! What is there to 'steal'? Do we want to 'steal' our own weekly papers? But, we were willing to make them a present of our PEOPLE, and to the 'Vorwaerts' we were ready to donate its title!"

When discussing the deliberations

(Continued on page 3.)

THE PEOPLE.

Published at 184 William Street, New York EVERY SUNDAY.

TERMS TO SUBSCRIBERS. Invariably in advance:

one year \$0.50 six months \$0.30 single copies 5c

As far as possible, rejected communications will be returned if so desired and stamps are enclosed.

Entered as second-class matter at the New York, N. Y., Post office on April 6, 1891.



SOCIALIST VOTE IN THE UNITED STATES.

In 1888 (Presidential) 2,068 In 1890 13,331 In 1892 (Presidential) 21,157 In 1894 33,133 In 1896 (Presidential) 36,564 In 1898 82,204

Teach, preach and pray to all eternity in your schools and churches: It will avail you nothing until you have swept away this blind idol of Competition, this misuse of Capital in the hands of individuals. TRACTS.

A WARNING TO THE WORKING CLASS.

Let the reader turn from the striking picture, which we reproduce in another column, from the Berlin "Vorwaerts" and which, judging by its style, must come from the gifted pen of Liebknecht, let him turn after that, to our own country, to see how far it differs from the King-ridden countries of Europe, and what will be heard? From the West and the East, from the North and the South, the clanking of arms, the grinding of teeth. Everywhere hostile camps and combats raging with all the fury. Whence do they come? Have the Mongolian Filipinos invaded our country and threaten our existence and our liberties? Or, perchance, the "naughty Dons" have swooped down from across the Atlantic to avenge their recent defeats? Nothing of the kind! There is a war, no doubt, and a fierce one at that, fiercer than any that was waged by us with Spain or the Filipinos, but it is a CIVIL war, a CLASS war, fiercer and more terrific than a war with another nation for it will not cease until one of the parties surrenders. From the South comes the smothered cry of the lynched negro, the colored wage slave whose disfranchisement is but a prelude to that of the white worker. It is echoed by the groan of the coal miner in the North who is mercilessly shot down for daring to ask what is less than his due—a pittance for a living. They cry has pittance for a living. The cry has the West, where martial law has taken the place of civil order, and where justice is trampled under the heavy boot of General Merriam with no less a crushing force than under the whip of the Russian Cossack; the cry of indignation over the awful crime of the capitalist class in Idaho is still ringing in our ears, when we are treated to a new spectacle of bloodshed and class rule right here in the East, where the Brooklyn trolley strike is promising to revive before us the blood-curdling scenes of a few years ago. The capitalist Government is not trying to introduce in Congress a "penitentiary" law for workmen. Why should it? Has it not a subservient judiciary, willing to do its bidding and to send workmen not only to the penitentiary, but even to the gallows, whenever the people begin to move? But—shame to the working class of America! Had the American capitalists but conceived the idea of introducing such a bill in Congress, where would there be any Socialist Congressmen to defeat the dastardly design, as was done in Imperial Germany?

The political aspect in this country is just the opposite of that in Europe. There the Governments are losing their heads at the sight of popular retribution which like a flaming sword is constantly and ever more vividly brought before their eyes by the rising wave of the Socialist vote. Here, the capitalist Government, proud of its success in the work of befogging the minds of the workers and of subjugating them whenever they rise, its arrogance growing, its defiance of the people, and of the laws never so open and rampant. There the working people, conscious of their class and of the great and noble mission it has to fulfill, advancing steadily and irresistibly to the final goal improving its material conditions along with that, here the working class split up in hostile camps, confusion in its mind, wavering and hesitating, now advancing one step, now retreating several, losing ground and helpless before the onslaught of the class of its masters.

Workingmen of America, think of it before it is too late and at the next election we have, cast a vote for the SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY that will send a shiver down the backs of your exploiters!

Do it, before you have been deprived of your vote!

Keep an eye on your wrapper. See when your subscription expires. Renew in time. It will prevent interruption in the mailing of the paper and facilitate work at the office.

NOTES ON THE BROOKLYN TROLLEY STRIKE.

Will the present Brooklyn trolley strike at last teach a lesson to the American workingmen—the lesson of a class-conscious struggle? Will it bring them to their senses and make them perceive the utter necessity of a change of front in the conduct of the great and never-ceasing war of Labor against Capital? Will it make them understand that new times require new principles and tactics; that the old methods of fighting the ever-increasing tyranny of the capitalist class must give way to new ones, as clearly and indisputably laid down by scientific Socialism and as efficaciously tested in Europe? Let us hope so. We ardently wish not to be deceived this time in our hopes.

We Socialists do not need such lessons. We have passed this stage for years and years, and we know perfectly well "what we are at." The history of the Labor Movement was not a dead letter for us, and we have learned from it long ago, that the weapon of a purely economical struggle, as manifested by strikes and boycotts, however well organized and conducted, is worthless, unless vigorously supported by the INDEPENDENT POLITICAL ACTION of the working class; that this political action constitutes the chief element of the class struggle; that without this element every effort of the proletarians to better their condition must necessarily lead to delusion and failure; that the Old Trade Unionism, with its pure and simple, engendering and developing so much moral turpitude and political corruption, is doomed to disappear; and that it must give way to the New Trade Unionism, imbued with the principles of Socialism. The history of all the strikes during the last ten years is ample proof that the pure and simple methods are mere child's play.

Armed with the principles of scientific Socialism and with the incontestable facts from the history of the Labor Movement in all civilized countries, and profoundly convinced that they give the true solution of the present social problem, we have been constantly and fearlessly agitating among workmen of all races and nations the primordial necessity of organization not alone on Trade Union lines but of independent political action, as promulgated and successfully carried out by the Socialist Labor Party. And we will never fail to do so, until the capitalist system, the source of our slavery and of all social misfortunes, will be abolished, and Socialism will be victorious.

The workingmen must first of all be impressed with the fundamental truth that there is no harmony, no reconciliation possible, and there can be none, between the working and capitalist classes, that they stand as mortal enemies, and that they have to fight to the bitter end. And as soon as they will find this out, they will become an irresistible force and will be THE MASTERS in this country.

As to the "brotherly" feeling of the capitalists, read the following leader of the ultra-capitalist New York "Sun" on the Brooklyn trolley strike:

The police preparations night before last for the prevention of possible disorder in Brooklyn were conducted with energy and good judgment. The behavior of the police during the day accorded with the best traditions of the force. There was that absence of bluster or fussiness, that ready efficiency, and that quiet confidence in the policeman's ability to take care of the situation, on which New Yorkers have been accustomed to depend in the past on similar occasions.

The general recognition of these fine qualities on the part of the New York police constitutes in itself one of the most effective preservatives of order in this community.

It is a pleasure to recognize the fact anew, particularly at a time when severe criticism of police management and police morals, on other grounds, is rife and, alas! not unwarranted.

Not a word of sympathy for the strikers, for the slave of the trolley-magnates! Not a word about their just demands and about their sufferings! Only praises and thanks to the police, "on which New Yorkers (capitalists, naturally) have been accustomed to depend in the past on similar occasions"....

The English translation of Karl Marx' "Eighteenth Brumaire," that some time ago ran through THE PEOPLE, is now to be had bound in an elegant volume of 78 pages, with Marx' picture as frontispiece. No Socialist, even though he be no student, and no student, even though he be no Socialist, can afford to be without it. Apply Labor News Co., 147 E. 23d street, N. Y. City. Price, 25 cents.

Labor Songs.

The attention of the readers of THE PEOPLE is called to the following labor songs:

- 1.—"The Workingmen's Marseillaise," arranged by H. Mohr. 2.—"Down with Slavery," words selected from Shelley; music by Piaton Brounoff. 3.—"The Hand with the Hammer," by Peter E. Burrows; music by Piaton Brounoff. 4.—"On the first of May," by Elizabeth Serber; music by Piaton Brounoff. Price, 10 cents per copy. Send your orders to:

NEW YORK LABOR NEWS CO., 147 East 23rd street, New York City.

GRAINS OF SALT FOR THE REORGANIZATION DAYS.

By PETER E. BURROWS.

I withdrew from New York militant Socialism in May, 1898, only two years before the new century; which, I had so long hoped, would usher in the last of capitalism's criminal achievements, and the commencement of Socialism's opportunities. I left the movement a disappointed and speechless man. Speechless, because, being a Socialist, Gold had long ago closed to me the doors of utterance through the common press; and because THE PEOPLE had closed it to me and others who did not feel like passing THROUGH the Editor, who also happened at that time to be suffering from a contraction of the passages; and speechless because I had lost my faith in political Socialism as New Yorkly expressed and had found no New Yorkly

A misfortune is great only when it finds people unprepared for it and unfit to benefit by it. I believe the eruption just precipitated upon Socialists here by the volcanic egomaniacism, which had so long been spitting sparks from William street, does not find the manhood of the movement unprepared.

The letter of Morris Hillquit in this week's PEOPLE is a letter from that manhood. Whatever else may be the outcome of the struggle we ought to prize such a letter and place it among our epoch-making documents. It appears in your columns like a square meal after a windy famine; the first many thing, in fact, that has risen above a faintly whispered protest for a long time. May it be the beginning of the redemption of the Rights of Man in your columns.

Admitting evolution to be right and Karl Marx to be right, a Socialist may still, I think, be left free to opine whether evolution shall pass through Karl Marx or Karl Marx through evolution.

Under a despotism of final expression it is safer for any society of men to be intellectually all wrong than partly right. Thus, suppose Socialism should happen to be wrong, how could a band of Socialists who had confounded lockjaw with loyalty to truth ever find out their error or their way out of it.

In these days of reorganization let us remember that it is better to organize in the young green leaves of the future years than in the dry dead branches of the years that are past. Take Marx into Socialism by all means, and take Lassalle and De Leon into Socialism, but don't take Socialism into them.

Be not in too great a hurry to fix things up. Seek not to trot your complete organization out too soon. After the symptoms of last week it seems well to keep the pores open; a little more sweating may lead to a cleaner and thorough recovery.

Keep your ranks open, keep your doors open, extend the term for volunteers. There is a larger force of discontent behind the whip of the Dominie than you think of. I know that there are men who after discovering the right will remain in their wrong for such a length of time as seems to compare with their past activities. No man can, with dignity, go back at once upon himself. Socialists are honest, thoughtful men, hurry them not. Give them time to walk out with a good grace.

There are true words; to us unfamiliar, or familiar to us only in connection with thought or other words not true. To such words let us not oppose ourselves merely for our own understanding of them, but let us first try to find out what they mean to others and thus deal with them, such as religion, humanity, idealism, spirit, selfishness, etc. On the other hand, there are words which have become charged with certain truths to us—OUR OWN WORDS which outsiders do not take to kindly. Let us be more temperate in this our scientific terminology as well as in those exotic terms lately imported into our language, such as "fakir," "fraud," "crook," "rascal," etc. The unconverted world cannot be expected to know what a wealth of loving kindness may be in Editors' hearts while using this flowery speech of soft persuasion. Hot clinders, comfortably to sit before; but to sit upon—Oh!

Let the Editors of the coming days of Socialism be no longer masters, but servants. This can only be avoided by making THE PEOPLE and our press purely educational and for the whole of Socialism in and around the race, as well as for temporary political effort to change of environment and improve the conditions of the people through the ballot box, or by other national opportunities afforded in our respective countries. A Socialist may be a politician, but he should be a great deal more besides.

The truth is that life to up to date has been to poor humanity A BATTLE. And that battle is not with environment alone; it is chiefly with persons. We are fighting with the rich men who are behind our environments, they are behind their fortresses and their shields and they are slaying us. We must assail the environment, it is true, the fortress and the shield; but the live man is the actual fighting factor in both cases. Keeping this in mind, we save Socialism from becoming a thing of intellectual mechanics for vote grinding only.

If economic life is the sort of conflict just described—a struggle between personages mainly, it is evident that we must attach a great deal more importance, than we have been doing, to the men engaged on either side. Whatever sort of crop the men of Socialistic times may yield under their environment, we must fight with the mental weapons we have extorted from to-

day, and we should pick them carefully, and call him only a good Socialist who is a Socialist, plus whatever ideas we attach to "a good man." If Marx were believed in, by every inhabitant of any city, the citizens of that city would still have to choose their leaders.

When I say "good," here, I mean good for a given purpose. Two priests of Brooklyn a few years ago had what the boys call a "scrap" on the altar at mass time. They were good priests for everything else perhaps, only they were not just fit to be on one altar. The old parties get along without party organs. An organ of principles we should have, but not of the Party except it is organically edited under Committee surveillance.

For some time to come a danger of Socialism will be found in its heroes; its big minds, up to date, have been its chief sources of oppression and sometimes have themselves been its hindrance. More of the mediocrity and less of the aristocracy of the brain is what we now require.

The life struggle is between mere men on one side and more than men on the other. Wealth and the ownership and control of the more men's means of working, moving and living constitutes our adversaries, the capitalists, into something more than mere men. Property is in fact a spurious counterfeit of immortality or extension. It gives extension, permanence and fighting power to a man who has been dead half a century ago, and extends this more-than-mere-man force to those yet unborn. Against this the people—the mere men can offer a truer extension, that of living numbers, solidarity, mass consciousness; with these no counterfeits can contend.

I would suggest the increase of Socialist clubs. The best evidences of their usefulness will be found in the numbers of club Socialists that will be on the right side in this agitation. William street under the Bourbons did not take kindly to clubs; neither did anything that ever was under the Bourbons take kindly to clubs. Young fellows get together and talk and learn to feel that they have a separate existence as well as a class-consciousness which the organ man winds up once a week.

The old line is still true. "The proper study of mankind is man." Machinery, surplus value, etc., are all right, but they are subordinate to this study of man. Perhaps the late tornado of beer bottles and clenched fists may renew the interest of Socialists in the old and almost forgotten study of mankind.

THE CLASS WAR.

Things are quiet, very quiet just now in the Socialist and labor movement. We are in fact, passing through one of those periods of working class apathy which is always the precursor of a renewed outburst of activity. A deadly dullness pervades everything, even the existing political parties. No one cares anything about anything. But all the time the class war is steadily manifesting the antagonism between producers and exploiters, and between those who live by labor and those who live on labor. In every country the capitalist class are organizing and preparing to fight the hosts of labor whenever there is a possibility of bringing the organized workers to their knees. In this country there has been the engineers' lock-out. That the plasterers were successful is entirely due to the conditions of trade under which it was foolish for the masters to think of victory. They are not likely to repeat that blunder, but to choose a time more favorable for them when they next try conclusions with the unionists. At the present moment the Danish workers are face to face with an employers' combination such as they have never yet had against them. That combination is trying also to unite the employers of Scandinavia and North Germany in a federation against trade unionists. At Berlin the employers, strengthened by Kaiser William's anti-combination Bill—for the workers only, of course—are entering on a course of union smashing. Everywhere the employers—the people who own and control the means of production—are trying to make more absolute wage slaves than ever of the class which they prey upon with their profits. Against such a combination of the wealthy class, trade organization of the workers alone is almost powerless. The workers must awake to the fact that in the common ownership of the instruments of production lies their only hope of triumph in the great class struggle of to-day.—London "Justice."

Cotton Yarn.

Whirr go the wheels, Whirring all the day; They never stop for meals, They never ask for pay, They never want to play, Alack for the "Better Day"! We, their makers and slaves, Small comfort to win; Go whirled to our graves Mid their devilish din; And our hearts are very sore, Our bodies feel the dint—Flesh and blood's no more Than cheap cotton-print.

Whirr go the wheels, Whirring all the day; They never stop for meals, They never spin, spin away; And this is what they say:—"Who sighs for a better day? We cleric the throne Of Mammon the King, Blood, muscle and bone For tribute we bring; One system is rotten, Another's out of ken; The world WANTS cotton, And WHO WANTS MEN?" S. W. S.

Keep an eye on your wrapper. See when your subscription expires. Renew in time. It will prevent interruption in the mailing of the paper and facilitate work at the office.

A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF POLITICAL EUROPE.

[From the Berlin "Vorwaerts".]

Everyone who has a knowledge of history sufficient to be able to compare historical epochs one with another, will have to admit when he reads the papers, that there never had been another period of such general movement of men and of such uncertainty of conditions as now. Yes, we may confidently assert: never. For even at the time of the French Revolution, although the events may seem to have had a more dramatic aspect, the movement of men and nations was by far not as general as now. And since the present movement has struck deeper than at that time, it surely will not fall to compare well in point of dramatic "setting" also. In the meantime we may satisfy ourselves with such events as the breaking down of Spain's Colonial Empire, or the Famine Riots in Italy—events which surely do not lack dramatic interest. Next to the universality of the movement of our time, what distinguishes it mostly from all previous ones, is the lack of firm ground in the present State outlines on the European continent. For we must not speak here of England, which has its own line of development different from that on the continent.

Let us look around. Wherever our glance falls we see fermentation, upheaval-political crises, social disintegration. And with all the difference in the movements of the various countries there is a striking resemblance which points to the similarity and common source of the causes. A self-evident parallelism prevails in so far as events take simultaneously the same shape in different countries. Thus we observe, in spite of differences in other respects, a remarkable similarity for nearly a decade in Austria and Belgium.

In one as well as in the other country the working class demand political equality, the right of universal and equal suffrage, but the ruling cliques resist the demand and in the struggle between the government and the working class, the whole State is shaking and driven to dissolution and catastrophe. The shortsightedness of the Austrian statesmen, who can not or will not conceive that the modern labor movement and the world-embracing Socialism are the only salvation from dissolution which is threatened by the disintegrating influence of Nationalism, has made of Austria another Turkey,—a State approaching its downfall with rapid strides.

A still more evident parallel than that between Austria and Belgium may be drawn between the two Latin countries, Italy and Spain. In both of these countries complete Anarchy prevails, and it will be very difficult to decide in which of the two Anarchy has proceeded farther. Spain, a country blessed with all conceivable natural advantages, with a people extraordinarily endowed bodily, mentally, and morally, has been brought to the verge of ruin by a perverse system of government in a manner, that gave occasion to the English Philosopher Buckle as far back as the beginning of the sixties to write one of the best chapters of his great historical work. The aristocracy, the priests, and the colonies have blocked Spain's progress and brought to a standstill its political, spiritual and economic life; so that Spain, once mistress of the world, is no more counted among the civilized States.

The aristocracy, the priests, and the colonies—yes, that has been the State-destroying trinity to Spain. The ARISTOCRACY, because, despising work, it prevented the establishing of the State on the only durable and healthy basis of Labor; because it sought the glory and honor of the country in man-slaughtering battles and in the most poisonous of all poisonous varieties of wars, and did not permit the opening up of Spain's natural wealth. The PRIESTS, because they considered it the most important object of Church and State to keep the people in superstition and blind obedience; because they burnt at stake the ablest element of the people and condemned to spiritual death the country which gave us a Cervantes, a Calderon, a Vega, a Murillo, and a Velasquez. And finally the COLONIES, because their inexhaustible gold and silver mines lent their blinding splendor to the domination of the aristocracy and priesthood, and helped to conceal from the people its misfortune and misery until it was too late and the aristocracy and priests in brotherly union have succeeded in accomplishing their work of destruction of progress, of the people, and of the State.

Now Spain's colonial Empire is lying in ruins, its last remnants are sold to the highest bidder, but the lord and the priest still cover the land as a swarm of locusts, and the unfortunate people, enslaved, enfeebled and crippled centuries long have no more the power to get rid of the plague. Or is it not true? But where is the power for creative deeds, and not for mere wild outbreaks of despair which deaden but do not revive? In Italy, the unfortunate sisterland of Spain, we witness a disguised "coup d'Etat" after two famine revolutions. The government, at its wit's end, incapable of mastering the small Socialist-Republican parliamentary minority, is breaking law and constitution. The statesmanship of the ruling families—for classes there are none to speak of—is bankrupt, everything left to chance, to arbitrary rule, a real hand-to-mouth policy.

Nor is there anything but chaos in the third of the Latin States, France. The Republic in danger, the ruling class divided, the bourgeoisie no more capable to govern, the proletariat as yet incapable of that task, at any rate not prepared to govern.—the Republic in danger, and its "savior" a man who twenty-eight years ago caused tens of thousands of proletarians, the only hope of the Republic, to be shot down,—what confusion! What catastrophes the nearest future has in store for us! In Germany less of the tragical and the dramatic, but none the less of confusion: embarrassment, planlessness and vacillation. The government leaning upon the sword calls itself and lets itself be called "a STRONG govern-

ment," but, although it possesses the power of a child which has happened to get in its hands the lever of a locomotive and is therefore capable of causing untold harm, it is in reality the plaything of billows and winds and sails without a rudder in a zig-zag course. A more crushing-defeat than that suffered by it in the Penitentiary Bill) has never fallen to the lot of any Government and a similar defeat is being organized for it in the Prussian List. No plan, no purpose, no statesmanly thought. Has anyone discovered a leading thought in the speeches of the Government representatives? Who is it that has discovered ANY thought? And such Government remains in office and goes on "governing!"

To place the working class, which supports both State and society outside of the pale of the State as a class hostile to the State, and to recognize the aristocracy-clique,—which had destroyed so many States and has not found and maintained yet one,—as the State-supporting party; to fuddle it, care for it, strengthen it, and to subordinate everything to it that is the highest government maxim in its zig-zag course.

And this, the Zig-zag and Penitentiary course, has lived to see now its last ideal that still hovered before it as a lighthouse in the darkness of night, extinguished before its eyes. Russia, the rock-bottom of reaction, is no more the solid "ever fortified" point, which it seemed for a century to our reactionaries. It has been caught in the whirl of the modern movement, it has its Labor Movement, it has strikes. And the old Czar-system of government is bankrupt; in the richest zones with the best "black earth," zones greater than the whole of Germany, famine has been raging for years; famine and pestilence have practically destroyed all cattle, and there is no money in the State treasury, so that in order to fill it up again, the peace comedy in The Hague has to be played. The last anchor of hope of Reaction is eaten away with rust, rotten, and falling to pieces.

That is the spectacle presented by the States of the European continent. Symptoms of dissolution, of change, of death and of a regeneration, wherever we turn. And to forcibly prevent this new birth, to hinder it,—that is the Alpha and Omega of the statesmanship of the European continent.

The bill introduced by the Government had for its object the severe punishment of strikers and union men generally under the guise of "protection of the common laborer." It was overwhelmingly defeated, thus, the activity and agitation of our German comrades.

CONGRATULATIONS.

From the Other Side of the River.

The refreshing breeze which, proceeding from Section Greater New York, S. L. P., blew through the laboratory arrangements, thoroughly disinfecting the same, on Monday evening last, will surely stir up the energy and courage of the members of the comrade in this country to gladly assisting the newly elected Party officers in spreading the gospel of International Socialism. All hail!

SEVERAL COMRADES. Long Island City.

A Voice from Massachusetts.

To the Editor of THE PEOPLE.—Congratulations to the new Party officers. We need some extra copies for dissemination among our Local Unions. Send us 100 or more with bill for same. Yours for Socialism.

H. M. EATON, "One of the Fakirs." Boston, Mass., July 14, 1899.

How Was it Done?

Editor of THE PEOPLE.—How was it done? It seems as if a miracle has been performed? The old comrades will now look back, and we will be once more a united and happy party, knowing neither race, color, nor creed. Forward with the good work and let us now unite in one "twice and thrice" party so that we may be prepared for the great conflict of the coming Presidential campaign. Yours Fraternally.

ROBERT J. VICTOR. Arlington, N. J., July 14, 1899.

Wishing Success.

Editor of THE PEOPLE.—My God! the impossible has happened! I opened your paper for July 14 and found that De Leon & Co. had been elected to the Party. I was in dense ignorance supposing that THE PEOPLE represented the majority of the Party. While I was reading the paper, I was slapped in the face every week; finally, utterly disgusted with the interminable slangy scribbling, which I had read for so long, I knew that I had been deceived. I know no one else that filled the columns of THE PEOPLE. I read it only to sneer at its brainless, suicidal, dog-in-the-manger policy. I know only by name—don't even know what organization he belongs to—yet the abuse showered on him by the Editor of THE PEOPLE, was so friendly towards him. So in regard to Debs, Hardie, and many others, I noticed some hatred against big capitalists, more against members of the middle class, but wage earners who would not obey the lash of De Leon & Co. received the most of our abuse. I believe in Socialism and I heartily wish success to THE PEOPLE in preaching this good gospel under a decent commonsense management. JAMES W. FITCH. Uncasville, Conn., July 15, 1899.

"More Tolerant and Yet Stricter."

Editor of THE PEOPLE.—Have just received THE PEOPLE of July 19, and I am much astonished, and somewhat surprised at the sudden and complete overthrow of the petty but intense despotic hierarchy of the "control" party. I believe it is chiefly owing to some years past, and its chief organ for some years past. This is certainly the only way to arrest the disintegrating influence of the "control" party. Our Order, "Peers of Kosmos," is a secret school for the teaching of radical reforms, and has been in existence for 23 years. And Socialism comes "as natural to it as ducks to water," and for many years we demand the adoption of genuine Socialist principles by our members. No Army holders nor Single Tax Anarchists are permitted to become members. We have trained from the ranks of the S. L. P. Sections chiefly to keep out of De Leon's jaws. We have started the S. L. P. vote here and increased it manifold and distributed an immense amount of Socialist and radical literature in this and other vicinities through the instrumentality of our "Sections" and "Clusters." The percentage of increase being in excess of nearly all other places, and yet it did not cost us a cent. We formed and it ridiculed our "Cluster" business, and endeavored to belittle our efforts for the Party. Instead of this, we have shown that we had no earthly chance for anything as not being organized more and more. We could not put up nominees and satisfy our ambitious members, thus our work was real love and self-abnegation. Hence we cannot help feeling glad at the overthrow of the "control" party. Please send me some extra copies to distribute the glad news among our boys. Mail quick. We trust you will be more tolerant and yet strict enough to denounce that fool-wickedness termed "Single Taxism" and "Army Socialism." Hell should receive militarism, and pulpit slavery ain't much better. Yours in haste,

Pottstown, Pa., July 14, 1899.

The receipt of a sample copy of this paper is an invitation to subscribe.

OFFICIAL.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE—Secretary: Henry Slobodin, 184 William street, New York.

NATIONAL BOARD OF APPEALS—Secretary: Robert Handlow, 133 Champlain street, Cleveland, O.

SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY OF CANADA—National Executive Committee—Secretary: George Moore, 61 Ryde street, Montreal.

NEW YORK LABOR NEWS COMPANY—147 East 23rd street, New York City. (The party's literary agency.)

NOTICE.—For technical reasons, no party announcements can go in that are not in this office by Tuesday, 10 p. m.

National Executive Committee.

A meeting of the newly elected National Executive Committee, S. L. P., took place at its office in No. 184 William street, New York City, on Wednesday evening, July 12, Comrade William Fahl presiding. Resolutions were adopted instructing the National Secretary to publish and collect for voluntary contributions to assist in the temporary work of the Committee.

It was further resolved to replace the office furniture which had been taken away by the suspended national officers, and partly destroyed by their followers. The Secretary was also directed to have the seal replaced which had been taken; furthermore due stamps were ordered printed.

In regard to the matter of Comrade Stahl it was resolved to furnish the Sections with a statement of affairs in this matter explaining the reasons for which it was proposed to withdraw Comrade Stahl as a member of the National Executive Committee.

The resolution adopted by the suspended members of the National Executive Committee to discontinue its relations with the "Volkszeitung" was reconsidered in view of the fact that it had been passed in violation of the Party's constitution.

The action by the Board of Directors of the Party in discharging the Editors of "THE PEOPLE" and "Vorwaerts," Daniel De Leon and Hugo Vogt, for incapability and breach of trust in accordance with Art. 8, Sec. 4, of the constitution, was endorsed. It was also decided to refer with the Board of Directors in regard to appointing new Editors. The Secretary was also instructed to communicate with proposed candidates for the Editorship of the Party's organs.

The meeting was adjourned to Saturday, July 15, at 8 p. m.

A special meeting of the National Executive Committee was held on July 15. Comrade Stahl presided. All members were present. A communication from the Board of Directors, S. L. P., was referred to the General Committee of that Section.

A resolution adopted by the Cincinnati protesting against the methods employed by Comrade Root in reorganizing said Section was received in New York. It was instructed to call upon Root to report.

An application for a charter was received from Columbus, Ga. The Secretary was instructed to call upon the organizers who have been sent by the S. L. P. on a tour of propaganda to report to the Committee. It was also decided to have the manager of the Labor Lyceum to engage one or more watchmen in order to prevent further attempts by the deposed officers to get possession of the Party headquarters.

It was further resolved that the Secretary be instructed to subpoena the deposed officers of all Sections contained within the territory of Greater New York the action of the Board of Directors of the National Executive Committee at its meeting of July 13, such general vote to be taken as a preliminary step to submitting the said action to a general vote of the Party.

Income, \$136.06; expenses, \$9.56.

EMIL KIBINER, Jr., Recording Secretary.

City Executive Committee, Section New York.

The City Executive Committee of Section New York, S. L. P., met on Thursday, July 13, at 64 East 4th street; Comrade Emil Kibiner in the chair. Comrade Kibiner presided. The agenda for the meeting was as follows: It was resolved to issue a manifesto to the members of the Party in relation to the recent occurrence in Section New York. The 14th Assembly District reported having been reorganized with 21 old and 3 new members, and that \$1.15 had been collected for the National Executive Committee. The Secretary was instructed to request the suspended officers to turn over to him all of the Party property in their possession; also to request the secretaries of the different Assembly Districts to furnish him with the names and addresses of all persons who assisted in organizing fake branches for the purpose of preferring charges against the Party's organs. The Secretary was also instructed to request the National Executive Committee and \$5 for the City Executive Committee.

Organizer Julius Gerber will be at his office, the New York Labor Lyceum, every day, from 12 at noon to 2 p. m. and from 5 to 7 p. m.

To All Members of the S. L. P. in Greater New York.

Comrades—All correspondence intended for the Party—Organizer, elected by the new General Committee, should be addressed as follows:

JULIUS GERBER (Personal), 64 East Fourth street, New York City.

The word "personal" will prevent correspondence intended for the regularly elected Organizer from being delivered to anybody who might be personally the Organizer without being authorized to act in such capacity.

JULIUS GERBER, Organizer of Section New York.

Assistant Organizers Wanted.

All comrades willing to assist in the great struggle for spreading the principles of Socialism, and extending the organization of the S. L. P. in this city, are hereby requested to notify the undersigned.

JULIUS GERBER, Organizer of Section New York, 64 East 4th street.

Socialistic Co-operative Publishing Association.

At the New York Labor Lyceum a largely attended meeting of the "Volkszeitung" Publishing Association was held last Monday, July 17, when, after some discussion, the following resolutions were adopted by a vote of 65 against none:

WHEREAS, The Socialistic Co-operative Publishing Association has on the 21st day of June, 1899, adopted a resolution by which it decided to terminate its agreement with the Socialist Labor Party in reference to the publication of "THE PEOPLE" and "Vorwaerts," and to relinquish the right of using the title "Vorwaerts" for our weekly edition, in favor of the S. L. P. and to turn over "THE PEOPLE" to the Party, after having, previously, regulated the financial and formal matters, through the Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors of the S. L. P. A. acting upon said resolution, has offered to the National Executive Committee of the S. L. P. to terminate the said agreement and to turn over the name, title and title to the Party, and the National Executive Committee has rejected the said offer; and

WHEREAS, The recent developments within the Party make it appear desirable and for the best interests of the Socialistic Movement in this country that our Association continue the publication of the said papers; be it

RESOLVED, That the said resolution of June 21, 1899, be and the same hereby is re-considered and in all parts rescinded and revoked; and be it further

RESOLVED, That until further decisions the S. L. P. A. continue the publication of the said papers in conjunction with the newly on July 10 temporary elected National Executive Committee of the Party.

13th and 14th Assembly District Branch 2, Brooklyn (English).

Special meeting held on Friday, July 14, when the following officers were elected to serve for the following term of six months: Organizer, J. B. Clayton; Recording Secretary, Otto Lyding; Financial Secretary, Fred Clayton; Treasurer, J. Herman; Editor, Otto Bisang, J. B. Clayton. Agitation Committee: J. Herman, O. Bisang, W. Stamer, O. Lyding, J. B. Clayton.

hearing and upon a one-sided presentation of the facts, all of which is unjust, iniquitous and at variance with the high spirit of honor that should characterize the acts and decisions of the Party Editors and the N. E. C. and

VOICE OF SECTION PHILA.

Stified, as Usually, by the Deposed National Executive Committee.

In the last issue of THE PEOPLE a communication was published explaining what happened lately in Section Philadelphia. The resolutions of that Section having been passed by it before the old National Executive was deposed, were naturally sent to the latter with a request to publish them in THE PEOPLE. What did that body do when it received the expression of opinion of an important and bona fide organization in the Party? Did it publish it instead of an editorial as it did in the case of resolutions smuggled through several State Committees which usually consist of about seven men? Or did it at least publish it in small type among correspondences?

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WHEREAS, The exploitation of private correspondence on the part of Comrade Hugo Vogt, and greatly regrets that the best interests of the Party by a member who has faithfully served the Party uninterruptedly during a period of 20 years (and in this matter proved that he set aside his personal opinion in the cause of the proscription, and as an official voted to enforce a just and necessary law of the Party); is, on the part of Comrade Hugo Vogt, treachery and deceit, which happily has never before been practiced except by eavesdroppers, talebearers and police spies in the interests of fanaticism, despotism and tyranny. Therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Section Philadelphia enters its solemn protest against the dishonest espionage and public exploitation of private letters on the part of Comrade Hugo Vogt, and greatly regrets that the National Executive Committee should so far forget the dignity becoming its high function to utilize the results of an informant to denounce a comrade before a hearing and trial; and

RESOLVED, That we hereby urge upon the National Executive Committee the necessity and wisdom, as well as the justice, of guarding the unbroken integrity and honor of the Party organs with at least half the vigilance and jealous care that they have now started to exercise over the private letters of comrades and ceased to imitate the military censorship (recently condemned by THE PEOPLE as practiced by General Otis under the grace of McKinleyism in the Philippine Islands).

Respectfully submitted, after adoption, by SECTION PHILADELPHIA.

How to Organize Sections.

All persons dissatisfied with present political and economic conditions, and who believe that the land, water works, gas works, telephone, and telegraph lines, the commercial highways on land and sea, with all their appurtenances and equipments; all the mills, mines, factories, machinery, means of production and agencies of distribution, created by the efforts of the laboring class through all the centuries of the past, ought of right to be nationalized, and operated for the benefit of collective humanity, and who are convinced that the disinherited producing class can and must transform the capitalist methods of production and distribution into a social and co-operative system, are hereby invited to identify themselves with the Socialist Labor Party, which alone goes to the root of our social and economic evils.

1. Any ten persons may organize themselves into a Section provided they accept the platform and constitution of the S. L. P. and sever their connection, absolutely, with all other political parties.

2. OFFICERS TO ELECT.

1.—Organizer.

2.—Recording and Corresponding Secretary.

3.—Financial Secretary.

4.—Treasurer.

5.—Literary Agent.

6.—Chairman, each meeting.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1.—Reading of minutes.

2.—New members.

3.—Correspondence.

4.—Financial Report.

5.—Report of Organizer.

6.—Report of Committees.

7.—Unfinished Business.

8.—New Business.

9.—There shall be no initiation fee charged. Amount of monthly dues is fixed by each Section. A monthly remittance of ten cents per member shall be made to the National Executive Committee.

10. A full report of the first meeting, including a list of members, with inclosure of 10 cents per capita is necessary to obtain a charter.

11. Per capita checks are furnished by the National Executive Committee at 10 cents each; such checks are pasted in monthly column on the membership card, and charged to members at such excess rate as will cover the amount of dues fixed by the Section.

12. Each Section shall hold a regular business meeting at least once a month, and semi-monthly meetings for public discussion or lectures on political or economic questions.

13. Quarterly reports of the numerical strength and financial standing of members, party progress and prospects, shall be promptly sent to the National Executive Committee.

14. Any person residing in a city or town where no section of the party exists may make direct application to the National Secretary, inclosing one month's dues, and will thus be enrolled as member at large.

For pamphlets, leaflets, platforms and other information, address the National Secretary.

HENRY SLOBODIN, 184 William street, New York City.

LABOR NEWS COMPANY,

147 East 23rd Street, N. Y. (Store open from 8 a. m. to 8 p. m.; Saturdays, to 9 p. m.)

Table with 2 columns: Title and Price. Includes items like 'The Communist Manifesto', 'Marx's Theory of Value', 'The Social Question', etc.

SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

PLATFORM.

The Socialist Labor party of the United States, in Convention assembled, re-affirms the inalienable right of all men to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

With the founders of the American republic we hold that the purpose of government is to secure every citizen in the enjoyment of this right; but in the light of our social conditions we hold, furthermore, that no such right can be exercised under a system of economic inequality, essentially destructive of life, of liberty and of happiness.

With the founders of this republic we hold that the true theory of politics is that the machinery of government must be owned and controlled by the whole people; but in the light of our industrial development we hold, furthermore, that the true theory of economics is that the machinery of production must likewise belong to the people in common.

To the obvious fact that our despotic system of economics is the direct opposite of our democratic system of politics, can plainly be traced the existence of a privileged class, the corruption of government by that class, the alienation of public property, public franchises and public functions to that class, and the abject dependence of the mightiest of nations upon that class.

Again, through the perversion of democracy to the ends of plutocracy, labor is robbed of the wealth which it alone produces, is denied the means of self-employment, and, by compulsory idleness in wage slavery, is even deprived of the necessities of life.

Human power and natural forces are thus wasted, that the plutocracy may rule.

Ignorance and misery, with all their concomitant evils, are perpetuated, that the people may be kept in bondage.

Science and invention are diverted from their humane purpose to the enslavement of women and children.

Against such a system the Socialist Labor party once more enters its protest. Once more it reiterates its fundamental declaration that private property in the natural sources of production and in the instruments of labor is the obvious cause of all economic servitude and political dependence.

The time is fast coming, however, when in the natural course of social evolution, this system, through the destructive action of its failures and crises on the one hand, and the constructive tendencies of its trusts and other capitalistic combinations on the other hand, shall have worked out its own downfall.

We, therefore, call upon the wage workers of the United States, and upon all other honest citizens, to organize under the banner of the Socialist Labor Party into a class-conscious body, aware of its rights and determined to conquer them by taking possession of the public powers; so that, held together by an indomitable spirit of solidarity under the most trying conditions of the present class struggle, we may put a summary end to that barbarous struggle by the abolition of classes, the restoration of the land and of all the means of production, transportation and distribution to the people as a collective body, and the substitution of the Co-operative Commonwealth for the present state of lawless production, industrial war and social disorder; a commonwealth in which every worker shall have the free exercise and full benefit of his faculties, multiplied by all the modern factors of civilization.

RESOLUTIONS.

With a view to immediate improvement in the condition of labor we present the following demands:

1. Reduction in the hours of labor in proportion to the progress of production.

2. The United States to obtain possession of the mines, railroads, canals, telegraphs, telephones and all other means of public transportation and communication; the employees to operate the same co-operatively under control of the Federal Government and to elect their own superior officers, but no employee shall be discharged for political reasons.

3. The municipalities to obtain possession of the local railroads, ferries, water works, gas works, electric plants and all industries requiring municipal franchises; the employees to operate the same co-operatively under control of the municipal administration and to elect their own superior officers, but no employee shall be discharged for political reasons.

4. The public lands to be declared inalienable, Revocation of all land grants to corporations or individuals, the conditions of which have not been complied with.

5. The United States to have the exclusive right to issue money.

6. Congressional legislation providing for the scientific management of forests and waterways, and prohibiting the waste of the natural resources of the country.

7. Inventions to be free to all; the inventors to be remunerated by the nation.

8. Progressive income tax and tax on inheritances; the smaller incomes to be exempt.

9. School education of all children under fourteen years of age to be compulsory, gratuitous and accessible to all by public assistance in meals, clothing, books, etc., where necessary.

10. Repeal of all pauper, tramp, conspiracy and sumptuary laws. Unabridged right of combination.

11. Prohibition of the employment of children of school age and the employment of female labor in occupations detrimental to health or morality. Abolition of the convict labor contract system.

12. Employment of the unemployed by the public authorities (county, city, state and nation).

13. All wages to be paid in lawful money of the United States. Equalization of woman's wages with those of men where equal service is performed.

14. Laws for the protection of life and limb in all occupations, and an efficient employers' liability law.

15. The people to have the right to propose laws and to vote upon all measures of importance, according to the referendum principle.

16. Abolition of the veto power of the Executive (national, state and municipal), wherever it exists.

17. Abolition of the United States Senate and all upper legislative chambers.

18. Municipal self-government.

19. Direct vote and secret ballots in all elections. Universal and equal right of suffrage without regard to color, creed or sex. Election days to be legal holidays. The principle of proportional representation to be introduced.

20. All public officers to be subject to recall by their respective constituencies.

21. Uniform civil and criminal law throughout the United States. Administration of justice to be free of charge. Abolition of capital punishment.