

On earth peace,  
good will  
toward men

# The Social Democrat

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## ALTGELD'S VIEWS

### ON PUBLIC OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL OF MINES AND RAILWAYS.

Extracts from the Masterly Address of the Ex-Governor at Philadelphia on Labor Day.

On the afternoon of Labor Day ex-Governor John P. Altgeld of Illinois delivered an address at Washington Park, Philadelphia. There was an audience of thousands, which tendered the famous speaker a grand ovation when he arose to speak and who followed his oration with intense appreciation, often interrupting him with cheers and hand-clapping.

It was one of the greatest addresses ever made by this distinguished man and one which will have a great influence on public opinion.

Mr. Altgeld made a strong plea for government ownership of the railroads, telegraphs and mines, showing that these demands were not necessarily socialistic. He proceeded to show what had been accomplished by municipal ownership in Great Britain in the way of ownership of street railways, gas and electric lighting and of the improvement in the homes of the poor.

After denunciation of monopoly and trusts and their corrupting effects on our government and courts, he thus referred to

#### THE MINERS' TROUBLE.

"During the strike of 1891 one of the largest operators in Illinois stated that he had some excellent men in his employ, who had families to support, who were sober and industrious, and who had not been able to make over \$8 a month for a year past. The majority of the operators were not to blame; they had to compete in the market in order to sell their coal; they had their money invested in mines and in mining machinery; they found that a few unscrupulous and conscienceless men had taken advantage of the hunger of the miners and got them to go to work at starvation wages, and were thus able to put their coal upon the market at greatly reduced prices. This forced the honest, humane, honorable men engaged in the mining business to sell their coal at a similar price or go out of the business, and the result was they likewise had to reduce wages. So that it was the unscrupulous and conscienceless men who fixed the wages.

"Already in 1894 the mining population had been reduced to a state of misery and degradation. The miner could not educate his children, he could not respectably clothe his wife and, in many cases, he could not furnish bread, and he struck. He felt that his condition was already so bad that it could not be made much worse, and that he had nothing to lose by striking; but, although the struggle was protracted and bitter, no substantial good came of it.

#### LATEST STRUGGLE OF THE MINERS.

"Since that time the conditions have been getting steadily worse, and finally in a spirit of desperation, only three years after the last destructive strike, the miners of this country struck again—struck against hunger and struck against nakedness—and they have again made an honorable and heroic struggle to improve their condition.

"Considering the great poverty to which they were reduced, the fact that there was no hope for themselves or their children, that they were slowly passing into slavery that was worse than chattel slavery, for the new masters refused to feed, or clothe, or bury them, as the old masters of negro slavery had done—considering these things, the conduct of the miners in maintaining the law, in keeping the peace, has been of a character to arouse the admiration of mankind. No assembly of millionaires or of corporation agents ever submitted to such suffering, or ever displayed such high patriotism or nobility of character.

#### SYMPATHY AMONG OPERATORS.

"The great majority of operators this time actually sympathized with the miners who had struck, and they wished them success. They complained of the fact that a few great corporations owned by some of the wealthiest men of the country were pursuing a course that must not only lower the social status of the miner and his children for all time, but that was calculated to bankrupt all those operators who wished to act honorably by their employees. Among other companies of this character which they named was the New York and Cleveland Gas and Coal company, managed by Mr. De Armit, and chiefly owned, it was said, by Mr. Carnegie and Mr. Rockefeller and a few other gentlemen of great wealth; that this corporation had used its great power to crush out all organization among its laborers and had so crushed the spirit of its employees that it could mine its coal more cheaply than the other companies and could force the others to cut wages or get out of the market.

"This strike has interfered with the regular operations of the country upon which the welfare of society depends. The struggle has been protracted, and does not promise to settle anything

definitely nor to furnish protection to the country against further disturbances of this character. True, the miners have lost nothing, for they had nothing to lose, and should the struggle go against them at the end of it they will be just as well off as they were at the beginning.

#### GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP OF MINES.

"Now, suppose that the United States government should say:

"The constant recurrence of these disturbances of industrial and economic conditions of the country growing out of disputes between the mine-owner and the miners cannot longer be endured; neither can I permit a large portion of the most industrious of my people to be reduced to such a low condition that they will be unfit to maintain free institutions. These people should have living wages, so that by industry, economy and prudence they can support their families and educate their children. On the other hand, the owners of the coal mines should have a reasonable income from their property. I will take these mines myself. I will buy them where I can, and where I cannot I will have their value ascertained by fair trial and pay the owner, so that every man will get a good, fair compensation for his property. I will issue bonds bearing a low rate of interest for these mines, and I will operate these mines as I now run the postoffice. I will fix a scale of wages which will give every man a fair wage for his work, as I now pay other government employes. I will fix

are owned and operated exclusively by corporations.

"Governor Larrabee of Iowa, after careful research, estimated that the average cost of construction and equipment of the railroads of this country was only from \$25,000 to \$30,000 a mile, whereas they are bonded and stocked for more than double that sum, and a constant effort is made to compel the American people to pay interest on this large amount, over half of which is water.

"Other authorities have estimated that the people of this country have been compelled to pay interest at the rate of 18 per cent on the amount which the railroads and their equipments have actually cost, or are now worth.

#### HIGH SALARIED OFFICERS.

"It appears that there are now about six hundred railroad presidents with their staffs in this country that are drawing high salaries, while the legal expenses growing out of contests between the roads themselves run far up into the millions, so that several of the ablest statisticians of this country hold that if the railroads were all consolidated there would be so many large items of saving that it would amount to several hundred millions a year and would soon pay for the roads.

"One of the large items in the present expenses of railroad companies is the corruption fund; that is the fund with which they bribe legislatures, bribe councils, carry elections and otherwise debauch the public. It is apparent that the railroads of this

road stocks were ruined, which would not have happened had the government owned them.

#### SYSTEM OF FAVORITISM.

"3. A system of favoritism has grown up and is practiced by all the roads by which rebates and special rates are given to some shippers and not to others. Under this the favored business man or manufacturer or other shipper gets an advantage which enables him to crush his rival who does not get the same favor. Especially is this true of certain large dealers, who, from handling large quantities, are able in many cases absolutely to name the sum they shall pay, and are able, by this assistance which they receive from the railroads, utterly to crush out the smaller dealer. Many of the large establishments of this country, whether in pork packing, iron manufacturing or other industry, owe their greatness almost entirely to this species of favoritism. Railroad service is in a sense public service, and it is the duty of the government to see that all of its citizens enjoy equal privileges in so far as relates to public service. The business man with limited means gets his letters carried by the government for the same price that his great competitor has to pay, but here the parallel ends. In almost all other respects he is discriminated against, not only to his injury, but to his destruction. This would not be so if the government owned the roads.

#### LABOR'S SMALL SHARE.

"4. While private management of railroads pays enormous salaries to the

have been traveling in a lane that has run in the same direction for thirty years, and we are approaching a turn. Yes, my friends, do not despair. A turn in the road is already in sight, and if the American people are but true to their nobler instincts they will soon be restored to their inheritance, while justice and liberty, equal rights and equal privileges will cover our land with a halo of glory and give our people a new century of prosperity and happiness.

"But if they do not rise in their manhood and stand for the principles of eternal justice, then all is lost.

"This is Labor Day throughout the United States, and many beautiful things will be said about the dignity of labor, but I want to say to you that if our government is not rescued from corruption and if the snaky form of government by injunction is not crushed, then it would have been better for your children if they had never been born."

#### A Question Answered.

Democratic and Republican politicians have been saving the country for thirty years on the tariff plan. In the meantime labor every year is worse paid, our farmers get poorer every year, our merchants fail in larger numbers each year, while Bankers, Trust Magnates and Stock Gamblers pile up princely fortunes. How long will it take the workers to see that what we call government is but a vast machine for transferring the wealth created by

## BEHIND THE WALLS

### OF PREJUDICE AND SUPERSTITION THE LABORER THINKS.

"The Man Without a Soul" Suggests That They Be Torn Down and the Prisoners Released.

Too many laboring people do their thinking inside of the strong walls of prejudice and superstition.

These walls have been built up carefully during the natural growth of the man, beginning away back in his tender childhood, the builders always keeping the walls a little higher than the prisoner's head, and allowing him to look out upon the world through but one narrow window—so narrow and safely screened and covered with colored glass that there is not the slightest danger of the prisoner seeing too much, or seeing it too clearly.

And what a sickening sight to see the toiling millions of this country going to the polls to vote, carrying these strong walls of prejudice and superstition along with them; and in the rush and jumble their prison walls clash and crash with the prison walls of their neighbor, each prisoner looking out through his window of colored glass and denouncing his neighbor for being blind and a traitor.

It is not because they have so many man-made gods that this world has been made a living hell, but because no two of these gods agree—not because so many people look out over the world through glass, but because no two of these glasses are of the same color or pattern.

The wall builders have been careful in placing the colored glass in the mental windows of the toiling slaves. The great scheme of the scholars has been to keep the uneducated walled in from imaginary dangers, and to exact pay for keeping these walls in repair.

If the common people could see plainly for one moment the horrible condition of their blind-gazing intellects—could see for one single moment over the industrial world without this damnable colored glass before their eyes, the demand for a change would come in the thundering tones of liberated giants demanding justice from a vanquished mob of dwarfs.

But so long as these walls of prejudice and superstition stand, just so long will the toiling slaves cover behind them, and buy the right of existence from the wall-builders and the manufacturers of colored glass.

The work of the reformer is to tear down these strong walls of prejudice, and break the windows of colored glass. The common people seek these walls and lie trembling behind them like scared mice, and the reformer is obliged to dig them out against their will and set them absolutely free in the broad, open field of untrammelled thought, and show them the hell of hunger around them.

These walls must come down. Prejudice and superstition must go, before perfect mental freedom can be possible. And without mental freedom the reformer might as well butt his head against the Rocky mountains, as to attempt the reform of the industrial and social world.

The religion of civilization must put human happiness ahead of everything else. Men must be inspired to work for humanity with as much zeal as they now employ in their work for churchocracy.

All the world for all the people! must be the cry of the Social Democracy; for when the last unsightly rock of prejudice is torn down and broken under the hammer of common sense, there will be no sections, no private kingdoms, no republics, no empires, no monarchies, no kings, no subjects, no masters, no slaves, no prince, no pauper—nothing left but a world of brothers, in the religion of humanity, and a perfect trust in nature's God.

My brother, the walls of prejudice are many, and strongly built and even the prisoners we are attempting to liberate will fight us until the walls begin to crumble, and the colored glass is broken and destroyed.

We need fighters who will be willing to keep on with the work of liberating slaves, even while these very slaves spit in their faces.

It is a thankless job. The people love the very walls that shut them in while their oppressors crush their limbs and bruise their heads.

Wendell Phillips received the kicks and curses of the world while trying to tear down the walls of prejudice and break the chains of chattel slavery; William Lloyd Garrison was mobbed; Lincoln was assassinated, and more than a quarter million poor, blinded soldiers were butchered in the battle to batter down the walls and set the black slaves free.

Jesus Christ was arrested for tearing down the walls of Hebrew prejudice, and crucified because he insisted that he was right, and would continue to do so.

Continued on Third Page.



the price of coal so that every man will know what it will cost him. I will fix this price so low that all the people of America can get their fuel at the cost of production and such slight addition as will pay the low interest and in the course of years reimburse the purchase price, so that the mines will cost the public nothing. I will in the same manner take the anthracite coal fields, which are now operated as a monopoly, the price for such coal being arbitrarily fixed without reference to competition. I will sell that coal to the American people at the cost of production, with slight addition for the payment of interest and the ultimate payment of the purchase money, thus enabling the people to get anthracite coal for much less than they now get it. This will give stability to the coal supply; it will elevate that large population that now depends on mining for a living; make of it a higher grade of citizens; it will reduce the cost of living to every American citizen, and will be a blessing to the country.

#### WHICH VOICE SHALL PREVAIL?

"Having heard the government thus express itself, what would be the response of the country? I imagine that I hear coming from the great laboring masses, and from the manufacturers and from the millions of citizens who love their country and want it to reach the highest plane of civilization an enthusiastic voice of approval.

"But I also hear the insolent voices of the monopolists and their followers protesting that the government dare not do anything except furnish courts, sheriffs, marshals and bayonets with which to crush the miner and silence every man who dares to insist that humanity has rights.

"My friends, these are the two voices heard in this land to-day. Which shall prevail?

#### OWNERSHIP OF RAILROADS.

"Fifty-four of the governments of the earth own and operate their steam railroads. In the United States the roads

country must charge higher rates than would be necessary if they were operated by the government, and it is found that on the average they are just twice as high for the masses of people here as they are in Europe.

#### FAVORS RAILROAD OWNERSHIP.

"For years I was opposed to railroad ownership by government. I felt that private enterprise could manage them better than the public, and, further, that the addition of such an army of men to the patronage of the government would be giving a dangerous power to any federal administration. This last objection has been partially removed by the application of the civil service law, and it is now settled that a system of railroad management could be established which would not interfere in politics—certainly not so much as the present systems interfere in politics. During the last campaign millions of dollars were collected from the railroads with which to debauch the public, and the employees of almost every railroad in this country were forced not only to march but in many cases to vote against their will. But in recent years the question of railroad ownership in this country has changed and now presents entirely new problems.

"1. The colossal overcapitalization of American railroads and the persistent attempt to pay dividends on watered stock places a burden on the American people which they cannot and should not bear, and would not need to bear if the government owned them.

"2. The roads have been used by unscrupulous men as a convenience in great stock-jobbing operations, sometimes managed on purpose to force them into bankruptcy in order to reduce the value of stocks, and sometimes managed in a method equally dishonest for the purpose of raising the value of stocks, with the result that millions of honest Americans who had invested their little fortunes in rail-

few at top, there is a constant tendency to shorten the wages of the men at the bottom, whereas, if the government owned the roads it would reduce the salaries at the top and raise the wages at the bottom. Some great railroads of America have been periodically robbed by stock jobbers, and then, under the pretense of economy, the laborers who operated the line and made it capable of earning money had their wages reduced. All of which would not have happened if the government had owned them.

"5. If there were municipal and governmental ownership it would take so large a number of men out of the competitive labor column as to give steadiness and a more healthy condition to the whole labor world.

"6. The business and even the social affairs of this country have all been adjusted with reference to the regular operations of the railroads, and any interruption of this service causes inconvenience and loss and brings ruin if long continued. Yet, owing to disputes between the railroads and their employees, this country is at all times in danger of suffering from a strike or a tie-up.

"7. But the fact which overshadows all others is that of corruption. With the concentration of capital have come the interest and the money to debauch and control government."

Mr. Altgeld proceeded in vigorous language to show how the railroad corporations compelled the people to pay tribute, controlled legislation, and had the support of the judiciary in nullifying the effects of legislation. He then passed to a review of the infamous "injunction rule," in which he claimed that the judges so offending violated the Constitution and should be impeached.

Mr. Altgeld concluded as follows: "Providence has ordained that nothing shall go on forever. Our fathers said that every lane had a turn. We

labor into the hands of a privilege few? No man, however, skillful, industrious or thrifty, could honestly earn year's income of John D. Rockefeller in a thousand years. Then how do he and three hundred other millionaires get their money? The answer can be read in the pinched faces of three thousand starving miners, in the shabby clothes of ten thousand toiling mechanics, in the sallow cheeks of ten thousand factory girls and boys, and in the mortgages on a million farms and homes! "How long, oh Lord, how long," will beings in the image of their maker consent to be blind dupes and slaves?—Journal of Labor, Nashville Tenn.

#### It Flourishes by Abuse.

The strongest argument in favor of the Social Democracy movement is the slurs, innuendoes, vilifications and denunciations of the plutocratic press. Many people who have never had the time or opportunity to study the great social and economic questions on which this movement is based have been for years suffering from the lash of capitalistic taskmasters, while these same papers have been preaching to them that they were free, happy, prosperous and that the near future had in store for them all the transcendent bliss of another Eden, while all the time the patches grew broader on the seat of their pants and the struggle became harder to keep the wolf from the door. Such people will regard any movement which meets with such hearty and unanimous disapprobation by the plutocratic press as worth looking into and Social Democracy will bear the closest scrutiny. Pitch into it, ye hiring scribes; abuse Debs to the utmost extent of your ability, misrepresent as he says and does, lie without stint and utter all dire and fearful predictions you can invent. You are only adding the cause you think you are opposing.—Journal of Labor, Nashville.





SOCIAL DEMOCRACY

A RECORD OF THE WEEK'S PROPAGANDA AND PROGRESS.

Chairman Debs and Organizer Lloyd at Terre Haute—Other Notes of Interest.

The Social Democrat.

The Social Democrat deserves well of the Social Democracy, whose right it champions, and as fearlessly denounces the wrongs it suffers from the hands of despots.

In the fierce battle now in progress for truth, justice and liberty, in which all humanity is involved, the Social Democrat makes no concessions and no compromises.

It voices the truth, that the country is being Russified by autocratic decrees of a servile court, and the time has come for a change.

To make the Social Democrat a mighty force in the great struggle for emancipation, it should be in the hands and homes of every workingman in America.

Each local branch should make a special effort to extend the subscription list of the Social Democrat. Let the work begin and go forward persistently.

Courage on dress parade is for kindergarten soldiers, for Social Democrats in the battle and the storm.

Roy M. Goodwin made a splendid talk to the Milwaukeeans on Labor Day. Director Hogan is doing missionary work in Colorado. Wm. E. Burns spoke on Labor Day at Dubuque, Iowa, and organized a branch of the Social Democracy the following evening. He returned to headquarters yesterday.

At Terre Haute, Ind.

The Chicago Chronicle printed the following special in its issue of yesterday:

Eugene Debs held his first meeting for the Social Democracy in his home town to-night, and after John F. Lloyd of Chicago had spoken at length Debs told how the Social Democracy would bring relief from the evils of the competitive system. He was enthusiastically applauded when he said he intended to devote himself to the task of relieving the workingmen from the oppression of the present industrial system.

Debs referred to the miners' strike, and said: "Suppose the miners do win this strike. It will not be three months until the same conditions exist which brought on the strike. Some operators will not enter into the agreement and they will undersell those operators who are parties to the agreement. The latter will be compelled to compete with them, and to do so will have to reduce wages. The only alternative will be the cessation of mining operations."

The branch fires of the Social Democracy are blazing the way through the wilderness of wrong, and will light the way to labor's emancipation.

Secretaries of local branches throughout the country are invited to send the Social Democrat a postal card at least once a month, or oftener, if convenient, giving brief mention of what is happening.

Notice the adv't of Socialist books in this page and send for them. They will make good campaign documents.

Although he is speaking occasionally at meetings Chairman Debs has not recovered from the attack of sunstroke which he received down in West Virginia a few weeks ago. This will delay his active work in the field for a week or two longer. In the meantime the chief keeps his pen busy attending to a very large and important correspondence.

Earnest, substantial work is what is now wanted on the part of every member—a proper understanding of the duties of membership and the courage and manliness to perform them.

Editor J. H. Schweggen has been obliged to temporarily retire from his duties as chief pencil pusher of the Social Democrat owing to a severe attack of a chronic complaint brought on, in a great measure, by his strenuous efforts to do the paper justice while otherwise earning his living. He will probably be under the doctor's care for several weeks.

"We are coming," says a voice from New York, "several thousand strong." The sweep of the Social Democracy is as resistless as the sea.

We have received a copy of "The Labor Annual," the year book of social, economic and political reform edited by Joseph Edwards of Wallasey, Liverpool, England. It is a neatly printed book of some 300 pages, full of interesting information and illustrated with portraits of prominent British and German socialists, etc.

When the working poor are paid in return for their labor only as much money as will buy them the necessities of life, their condition is identical with that of the slave who receives those necessities at first hand; the former we call "free men" and the latter "slaves," but the difference is imaginary only.—John Adams.

Chicago Labor Parade, 1897.

By Cyrus Field Willard.

I stood on the curb and watched them pass, those weary sons of toil, And my heart waxed sore as I scanned them o'er, Workers from shop and soil.

In grim and somber ranks this mass of tollers swung their way And "rattled their chains to music's strains" On thus, their festal day.

By toll mis-shaped and haggard their face, with clothing poor and vile, They tried to be gay with a feeble display Of flag, and badge, and smile.

"Oh, God!" I cried, "how long shall this race of man by men be cursed, By the judge-made laws, rent's cunning clause And usury, the worst?"

"Yet worse than all is that system red, that putrid, rotting state That curse of the age to get back as wage A tithe as we create."

"Peace? Do you not see?" a voice then said, "of Labor's mighty host That here is but shown for the freeman's groan, Ten thousand slaves at most."

"If it comes by ballot or by force, Freedom will surely be, It will come to stay, on that Labor Day, When all mankind is free."

The Hope of the Future.

Following is the gist of an eloquent address made by Comrade Fitzgerald Murphy, chairman of Branch No. 1, at the meeting last Sunday:

"Socialism is the science of society and the Social Democracy is the heaven of hope for humanity.

"Since the first spark of consciousness was implanted in the mind of man he has unsuccessfully experimented with different forms of government. He has changed dictators for despots, theocracies for democracies in his struggle for social perfection, but the fundamentals have always remained the same, hence his failure. The social cooperative commonwealth is his only economic salvation. The majestic highway of human history is strewn with the wrecks of civilization that have been consumed by the fires of selfishness. Their flames should light our pathway of the future. We must profit by the experience of history.

Socialism is the logical outcome of the present transitory phase of our industrial development. Its ultimate success is as fixed as fate. It will come independently of our efforts. It will come in spite of its opponents. In fact those who oppose it furnish the grandest lessons of its efficacy. The corporation and the trust contain the germs of Socialism. Enlarge these combinations so that they will embrace humanity and universal co-operation—Socialism becomes an economic actuality.

Man was never made to mourn. He was born under skies of beauty to be happy and enjoy life. Bounteous nature surrounds him with inspiring scenes of beauty and plenty and yet he is damned, degraded and starved in a hell of ghastly poverty.

"The competitive system is an insult to Divinity! It circumvents its purpose and thwarts the plans of destiny. It is based upon selfishness and must fall by the weight of its own corruption. Poverty is doomed and the white banner of the Social Democracy is the beautiful banner of the dawn."

A School for Socialists.

While, in the classic days of handicraft, each individual produced a whole article himself, capitalist industry is based upon co-operative labor. Here the individual workers can do nothing without their fellow-workers. If they start to work united and plentifully, the capacity of each is doubled and trebled. Thus their labor itself brings home to them the power of union, and develops among them the sense of voluntary and gladness discipline—both of which are the conditions precedent for Socialist production, and are likewise the successful struggle of the proletariat against the system of exploitation that prevails under capitalist production. And thus it happens that capitalism itself trains the proletarians in the methods requisite for its own overthrow, and educates them in the system of labor that will be required of them in Socialist society.—Brauer Zeitung.

The Providence Journal agrees with Carroll D. Wright that, while the rich are getting richer, the poor are improving their condition. In summing up the evidence of the increasing wealth of the rich it cites the greater munificence of their gifts to charity. If the poor are not getting poorer what is this growing charity all about?—The Beacon, Johnston, R. I.

Bonds and banks I never approved. Our whole banking system I ever abhorred, I continue to abhor, and shall die abhorring.—John Adams.

MEETINGS OF LOCAL BRANCHES

[Notices of meetings will be published under this head for 2c per month.]

Illinois Branch No. 10 meets every Thursday at 13 N. Clark street, Chicago.

Illinois Branch No. 9 meets 2d, 3d and 4th Mondays at 8 p. m., 18d street and Centre avenue, Chicago. Business meeting for members only 1st Sunday of each month at 10 a. m.

Missouri Branch No. 3 meets every 2d and 4th Thursdays at 11th and Wyoming sts., St. Louis, Mo.

Illinois Branch No. 1 meets every Sunday at 10 Washington street, Chicago, at 2 p. m. Members please attend.

Illinois Branch No. 2 meets every Sunday at 8 p. m., Nathan's Hall, corner Milwaukee and Western avenues, Chicago.

Pennsylvania Branch No. 1 meets every Sunday 8 p. m., Co-operative Hall, 1125 Poplar street, Philadelphia.

The Social Democrat SUBSCRIPTION BLANK TO THE PUBLISHER, 504 Trude Bldg., Chicago: Find enclosed \$ for which send THE SOCIAL DEMOCRAT for months To Full P. O. Address RATE: Twelve Months, \$1.00; Six Months, 50c; Three Months, 25c. NOTE—CUT THIS OUT AND SEND TO THE SOCIAL DEMOCRAT.

Official Gazette of the Social Democracy Sylvester Keliher, National Secretary.

At the close of each meeting the treasurer shall make a report of members admitted and forward, together with the admission fee of twenty-five cents; and if admitted before the 15th of the month, fifteen cents dues for the current month. If admitted after the fifteenth only the admission fee is forwarded.

Local branches should be organized at every available point. Five or more reputable persons who will subscribe to the declaration of principles can organize a local branch.

First procure a constitution and blank application for charter, secure the signatures of the proposed members, arrange meeting at some suitable place and elect an executive board of five members as provided by the Constitution; have the board meet and elect a chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, treasurer and organizer.

The new officer should take charge of meeting at once, and all who have signed the application should pay the admission fee of 25 cents, and if organized before the 15th of the month, 15 cents monthly dues to the National Council for the current month; if after the 15th the National dues will commence on the first of the following month.

At the close of the meeting the treasurer shall forward to National Secretary a report giving names of permanent officers, all members who have paid the required fee, and correct address in each case, so that paper can be promptly forwarded. Only the names of members who have paid shall be included in this report.

No extra charge is made for charter or cards of membership and the Social Democrat is forwarded to every member on the payment of 15 cents monthly dues.

All moneys for admission fees and dues should be paid to and forwarded by the treasurer.

PRICE LIST OF SUPPLIES. The following is price list of supplies furnished by the National Council. Each local branch should order in such quantities as will avoid the loss of time, trouble and expense in sending out in small quantities:

Applications for membership per hundred . . . . . \$ .25 Transfer cards, per hundred . . . . . .50 Withdrawal cards, per hundred . . . . . .70 Letter heads, per hundred . . . . . .50 Envelopes, small size, per hundred . . . . . .50 Envelopes, large size, per hundred . . . . . .70 Meeting reports, per hundred . . . . . 1.00 Monthly reports, per hundred . . . . . 1.00 Receipt books, each . . . . . .25 Postal card receipts, per hundred . 1.50 Constitutions, each . . . . . .03 Gavel, each . . . . . .50

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