

# MISSOURI SOCIALIST.

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF ST. LOUIS.

Volume I.

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Number 13.

## HOW WILL JOHN VOTE.

### His Old Friend Tom Toil Urges Him to Stand by His Class.

#### Parker, Meriwether and Wells Represent the Capitalist Class.

Dear John: As the time draws near when you will have another opportunity to vote for or against the interests of your own class, I desire to say a few words to you upon the subject.

In my last letter I showed how the people are divided into two classes, the capitalists, who own the means of production, land, factories, etc., and the workingmen who own no tools and are compelled to sell their labor to the capitalists for enough to sustain their lives. The interests of these two classes, John, are antagonistic. It is to the interest of the capitalist to give the worker as little as possible for his labor and to keep him in his present state of wage slavery. It is to the interest of the worker to get as much as possible for his labor and to throw off the yoke of wage slavery entirely—that is, to abolish capitalism, the private ownership of industries, and substitute Socialism, the public ownership of all industries. It is a fight to the finish between these two classes and the working class is destined to be victorious because it is in line with progress that it should. Now, John, there is as much honor and glory in standing by your class, the working class, the oppressed and disinherited toilers of the world, as there is in standing by your country, and I want you to take such a stand. I want you to be "class conscious." By that I mean that you must realize that you are a member of the working class and that your interests can best be advanced by furthering the interests of the whole working class to which you belong.

If your fellow workingmen are working for one dollar a day you can rest assured that, unless some special circumstances intervene to save you from the fate that the rest of your class have met with, you also will soon be working for a dollar a day. Why? Simply because some other fellow will offer to take your place at that wage and you will have to come down to the same scale in order to hold your job. So you see there is very little chance of you, in particular, rising above your class and absolutely no way by which any considerable portion of that class can increase their wages, except by a united attack on the employing class for the purpose of securing a larger share of the results of their labor.

Now, if you have realized that your interests are bound up in the interests of the working class, and that these interests conflict with the interests of the employing class, we will proceed to review the local political situation.

Let us begin with Mr. Parker, the Republican candidate for Mayor. In the first place, have we received any intimation that Mr. Parker is conscious of the wrongs being suffered by the working class, or if he is conscious of them, that he is desirous of removing them? If we will examine his platform we will find that he either has not the slightest conception of the struggle between the workers and their masters, or that, knowing the trouble we are carefully concealing it for fear the workingmen will rise in their might and enforce their rights.

In the first plank of the platform he declares that he is a Republican, and that if elected he will "administer municipal affairs on the same broad and progressive basis that has always characterized the conduct of national affairs by his party." This reminds us that one of the things that characterized his party nationally was the sending of United States troops to Idaho to brutally corral workingmen in a pen like a drove of mules. Another thing characterizing his party nationally is four years of legislation for the employing class and not one minute's legislation for the benefit of the working class.

Planks two and three are concerning the appointment of honest officials, a matter which concerns the workingman not at all when those officials represent his masters. Plank four promises that he will endeavor to increase the efficiency of the police force. Workingmen would be more interested in knowing whether he would keep the police from shooting them down in the case of a strike. As Mr. Parker has said nothing about this matter, it is fair to presume that he is well satisfied with the action of the present Mayor, who maintained a cowardly silence during the street car strike and also with the action of the Police Board in sending mounted brutes to ride over and saber innocent men, women and children in South St. Louis.

Of all the planks in his platform, only one touches upon the laboring man, and that is a glittering generality concerning arbitration. I trust, John, that you can see at a glance that Mr. Parker and his party are not for the working class.

As to the Democratic nominee Mr.

Holla Wells, I cannot see how any argument is needed to convince you that he represents the business men, the employing class. That fact is publicly proclaimed by the Democratic orators and the Democratic press. He was nominated as a "business man" because he would represent business interests. He does not even pretend to represent the working class. He only says, "I always treated my employees well." Inasmuch as he openly admitted that he scabbed during a street car strike in 1881, it is hardly necessary to say more about the impropriety of a good union man like yourself voting for the Democratic nominee.

We now come to the nominee of the Public Ownership party, Mr. Lee Meriwether, concerning whom I had something to say in my last letter. I know you were thinking of voting for Mr. Meriwether, because you have a leaning towards Socialism and thought that his election would be a step in that direction. You thought the Municipal Ownership of street railways would serve as an illustration; that it would show the people how beautifully public ownership works and that they would then tumble all over themselves to get public ownership of all other industries. But they would not, John, I assure you. They would not tumble. You have to show them that some one is riding on their backs before they will tumble. It is not illustrations we need, but organization—organization of the working class into a political party of their own for the purpose of securing control of the government. We have had public ownership of the post office for many years, yet the people have not made a grand rush for Socialism. Many European cities have municipal ownership; yet the Socialist movement has received no impetus from that fact. No, John, you are on the wrong track.

Meriwether is opposed to Socialism. Did you know that? He says so. Furthermore, his platform declares in favor of private corporations. Are you going to vote for a man who is opposed to the very thing you want? How many hundred steps of that kind would you have to take to get Socialism?

Meriwether ignores the fact that there are classes in this city, and says that he wants to be Mayor for all the people, which is impossible, as he can not serve both the oppressed and their oppressors.

Meriwether talks of reducing gas bills to one dollar a month when he knows that very few workingmen use gas in their homes.

Meriwether talks of had street car fares and says nothing about the conditions in the factories of St. Louis. He talks of public swimming baths for children that wear their lives out in workshops and factories and have no time to go swimming.

He talks of reducing taxes to workingmen, but says nothing about their being exploited by the owners of the means of production.

He talks of reducing rent, which would only make living cheaper, and, according to the laws of competition, reduce wages accordingly.

He calls trade unions educational organizations, and bases indorsement of trades unionism on that fact. Is he afraid to indorse the economic feature of trade unions?

He wants to reduce street car fares to three cents. How long would it take a man who is robbed of five dollars of what his labor produces every day to get rich by saving four cents a day on carfare.

John, next Tuesday you will have an opportunity to vote for a political party organized solely in the interests of your own class. I hope that you will not be caught by any such movement as the Meriwether party. If Socialists were to stop and hurrah every time some would-be officeholder jumped to the front and said, "I am it!" how do you suppose the Socialist movement would ever make any progress.

It is only by sticking closely to the uncompromising programme that we have mapped out before us that we can hope to ever accomplish the emancipation of the wage slaves of this world. Be a man, John, and enroll your name as a Socialist on Tuesday, April 2nd, by casting your vote for Leon Greenbaum, and the whole Social Democratic ticket. TOM TOIL.

### Special Meeting.

(1) Socialists are requested to attend a meeting of the friends of Missouri Socialist, Wednesday evening, April 2d, 8 p. m., at Wendell Hall, Ninth and Market streets. The object of the meeting is to discuss ways and means to increase our circulation.

## Lipscomb Accepts.

Liberal, Mo., March 24, 1901.—Wm. J. Hager, State Secretary of Social Democratic Party.

Dear Comrade:—Yours of the 5th inst. at hand notifying me of my selection as the member of the National Council from Missouri of the Social Democratic party.

I appreciate this honor bestowed upon me by my comrades. I also deeply feel the importance of the position conferred upon me and accept it with a determination to use my utmost effort to bring all class conscious Socialists together in one united army to march straight to the emancipation of the working class.

I feel at this time that our movement is in a critical condition for several reasons. Our party is growing very rapidly and many new members coming in are apt to be over anxious for growth and liable to make mistakes by leaning to the middle class ideas of the reactionary parties and be led off in places by "municipal ownership" movements or quick "short cuts." While on the other hand we who have been in the harness for some years are apt to become over wise and assume that we must act as guardians rather than representatives of the party. There is a path that seems to me to be safe and that is to bend our utmost efforts toward the upbuilding of the solidarity of the working class on pure Socialist lines and avoid all personal references. My purpose is to live up to the revolutionary programme of Socialism and be true to my own convictions of justice. Fraternally, CALEB LIPSCOMB.

## WHY THEY DON'T LIKE IT.

### Reasons Why So-Called "Refined and Cultured People" Oppose Socialism.

It is sometimes given as an argument against Socialism that the most refined and cultured people are against it. But a moment's reflection will show why this is the case. Refinement and culture are the result, in great part, of early training such as is given to the children of well-to-do people. Now, Socialism is the movement of the working people to do away with class privileges and to establish equality, so that in the next generation all will be refined and cultured. Now, this Socialist movement is, of course, resisted by those whose special privileges are threatened, and most of our refined and cultured people who have given the subject no special study imagine that they belong to the privileged class, and therefore oppose Socialism.

But something is happening meanwhile that they will soon realize. The immense consolidations of railroads and factories that are going on at this moment faster than ever before are resulting in putting these refined and cultured people on the same wage level as ordinary laborers. In France, Germany and Belgium this process has gone farther than in America, and there the brightest young men and women of university education are standing side by side with manual laborers in the struggle for social justice. The same causes are fast bringing about the same effects here.

One more thought. What is real refinement? An absolutely brutal person can doubtless find happiness in abusing helpless people, who are in his power, and seeing them suffer. One who is somewhat more refined would feel pain and not pleasure in doing that, but would still find pleasure in living on wealth that was stolen from course, I mean legally stolen from the people who had earned it, while they were suffering for the lack of things needed to make their lives worth living. But it seems to me that no one can in the highest sense be called refined unless he has brains to see that real happiness is possible for him only by doing all in his power to make happiness possible for others.

However, I may be entirely mistaken in my idea of refinement. CHARLES H. KERF.

The Joint Advisory Board of the Tobacco Workers' Union will give a reception and ball at Lem's Park Hall, 13th and Utah streets, Saturday evening, March 30th. Tickets twenty-five cents.

## WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Pat Flynn had sixty-seven hats, And wanted sixty more; It was an odd, strange whim o' Pat's, For only one he wore; But he would toil by night or day To get a hat to lay away.

'Twas "Hats" the first thing in the morn, And "Hats" at noon and night; The neighbors laughed the man to scorn, And said it was but right To send such crazy cranks as he To spend their days as Kankakee.

A million dollars Peter Doyle Had laid away in store, Yet late and early did he toil To get a million more; He could not use the half he had, And yet he wanted "more," he said.

His neighbors praise him to the skies, Wherever he may go; They call him great and good and wise, In these such differences as that Between a dollar and a hat? Indianapolis Journal.

## THE LABORER OF TO-MORROW.

### Collective Use of Machines Necessitates Collective Ownership.

BY A. M. SIMONS.

When the capitalist class first began to rule they really organized and directed industry. The owners of the great factories were the ones who gathered the laborers together and drilled them in working co-operatively. These owners competed with each other to find new and improved methods of production and aided greatly in the advance of industry. But in so doing they were not acting as CAPITALISTS but as LABORERS. The fact that sometimes the same men did the work of both classes did not do away with the fact of separate classes or with the fact that the capitalist was, as such, doing no useful work.

Little by little the smaller firms were forced to go out of business because the larger ones could produce cheaper. The income from these great plants was so large that the owners no longer needed to act as their own overseers and superintendents. So they chose from among the laborers the brightest and sharpest men and set them to work to control and organize their fellow workers.

Then the corporation came in. The stockholders in a corporation do not need to know anything about the business in which they hold shares and never have anything to say about its actual management save indirectly and at long intervals, and only then if they have a majority of the shares.

Then the trust comes and its stockholders often do not even know where the plants are located in which their wealth is produced, and not infrequently they are paid on condition that some mill stands idle.

The capitalist class have become a class of owners pure and simple. They have nothing to do with the production of goods. But they still take nearly all the product created by the laborer. They can do this because of the laws which have been enacted which laborers into making for them.

There are signs that the laborers are beginning to think about changing these laws. They have long been trained to think that things must be right as they are and that change would be wrong or impossible. But every day that passes is showing them that this position is not correct. Their very work is making them think.

When the machines were first used the laborers were an ignorant mob, who had not yet learned to work together. But their work was teaching them to act together. Their sufferings soon taught them to rebel together.

At first they joined in trades unions and for a long time there was a hard fight to get the right to have such unions. The capitalists did all they could to stop them and imprisoned and tortured those who dared to quit in their own interest. But by taking advantage of the fight which was still kept up between the old landlords and the capitalists the laborers at last got the right to organize.

Then they were able to struggle as a body for the wages the capitalists should pay them. In this way the few laborers who were inside the unions were able to get a little better terms. Although, at no time were there more than a very small percentage of all the workers able to get into the unions, still it was there that they learned how to fight as they worked, unitedly. Here the first beginning of the great lesson was taught them that the great body of producing workers had different interests from the small, powerful body of owning capitalists.

As more and more perfect machines were made there became less differences between trades. The shoemaker, the weaver, the blacksmith, ceased to exist as tradesmen and all became machine-tenders. Men could easily go from one trade to another, and unskilled men and even women and children could work at many trades. So it became harder for the union to protect its membership and keep their wages up.

But the trust has brought in other changes that are still harder to guard against. The reason why strikes could be won was that the employer struck against always feared that his competitors would get his trade if his mill stood idle. But with the trust there are no competitors, and if the employees strike the public must wait for the product until they are ready to go to work again. Finally unless the strike is universal it can shift its work around among its different plants and run one while the other is idle until the workers are forced to submit. The Standard Oil and the Tobacco and Steel trusts have recently given some examples of these very principles.

All this forces us to the conclusion that something different from the trade union must be employed if we will fight the battles of the whole laboring class. For the trade divisions the union will always prove the best weapon, with which to secure a few more pennies from the individual employer, but it has no answer to the problem of how to save the laborer from his slavery to his tools. It will never get the man cut from under the machine and make him the master of his own life.

The laborer must find a weapon that all his class can use at once. He must find a ground upon which he can unite

as a body against those who oppress him. He must seek a battle ground where numbers count against wealth, and where men, not millions, rule. That battle ground is found at the polls, that weapon is the ballot.

The capitalists have given up all connection with industry. They have turned all the work, whether with hand or brain, over to wage slaves who have been drilled, organized, trained to work as solid disciplined bodies in the production of goods. Let them carry this same principle into the political field. Let the laborers organize as one solid body of suffering workers demanding that they shall rule instead of the owners. With their overwhelming numbers they can easily make themselves the ruling class in place of the idlers who have so long governed society at every point.

When they have done this then they can organize industry in the interest of the workers, not the idlers. They can then say to every one, including the former owners, "Come and use these instruments of production and create wealth, which shall be for the benefit of all who toil." We will take the mines, the machines, the land, the railroads and all the things that are necessary to the production and distribution of wealth and we will say that these things shall belong to all in common since they must be used in common. We will make the ownership fit the users, not the non-users. Just as when each producer worked individually, the tools were owned by the individuals, so now that the tools are used collectively they must be owned collectively so that there will be no division of product between the workers and the owners because all will be workers and all will be owners.

Goods will no longer be sold for profit, but will be distributed among those who make them for use, and so there can never be any overproduction so long as there is an unfilled want and when all wants are filled there will be no suffering. Any one who wishes to work can use the tools which he owns in common with every one else and be sure that he will get what he produces. When a new machine is invented that saves labor it will not mean that a few must work for longer hours while a great number starve for lack of an opportunity to sell themselves. Instead each new invention will mean that all those who have been doing the work that it will do will work shorter hours at easier work and have more time for leisure, education and amusement.

Only the best machines, located in the best places, will be used and nothing will be wasted in running more plants than are needed or in trying to sell goods. So we can produce many, many things that we are producing today and do need want for anything.

The soldiers and policemen and lawyers, with the drummers, the sign-painters and bill-posters, will be given a chance to do something that will help to make people warm, and well, and happy, instead of being forced to do things that do nobody any good. All this will mean that it will be easy to make so many things that all can live in pleasant homes with all that they need to eat and drink and wear and have most of their time to think of other things than their merely animal wants.

There can be no city slums, no crisis, no strikes, no lock-outs, no unemployed, no beggars, no charity, no starving, no cringing slaves, no idle masters.

Laborers, these things are for you to do. No one else can do them. No one else should do them. No one else has so much to gain from them. Your class is the class that today have the skill and training to operate industry; you have the common interests upon which to build a firm society, and you alone have the numbers with which to gain the victory at the polls.

You have long been tied a helpless slave to the machine at which you toil. It has crushed your children, your family, your life beneath its ceaseless advance. It has been the means of your enslavement. It should be the means of your liberation. Are you men enough to seize your opportunity? Will you in these closing years of this most wonderful of centuries, when the long battle of man with Nature is at last over and man, through the machine, has conquered at every point—will you now permit that the very instrument of conquest shall be held by another class and used to crush its creators? Or will you gather with your fellows at the polls and declare that you will no longer be misled by the idle tales of your oppressors who bid you meekly follow false leaders to the shambles, while you vote yourself into ever-recurring slavery, by voting for the puppet parties of your masters, but that you propose to unite with your fellow workers of the world on the platform of Socialism. It is for you to choose. Which will you do? Will the marvelous powers of production which have conquered nature and are incarnate in the almost living, thinking machine of today prove to be the new century, or will it be, as in the past, the Car of Juggernaut that you painfully tug onward over the bodies, minds and souls of the helpless members of your class? Will the laborer of the future be upon or beneath the machine? You, the workers of America and of the world, can alone decide, and because I have infinite faith in you and your class I know that the red glow that is seen around the coming days is not that of social conflagration, but yet the reflection from the blood-stained society of today, but is the first glimmering of the dawn of the better thing that is to be.

(From "The Man Under the Machine," by A. M. Simons, F. F. Sale at this Office, Five Cents.)

## Conservatism or Radicalism.

### All Progress the Result of the Latter—The Former Rights no Wrongs.

BY WM. H. BAIRD.

Conservatism and radicalism, these are the two forces which have always opposed each other in every conflict of ideas and interests which has taken place in the past, and which to-day oppose each other wherever the question of progress arises.

Conservatism stands pre-eminently for the present existing order, or for some mild form of change, and even in the advocacy of any modification or reform of existing conditions, conservatism only acts when driven to do so by the forces of radicalism. Conservatism is essentially a passive force, and always speaks in an apologetic tone. It always assumes for itself the guise of respectability, no matter how reprehensible the institution or claims it is upholding, or how praiseworthy or desirable the change it is opposing, and it always lays claim to credit for all the progress of the past, no matter how strenuously the forces of conservatism in the past may have opposed all the steps by which the position they now defend was reached. Its motto is and always has been, "Wait, it is not time for that." It ignores fundamental principles and talks constantly of "policy." It will sometimes agree to the cutting off of the branches, but that is as far as it will consent to go.

Radicalism stands for progress. Its motto is "Forward." Radicalism is not recklessness. The radical says, "Be sure you are right, then go ahead." "Lay the ax at the root of the tree of evil." Trimming the branches only encourages the growth of the roots, trunk and remaining branches, thickens the foliage and causes the tree to cast a denser shadow.

Having located the starting point and the objective point, the radical says: "The shortest distance between the two is a straight line." What has conservatism or conservatives ever done for the progress of the race? Look at the records of the past. Look at the history of our own country. Who are the men who have left their impress upon the record of our growth. Were they the conservatives, or the radicals of their day? Whose words fired the hearts of the patriots of 1776? Were Paine, Patrick Henry, Jefferson and the signers of the Declaration of Independence conservatives or radicals? The names of the conservatives of that period are forgotten; no one knows or even cares what they said. Who aroused the people to a realization of the enormity of the crime of chattel slavery? Were the Lloyd Garrisons, Phillips and Lincoln conservatives or radicals?

History, experience and observation prove that all progress is the result of radical thought and action. No wrong was ever righted by conservative, temporizing or palliative remedies.

Patrick Henry said: "I have but one lamp by which my feet are guided, and that is the lamp of experience. I know of no way of judging the future but by the past." Has a better rule ever been given? Workingmen of to-day, if you are dissatisfied with your condition and with the outlook for your own future and the future of your children, is it not apparent to you that you must seek relief from the situation in radical thought and action? Has conservatism ever done anything for the benefit of the working class in the past? Is it doing anything now? Will it do anything in the future?

Let Honest Ad, Hazleton, Lattimer, Pullman, the Idaho Bull Pen and Washington avenue answer.

Capitalism is conservatism. Socialism is radicalism. Which will the working class choose? In the light of the past what can they expect? Viewing the future through the light of the lamp of experience, what can they see ahead?

McKinley, Hanna, Decker, Ziegenhein or Hayes are not the cause or causes of the conditions of to-day. It is the capitalist system of wealth production and distribution that is the cause. Bryan, Parker, Wells or Meriwether can not change the conditions. They all stand for, simply, different phases of the same system.

Socialism demands a radical change from competition to co-operation. Through the public ownership of ALL the essential means of production and distribution, and not merely a conservative reform in a few public utilities.

Why, then, will workingmen be any longer fooled by promises of conservative reforms? Why do they not unite in a radical demand for economic freedom? The Socialists present to them the principles which they must sooner or later adopt. A vote cast by a workman for any party that does not recognize the class struggle or aim at the establishment of the co-operative commonwealth is worse than thrown away. It is cast against the interest of all, and in favor of the interest of some portion of the capitalist class. How long will workingmen continue to vote against their own interests as a class? When will they learn to vote on election day as they march on labor day?

The Democratic Legislature of Missouri has passed an act that deprives the Social Democratic party of using the name Democrat in Missouri. They must be getting afraid, at plain "Socialist" will do just as well. So go ahead boys and scare them some more.—Oklahoma Socialist.



# MUNICIPAL PLATFORM.

## Social Democratic Party of St. Louis Read This and Compare it With Old Party Platforms.

The Social Democratic party of St. Louis, in convention assembled, reaffirms its allegiance to the revolutionary principles of International Socialism and declares the supreme political principle in America to-day to be the control of the working class and the Socialist class for the possession of the power of government. The party's steadfast purpose is to use those means, once achieved, to destroy wage slavery, abolish the institution of private property in the means of production and establish the Co-operative Commonwealth.

The United States, as in all other civilized countries, the natural order of economic development has separated society into two antagonistic classes—the capitalists, a comparatively small class, possessors of all the modern means of production and distribution of goods, machinery and means of transportation and communication; the large and ever-increasing class wage-workers possessing no means of production.

The evil effects of the private ownership and operation of the means of production and distribution are intensified by the recurring industrial crises continually rendering the existence of the masses of the population more precarious and uncertain, which implies that the modern means of production have outgrown the existing order based on production for profit.

Human energy and natural resources are wasted for individual gain. Ignorance is fostered that wage slavery may be perpetuated. Science and invention are perverted to the exploitation of the masses and children. The lives and liberties of the working class are recklessly sacrificed for profit. Wars are fomented between nations; indiscriminate slaughter is encouraged; the destruction of whole races is sanctioned in order that the capitalist class may extend its commercial dominion abroad and increase its supremacy at home.

The notorious corruption and inefficiency so prevalent in the administration of this and other large cities are logical fruit of capitalism. The ruling class has no interest in common with what are designated "Business Men's" tickets or "Good Government" parties. They should not be deceived by promises of clean streets for their wives and children are in danger and want.

The introduction of a new and higher order of society is the historic mission of the working class. All other classes, despite their apparent or actual conflicts, are interested in the upholding of the system of private ownership of the means of production. We, therefore, charge that in this country Democratic, Republican and all other parties which do not stand for complete overthrow of the capitalist system of production are alike the enemies of the working class.

The working class cannot, however, as a class in its struggle against collective power of the capitalist class, except by constituting itself into a political party, distinct and opposed to all parties formed by the propertied classes.

We, therefore, call upon the wage-workers of St. Louis, without distinction of color, race or sex, and upon all men in sympathy with the historic mission of the working class, to organize under the banner of the Social Democratic party, as a party truly representing the interests of the toiling masses and uncompromisingly waging war upon the exploiting class, until the system of wage slavery shall be abolished and the co-operative commonwealth shall be established.

While we recognize that it is not in the power of the municipality to restore to the people all of their rights, we are fully conscious that the municipality can, and should place at the disposal of the people and of civilization every power that it possesses, to the end that no further injustice be done, and that mankind may be permitted to continue to progress to a greater and nobler life; therefore we demand:

1. Such amendments to the city charter as are necessary to enable the people to elect a municipal programme in accordance with the principles of the Social Democratic Party.
2. Adoption of the principles of the initiative and referendum and proportional representation. All officers to be subject to recall by their constituents.
3. Public ownership and operation of street railways and gas and electric light plants.
4. Public construction, ownership and operation of all subways and underground conduits and all overhead wires to be removed and placed therein.
5. Public ownership and operation of brick yards, stone yards and asphalt plants.
6. Public ownership and operation of Bads and Merchants' bridges or the erection of a free municipal bridge across the Mississippi River.
7. Substitution of public ownership and operation for private ownership wherever feasible through the exercise of municipal power.
8. Construction and operation of free municipal hospitals, foundlings and orphan's homes, homes for abandoned women, a modern insane asylum adequate to the needs of St. Louis, and homes for the aged, crippled and disabled poor.
9. Establishment and maintenance of modern public lodging houses as resting places for the poor instead of police stations.
10. Erection of a suitable building for the Public Library.
11. Abolition of the contract system on all public work. Street sprinkling, sweeping, removal of garbage, dead animals, etc., to be performed by the city with its own outfits and by its own employees.
12. Classified civil service; all appointments and promotions to be based upon merit and not for political reasons.
13. On all municipal work an eight-hour workday, with a minimum wage of two dollars per day, and the union scale of wages and union conditions to govern on all public work.
14. All the powers and influence of the municipal administration to be used in support of the principles of organized labor.
15. The inauguration of great public works by the city whenever necessary to provide a livelihood for unemployed workmen.
16. Prohibition of child labor under seventeen years; compulsory education; the municipality to furnish free books, meals and clothing when necessary.
17. Establishment of a Municipal Labor Bureau.
18. Inspection of factories and workshops with reference to health and safety of the workers. Suppression of the so-called sweating system.
19. Rigid system of food, milk and dairy inspection.
20. Establishment and maintenance of public bath houses.
21. Public ownership and operation of laundries.

## From The National Secretary.

Comrades, Attention! Some time ago all locals were notified to forward to the National Secretary a list of all members to be recorded at headquarters. A number have complied, but there are still many locals to be heard from, and the secretaries of those organizations are urgently requested to attend to this at once. All locals are also requested not to forget to forward all new applications, which are also to be recorded at headquarters.

There are still a few locals and several state committees who have as yet failed to settle their accounts for international delivery stamps, and as the N. E. C. wishes to entirely close up same they are requested to make prompt settlement with the National Secretary.

Notice of assessment levied by the N. E. C. has been sent to all locals, which are requested to remit at once, as the N. E. C. must clear off its indebtedness incurred in the national campaign before retiring and turning over the affairs of the party to the new committee. Therefore comrades, your prompt remittances will be greatly appreciated by the N. E. C.

The National Council is now electing candidates for the new N. E. C. and we trust that the comrades will see to it that their local pays at once the amount of their assessment, so as to leave the new committee free and unhampered to carry on a vigorous open air agitation throughout the coming spring summer and fall.

A new plan of arranging circuits for open air speakers is under consideration, and if adopted and carried out will do great good for Socialism and the S. D. P. You will hear more of this plan next week.

The following comrades, George Eastman of Detroit, Job Harriman of New York, Max Hayes of Ohio and G. A. Hoehn of St. Louis, Mo., have accepted nominations for International Secretary, and are members of the S. D. P. Their names will be submitted to a referendum vote of our party membership this week.

Comrades are requested to vote for two of the above candidates at once, the vote closing on April 18th at 6 p. m.

Comrades, all of the above matters and especially the payment of the assessment and the settlement of the International Delegate stamps, are of the utmost importance, and the N. E. C. urgently requests you to give them all your prompt attention.

Yours for the cause,  
WM. BUTSCHER,  
Natl. Secy.

## THE KOLA NUT.

BY C. E. DAVIS.

"The State Department has been experimenting with the marvelous Kola Nut. By its wonderful action, and without any other food, an old man carried a 150-pound bag of coffee twenty miles by chewing a single Kola nut."—New York World.

One night in passing the Commercial Club (millionaires' club), I was attracted by its unusual illumination. On inquiry, I learned there was a banquet being given in commemoration of the invention of electricity as a motive power. I stood looking up at the dazzling windows, endeavoring to catch a sentence from the muffled voices, when a carriage drove up to the entrance. I at once crossed the street and screened myself in the shadows of the storm vestibule.

You know there is a sort of humiliating feeling about us working dogs, that at the approach of our masters we want to get four blocks of darkness between us and them. I hardly know what to attribute this to; probably it arises from our hearing every day in the year about the august intellect of the capitalist, on the one hand, and the degraded and brutalized toilers, on the other. So continually has this been drilled into our ears that the capitalist has grown more august, and we have become more conscious of our degradation. Some say we are born in this condition, and others that it is our fault. At any rate, we are degraded and brutalized, and our masters, the capitalists, are unapproachably deified.

But this is digressing from my incident. I had not stood for five minutes in the shadow when two well-dressed and well "jagged" men emerged from the club and entered the carriage. As the carriage rolled away a large sheet of paper fell from its steps. I hurriedly picked it up, and when I saw it was a manuscript I still more hurriedly skipped away to where I could quietly read it. I discovered it was a lecture by the renowned political economist, Professor Lickspittle. For unfathomable knowledge and vast research it was an astounding production. If you would like to have something that was intended for no other ears than those of our exalted masters, listen and I will read every word of it to you.

The following is a verbatim copy of the professor's lecture (the words within the parentheses I procured from a funkier of the Commercial Club):

"It is with profound feeling and illimitable honor that I address you honorable gentlemen, this night.

"In all the ages there has been two distinct classes—the lower strata of the human family, who produced all the wealth of the world, and the upper strata, who were endowed with the attributes of using and developing this wealth. What has always existed in the past, is conclusive evidence that it will always continue in the future. (Hear! hear!) Hence we have the infallible words of Christ: 'The poor ye always have with you.' (You bet, hiccoughed a flushed and pussy fellow.)

"The great problem of to-day is how to keep these lower strata continually producing with a minimum expense. As products grow cheaper, we must produce with less cost. This is the cause of the invention of the iron machine. From a scientific point of view the farm hand, the laborer and the mechanic come under the same category as a machine proper. Indeed, as wealth produces, there is no difference except one is made of iron and the other of blood, bone and sinew. We must drop

our sentimentality about capital and labor, for there is no more sentiment between the two than between one of you and a railroad engine. In fact, not as much; for when an engine is wrecked you have to replace it with a new one to be paid for with your own money, but when a human machine shakes off this mortal coil it costs you nothing to replace it with another. (At this juncture the yells that went up were deafening. They lifted the Professor up and set him on the banquet table, from which he delivered the rest of his lecture.)

"The electric street car has driven thousands of horses into enforced idleness. But the horse is as harmless when idle as when at work. Not so with the enforced idle man machine. You all know the old nursery saying that idleness is the mother of mischief. When the working class are kept busy twelve or fifteen hours each day there is no danger of their thinking about their condition. To-day a large number of idlers are exposed to giving their attention to those most deadly enemies of mankind, the Socialists. (Exterminate them! Exterminate them!' screamed a hundred voices.) A great peril awaits us. (The physiognomy of the hearers totally changed to that of curs about to be pounced upon by a dozen mastiffs.) And the only way we can avoid it is to put the human machine, at long and laborious toil. I am aware that some of you advocate that, seeing the enforced idlers are of no value to the capitalists, and of no use to themselves, that the most expeditious and cheapest way to quiet them is to put arsenic in their free soups. (Then Socialism would have nothing to vegetate upon,' ejaculated a fellow with a lean and cunning countenance.) But there are two objections to this—it would injure our good name as a Christian people, and it might establish an example in case we were vanquished in a foreign war. Otherwise this would be a very efficient remedy.

"If the human machine could be used as a motive power at a less cost than steam or electricity, it would surely at once take their places. Now, honorable gentlemen, our liberal and progressive government has lately discovered an accomplished fact. It may sound very strange, and even idiotic, but it is nothing less than the Kola nut. (At this they straightened up, those who were able and assumed a very anxious and businesslike air.) You know we have got wages down to a bare existence, still babies come more often and stay longer. The trouble is, the means of existence for the toilers is too costly. Nothing we can discover as a cheap substitute will solve the question. This, gentlemen, is the Kola nut. It is the most wonderful thing in all the vegetable kingdom, having a hundred-fold more nutriment than anything yet discovered. By accurate experiments of our government a workman can stand to labor twenty hours out of twenty-four, and eat nothing but the Kola nut; two a day are sufficient—one in the morning and one at night. It has also been ascertained that it will not cost, for each man, more than five cents a week. It not only enables them to stand long hours of work, but gives them wonderful endurance in strength.

"By actual experiment, a power house of a certain electric street car company dispensed entirely with steam power and arranged its machinery and ran its dynamos for one week with nothing but human power. It was arranged by the men traveling in a circle and pulling on poles, projecting from a kind of turn table. To double their power they need only put in another turn table. So the only thing that could limit the amount of power would be the available men. These men kept on a constant run for eighteen hours each day, and appeared to be as fresh at night as in the morning, and never for the whole week tasted any other food but the Kola nut. It was found the human power was two-thirds cheaper than steam power, and much more satisfactory. There was no getting out of coal; no boiler or steam engines to repair, and no loss from breaking of machinery, for if one of the men died there were plenty to take his place without a cent of extra expense. (At this point those who had not been able to straighten up jumped to their feet and gave three cheers for the Professor.)

"Probably the most valuable thing about this nut is that it has soothing effects. It makes the men feel perfectly contented with their lot, and when they have eaten it, once they will refuse any other kind of food. So you see they would never strike, or listen to Socialists, under the narcotic effects of the blessed Kola nut. It would forever settle the prohibition question, for they would never crave a stimulant while its supply was abundant. We could dispense with the expense of subscribing for politicians and reform fakirs, for when the working class are contented there is no need to divert them with promises. These hirelings have fought a noble fight in keeping the lower strata from off our throats, and they should be richly pensioned. (Give them \$10,000 a year, chimed a chorus of voices.) Really, we owe more to them than all the armies of the world. Had it not been for them the Socialists would have been in possession of everything. (Make it \$100,000 a year, screamed the whole audience.)

"As long as the masses are conscious of their rights they will in spite of the patriotic harangues of our politicians lack patriotism. I have already shown that the Kola nut renders them unconscious of their state. Discontent and patriotism are incompatible. The idea that the lower strata can be pacified by telling them they have opportunities to rise to the upper strata; that they have a great country and a wonderful flag, has long since exploded. The reform that will soon be put in action is the dividing of the time of the toilers into three parts—sleeping, working and chewing the Kola nut. It is thought by some scientists that the time in chewing can be saved by their masticating while at work. When their time is thus fully occupied, what would be the use of talking patriotism to them? I tell you, gentlemen, one Kola nut will allay more discontent than all the patriotism of the combined ages. (At this juncture all of them went so nearly mad that the Professor began to fear it might affect their brains.)

"Under the regime of the Kola nut many minor issues that are now distracting our ranks would need very lit-

# SOCIALIST MEETING

## AT Boeker's Hall, 20th and Bissell Streets, Sunday, March 31, 2:30 P. M.

Addresses by Leon Greenbaum, Candidate of the Social Democratic Party for Mayor of St. Louis, by G. A. Hoehn, Albert E. Sanderson and E. Val Putnam—German and English.

You Are Invited. Vote for Albert E. Sanderson for House of Delegates, from 1st Ward, Social Democratic Ticket.

le of our attention. For example, the municipal ownership question. You know the working class always votes us into possession of the government. Unless the Socialists are checked in their propaganda, the working class are liable to become conscious of their class interests, and vote the government into their possession and use it just as we are using it—for our own class interests. As long as the toilers vote on issues raised by two or more parties organized and supported by us we will run no risk to offer them any old thing in our platform. For the city to run the street cars and we to continue to own the city, would simply convert the city into a street car trust for our benefit, just as the post-office is used. But if the wage class should go into independent political action they would then capture the street car, trust and run the street car system for their benefit. But under the soothing effects of the Kola nut there is no doubt they would vote in conformity with our wishes, just as they have done in the past under the effects of our Dentists—the politicians. Indeed, they would become so meek and humble that all their desires could be pacified with one Kola nut.

"As everything would be in our power and all competition destroyed, we will need no laws granting us privileges. When by the simple process of seeing that the lower strata are kept constantly at work, we will reap everything, what more privileges could we have? (We'll crown you lord of all, yelled a fellow flashing with diamonds.)

"The first step to be taken in the Kola nut revolution is to get complete control of its supply. Every foot of land on the continent should be bought up, so the working class could not grow the nut themselves. A great part of the land is already in our possession. In respect of these considerations, we would still have a monopoly of its production. It requires vast machinery to cultivate it, which all the small farmers could not buy. So there is no doubt of our having perfect control of its supply. It will astonish you how cheap it can be produced. It has been estimated that there need be paid to a farm hand in wages only one cent for his labor in producing 100,000 nuts. Besides the machinery reduces its cost a hundred fold. When we have completely subdued the agricultural class and they have propagated in sufficient swarms, we will still reduce the cost of using human machines instead of iron ones.

"To recapitulate, the Kola nut will revolutionize the world that the cost of production will be brought down to a minimum. It will give us such complete control of the lower strata that they must work for their sustenance in Kola nuts or starve. Then the world will be governed by the brainy men, the captains of industry. Then will our liberty boom. Then everything will be in such peace and joy that one hour's life will be more gratifying than forty years of the present. Then we shall have the kingdom of heaven on earth.

"In conclusion, I thank you, gentlemen, for the deep interest you have displayed in the God-sent Kola nut." (So uncontrollable was the audience's enthusiasm that a hundred champagne glasses were thrown against the ceiling and the fragments came down like a Dakota hail storm.)

An old lady back in Ohio owned a mangy, egg-sucking, sheep-killing yellow dog. This dog could not be cured of the mange or broken of his predatory habits, and the old lady was in great distress. Some of the boys in the neighborhood told the poor old woman that the way to reform the dog was to cut his tail off. The neighbors heard the dog keep up a constant howl for several days, and finally some of them ventured to ask her what ailed the pup. "Oh," she replied, "I am cutting off his tail, and as I want to be as easy on the poor fellow as possible and not hurt him too much, I just cut about an inch off the end of his tail each day." A great many people are tired of the looks and deprivations of the rent, profit, interest and dividend-taking dog commonly known as capitalism. The kind-hearted Public Ownership party people want to reform this canine by cutting off the public utility dividend tip of his tail. The Socialists say that the proper thing to do is to get rid of him altogether, so they propose to cut his tail off close up behind his ears. It will be harder on the dog, but it will be more satisfactory for the neighbors.

Mr. Workingman, which plan do you favor? Of course you will vote for whichever plan you favor when you go to the polls April 2d.

## Demonstration and Parade.

On Saturday evening, March 30th, the strikers of the Wrought Iron Range Co., assisted by a number of other unions, will assemble at 1310 Franklin avenue for the purpose of parading through the principal streets with a view to influencing the public and the hardware dealers against handling or buying the non-union stores manufactured by the Wrought Iron Range Co. The route of the procession is from 1310 Franklin avenue to 12th, south to Olive, east to Broadway, south to Allen ave., west to 12th st. and north to Franklin avenue.

## Notice.

Members of Local St. Louis will vote for two of the following candidates for the offices of Secretaries of the International Bureau at Brussels, Belgium, and return this ballot by April 12th:

GEORGE EASTMAN, Michigan.  
JOB HARRIMAN, New York.  
MAX HAYES, Ohio.  
G. A. HOEHN, Missouri.  
(Mark an "X" opposite names voted for.)

By order City Central Committee,  
WM. J. HAGER, Secy.  
Room 7, 22 North Fourth street.

About 350 union woodworkers, employed by manufacturers of refrigerator, bar and office fixtures, walked out Tuesday morning. The plants of the Claus & Lehnbeuter Manufacturing Co., Staudte & Rueckoldt Manufacturing Co., Hollrah-Dieckmann Refrigerator and Fixture Co., and the Beattie Manufacturing Co. were among those affected by the strike. The strikers are confident of success.

## CAMPAIGN FUND.

Previously reported \$145.50

Collected by Louis Meyer on lists Nos. 81 and 82:  
Louis Meyer \$1.00  
Wm. C. Eggeman .50  
J. Gebbauer .50  
Forster .50  
E. Wiegert .50  
Karl Kilwinski .25  
Wm. Weisenborn .15  
F. Weisenborn .15  
F. Kraft .25  
F. Wicht .25  
Collected by John Schaepp on list No. 118:  
Gabriel Thieroff .50  
Streit Schnitzer .25  
Aug. Schulz .25  
N. S. Frankel .50  
Jos. Runge .50  
R. M. Nelson .50  
John Zach .4.30  
Collected by Louis Kober on list No. 120—\$6.35.

Collected by Leonhard Stoll on list No. 92:  
P. Volz .15  
L. Stoll .15  
W. Askermen .10  
John Adler .10  
Chas. Bieck .25  
R. M. M. .25  
P. Loewell .25  
Jos. Lagler .25  
W. Weber .50  
N. S. Frankel .50  
A. Mues .25  
Sebastian Stoll .25  
F. Terishaid .20  
H. Herminghaus .50  
H. Blotzvogel .50  
Miscellaneous:  
H. Huesgen .25  
A. Comrade .50  
G. A. Hoehn 1.00  
Total \$169.00

## Special Meeting.

All Socialists are requested to attend a meeting of the friends of Missouri Socialist, Wednesday evening, 8 p. m., April 2d, at Druids' Hall, Ninth and Market streets. The object of the meeting is to discuss ways and means to increase our circulation.

## Notice, 12th Ward.

There will be a special meeting of the 12th Ward Branch at 1211A Armstrong avenue, Friday, April 5th, at 8 p. m. All members are requested to attend.  
WM. ECKART, Secretary.

Comrade Peukert, of Bevier, Mo., writes: "We heard that Comrade Vail is arranging an April tour, but the Socialists of Bevier are unable to arrange a meeting, as a big fire destroyed the hall, and it will be some time before a new one is erected. But we have not lost courage, and we will have a meeting as soon as the weather will allow us to have an outside meeting."

Many well-meaning but thoughtless people say "Socialism would be a fine system; it looks all right, but it will not do—you can't make it work." They are in much the same frame of mind as the old lady when she first saw a locomotive. After admiring it for a while she said: "Joshua, it won't go; they can't make it go." Just then the bell rang, the engineer opened the throttle and the wheels began to turn. As it moved away, gaining speed with each revolution of the wheels, the old lady cried: "Joshua, it will never stop; it can't be stopped."

## The Correspondence School.

The third lesson of the series of city lessons, now being given by correspondence by the Chicago School of Social Economy, it is argued that slave labor did not exist among primitive peoples; that slavery was introduced by war, but was continued in existence by the continued domination of the master and the continued ownership of the slave, and that the passage from slavery to serfdom was a change effected by and in the interest of the masters.

The plan of these lessons is, to state briefly the facts of history or the results of science, bearing on the subject, with footnotes giving the book and the page where the writer depends for support for the statements made. In the work Comrade Mills avoids all bitter or disputed points, relying on the facts and principles which are uniformly admitted by the best scholarship. He then gives briefly in a series of propositions and arguments, for each proposition, his own position on the subject in hand. In these arguments the historic and the scientific groundwork has just been given and the arguments are exhaustive and conclusive.

They are given in simplest and plain English and any one can understand them, can easily learn them and completing the course, will be a man to talk for Socialism. Here the concluding words of this third lesson:

"There never was a slave or serf unbacked by him there stood a soldier. Slavery changes have taken place in forms of industrial servitude, have taken place under the eye of the soldier and in behalf of the master class. The slave has had as his only choice to serve or die. He should have sometimes he did."

Arrangements are now being made to publish these printed lessons to Socialist workers who wish to organize classes of the same sort. There are now eleven such classes in progress

## International Socialist Review.

The leading article in the International Socialist Review for April will be by Karl Kautsky, the great German Socialist writer, who discusses the relation of Socialists and trade unions. It is not too much to say that this is the most important contribution to the subject yet published in the English language. Mrs. May Wood Simons shows the relation of Socialist philosophy to the new spirit in education under the title "Education and Socialism." J. R. McDonald, secretary of the Labor Representation Committee of the United Socialists and trade unionists of Great Britain, gives an extremely valuable survey of "Socialism and the Labor Movement in Great Britain." Prof. John R. Commons on "Social Evolution," an anonymous writer on some phases of Socialist propaganda and a reply to Marx's second article by Prof. Untermyer are among the other features.

The Review can be obtained at the news stands for ten cents per copy. Subscriptions taken at this office, \$1 per year.

Comrade B. C. Y. Brown, of Ozark, Mo., writes: "We are waking the natives down here. We met last night and nominated a full city ticket and adopted a complete platform. I am preparing to open a school in instruction on Socialism and have a number of Republican and Democratic students, and am quite sure it will result in much good."

