

The Social Democrat

"ON EARTH PEACE, GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN."

VOL. V.

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CURRENT NOTES.

LOSS TO HUMANITY IN EDWARD BELLAMY'S UNTIMELY DEATH.

Jaures and Guesde Are Defeated in the French Elections, But Socialism Makes Remarkable Gains.

How mysterious, how inexplicable, how utterly irrational are the decrees of fate! The angel of death, as if unwilling to see humanity blessed by the presence of noble spirits on earth, strikes down the worthy and spares the unworthy. The pain-racked mortal to whom existence is a burden prays in vain for death; the hungry, over-labored proletarian, deprived of all the joys and comforts of an upright human existence, having neither hope nor prospect of rest and peace on this side of that fathomless current which flows between this life and the one beyond, must continue to live on and on; the perverse, ill-balanced being whose mind is darkened by ignoble thoughts and unworthy aims; the degenerate parasite, who preys upon society, and who can only benefit the world by leaving it; the immoral scoundrel who pollutes by his very presence among us the stream which must bear humanity onward to a broader, finer, more rational and complete life—all these are spared by eternal Nemesis, while her sword is used to strike down the helpful, the grand and beautiful beings who vitalize all the higher aspirations of humankind by their presence among us. Such thoughts as this recur and crowd upon one when the irony of life's drama is thrown in strong perspective by the untimely death of such a man as Edward Bellamy.

Bellamy accomplished a great work. He did for economic individualism what Harriet Beecher Stowe did for negro slavery in the United States—i. e., broke its backbone. He awakened the people to a realizing sense of the sordid iniquity of the life they were living, gave them a clear idea of the enormity of their insane scramble for wealth, and opened up new vistas of life before their enchanted vision—life rational, complete and full-rounded. He crystallized thoughts which had existed only as phantoms in millions of brains, and gave voice to the dumb aspirations of millions of hearts. What the cause of humanity owes to him cannot be told by this generation. It is a volume of history that has yet to be written.

But great as was the work that Bellamy accomplished, he would have done more had he been permitted to live out the allotted span of man's existence. It can not be said of him, as Emerson said of Lincoln, "Perhaps he may serve his country even more by his death than by his life." The work of this rare man was all constructive, and he could serve his country only by living. It is a calamity that he has been cut down at the very threshold of his mature existence.

Whatever the rewards for good deeds will do which fall to the lot of the chosen ones upon the farther shore, they will certainly be meted out to Bellamy in full measure. He earned them by the highest test of true Christian life—he lived for his fellow-men. Ave, more! He died for them. Let us hope that he may reincarnate in the midst of the life which the eye of his genius perceived, and be able to clearly look backward on the hideous dream of despair, called "civilization," to the correction of which his life was sacrificed.

We may step aside from the turmoil of life to drop a simple flower on the bier of one of the world's greatest benefactors, and we may drop a tear at thought of his untimely death; then let us gird our loins anew and press bravely forward to a realization of his hope for humanity.

Notwithstanding the defeat of Jaures and Guesde, reports from the general election in France, disclose remarkable gains for Socialism. On the first ballot there were elected sixteen Socialists, twenty-seven Social-Radicals, and six Socialist-Revisionists. The result of the second ballot, a report of which has not yet been received, will undoubtedly be to increase the number of Socialists to fifty, Socialist-Radicals to forty-five, and Socialist-Revisionists to sixteen.

It is estimated that the grand total of votes for all France, where contests took place, included:

For Socialists 785,274
For Socialist-Radicals 488,594
For Socialist-Revisionists 119,853

Total 1,404,631

The Petite Republique estimates the Socialist vote at 940,682, and at over a million when adding cases where Socialist support was given to Radicals. This estimate shows an advance of nearly 300,000 votes since 1893. The exact Socialist vote in 1893 was 665,038. Millerand, in La Lanterne, estimates the increase at nearly half a million. This showing by no means represents the total political strength of French Socialism, as the number of Socialist candidatures covered only 269 divisions, out of 581. Fifty-nine of these 269 were contested only by Socialist Radicals or Revisionists. There can, therefore, be no doubt that there is an enormous reserve of Socialist electors in unpolled districts.

Besides those which were absolutely elected and those which were certainly elected at the second ballot, there are 46 Socialists, 11 Socialist-Radicals, and 2 Revisionists who stand a fair chance of winning on second ballot. We have, then, counting only one candidate of the combined parties to any one constituency, 96 Socialists, 56 Socialist-Radicals and 18 Revisionists, a

total of 170 out of 269 contests, who scored successes or gained favorable second chances at the first ballots of 1898. This is a result of which French Socialists may well be proud. As to the general impression produced by the result, let the adversary speak:

The Gaulois (Reactionary and Clerical) says:

"The most important fact of the election is the new and formidable advance of the Socialist movement. The Socialists cannot complain of the events of Sunday, notwithstanding the loss of two percentages of mark. The Siecle (Anti-Socialist) says:

"Because Messieurs Jules Guesde and Jaures were beaten, people hastily cried out that Socialism was crushed at the elections of May 31st. This impression has not lasted. . . . Messrs. Meline and Barthou have had to exclaim with astonishment, 'We gave instructions to our prefects, and yet the number of Socialists augmented.'"

And the bourgeois-capitalist Temps remarks:

"The Socialist party is the only one which can boast of having gained ground in the country."

Guesde and Jaures were singled out as special objects of attack, and their defeat was accomplished by assaults of the most unexampled viciousness on the part of the capitalists. It was immediately proposed to find new seats for both leaders, but the offer was declined, and Jaures has definitely announced his temporary retirement from the parliamentary struggle. He will devote himself to the propaganda. In the face of the wave of anti-Semitism which has swept over France as a result of the Dreyfus affair, this showing reflects great credit on the leaders of the French Socialist movement, and indicates a remarkably compact and well-disciplined organization.

French electoral methods are so much superior to our own that a few remarks concerning them may not be out of place.

The anomaly of plurality elections is unknown in France. No candidate is permitted to represent a constituency there unless he can show a clear majority of all the votes cast. It is this requirement that gives rise to the second ballot. To illustrate: Suppose we have a constituency of say, 25,000 voters, and there are candidates of five parties to be voted for. The votes are distributed among these candidates as follows:

Republican 10,000
Democrat 6,000
Populist 4,000
Socialist 3,000
Prohibition 2,000

Under our methods the result of this poll would be to place the Republican candidate in office, notwithstanding that he has received the votes of but two-fifths of the voters. We thus demonstrate that our professions of majority rule are a sham and a fraud. This result under the French system would require a second ballot to determine which of the two leading candidates is to represent the constituency. By dropping the three lower candidates, and supposing that 9,000 persons refrained from voting on the second ballot, it is possible for the result to remain practically unchanged, and the Republican would still gain as a minority representative, but such a result is hardly probable, and in any event the system is a great deal better than our own. It is not as good as proportional representation, but it is vastly better than minority representation. A very excellent feature of the second ballot is that the charge of selling out to the capitalist parties, constantly made here against minority parties of radical tendencies, will not hold water when it is used. There is no object for one party to attempt to draw votes away from another—unless they are added directly to its own list. Neither is there any reason for a voter of radical belief to refrain from voting for the party which represents his views, through fear of adding strength to a particularly obnoxious capitalist party. He can vote for the party of his choice on the first ballot, and sock it to his capitalist bete noir just the same on the second ballot. On the whole the French system is far superior to ours.

A few months ago the New Jersey Central gave bonuses to the engineers and firemen handling the largest number of tons of freight in excess of the train rate, and within the hours designated for the trip. It was found the engines could haul several more cars than had been the rule. But now the company says no more bonuses will be paid. The result is that eight entire crews have been laid off for "good." The Trainmen's Journal says they were "bonused" out of their jobs. And they have got exactly what they deserve.

Here is big business for the government of this great country to be engaged in. A couple of intelligent and well-educated immigrants, one a dressmaker, the other a printer, were refused admission to the country a few days ago because they do not believe in marriage, and have been living together in London for the past two years without the sanction of the marriage rite. They were told that they would not be permitted to land unless they were formally married, and were sent back because they refused to comply with such a tyrannical edict. This is surely "the land of the free and the home of the brave," an asylum for the oppressed of all nations (!) We will now sing a verse of our national anthem and conclude the exercises of the day by reading the first paragraph of our Declaration of Independence!

A Washington dispatch informs us that "The President never permits his public duties, no matter how important they may be, to interfere with his recreations." What a fortunate person the President is to be sure!

LONDON LETTER.

INTERESTING NOTES OF THE MOVEMENT IN GREAT BRITAIN.

London Socialists Celebrate May Day Under Difficulties—New Game of Oxford University Students—Other News.

(Social Democrat Special.)

May 7th, 1898.

Last year's Labor day demonstration was held in brilliant sunshine that brought out the full beauty of Hyde Park in all its many colors, and heightened the effect of the pretty blouses worn by the fair women who have rallied to the cause of Socialism. This year the sun was evidently away on war service, for not a solitary beam peeped through the dense black banks of rain clouds that poured down their torrents, heavily, incessantly and drearily. The rain did not properly start until the gigantic procession, and it was gigantic notwithstanding the doubtful sky, had fully gathered upon the embankment. Then it came down, driving all but the most enthusiastic to shelter, and in obedience to the unalterable law of necessity, umbrellas became common property. However, banner bearers, bandsmen, and a valiant nucleus of undampable processionists to the number of about ten thousand trooped into the park and stood around the platforms. The rain persisting, the speeches were hurried through, and within a short time the concourse of very wet but also, judging by the loud-lunged, defiant singing of the Marseillaise, which one heard on all sides, very happy demonstrators made for home and tea and dry things. It was to have been and would have been the most imposing, exhilarating, virile and joyous labor day demonstration ever held, but man proposes and the weather disposes, and there's an end to it.

Elsewhere in England May day appears to have been celebrated under rather better climatic conditions, and processions, speeches and Socialist song-singing passed off triumphant in most of the big manufacturing cities of England and Scotland.

The question of fusion between the I. L. P. and S. D. F. is still being casually discussed. The presenting of a united front would have a dramatic benefit by reason of the impression it would have upon plutocracy and its myrmidons, and a more real benefit by reason of the greater effectiveness of combined propaganda and undivided effort at elections. Owing, however, to the lack of interest shown by the leaders of the respective parties, fusion is apparently a long way off. Desultory discussion in branch rooms and occasional letters to the labor press couched in terms of lamentation or resentment rather than in terms of business-like suggestion and intimation, is the present distressful state of the idea. The probabilities are that when fusion is arranged it will be too late to be of any real benefit. Social evolution does not wait while people or organizations make up their minds. It sweeps ahead with resistless vigor and only by perpetual wakefulness and activity can one keep abreast of it. A newer and more watchful combination will come to the front and there will no longer be any necessity for the fusion of what will then be superseded organizations.

Oxford is renowned as a seat of learning, having a university and other elevating things. To this university go the scions of our old nobility, and whilst some of them study hard and eventually join that useless band of Conservative savants whose extended learning has unfortunately not really widened their intellectual horizon, the others, and the vast majority, take their pleasures in channels quite outside the colleges. I do not wish to linger over these, because they are often unsavory, but I want to mention the new pastime that the undergraduates have evolved. It is called "chivving Socialists," and is adjudged according to gownsman's taste. Notwithstanding the innate Toryism of Oxford the Social Democratic Federation have succeeded in planting a vigorous branch there, and with April they proposed starting their open air propaganda. They commenced the meetings and the undergraduates commenced their new game. It is played this way: You see a Socialist with one or two friends talking earnestly and convincingly to a body of people. You call your college comrades about you until you outnumber the Socialistic element by about twenty to one, and you bribe the custodian of law and order to be conveniently distant for awhile. Then with college cries you rush upon the meeting, knock the crowd all over the place, and half murder the speaker and his friends. This usually takes some little time, because all Socialists are not Tolstoyans, but being backed up by overwhelming numbers, you win and retire from the field triumphantly. Then the owl-eyed policeman comes on and arrests the Socialist who was speaking, and the legal idiot on the judicial bench gives him a month's imprisonment with hard labor for disorderly conduct. Two members of the Oxford branch of the S. D. F. are now in prison serving time over affairs of this kind, but Socialist opinion throughout the country is being roused, and martyrdom of this sort will win in the end. But is it not a shocking commentary upon the mental condition of our young "masters"? We do not blame the policeman. He's like that machine where you drop a coin in and the figure does the rest.

The Socialist organizations are not neglecting the valuable field offered for spreading the true economic gospel, by the South Wales miners' strike. J. Chatterton, an able young orator, is down there on behalf of the S. D. F., and Joe Clayton, one of the cleverest speakers and writers in the whole movement, is there for the I. L. P. May the crop be bountiful.

J. T. R.

DEBS' TRIBUTE TO BELLAMY.

The following estimate of Bellamy and his work appeared in the Terre Haute Express of May 25, as part of an interview with Comrade Debs: "When in 1888 the first edition of 'Looking Backward' appeared the name of Edward Bellamy flashed around the world. Of this epoch-making book it is estimated that fully 2,000,000 copies have been sold; and it has been translated into German, French, Italian, Russian, and many other languages. 'Rarely has a book created such a profound impression on the popular mind. For years there had been agitation of the social question in other countries, especially in Germany and France, where a mighty international Socialist movement was developing at a rate to arouse apprehension among the ruling class. 'Looking Backward' was the first popular exposition of Socialism in this country. Thousands read it with keen delight without so much as being aware that it undermined the existing social order, and paved the way for the social commonwealth. 'From that time to this there has been a world-wide interest in Edward Bellamy and he has been classed with the great men of the century. There are those who, while admiring the brilliant achievements of the man, esteem him wholly impractical and place him in the category of visionaries and dreamers. They are less than just to themselves. A careful study of Mr. Bellamy's later works, especially 'Equality,' will convince any fairly minded person that the author is eminently practical in his views and theories. As a matter of course he was an idealist, but this only developed the practical side of the man and made it possible for him to present his theories so admirably and effectively as to captivate the mass of the people in all civilized lands. 'The fame of this distinguished author, reformer and humanitarian will rest upon 'Equality,' the book that may be said to have sapped his life currents and hurried him to a premature grave. 'He foresaw the doom of the present competitive system with prophetic vision and how clearly he indicated the revolutionary processes by which the economic world is being revolutionized and the new social order established will be realized only long after his earthly labors ended. 'Edward Bellamy died in the very prime of his manhood. He was but 48 when the summons came. Personally, he was one of the gentlest and most lovable of men. He was in the truest sense a friend of suffering humanity. Touched and shocked by the daily exhibition of social wrong he encountered, he gave his whole heart and head to the task of finding a way to ameliorate the ills of 'Les Miserables,' not by dispensing charity, but by the development of a social system, the basis of which should be economic equality and in which industry should be organized and carried forward co-operatively, not for profit, but for the common and equal good of all. 'It is yet too early for the world to form an estimate of the work and worth of this great and noble man. Future generations will know him better than this, and when history is fairly and impartially written his name will appear among the most illustrious of the ages."

FOR PROPAGANDA.

The National Executive Board Calls for Funds to Spread the Work of Social Democracy.

To the Social Democracy, Greeting: We are in need of funds to inaugurate a more vigorous campaign in the interest of the Social Democracy. More men are needed in the field and more literature must be distributed. It is therefore proposed to raise \$2,000 for this purpose at the earliest possible moment and we call for 200 volunteers to send us \$10 each to meet the demand.

The splendid victories of Milwaukee and Sheboygan indicate beyond all doubt the sweep of the movement. These advantages must be followed up by vigorous work and preparations must at once be begun for the congressional campaign this fall. Two hundred subscriptions of \$10 each will give us \$2,000 and with this amount we can accomplish wonders. We appeal to each local branch and to each member to take this matter in hand.

Subscriptions should be forwarded to the national treasurer and all will be acknowledged in the columns of the Social Democrat. Comrades, the Social Democracy calls to duty and every nerve should be strained to meet the demands of the hour. Earnestly hoping that the response to our appeal will be prompt and ample, we remain, Yours fraternally,

EUGENE V. DEBS,
JAMES HOGAN,
SYLVESTER KELIHER,
W. M. E. BURNS,
R. M. GOODWIN,
National Executive Board.
Chicago, April 12, 1898.

Subscribe for the Social Democrat and get the big war atlas free.

HIS LAST LETTER.

"THE MAN WITHOUT A SOUL" STOPS WRITING FOR THE REFORM PRESS.

Religious Fanaticism and Harsh Criticism Have Been Too Much for Him, to Bear—He, Bids Adieu.

The many friends of "The Man Without a Soul" will be pained to know of his decision, as expressed in the following farewell article, to stop writing for the reform press, and will hope, with the editor of the Social Democrat, that his decision is not final. It is a characteristic of the slave, to which all history bears eloquent witness, to lick the hand that smites him, and he who raises his voice in behalf of the oppressed must expect persecution and contumely, even from the slaves he would fain set free. Such is the lot of the preacher of new ideas, and his real grandeur lies in his ability to rise superior to criticism and carry on his work in spite of it. Let us hope that our comrade will reconsider his determination. His letter follows:

Long before Socialism became a political factor in this country, my fight for the people was against the oppression and hypocrisy of the ruling and reigning class; and I accused the church of serving the rich as a mother hen serves the young brood of chicks—spreading her wings over them to shelter them from the storm, no odds how full of stolen food their crops may be.

I have always preached that no individual or nation can be elevated to a higher level than their religion occupies. No cannibal, nor pagan, nor millionaire, nor laboring man can be lifted to a higher level than the level occupied by his accepted religious faith.

If a man believes in the divine right of kings to rule, he must then admit that the common herd has no divine right to enjoy liberty, but must be satisfied and contented to be slaves and serfs.

No community nor country rises higher than its accepted religious faith, and so long as the people take offense at the mere mention of religious reform, the cause of humanity must remain at a standstill.

For this reason I am crowded out of every reform paper. The people are still too thin-skinned to listen to the truth, and complaint after complaint has been filed against me at every reform newspaper office that gave me space to air my views.

I therefore step down and out of the so-called reform ranks. I deny that kings have a divine right to rule and reign over me, as taught by the religions of all nations, both pagan and Christian.

Neither can I believe that God's nearest neighbor is a relentless and unscrupulous devil, waiting to torture humanity, nor can I believe that God's love and justice must have a hell attached to them, nor that natural events can be swayed by empty prayer, nor the hunger of the poor satisfied by long-winded sermons.

I do not propose to pose as a martyr, to be abused and maligned during life, and spoken kindly of after I pass away. Lovejoy and John Brown were murdered for their ideas on slavery, and afterward praised and monumented, and Christ, was crucified for attacking the established faith, and now the people squander their substance on church buildings, and let the poor starve to church music of long meter.

Under all manner of religious faith the laboring people have been used as the fatted calf, and slaughtered for the benefit of the profligate prodigals who come back to fill their purse with plunder after a season of debauchery and drunkenness, and the calf turns upon all who stretch out an arm to save it from the industrial butcher.

I may let the calf take care of itself in the future; or, perhaps, help to devour it, if I wish to win its good will and approbation.

Of course I will always be a co-operative Socialist at heart—a far better one than the many who condemn me; but I will be a silent one. Like a cast-out Jonah, I will sit by the wayside and watch the brutal driver on the heavily laden industrial cart urging the mules along with his cruel lash, but will hold my tongue so long as the mule believes in the divine right of the driver to lash him into a painful trot on half feed.

The majority of laboring people do not know how to appreciate a friend. They patronize the plutocratic newspaper—their worst and most cruel enemy—and make millionaires out of the publishers, while the editors and friends who publish reform papers and fight their battles are left to die of neglect.

To the many noble men and women who have lifted themselves above prejudice and fanaticism, and who have extended the hand of friendship to the humble writer, "The Man Without a Soul" sends this last greeting, and thus passes out into the silence that swallows down dead and forgotten men. A few articles still in the hands of publishers may appear in the future, but they are the posthumous letters of the man whom prejudice and religious fanaticism killed.

I am not vain enough to imagine that my absence will be missed; but I wish to warn the narrow and thin-skinned to become more liberal in their views, or they may kill the enthusiasm and hopes of men who are actually needed in the movement. I step down and out for the good of the cause so dear to my heart, and will fight for humanity by the side of men who have risen above religious prejudice and superstition.

"SOCIALISM'S ROSARY."

(In honor of the first convention of the Social Democracy of America.)

Oh, golden beads; oh, string of love,
How fair and dear thou art to me;
The vindication of heaven above—
In love and joy—Humanity.

Each decade of this heavenly string
A precious pearl unto all men;
The anthem sweet for us to sing
Sweet stories of "what might have been."

Each chaplet of this rosary,
A fair memorial of our God;
The hope of all humanity—
Sweetest his joy of Calvary.

Each decade, oh, how fair and good,
Full lighting up the dreary way;
By the commandments of our God—
The joy of Socialism's day.

Its precepts full the holy way,
Redeeming man from slavery;
Making the world so bright and gay—
Joy of Social Democracy.

How oft I heard, my tale of woe,
As o'er it tears of suffering fell;
Caused by its truths that men forego,
Sin of the world—Plutocracy.

Oh, that the world these glories knew,
All men are brothers, with right the power;
To only rule, not might of few—
The curse of competition's hour.

And at the end the cross I see,
Whereat I wheel and silent pray;
For manhood's thrill of liberty—
With love and right the rule of day.

Around my heart these jewels lie,
In memory of God to man;
Grand coronation of the high—
The chivalry of rights of man.

Thy golden beads—the brotherhood
Thy fatherhood of God;
The pulse beat of humanity—
Is Socialism's Rosary.

MURPHY O'HEA.

THE LESSON FROM BELLAMY.

Isn't it rather amusing as well as instructive to read the eulogies on Edward Bellamy?

A few years ago—a very few years ago—enlightened fellow-citizens, says the Chicago Journal, the man who talked or wrote socialism was in danger of being run into a corner and clubbed. It does people good to look back over their lives and recall how often they have been fools and cowards, and it must chasten the spirits of some of our haughtiest editors and our most opinionated business men to reflect that they took their definitions of socialism from an ignorant policeman and cheerfully appointed the said policeman executioner as well as censor.

Bellamy deserves a national monument because he taught people to be tolerant. He was not a very great man, this Bellamy. The old heads in socialism looked upon him much as Huxley might have looked on a popular lecturer on biology. But he did a wonderful work because he brought to the limited intelligence of that very dull person, the average "practical" man, a picture of the "practical working" of socialism. You can convince the class only by means of pictures. They are children. Bellamy taught them the alphabet with blocks and instructed them in natural science with a Noah's ark. The same people who gain their culture from a perceptive lecture and their conception of the better world from an illustrated magazine, were convinced at once, although wise men may smile at the regularity of Bellamy's Altruism. And, thanks chiefly to Bellamy, a few years after the crime of a handful of deluded men on the west side of this city had spread the spirit of a revengeful mob through every community in the country and caused the persecution of every little German dreamer who was found with a copy of Karl Marx in his pocket, universities founded for the greater honor and glory of wealth began to harbor socialists who, twelve years ago, would have been assigned to a place with rabid anarchists of the Lingg and Fischer type.

Socialism may be all right or all wrong, or partly right and partly wrong. Herbert Spencer thinks it is inevitable and deplorable. However this may be, its progress in this country, as well as in Europe, is proof that no amount of persecution and abuse will destroy a propaganda that holds as its ideal a state controlled by other principles than those of loot and lust. Give every honest man a hearing. That is the lesson of the day, brothers and sisters. Listen respectfully to him, if he speaks for better men and better deeds, even if you have difficulty in following the strange lens of his imagination. The man who hopes for the development of the best traits of human nature may be crazy, but he is infinitely more lovable than the man who goes craftily ahead, gambling on the rule of the worst traits.

However much Socialists may oppose war on general principles and in theory, they cannot escape the logic of events nor refuse to consider the facts which touch their daily lives and have a bearing on the conditions of social progress, and in these great world-events which are evolved out of the irresistible onward march of capitalism they must perforce take sides with whichever force is advancing towards humanity's goal, the deliverance from slavery of the world's outraged and oppressed proletariat—the death of capitalism.

The marvelous possibilities inherent in our modern methods of production are indicated by a task that was accomplished a few days ago in Pennsylvania. All within the brief space of six hours and four minutes a number of sheep were shorn and the wool so obtained was spun through all the processes of manufacture necessary to turn it into a complete suit of clothes. This is a truly marvelous accomplishment; the person who can contemplate it without seeing the absolute necessity of abolishing private ownership of the means of production is as dull as Wm. McKinley.

MERRIE ENGLAND! twelve copies for 50 cents.

THE CONVENTION.

ROSA PROLETAIRE GIVES SOME GOOD ADVICE CONCERNING IT.

Delegates Should Be Fully Aware of the Responsibilities of Their Position—Wise Action Needed.

Talk about the war, about Chattanooga, San Juan, Manila! Talk about Dewey, Sampson, Schley! Why? H'm! War talk is the only proof of your patriotism. He who refused to talk war at breakfast, dinner and supper, at sunrise and sunset, is not a good patriot, and should be treated like the Spaniards in Manila.

Indeed, war is a great thing. War has made the Pharaohs of Egypt, the kings and tyrants of Greece and Rome. War has made an Alexander the Great, a Charlemagne, a Napoleon Bonaparte. Greatness! How can men become so great?

Their greatness is like Caesar's column! Built on millions of human bodies and cemented with rivers of human blood. Like stone upon stone the lifeless human bodies are piled up, higher and higher and out of this structure of death rises the greatness of the "great men."

Great men? Is Dewey a great man? I don't know. Let the future generation answer this question. I claim that Edward Bellamy was a hundred times greater than the "Hero of Manila." Bellamy represented a new world a new civilization. Dewey represents the last remnant of mediaevalism, with all its war horrors. Bellamy was an apostle of peace. Few people of today are great enough to grasp the greatness of our departed friend Edward Bellamy. Honor, millionfold honor, to the author of "Looking Backward."

Some old Socialist pioneer—I forgot his name—once said that the organization of the smallest trades or labor organization was of greater importance to the welfare of humanity than the battle of Sadowa. It might be stated for those who are not acquainted with the history of the world's wars that the battle of Sadowa cost even more human life and blood than the battle of Manila.

I am of the humble opinion that the first national convention of the Social Democracy of America, which is to meet next week, will be of much greater importance to the future welfare and safety of the American people than the present war between this country and Spain.

The delegates to this convention should be fully aware of the responsibility they accept by taking part in the proceedings of this great parliament of the Social Democracy of America. Grave and serious questions are to be discussed and must be acted upon. The plan of organization and action for the proletarian army of America must be formulated and new ways and means devised for educating the masses of the people on the great social question.

Act like true men and women! Let every delegate be imbued with the true spirit of patriotism and love for his country and for his fellow-men. Be not afraid to discuss any question that may come before the convention. Truth need not fear the daylight. Always keep our noble cause in view, always remember that we are the advance guard of the great labor movement, and be careful that your petty personal hobbies will not push the important work to the background.

I appeal to you to avoid all parliamentary tricks in the convention. Whatever you do, do it honestly, openly, sincerely. Don't quarrel about "constitutional points," points of order, and the like. Lawyer-tricks and shyster-tactics should never be tolerated at any Socialist or labor convention. Comrades, millions of people will anxiously await your action. Act like men and women who have the welfare of the human family at heart. The time for action has come. Up with the banner of Social Democracy and the international labor movement!

"Sure as the morning follows
The darkest hour of night,
No question is ever settled
Until it is settled right."
In the noble cause of Social Democracy and humanity, your beloved sister
ROSA PROLETAIRE.

JUST BE GLAD.
O, heart of mine we shouldn't
Worry so,
What we've missed of calm we couldn't
Have you know?
What we've met of stormy pain
And of sorrow's driving rain
We can better meet again
If it blow,
We have erred in that dark hour,
When the tears fell with the shower,
All A-lose—
Were not shine and shower meet
As the gracious Master meant?
Let us temper our content
With His own.
For we know not every morrow
Can be sad;
So, forgetting all the sorrow
We have had;
Let us fold away our fears,
And put by our foolish tears
And through all the coming years
Just be glad.
—James Whitcomb Riley.

Buy 100 copies of Merrie England and distribute them among 100 of your acquaintances who are on the fence.

The rich are always content with the lot of the poor.—Wertheimer.

SOCIAL FORUM

AN EMBLEM.

Editor Social Democrat: I have noted the interest manifest in the adoption of an emblem for the S. D. of A., and appreciate the benefits that would result from the wearing of button or badge.

A majority of the suggestions drift off into allegorical panoramas, many of which would need a more elaborate circular of explanation than "The Great Seal of Knighthood" which was part of the K. of L. funny business.

The S. D. of A. aims to be part and parcel of that world-wide uprising whose one color is red, because the blood of all mankind is red; therefore, this color should be the basis of any emblem adopted.

I submitted my ideas to an artist comrade, who kindly made me a drawing which embodies the same in a very neat manner—see the cut at head of article.

NO PICTURE OF LEADERS. Editor Social Democrat: The suggestion of many comrades in the Social Democrat about the emblem they propose our party to adopt induced me to express my opinion about it, too.

A SENSIBLE SUGGESTION. Editor Social Democrat: What a curious thing is this desire of men to be tagged and labeled. We deprecate the capitalist's convenient method of numbering his "hands," justly arguing, I think, that the subjection of personality indicated by such a title as "A 123" has a degrading effect upon the human being compelled to submit to the indignity.

FOR FREE EXPRESSION. I have left the S. L. P., not because the S. L. P. has many defects, but because the latter, being conservative in its tactics, does not intend to cure those defects.

FOR A LABOR CHURCH. Dear Comrades of Chicago: Our motto, "On earth peace, good will to ward men," suggests that the ethics of our movement should in some way receive emphasis.

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corner of the lapel buttonhole would fill the bill very nicely. The advantages of the red berry are that it does not give the other people "fits" by being too conspicuous.

THE O'HIGGINS. This neat and modest mark is already in use by quite a numerous body of Socialists, viz., the "Clarionette's" readers of Merrie England, Blatchford's paper, the "Clarion."

A SOCIAL DEMOCRACY BUTTON. Some of the devices suggested for an emblem for the Social Democracy are much too complicated in design to be acceptable.

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ons arguments, that the reason we must not express our opinions in the press was lest the enemy should hear of our internal feuds and find out that there is something rotten in the state of Denmark is palpable.

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of starvation wages. And what shall be said of the multitudinous hosts of women whose days are spent in the factories—slaves of the mills—and of those plunged in the nightmare horror of sweatshops? Have they no need of the ballot? Does industrial emancipation mean nothing to them?

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Children's Column
Address Communications to Ella Reeve Ware, 577 Deaver St., Brooklyn.

Dear children, now the world grows sweeter day by day. You watch the leaves unfurl and know 'tis merry May.

CARL, THE NEWS-BOY. Carl Jacobs was a bright boy of ten years, and his greatest ambition was to stand high in his classes at school.

The poor Cubans! The suffering, starving reconcentrados! Truly, their last state is no better than their first.

How, then, have the reconcentrados been relieved? Do they cease to suffer, and starve, and rot, and die of famine and disease? By no means.

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APPLICATION FOR CHARTER FOR A LOCAL BRANCH OF THE Social Democracy of America TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD: Dear Sirs—The undersigned respectfully petition for a Charter for a Local Branch of the Social Democracy to be instituted at...

Paradise Found

BY RUDOLPH LEONHART, A. M.

Author of "THE WILD ROSE OF THE BEAVER," "TONGVA," THROUGH BLOOD AND IRON," "THE CHILDREN OF THE OCEAN," "THE TREASURE OF MONTEZUMA," "DOLORS," "EITHER OR," "ATONEMENT," "BRIDGING THE CHASM," ETC.

CHAPTER XXI.

Fatal Shooting Affray.

"Say, Mr. Author, ain't you sinking into the Five Points style of —"

Please hold your horses, reader, will you? Our great grandmothers always warned us not to cry before we got hurt, and this sound advice we now take the liberty of offering to you. When the bullets begin to fly, you can retire, so don't worry beforehand.

What were we going to say? Oh, yes! We have entirely lost sight of dear old Marianne, and feel in duty bound to see where and how she is. As to the WHERE we might safely surmise that she is not very far from Saratow, and as to the HOW, we are glad to state that, excepting an occasional twinge of the rheumatism, she enjoys fairly good health. Wandering over the spacious mansion of Aurelia, we fall to find her, but as we gaze from a second-story window, we see her enter the office of Paul Zitzoy, located in a smaller structure near by. Hurrying down, we overtake her, just as she enters the office. She had known all the Zitzoy boys from infancy, so we need not wonder at this liberty.

"Good morning, Paul," she says. "I am looking for Relia. Do you happen to know where she is?"

"Yes, Marianne. I saw her drive off with Hugh some fifteen minutes ago."

"Dear me! I wanted to see a button on her shoe, to make her look respectable. Have you an idea where they went to, Sonny?"

"Yes, aunty. I have an idea, they are going to elope."

"Bahaw. That is hardly fair, Paul. I am sure, Relia is of age, so Hugh needn't run away with her."

"I didn't say he was, did I?"

"You didn't! What did you say, then?"

"That she is running away with him, aunty."

Marianne could appreciate a joke, so she laughed. Then, sobering down, she approached him tip-toe and whispered confidentially:

"You think she likes him, then?"

Paul nodded energetically, and Marianne resumed:

"I think so, too, although she hasn't whispered a word of it to me. 'Tis her eyes that give her away, Sonny. But what of him? Do you think the affection is mutual?"

"I do, decidedly, aunty."

"Why, in the name of common sense, don't he speak, then? He ain't afraid, I hope?"

"There you hit the nail on the head, aunty. He is afraid."

"But, why, Paul? Goodness gracious! there ain't no earthly reason for it."

Paul became serious. "Aunt Marianne, I merely give my opinion, since Hugh Jean Teps has no more confided in me than Aurelia in you, but I am almost certain that Hugh is afraid of the verdict of the world."

"Dear me. I am sure he needn't be ashamed of her."

"Nor is he. She is a millionaire, you know; and if Hugh marries her, the public will smile significantly, nudge one another, and insinuate they see now what his philanthropy amounts to."

"Then Hugh is a coward," the old lady barked up. "You can tell him Aunt Marianne said so."

"He is, undoubtedly, aunty; we all are cowards in one way or another! Hugh, I know, is utterly indifferent to danger or bullet, but his weak point is overstrung moral sensitiveness."

The old lady mused a moment, then resumed: "I am sorry, then, for my darling, for I fear her heart and happiness are bound up in this man." Then, lowering her head to him: "Say, Paul, can't you sound him on this point?"

them intuitively divined the other's sentiments.

Hugh didn't speak, then, you want to know? How should we know. We are not mind readers, never claimed to be, although we flatter ourselves that we are able to tell a story in such a way as to keep you awake.

Perhaps Paul is right, and Hugh is a coward; but if you will have a little patience, you may be able to find out yourself.

Just how we take the liberty of propounding a ticklish conundrum to you: When the kettle is full, and the fire begins to change some of the water into steam, what will happen? "Why, it will boil over." Good for you, reader, your mental capacities are in a promising state of development, and if you continue to read our stories—modesty forbids us to finish the conclusion. But to apply your answer to our couple.

Their hearts were full to overflowing, and the fire in their bosoms was rapidly provoking steam pressure.

You say the contents of the kettle boiled over? Well, that is exactly what Hugh's heart did.

They had hardly reached the outskirts of the little settlement when he said, with a deep sigh: "I never knew until now the felicity involved in the humble occupation of cobbling."

We suspect that, as Paul would say, Aurelia at once smelled a rat; but a natural modesty forbids catching on too quick, you know, so she opened her fine orbs to a little more than ordinary size and inquired: "And how and when did you make this startling discovery?"

"When Aunt Marianne sewed on your shoe button," he said, with a choking voice, an ardent glance accompanying his words.

"Oh! if a fellow could but be your cobbler for life!"

A rosy flush overspread Aurelia's cheeks as she listened to a confession which she probably had expected long ago. A beautiful, tender light stole into her eyes, as she replied with admirable frankness which formed one of her most alluring charms:

"And, pray, what hinders you from being that cobbler, Hugh?"

A joyous light flashed from his eyes at this avowal of her love for him, but it died out as quickly as it had appeared. Uttering a deep sigh, he replied: "Public opinion, Aurelia. What would the world say on learning that Hugh Jean Teps, the 'champion of equality, had married a millionaire?"

She answered this question with another. Looking at him keenly, yes, reproachfully, she said: "Afraid of the world? I thought you brave, Hugh, and now—"

"Oh, do not torture me with reproaches, Aurelia! I am unhappy enough without them. This struggle between love and duty has put me on a mental rack, as it were, so pity me instead of condemning me."

"I do not condemn you, neither shall I pity you, since you have only to set aside this false scruple to make yourself happy, and—and—me, Hugh."

"Dewey ain't a stratejean?" inquired Mr. Hennessy.

"No," said Mr. Dooley. "Cousin George is a good man—an' I'm very fond of him, more be reason iv his doin' that May-o' bostoon, Pat Mounjout, but he has low tastes. We niver cud make a stratejean iv him. They's a kind iv a vulgar fightin' strahin in him that makes him want to go out an' slug some wanst a month. I'm glad he ain't in Washin'ton. Th' chances ar-re he'd go to th' stratejean board an' pull its hair."—Chicago Journal.

Socialism is opposed to war. Under Socialism war will be impossible. But we are not living under Socialism—more the pity—and it is folly for Socialists to occupy themselves with senseless diatribes against the inevitable. Better far to use the event which can not be prevented, but whose course may almost certainly be predicted, as a means of effective Socialist propaganda. We are living under a capitalist system, and as a condition of the development of that system war is a necessity. War is one of the evolutionary forces by which capitalism expands and works out its own destruction, and so prepares the soil for that higher, nobler and better social condition which Socialism represents. It is as consistent a factor in the present economic system as is the hated sweated or the brutal factory slave-driver. And this is a fact which Socialists should not fail to strongly emphasize at every opportunity. Show the humanitarian peace advocates that their ideals are impossible of realization while capitalism exists. Hammer it into them persistently that war is the logic of our damnable industrial system, and we are now merely reaping its legitimate fruit. Enlarge upon the truth that only under Socialism can a condition of universal peace and brotherhood prevail.

"It is not blessedness to know that thou thyself art blessed; True joy was never yet by one, nor yet by two possessed; Nor to the many is it given, but only to the all. The joy that leaves one heart un-blessed would be for mine too small. And he who holds this faith will strive with firm and ardent soul, And work out his own proper good in working for the whole."—Wisdom of the Brahmins.

The forty-fifth thousand edition of "Merrie England" has just come from the press. It is the mission of this book to convert the United States to Socialism; see that you do your part in helping the good work along.

Send in your orders for Three in One; we can fill them promptly.

MR. DOOLEY ON STRATEGY.

"A stratejean," said Mr. Dooley, in response to Mr. Hennessy's request for information, "is a champion checker-player. When th' war broke out me frind Mack went to me frind Hanna an' says he, 'What, he says, 'what can we do to cr-rush th' haughty power iv Spain?' he says, 'an' br-ing this 'hateful war to a early conclusion' he says. 'Mobilize th' checker-players,' says Hanna. An' fr'm all cor-ners iv th' country they've gone to Washin'ton, where there's called th' stratejean board."

"Day an' night they set in a room with a checker-board on th' end iv a flour bar' an' study problems iv th' navy. At night Mack drops in. 'Well, boys,' says he, 'how goes th' battle?' he says. 'Glorious,' says th' stratejean board. 'Two more moves an' we'll be in th' king row.' 'Ah,' says Mack, 'this is too good to be true,' he says. 'In but a few brief minytes th' drinks'll be on Spain,' he says. 'Have yo any plans fr' Sampson's fleet?' he says. 'Where is it?' says th' stratejean board. 'I dinnaw,' says Mack. 'Good,' says th' stratejean board. 'Where's th' Spanish fleet?' says they. 'Bombardin' Boston, at Cadiz, in San June de Matzoon, sighted near th' gashouse be our special correspondent, copyright, 1898, by Mike O'Toole. A strahong position, says th' stratejean board. 'Undoubtedly th' fleet is headed south to attack and seize Armour's glue factory. Order Sampson to sail north as fast as he can'er lay in a supply iv ice. Th' sammer's comin' on. Instruct Schley to put on all steam an' th'in put it off. R-rush eighty-three millyon troops an' four miles to Tampa, to Mobile, to Chickensmaha, to Coney Island, to Ireland, to th' divle, an' r-rush thim back again. Don't r-rush thim. Order Sampson to pick up th' cable at Lincoln park an' run into th' bar-rin. Is th' balloon corpse r-ready? It is? Th'in don't send it up. Slid it up. Have th' Mulligan gyards to co-op'rate with Goggin's comin' on. Instruct Schley to put on all steam an' th'in put it off. R-rush eighty-three millyon troops an' four miles to Tampa, to Mobile, to Chickensmaha, to Coney Island, to Ireland, to th' divle, an' r-rush thim back again. Don't r-rush thim. Order Sampson to pick up th' cable at Lincoln park an' run into th' bar-rin. Is th' balloon corpse r-ready? It is? Th'in don't send it up. Slid it up. Have th' Mulligan gyards to co-op'rate with Goggin's comin' on. Instruct Schley to put on all steam an' th'in put it off. 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CHICAGO JUNE 2, 1898.

YOUR SUBSCRIPTION Expires with Number on your Label. This number is 58 NO PAPER SENT ON CREDIT.

LIST OF SOLICITORS. James Osterling, Pullman, Ill.; E. H. Harris, West Superior, Wis.; W. K. Gordon, St. Louis; James Sheldon Ingalls, Chicago, Ill.; M. E. Kleininger, Chicago, Ill.

PROPAGANDA FUND. Two hundred contributions of ten dollars each are called for under this head, for the purpose of putting organizers in the field, and distributing literature, to extend the scope and influence of the work of the Social Democracy.

Hurrah for the convention! See that your branch is well represented at the convention.

Let us not forget the mission of Social Democracy. A new branch has been organized in Kansas City, Kan.

Socialist propaganda must be kept up at all hazards. Let us use the war excitement as a means of making Socialists. It can be done.

Come to the convention prepared to legislate in the interests of American Socialism. Convention arrangements are completed. Let us have a rousing representation.

This is the last issue of the Social Democrat you will receive before the convention. The Chicago branches are in good trim and will be well represented at the convention.

We want soldiers for the army of the Co-operative Commonwealth. You should enlist at once. The general elections in Germany occur in two weeks. Look out for trouble in Europe about that time.

Branch 24 of Chicago will hereafter hold its meetings every Sunday at 10 a. m. at Scandia hall, Milwaukee avenue and Ohio streets. Members will please note change. We are informed by officials of the International Typographical Union that no settlement has been arranged with the notorious Donohue & Henneberry Company, of Chicago.

Comrade Hoehn's "New America," advertised in this issue, is a work which should positively be read and studied by every member of the Social Democracy. It has immense value as an educational work, and since the price has been reduced from 25 to 10 cents it is placed within the reach of all. Order at once.

Federal Judge Seaman has handed down a decision that 4-cent street car fares in Milwaukee are unconstitutional. The court says that a 5-cent fare is just and the people of Milwaukee must pay it. The present Demo-Populist administration will, of course, hasten to the rescue with its program of municipal ownership of public utilities.

From various parts of the country come reports of sad cases of destitution, and even deaths by starvation of women and children, who have been deprived of support, because of the enlistment of husbands and fathers to fight the battles of their country. The patriotism of workmen is not nearly as "paying" a commodity as the patriotism of capitalists!

Many valuable and helpful suggestions concerning measures to be taken at the convention have been received from comrades and friends throughout the country. We acknowledge these with thanks, and regret that considerations of space have prevented their publication in the Social Democrat. All matters of this kind will be properly placed before the convention, and your good comrades and friends may feel assured that their suggestions will receive full consideration, even though they do not appear in print.

THE SUMMER CAMPAIGN. The most effective means of propaganda during the summer season is by open air meetings, and for this reason it is possible that many of our branches will discontinue their regular indoor meetings except for the purpose of transacting necessary business. This is a condition which will lead to a

large falling off in the necessary revenue for the maintenance of the organization unless members are strongly impressed with the necessity for paying their dues regularly during the summer months, whether meetings are held or not. There should be no abatement of interest and support on the part of members because of suspended indoor meetings; rather, their enthusiasm should be quickened because of the wider opportunities to gain converts to our cause which the open air meetings will afford, and their support should be more generous if possible than at any other time, so that efforts to take the most complete advantage of the wider opportunities may not be hampered. Comrades, do not consider yourselves absolved from your duties as members of the organization if your branch happens to suspend regular meetings for the summer. Remember that the campaign of education and agitation must be carried on incessantly until this fight for humanity is won, and it devolves upon you to do your full share in furnishing the sinews of war. Pay your dues regularly whether your branch holds meetings or not.

A TRIBUTE TO BELLAMY. Pennsylvania branch No. 10, of the Social Democracy, located at Allegheny, passed the following resolutions on the untimely death of Edward Bellamy: "In the death of Edward Bellamy went out of the world one of the greatest, most profound and unselfish men of this transitional age. It is impossible to give in words at this time a just and true appreciation of the services rendered to our race by the man who now lies cold and still with the seal of eternal silence upon his lips. Though dead, he yet speaketh in those immortal books which he wrote. Though we hear his voice no more, his words shall go on until war shall be no more, when all the nations of the earth shall recognize the fatherhood of God and the equality of men. "It is not extravagant to say that no broader mind or nobler soul has been ushered into the sphere of human activity since the birth of Christ. He was in the truest and most exalted sense a man of profound thought, whose scope embraced the whole human family. "Among all the great and glorious names that illuminate the pages of secular history, from Plato and Socrates down to Shakespeare, Milton, Pitt, Washington and Lincoln, there is none that will shine more brightly or with steadier and more enduring radiance than that of Bellamy. "To write the history of Bellamy would be to write the history of our country's most important thought, socially, politically, morally and religiously. His mind seemed to be untrammelled by his environment. He rose above the conditions under which he lived. He was not only deep, but broad. He took in a whole system with one sweep of the mind. The thoughts of Bellamy are seed thoughts which will grow until they become the great trees under which all the nations shall rest. Bellamy was a man who had a practical application of the ten commandments and the sermon on the mount. He saw the crushing effect of the present system of competition upon the masses and possessed the moral courage to preach against this iniquity. His life was a sacrifice in his love for all men. "We mourn the loss of such a man to the world. He has left the clash and toll of time to enter the bliss above. Our loss is his gain."

ST. LOUIS BRANCH. St. Louis has now five good branches and is prepared for active work. Comrades Lloyd and Osborne spoke at a well-attended meeting at Chippewa hall under the auspices of Branch No. 3 and the old Eleventh Ward Club S. L. P. At the close of the meeting a new branch was organized. The old Eleventh Ward Club S. L. P. was dissolved and the members joined the new branch of the Social Democracy. This new branch promises to become one of our staunchest organizations in St. Louis, most of the members having been active in the Socialist movement for many years. Comrades J. Franz and Dr. Shattinger also spoke at this meeting. Comrade Dr. Shattinger delivered a lecture before Branch No. 1 last Friday evening, which was well attended. Branch 3 elected Comrade C. L. Meier as delegate to our national convention. The open air meetings held by Comrades Lloyd, Osborne and "Mother Jones" were a great success. This is best shown by the action of the police, who "cooped" Comrades Lloyd and Osborne and gave them one night free lodging at the central police station. By the way, the police got a black eye after all, and their outrageous action in arresting Comrades Lloyd and Osborne for speaking in front of the court house, steps has been generally condemned. The Central Trades and Labor Union at its last meeting took the matter up and almost every delegate of the assembly denounced the brutal and lawless work of the police. A committee was appointed to attend the meeting of the police commissioners and protest against the arrest of the two Social Democratic agitators. Comrades Lloyd and Osborne were in possession of the permit from the mayor. On the evening of May 17, while addressing about 300 people on the court house steps several policemen interfered and confiscated the permit of the mayor. The speakers protested and insisted on their constitutional right of free speech. In less than no time they were handcuffed and "cooped" in the central police station. The case came up before Judge Peabody two days later and the agitators Lloyd and Osborne showed that they had all the law on their side, while all the lawlessness and outrages were committed by the police. Judge Peabody seemed to be of the same opinion, for he promptly discharged the two arrested comrades after telling the police some very nice things about the right of free speech and the right of ignorant police officers who confiscate

permits granted by the mayor of St. Louis. Saturday evening following their discharge Comrades Lloyd and Osborne addressed a monster open air meeting on the same court house steps where they had been arrested before. This time no police interfered. Last Sunday morning the new branch held its second meeting at Chippewa hall, with Lloyd and Osborne as speakers. The branch has doubled its membership since last meeting. The new branch heartily endorsed Comrade Eugene V. Debs' article against fusion with capitalist parties that appeared in the Social Democrat of two weeks ago. Branches No. 2 and No. 4 are solidly organized and the Comrades are preparing for effective work. The St. Louis central committee will be organized at National hall, Allen avenue and Dallman street, on first Sunday in June, at 3 p. m. Each of the five branches is entitled to three delegates. Mr. Henry Knoble, a member of the Socialist Labor party, has been fined \$100 for "slandering" a corrupt politician and for making some "inappropriate" remarks about patriotism and war. The individual who fined the comrade is Justice Zimmerman, a member of the North American Turner-Bund, ex-president of the South-west Turner Society, and a corrupt politician and a blatherskite patriot by trade who secured his "justiceship" as remuneration for corrupt services done for the Republican party. Our St. Louis comrades have not been making much noise during the last few months; however, they have not been asleep and our outside comrades may soon hear more from the tornado city of the Mississippi valley. All readers of the Social Democrat in the state of Missouri are hereby informed that Comrade G. A. Hoehn of Branch 1 has been appointed as state organizer. Every effort should be made to organize new branches wherever possible. The state organizer is ready to give information and render all possible assistance in the work of organization. The organizer's address is 3430 Tennessee avenue, St. Louis, Mo. We now have six branches in Missouri. Within the next six months this number should be increased to at least twenty-five. X. X. X.

TO LYNN COMRADES. Members of Massachusetts Branch No. 5 will please note the change which appears in the time and place of their branch meetings. During the summer months the branch will hold business meetings only on the first Monday in each month, in Laster's hall on Andrew street, beginning Monday, June 6. Open air meetings will be held for propaganda purposes during the summer season. Comrade E. W. Timson, the financial secretary, earnestly requests all members to pay their dues at this meeting, or forward them to his address, at 23 Albany street, Lynn.

ST. LOUIS PROPAGANDA. Our comrades of Missouri Branch No. 1 have struck the right gait and are doing excellent work for the movement through their instructive and entertaining public meetings, which are held weekly at branch headquarters, 1233 N. Broadway, St. Louis. Excellent speakers are provided for these meetings, and the subjects handled are always live ones. The program of speakers and subjects for June is as follows: "June 3, 'Where Am I At,'" Miss Izella Withersell; June 10, "What is the Cost of Living," Rev. G. Tucker; June 17, "What Was Done at the Convention," G. A. Hoehn; June 24, "Direct Legislation," E. Peabody. The meetings are called to order at 8 p. m. The public are cordially invited.

THE IMPERATIVE MANDATE. Its Value and Relations to Proportional Representation. Mr. Sheridan Webster writes to the Radical's Corner, Toronto Sunday World, as follows: "It seems to me plain that the desire of advocates of proportional representation and of the initiative and referendum and of the imperative mandate is of one vital principle; that is, that the will of the people shall be the law of the land. If this is correct, those advocating proportional representation will admit that it will not reach the judiciary by which we in the United States are chiefly governed, and not by legislatures. Similarly, advocates of the I. and R. will admit that representatives may be useful, and certainly will in all probability continue to be required for some time to come; and each must recognize the need for the application of the general principle in all cases. "Now, while I think effective government would be a more logical word to express the idea which includes the initiative, referendum, imperative mandate, and proportional representation, within its scope, still 'direct legislation' is a term in common use; and as words mean simply what they are intended to mean, and compound words are not always cases of simple addition of the precise original meaning of each of their parts (e. g. single tax), therefore I would advise the use of this phrase in this way, instead of confining its use to mean the initiative and referendum. "But what is more to the point, you monstrously undervalue the importance of the imperative mandate. I consider it of far more importance than the three other measures combined, if choice were to be made. By it you secure, not continual change of officers, but fidelity in those officers, making such change unnecessary. Your idea that if the term is 'only for a year, the people will prefer to wait,' brings up the great fact which stares us in the face that at the end of that year the people are compelled to give some man despotic power for one more year, during which time he can carry out his own plans of plunder or misdoing in spite of the people's gnashing of teeth; and when the periodical election (ever for short fixed terms) means simply a change of masters, the people do not find a struggle for change worth the effort; so that the

same rogues are enabled by a little 'smooth work' to secure re-election.

THE OTHER SIDE. To the foregoing the editor of the Radical's Corner replies thus: "I may at once say that the matter of the United States judiciary, with its despotic power over legislation, was not present to my mind. Here certainly is a field for the operation of the power of recall by the imperative mandate of a majority of voters, so long as the United States Constitution retains that absurdity; and it might be easier to apply the imperative mandate than to change the Constitution. "In the remaining part of his plea for the imperative mandate, Mr. Webster deals chiefly with executive officers, elected singly. I have already admitted that the imperative mandate, or power of recall, is applicable to these, but I cannot see why the electors cannot punish a political offender just as easily by refusing to re-elect him at the end of his short term, 'smooth work' that Mr. Webster mentions is only possible by reason of a defective electoral system, which deprives the people of the power of independent nomination. The 'smooth work' can and would be got in when electing the successor to your recalled wrong-doer, because the party machine has complete control of nominations, and therefore of elections. The people would soon get tired of using the necessarily cumbersome machinery of the imperative mandate when every recalled rascal was succeeded by another of the same stripe. "But if you have reformed your electoral machinery so as to prevent the election of a bad successor to a recalled rascal, you have equally prevented the election of the rascal in the first place, thereby rendering the imperative mandate unnecessary. "Proportional representation contemplates that ultimately no people or officers shall be elected by the people, or next to none; because a really representative, honest and able legislative assembly is best able to choose good executive officers."

MEETINGS OF LOCAL BRANCHES. (Times of meetings will be published under this head for 25c per month.) CALIFORNIA. No. 4, San Francisco, meets every Sunday at 2 p. m., 169 Market street. The general public is invited to attend. No. 1, Bakersfield, meets first Sunday of each month, on or before the full of the moon, at 2 p. m., in Mattson's Hall. COLORADO. No. 1, Denver, meets every Sunday at 3 p. m., at 1715 California st. ILLINOIS. Cook County Central Committee of the Social Democracy, meets 2d Saturday of each month at 135 E. Madison street, Chicago. Corresponding Secretary, Seymour Old, 204 West Superior street, Chicago. No. 1 meets every Tuesday, 2:30 p. m., at 135 East Madison street, Chicago. Good speakers. Evening meeting, Free discussion. Note change of hall. No. 4, Chicago, meets every Sunday at 3 p. m., at 245 South Halsted street. No. 5, meets 2d and 4th Tuesday of each month at 8 p. m., sharp, at headquarters, 1142 Michigan avenue, Chicago. E. A. Weeks, 226 W. 115th St., Secretary. Note change of hall. No. 9, meets 2d and 4th Mondays at 8 p. m., 82 street and Centre avenue, Chicago. Business meeting for members only 1st Sunday of each month at 10 p. m. No. 10 meets third Wednesday at 251 N. Clark street, Chicago, at 8 p. m. No. 11 meets every first and third Monday, at 8 p. m., at Social Turner Hall, Belmont avenue and Paulina street, Chicago. No. 22, meets second and last Sunday of each month at 4 p. m., at Trevellet's Hall, 1142 Michigan avenue, Chicago. No. 21 meets every Sunday at 10 a. m., in Scandia Hall, top floor, 99 West Ohio street, near Milwaukee street, Chicago. No. 10, Hagen, 11 Ayers court, West Chicago. No. 25, meets every Friday evening, southeast corner Sedgwick and Stiegel streets, Chicago. INDIANA. No. 1, Terre Haute, meets 1st and 3d Sundays of each month at 2 p. m., at Central Labor Union Hall, 625 1/2 Wabash ave. Ladies are invited. P. K. Reinbold, Chairman. Ed. Evinger, Secretary. No. 3, Richmond, meets every 4th Wednesday evenings, hall of German Benevolent Society, corner 5th and Main streets. MARYLAND. No. 2, Baltimore, English Branch, meets every Wednesday at 8 p. m., at 1005 East Baltimore street. MASSACHUSETTS. No. 1 meets 3d Thursday evening for business and second Sunday for lecture and discussion, at 74 Washington st., Boston. Secretary's address 1043 Washington st. No. 4, Lynn, meets first Monday of each month, in Laster's building, Ernest Timson, Financial Secretary, 23 Albany St. No. 3, Richmond, meets every Thursday at 8 p. m., at 64 Warren street, Room No. 1, for business and education. No. 11, Malden, meets at Templar Hall, Pleasant street, every Sunday evening at 7:30, for business and discussion. Secretary's address, cor. Pierce and Knollin streets. MISSOURI. No. 1, St. Louis, meets every Friday at 8 p. m., at 1223 N. Broadway. No. 3, meets every 2d and 4th Tuesday at 11th and Wyoming sts., St. Louis. M. Dorn, secretary, 1933 Lami street. NEW JERSEY. No. 1, meets every Tuesday, Club rooms are open for friends also on Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, 306 Pacific street, Newark. No. 2 meets every Wednesday evening at 8 p. m., sharp, at No. 5 Clinton ave., Newark. Good program. Visitors welcome. No. 4 meets every Tuesday at Progressive Labor Hall, corner Barclay and Montgomery streets, Newark. No. 6, Paterson, meets 2d and 4th Friday of each month at 8 p. m. Club meeting every last Monday in the month. Club room is open every evening at 266 Main street, room 11. No. 7, Paterson, meets 1st and 3d Thursday of each month at 8 p. m. Club meeting last Monday in the month at 226 Main street, room 11. Club room open every evening. NEW YORK. The Greater New York City Central Committee of the Social Democracy of America, meets every Saturday at 8 p. m., at its permanent headquarters, 85 E. 4th st., St. Paul, Wis. Nicholas Aleinikoff, secretary, 87 Nassau street, New York City. Comrade's lectures of Branches 7 and 12, Brooklyn, held every Sunday evening at Erie Hall, 435 Broadway, at 8 o'clock, sharp. Musical program. No. 1, New York City, meets every Friday at 8 p. m., at 229 E. Broadway. Lectures before business meetings. No. 2, New York City, meets first at the Borsari every 2d and 4th Sunday at 37 E. Forty-ninth street. S. Hepper, chairman, 37 E. 49th st. No. 4, meets first and third Friday evenings. Lectures and discussion at each meeting. No. 6, 12th Assembly District, S. D. A., meets every Friday at 8 p. m., at American Star, No. 113 Clinton street, New York City. Alexander Kahn, 113 Broome street, secretary. No. 8, New York City, 8th Assembly District, meets every Friday at 8 p. m., Dr. C. Bayevsky, 75 Rivington street, secretary. No. 9, Tenth Assembly District, New

York City, meets second and fourth Fridays of each month at 8 p. m., Liberty Hall, 25-27 E. Houston street. Lectures each meeting. Samuel Whitehorn, secretary, care of B. Margolis, 176 Suffolk street. No. 16, Buffalo, meets every Tuesday at 8 p. m., Council Hall, 45 E. Huron St. All workingmen cordially invited to attend meetings. Secretary, H. Y. Brown, 1540 Fillmore Ave. No. 21, New York City, meets 2d and 4th Sundays at 8 p. m., at Bohemian National Hall, 221-223 E. 73d st. J. Austein, Secretary, 1568 Avenue "A." No. 12, Social Democracy Debating Club, meets every Monday, 8 p. m., at 70 Bedford avenue, Brooklyn. No. 15, 23d Assembly District, meets every Friday evening at 8 p. m., at 177 E. 96th street, New York City. Secretary, Bernard Sacks, 299 E. 98th street. No. 21, New York City, Karl Marx Branch, meets every Friday evening at Congress Hall, 153 Avenue C. Henry Lang, 303 E. 10th St., Secretary. OHIO. No. 2 meets every Monday evening at 8 o'clock, Stengel's Hall, cor. Pearl and Monroe streets, Cleveland. No. 3, Bucyrus, meets 2d and 4th Sundays of each month, at Fisher's Hall, cor. Main and Rensselaer streets. No. 18, Toledo, meets at Knopka Hall, cor. 1st and Broadway sts., every Friday evening. C. H. Otken, secretary, 1103 Nebraska street. PENNSYLVANIA. No. 7, Pittsburg, headquarters room 6, Moorhead building, 104-106 Grant street. Open every afternoon and evening. Public addresses every 4th Sunday afternoon in Moorhead Hall, third floor, same building. No. 39, Allegheny, meets every Tuesday evening at Jackson St. Headquarters and library open every evening, at same address. Secretary's address, 174 Manhattan street. TENNESSEE. No. 1, Nashville, meets every Tuesday at 7:30 p. m., at Wesleyan Church. First meeting in town for business only. All others for discussion and education. Visitors cordially invited. TEXAS. No. 1, Houston, meets second and fourth Thursday of each month in Union Men's Hall, on Franklin street, between Main and Travis streets. No. 3, Dallas, meets every Sunday at 3 p. m., at Social Democracy Hall, 623 Main street. WASHINGTON. No. 1, Palouse, meets in the Council Chamber at 8 p. m., on the 2d and 4th Tuesdays of each month. D. W. Foster, Secretary. No. 2, Tacoma, meets every Sunday at 3 p. m., at People's Party Clubrooms, Old House, between Spring and Seneca sts. All are invited. Meetings are instructive and entertaining. A. Burns, Secretary, 800 N. Broadway. WISCONSIN. Central Conference composed of the executive committees of the ten branches of the Social Democracy in Milwaukee. Meets first and third Monday evenings of each month at 602 Chestnut street, Milwaukee. Frederick F. Heath, Secretary. No. 3, Sheboygan, meets on the 4th Thursday of each month at Burgard's Hall on Pennsylvania avenue. No. 8, Business Meetings Friday, Nov. 19, 1897, and every fourth Friday thereafter. Open meetings for discussion and education. Friday, Dec. 3, 1897, and every fourth Friday thereafter, at Stiegel's Hall, S. E. Corner of 9th avenue and Orchard street, Milwaukee.

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Free Idaho Free Idaho Free Idaho with millions of acres of fertile and wild land, ready for our numbered cattle, fertile valleys with mild and healthful climate adapted to fruit, vegetables and cereals, mountains of mineral, rivers teeming with fish, forests abounding in game, inexhaustible measures of coal, iron building material, excellent water power and all that men need, is wide wide open and FREE for the co-operation of labor. It can be captured by the Co-operative Commonwealth. THE CO-OPOLLITAN, By BENJAMIN FOSTER. A study of the Co-operative Commonwealth of Idaho, a novel which contains a detailed statement of the plans of the CO-OPERATIVE COMMONWEALTH and of the Social Democracy of America, illustrated and endorsed by a wonderfully simple, but startlingly vivid story of the plan to capture the great State of Idaho, industrially and politically, and establish the Co-operative Commonwealth. Chas. H. Kerr & Co., Publishers. 25 cents per copy, sent to any address, postage prepaid. Special rates to teachers of Co-operative Commonwealth, Social Democracy or other Reform bodies. Agents wanted to sell the book.

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