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BUFFALO CONFERENCE AND DEMOCRATIC PARTY

POLITICIANS AND THE TRUSTS

Pecuniary Relation of Wealthy Democrats to the Trusts and the Absurdity of Their Posing as Foes of the Trusts and Friends of the People

By Imogene C. Fales, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Three years ago Mr. Bryan was defeated by his own friends, these very leaders. He drew an immense number of republican, independent, populist and some Socialist votes, but the fear that his election would injure the business world caused the democratic leaders to knife him wholesale wherever they had the power.

The abolition of trusts would cause a greater industrial disturbance than the coinage of silver; it would paralyze commerce for at least ten years, and until the business world became accustomed to the new conditions. Is it to be supposed that shrewd, money-getting politicians whose chief pursuit in life is the almighty dollar, would ever carry into execution a policy that would injure them financially? On the contrary, if we are to judge by their past careers, they would continue in their course, and aggravate the present evil legislation.

Equally fantastic and laughable is the claim by the democratic party to be the friend of the working people. It is the friend of Mammon and all unrighteousness.

In New York City American, German or Irish workingmen are contemptuously thrown aside by democratic contractors and their places filled with Italians at a dollar a day. In many large cities at the present time the eight-hour law is in force, and nearly every city is under democratic rule, yet in no instance is this law enforced by the democratic authorities.

There have been several large strikes in New York for the past five years. Every time the democratic aldermen passed resolutions of sympathy for the strikers, but they never contributed one cent and they never took the first step to punish the unjust, and in some instances illegal actions of their employees.

But the resolutions did not prevent the police or the democratic administration enforcing the laws as "to peace and order and the rights of property" with a severity bordering on brutality and inhumanity.

In New York and in Chicago the party as such is in partnership with the gamblers and criminal classes and would rather arrest one thousand workingmen than close one poolroom.

It is a well known fact that democratic assemblymen in the Empire state have introduced bills every year cutting down the price of gas; that these bills have been pigeon-holed or emasculated, and that the companies have paid thousands of dollars each time as legal expenses. There is scarcely a franchise in New York City but what has been given away by democratic common councils and the people deliberately robbed. How much the politician secured is unknown.

In London, with fewer franchises, the cost of municipal government is only one-third of what it is in New York City.

And this is the party which claims to be the friend of the workingman and the only proper agency through which reformers are to work for the realization of their purposes. "Consistency, thou art a jewel."

Will you walk into my parlor, says the spider to the fly;

'Tis the very prettiest parlor that ever you did spy.

The very last pronouncement of the democratic national committee avoids with rare skill all reference to the matters which most vitally concern the laborer and the citizen. It says nothing regarding the amelioration of the patent law system, which protects and even fosters such abominable monopolies as the Bell Telephone Company, the General Electric Company and the typewriter trust. It says nothing respecting municipal ownership of local franchises, and worse still, Mr. Bryan, the acknowledged leader of the democratic party, repudiates the doctrine and favors the return to old-time competition with its concomitants of sweatshops, child labor, and a minimum wage.

No, the democratic party is not undergoing resurrection, as some sanguine reformers would fain believe; it is simply masquerading in the garb of reform. Defeated in 1896 on the silver issue, and denied the spoils of war and the fat offices that victory gives, it now seeks to mount to power by sailing with the current of reform and advocating the abolition of trusts and public ownership of public utilities.

But even if the democratic party were sincere in its new professions of faith, under the leadership of Mr. Bryan, its incipient desires for Social Democratic principles would be nipped in the bud,

for Mr. Bryan today represents the conservative element in what is called the new democratic party. Three years ago the populist party was the party of reform, and the remonetization of silver its objective issue, around which all its forces centered. Mr. Bryan made that demand the slogan of the democratic party. But the public mind and the spirit of reform have swept far beyond the demands of 1896. Now it is the public ownership of public utilities that is demanded, and against that Mr. Bryan has taken his stand.

I would not waste time in going over these details of the political history of the democratic party were it not for the fact that many sincere reformers believe it possible to work through that party. To all such I may in conclusion call their attention to the treatment of the populists for the last five years. In 1892-93-94 the democracy derided and denounced the populists. In 1896 they welcomed the party with open arms and with every expression of affection and gratitude. The populists asked nothing save the success of the principle that was so dear to them. The moment the election was over the democratic leaders opened war upon their late allies, and in some of the western states they broke all their agreements, and by virtue of the strength they had gained from the populist vote they threw out of office every populist they could and replaced them with democratic henchmen. Their plan was to destroy the party and to swallow the separate fragments, and they pretty effectually did it.

Now in 1899 the democratic national committee openly declares that it will have nothing to do with populist, Socialist or any other independent organization.

The only way in which the Socialist party—I allude to the Social Democratic Party—can produce any results is to organize, proselyte and put up its own candidates, no matter how small the vote. The time is bound to come when it will hold the balance of power, and be able to dictate terms to its older rivals. The Socialist party amounted to nothing in Germany and France until it became independent of all others; from that time on its growth has been the wonder of Europe.

The smallness of our party need not dishearten us, nor make us timid in our work. The tendencies of civilization and the progress of events are on our side. Upon us rests an imperative and urgent duty, to put forth every effort in the work by agitating and converting, organizing and campaigning.

Professor Herron, in the Social Forum, asks for "some program of national redemption on which the various ideals and programs can be brought together." The program has already been given; it is for all those who are opposed to the present monopolistic competitive regime to unite under the banner of Socialism for its overthrow. The ideal is human brotherhood; humanity united in a common love under a common Father; and all the warring notes of competitive strife and hatred hushed, the melody of joy and happiness, in a universal desire for the general good resonating in its place; the united labors of all working toward the realization of one great end; the full development of human faculties and the wondrous resources of the earth that we inhabit, the establishment of the kingdom of God on earth; not a church, not a narrow ecclesiasticism, but a warm, pulsating kingdom of love; a kingdom of outwrought intelligence that will recreate life anew and make earth a paradise of delights. This is the ideal. The aim is to establish a co-operative commonwealth, a true republic in which poverty of mind and body will be unknown, and in which the administrative forces of a nation will be wielded by an enlightened population in the interests of all.

And in this Commonwealth will at last be realized that dream and longing of the ages—freedom—not merely of bodily conditions but of environment; freedom of thought and action, freedom to realize all our aspirations and legitimate desires, freedom to put forth all the mighty forces of the soul that now lie half buried within us.

This is the transformation that is to be effected and for which the time is ripe; and the means of action is the formation of a political party adequate to make the change from the old order to the new and to begin the glorious work of reformation and restoration. That party is in existence and all it needs is the strength and power that comes from growth.

Do you not know that all the evils of society, the inequality of wealth, the poverty, wrong, tyranny, corruption, crime, disease and general misery, are due wholly to the fact that the land and machinery whereby the necessities and comforts of life are produced, belong, not to the men and women who work with them, but to the wealthy few who make use of this private ownership of the means of production to enrich themselves and impoverish the working masses of the people?

CLEVELAND CAPITALISTS' DYNAMITE PLOT

STREET RAILWAY MEN'S STRIKE

A Personal Investigation and its Results—Rumor of Dynamite Plot Started by the Company—Destruction of Property Followed

By Rev. W. D. P. Bliss

Rev. W. D. P. Bliss was asked by a Philadelphia paper to write a statement of facts in regard to the Cleveland strike and this is what he says:

I believe it to be a millionaire's dynamite plot.

Is that too strong? Listen to the facts as I believe them to be, only promising that I like to get my facts on the spot and so I have come here to Cleveland, and the following is what I learn from reliable, sober and unprejudiced observers, not workmen, on the spot:

1. Certain street railway interests in Cleveland found themselves possessed of cars and other property, which, through long use, needed replacing by new cars at considerable expense to the company.

2. They therefore planned to recoup themselves by getting hold of the stock of another company, consolidating the two companies, forcing up the shares to the highest value, then selling out before the slump should come.

3. In this they finally succeeded. They formed the consolidation, forced up the stock, and promised the public better service and more accommodations.

4. To do this, without expense, they bought few or no cars and employed few or no men. They simply employed the old men longer hours and made them drive the cars at faster and illegal rates of speed. They employed some men for special runs and certain hours, which compelled them to be in some cases to be in the car sheds waiting for runs from 5 o'clock a. m. to 1:30 a. m. the next morning, 20 1-2 hours out of 24. The men had to run the cars so fast that many accidents occurred. Several children were killed; but children are cheap. (I confine myself to facts.)

5. The men did not like the new conditions and protested against the long hours and fast runs. They did not enjoy killing children.

6. The Consolidated Company gave no heed and employed a new superintendent famed in other cities for harsh dealing with his men. Men who dared to complain were discharged on the slightest pretext.

7. The men, seeing they were individually helpless, formed a union and finally struck, not for higher wages but for humane treatment. Knowing that without a union they were helpless, they demanded recognition of their union by the company.

8. The company refused to yield.

9. The state arbitration board tried to interfere and failed.

10. A committee appointed by the city council succeeded in getting an agreement signed by the astute attorneys of the men. The company was to re-employ 80 per cent. of the strikers and grant recognition to the men.

11. The men went back to their work.

12. The company failed to keep its agreement. Those who had struck were discharged as fast as possible.

13. The men finally struck again. Every employe of the company went out. The sympathy of the city was almost wholly with the men.

14. The company got new men (some of them loaned by companies in other cities), but people would not patronize the cars. There was no violence, and the city sympathized with the strikers.

15. It became necessary for the company to get sympathy, and therefore patronage on its side.

16. A rumor was circulated that the company was afraid that the strikers were going to use dynamite. The scab employes of the company who slept in a certain barn were warned by the company not to sleep there on a certain night for fear of dynamite.

17. That night the empty barn was blown up, and sensational reports were printed about it.

18. The state troops were called for by the company and were sent. The employes of the company were armed with loaded pistols.

19. A city ordinance was passed making it an offense, punishable by a large fine, to call a man a scab.

20. Repeatedly the scab employes of the company fired into crowds who had done nothing except to shout "scab."

21. The only fatality of the strike up to date (August 5) was a boy shot in the back by a scab motorman, who left his car and followed the boy, probably thinking the boy had shouted "scab," though the coroner's verdict is that the boy had not done so, and that the scab motorman was guilty of willful manslaughter.

22. A clergyman living on a quiet

street, which he says was almost empty at the time, saw a scab motorman shoot a boy, which shot soon drew a crowd, and the next day, according to the papers, the motorman "had defended himself against a howling mob of strikers."

23. As a result of these atrocities on the part of the scab employes of the company, and the provocation of the state troops, some slight violence was done by the strikers, a few small bombs were exploded; but the only person killed in the whole strike was the boy shot by the scab employe of the company.

24. The city still shows its faith in these facts by largely sympathizing with the strikers, and refusing to ride in the boycotted cars.

25. The papers, nevertheless, continue at so much per column to howl down "the riotous strikers" and their terrible use of dynamite.

26. The city otherwise is perfectly quiet, but the conviction grows in the public mind that the real dynamitards are the millionaires, who have used explosives to try and inflame the public against the strikers.

27. The strikers are an unusually intelligent body of men. The sympathy of the city being on their side and the boycotted cars being little used, they had nothing to gain and everything to lose by the use of dynamite. Even under grossest provocation they have committed little violence and taken no life, notwithstanding false reports to the contrary, sent out by the subsidized press.

A Bishop's Words

One of the recognized champions of the cause of labor on the Pacific coast is Bishop Johnson of the Episcopal church. From a sermon preached by him January 9 the following extract is taken:

If I were asked to define the term "industrial problem," I would say that it was the novel and perplexing result which economic law, working under new conditions, produces. It must be evident that economic laws are struggling under a series of circumstances that are likely to modify their action very perceptibly. Economic laws working under these new conditions have produced serious results. These times have been favorable to the development of condition of things that may well cause us to pause and think. Said a learned man, not long since, speaking of our wonderful prosperity: "Let us, however, say what we choose about this remarkable fact, still periodically at intervals there are terrible financial crises, which arrest the processes of trade, stop the wheels of our factories, reduce millions of our workmen to want, destroy the value of investments, rob the farmer of his markets, ruin multitudes of helpless widows and orphans." [The laws of trade in this country have coldly and calmly placed from one to one hundred and fifty millions in the hands of a thousand men in New York city, while hundreds of men over the country are unable to secure remunerative work. The wealth of Croesus was estimated at eight millions of dollars, while seventy American estates under our present conditions, through what we call legitimate trade, have reached the average value of thirty-five million dollars each. The point that I would make is, that this state of things has been brought about by the action of well understood business principles, and the result has been due to the several peculiarly favoring circumstances which well understood causes have produced, and the industrial problem of our generation is, how shall these manifest injustices be avoided? How, without interfering with the rights of the rich, shall we secure for the unemployed the right to earn the competency which will give him proper support? How shall capital and labor unite, so that to each shall be given the privileges that inherently belong to each? This is the problem, and I believe it must be settled by friendly agitation. That is what is needed more than anything else.

The position which the church assumes is fearless and uncompromising, and yet it is just. But it is not by words alone that she is to aid in this great emergency. She must throw herself in some way into the thick of this great life. She must not only condemn evils, but she must encourage the exemplification of the positive principles in the lives of her people.

Every 18th man in Germany is a soldier. Every 15th man in France is a soldier, every 73rd man in England is a soldier—all non-producers, and the workingman supports them all.

What a beautiful, humane system it is! People slave all their lives to live and get ahead and then when they are old they feel they are a burden on their relatives. Under Socialism their industry would be amply rewarded, and they would not have to center their lives on work, work, work. Their old age would be honorable and honored and no one would wish them out of the way.

HISTORY AND THE WORKERS' STRUGGLE

THE SPIRIT OF DEMOCRACY

Chain of Events Preceding the French Revolution—War and the Working Class—Union of Trades Union and Socialist Forces

By Mark Barsted, San Francisco, Cal.

A history of human society during the past fifty years is a history of the most practical and intense struggle between classes, attended by the most startling achievements in the realm of productive arts that any preceding epoch of development has bequeathed to civilization. From the French Revolution and Napoleonic wars to the middle of the century the people of continental Europe were engaged in a death struggle with the retainers of large landed estates under feudal sway, to upset the groundwork of feudalism; to usher in to the world the reign of free competition, and to elevate to the pedestal of supremacy the aristocracy of finance. We will begin with the wave of civil war that spread over all Europe in '48, and follow the chain of causes and consequences down to the present day. At this period manufacture and commerce had become predominant in France, England, German-Austria and Prussia. Bourgeois society had become the order of the day; the indispensible dictator of human destinies; and whatever remained of the old feudal order that was incompatible with the new regime must be subdued, absorbed and annihilated. Thus did the bourgeoisie of Germany, Austria and Prussia rise in rebellion in the spring of '48 and demand constitutions of Metternich and Frederick William IV. Thus in the same year did the Ledru-Rollins the Blanquis and the devotees of Louis Bonaparte in France upset the throne of Louis Phillip; convene the Constituent Legislative Assembly; remodel and reconstruct into a republican edition the constitutional charter of 1830. Now events begin to follow events in rapid and logical succession. The Frankfurt assembly, composed of delegates from Austria, Prussia and the three dozen petty states of Germany, convenes for the purpose of establishing a national constitution. Wise-aces, consisting of bargain counter statesmen and pettifogging chance orators gather together in this assemblage to conciliate the differences existing between capitalism and the then existing remnants of feudalism and to attempt to effect the unification of Germany, Austria and Prussia on paper. When, however, their notorious but unintelligible and impractical constitution was submitted to the German Diets for ratification, protests, denunciations, invectives, were hurled back from the ranks of the baronage which still held sway in many parts of Germany, especially in the Rhine provinces, where the factory system had not yet been extensively introduced. The spirit of democracy was now pervading the minds of the lower strata of society—the agriculturists, the petty traders and the working population. But the real bravos in the insurrections at Vienna, Berlin and Paris in the spring of 1848, who mounted the barricades and fought against absolute despotism, were the workingmen. They have always fought the battles in every period of human society. Whether they accomplished their purpose in this middle class revolution we are not here concerned. We can only say that having been drawn into the vortex of these great revolutionary and counter-revolutionary convulsions that swept like a tornado over Europe, they played their parts in this great drama, and played them well, until the curtain on the stage of action closed down upon one of the most colossal events in the history of European civil wars.

I fear there is not space to permit the narration of the details of this event and we will suffice it to say that from this event to the present day the working class is reminded of the fact that if it would attain for itself any measure of melioration it must do so through its own conscious efforts.

From this event onward, we are particularly concerned with the development of the world's greatest movement—the political organization of the working class, marching under the banner of the Social Democratic Party.

In 1847 the "Communist Manifesto" was drawn up and adopted at London. Organization of workingmen ensued. Soon we view the co-operative action of trades unions with class-conscious working class politics and the final merging of the two into a unit all over Europe. This is what we shall see has given strength and vitality to the Socialist movement of other countries. Let us unite the trade union with our political forces in this country and we will likewise gain strength and vitality. The same principle applies to the labor movement in any and in every land.

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CHICAGO, SATURDAY, SEPT. 9, 1899.

THE RICH ESCAPE TAXES

While an imperialistic government forces the people to contribute from their small means in every way that capitalist politicians can devise for the support of a war which William McKinley has been especially raised up and "divinely" called to prosecute against the Filipinos, ten thousand miles from home, the millionaires of Chicago refuse to give any information to the public authorities whereby the latter may arrive at a just conclusion in taxing the capitalists' personal property values. The people may go on forever licking war stamps, but the millionaires decline to do more than turn in merely nominal schedules and refuse any information whereby their ratings may be properly adjusted.

A few days ago a score of leading capitalists, headed by Levi Z. Leiter, were required to appear before the board of review, when all but two persisted in adhering to schedules which the authorities know to be false; and this they did to avoid payment of just taxes in support of a form of government which they are all agreed is "the finest on earth." Several of these rich "patriots" and mouth supporters of imperialism claimed to possess only a thousand or two thousand dollars' worth of personal property and only two in the bunch, H. J. Furber and D. A. Kohn, were willing to have their ratings increased.

MURDERED FOR ECONOMY

A tangled mass of iron girders, beams, columns and braces lie broken and bent on the site of the old Libby Prison, Wabash avenue, Chicago; there is nothing that anybody would care to carry away, but thirty policemen, representing the majesty of the law, patrol the wreck. In the homes of eleven Chicago families lie eleven workmen dead, as a result of the criminal carelessness and worse than criminal greed of the system we live under, which holds human lives at a cheaper rate than a scaffolding which is dispensed with to save money. The contractors who were erecting the new Coliseum, or the capitalists who expect to reap profits from it when erected, have been guilty of murder. For economy's sake somebody staked eleven human lives against the cost of providing proper safeguards against accident and the women and children of the slaughtered workmen are left helpless and without recourse in the presence of death and the loss of breadwinners.

Do workmen understand that the capitalist system regards human beings only as a commodity to be bought and sold, as so much capital to be exploited for private gain, or, if thought of as men, then only to be squeezed dry of their life forces for profits or murdered for economy? And when will workmen see that there is a better way and a possible readjustment of social relations in which life will count for more than lucre and a man will be held in higher regard than money? What hope is there in this system of grind and greed for the bereaved families of the workmen murdered to maintain "progress and commercialism"? The only relief is in Socialism. Speed the day when it shall be triumphant throughout the world.

AFTER TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

After twenty-five years' connection with the republican party, Mr. D. G. Hitchcock, editor of the Herald, Warren, Mass., bids the party of plutocracy good-bye and in a long article, in his paper dated August 25, giving his reasons for so doing, adopts the platform of the Social Democratic Party of America and declares his adhesion thereto.

Mr. Hitchcock says: "The writer has faithfully stayed within the party and worked for reforms within the state, but he has not seen them materialize to any great extent, and he will not until the people arise in their might. The only reproach he has for himself is that he did stay so long within the party—waiting for something to turn up in the way of reform. Now, thanks to brave men and women, a new party has appeared, and he leaves the republican party without regret. It has been untrue to reform since the years immediately following the civil war. * * * We believe it to be best to work with a party whose platform is unexceptionable, whose aims are ideal, practical and commendable, and whose members and whose leaders

are unquestionably and absolutely sincere in their devotion to the good of humanity. This party, whose platform we elsewhere print, is the Social Democratic Party.

"The Herald joins the endeavors of the noble men and women of the Social Democratic Party who have borne the brunt of coming out and starting this new and promising organization with all their heart."

The Warren Herald, of which Mr. Hitchcock is editor, is in its twenty-third year, is published weekly and its subscription price \$1.50 per year. We extend to our cotemporary and co-worker a cordial welcome to the cause that needs assistance against the wrongs that lack resistance, and hope that the Herald may become a power commensurate with the importance of its editor's new opportunities.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Do you think any wrong would be done if all men and women were so organized together in society that they could work together all for all and each for each, instead of struggling with each other as now, in deadly conflict, for a chance to get a living, like wild animals fighting over the food, each trying to get advantage over the other, and all suffering varying degrees of misery in consequence?

Do you think it is right for some few persons to have wealth beyond the dreams of avarice, while the many who produce that wealth have at best usually but a bare living, and often not even that?

Do you think that there would be anything wrong in securing to men and women the whole product of their labor, instead of giving them, as now, but an insignificantly small portion thereof, and permitting the wealthy to absorb the lion's share of such product?

Do you think that a certain few, who by our social and industrial arrangements should be able by means of their wealth to govern you, by buying up the men placed in public office under the pretense of protecting the rights of the community?

Do you think it essential to the well being of society that it should be divided into classes of very rich and very poor; that the rich should be able to control the means of existence of the poor and by this enormous power be able to dictate to the poor in everything, without responsibility to any?

Do you not know that every new invention in labor-saving machinery, the discoveries of science, and the application of the forces of nature to production, instead of increasing the happiness of the many, by affording them greater rewards and more leisure, as ought to be, throws men out of employment by making less men necessary to produce; and so drives men still deeper into poverty and want, but increases the already enormous and superfluous wealth of the few owners of the means of production? Are you willing that these outrages should continue? There is a way to abolish them and substitute harmony for conflict; to bring about equality of wealth, whereby everyone shall have all the necessities, comforts and luxuries now had only by the rich; to care for humanity from cradle to grave; abolish poverty, misery and wrong, and reduce disease to a minimum; in a word, to establish real fraternity and human happiness upon the earth. The remedy is very simple. The people as an organized body should be the owners of the land and all the machinery of production; and every one should have the right to be employed by such organization and receive as his or her reward the whole product of his or her labor.

Cause and Cure of Social Evils

Of what avail to regenerate man can churches be with their graceful spires pointing skyward and eloquent divines describing the ineffable glories of immortality when society's only reward for virtue and morality is poverty and starvation? "Men who are housed like pigs can hardly be expected to pray like Christians, and when life is a long flight from starvation it is not a flight that takes the fugitive towards heaven."

Whatever may be our religious beliefs or political affiliations, it is time that we open our eyes to the fact that spiritual persuasion is utterly powerless to correct the modern political and social evils so long as an inhuman social order makes a wall between man and God. They can never be corrected unless we abandon isms and factions and, remembering the words of the Great Father, "He that loveth his brother dwelleth in the light," unify in one great brotherhood with a common aim and object, the destruction of vested wrongs. Competition is at best an immoral, wasteful, brutal scramble for existence. Everywhere about us are evident its baleful effects. Monopoly is gradually swallowing up the rights of the people. At the present time it is estimated from tables compiled from census reports, tax assessments and the files of the probate courts that 9 per cent. of the whole nation owns 45 billions of the total national valuation of 62 billions of dollars or more; that is, 70 per cent. of the

whole wealth of the country, leaving but 29 billions to be divided among the remaining 91 per cent. of the population.

Corporations are daily formed so vast in their operations that they almost dwarf our states. Society has begun to resolve itself into two distinct classes—bourgeoisie and proletarians—and through the "iron law of wages" the great masses of the people are gradually sinking into a condition worse than slavery. There is now no opportunity left for starting in business in a small way, unless backed by large capital. One after another syndicates are taking hold of the different business industries which were formerly operated by a large number of employers who have since become employees. You and I may yet be able to hold our own, but the day will come when we, too, will be caught in the whirlpool and submerged.

The money power has become so great that its influence practically controls the legislative department of government. Council chambers have become mere auction rooms where public franchises are sold to the highest bidder. The United States Senate is very appropriately called "the rich men's club." If this keeps on our boasted American independence will become a thing of the past and our beighted posterity worse than slaves.

When I think of these things which stand out before me as clear as lightning I marvel how it is, that the sovereign people of America deliberately allow themselves to be led to destruction like so many dumb beasts to the slaughter pen. If they will, this country may be turned into a veritable garden of the gods. Its natural resources are amply sufficient for the needs of all at no more than three hours' labor per day on the part of each. Co-operation with a common aim and object, the greatest good for each in the greatest good for all, will banish forever inordinate greed with all its wasteful indulgences and shocking want with all its misery.

Man is not naturally the debased creature he appears to be; he has been made such by unnatural laws which deny him the opportunity of being otherwise.

True, there may be some individuals whose natures have become so corrupted by conditions which have their origin in the competitive system that their reform is hopeless, and there may be others whose criminality is the inheritance of their parents and discloses itself in the malformation of their crania, but these unfortunate beings are hardly accountable for their acts and should be properly classed among the criminally insane, and society can be absolutely protected from them by their segregation and can assure itself of their ultimate extinction by applying the methods already invented by science and medicine which will prevent the reproduction of their kind.

There is utterly no need for penitentiaries to maintain order among men in a country where there is equality, liberty and fraternity.

Destroy the profit system and you have subverted the "iron law of wages." It is that which produces poverty, degrades and tantalizes men and crushes and defiles the virtue of women in the midst of churches.

You who understand these things and can read the signs of the times in their true meaning; you who are pillars of the church today and who have at heart the interests of humanity and the welfare of yourselves and your posterity, go forth among your neighbors and dispel the darkness of their ignorance with the sunshine of these golden truths. There is yet hope. This is a land where every man, rich or poor, high or low, is the equal of his fellow man in the seclusion of the voting booth. The people here are the sovereign power. Nothing can become a law unless they so decree. They hold in their hand a magician's wand under whose puissant influence the leer of the criminal and the sobs of the starving will soften into an expression of contented love and enduring happiness. That wand is the ballot. If, in their blindness, they fail to see its omnipotence and in their suicidal lethargy refuse to avail themselves of its blessings, they must pay the penalty with the forfeit of their rights as men. That is the only remedy.

Chicago, Ill. Charles H. Soelke.

Men Will Differ

Lionel Levogue, in his article, "Party or League," says: "Socialism is not a question of class, it is one of moral development," and proves by this that he has a very poor utopian conception of Socialism. While there are a few of the capitalists and middle class able to look beyond the horizon of their own class, and who will join the proletariat in their fight for emancipation, it is the proletariat as a class who has to make this fight. Who are the Socialists of Europe? I would like to see the man become unwilling to live as a parasite upon his fellow men. Even the "Golden Rule Jones" lives from the surplus value created by his employees.

Besides, Socialism is not a question of moral, but of economic development. Feudalism, capitalism, in short, all economic phases have different ideas of morality, and so will Socialism have. I recommend to Comrade Lionel Levogue the study of "Principles of Scientific Socialism," by Chas. H. Vail, before he writes again on that subject.

Milwaukee. Edw. Ziegler.

MERLIN'S MIXTURE

To-day criminality is more profitable than honesty. The retaining of a soft conscience and the acquisition of hard cash are incompatible.

The state does more for its erring citizens than it does for its earning ones. Crime is the only key to national charity. Felons and idiots are housed, fed and cared for by the state, while those who are just foolish enough to be honest are allowed to starve and shiver.

If you keep the law, it won't keep you; if you break it, it will. The government under which we live has most respect for those who have least respect for it.

Who can wonder then that crime is increasing, and our jails are overflowing?

Poverty and plenty stand side by side in strange contrast to-day.

Earth never produced more than now, and labor never received less. The shop windows were never as full and inviting, and the purses of the poor were never so empty.

The salesmen never besought patronage so much, and the poor never so hopelessly refused to buy.

Nature's banquet table overflows, while labor starves at the door. The few feast, while the many fast.

The majority of the world's needy hide their poverty.

The white-crested waves are only visible, while the whole ocean lies unseen beneath. Like an iceberg, only one-eighth appears above the surface.

For every one who applies for help at a city hall or a police station there are a score who silently starve in some back tenement.

For every beggar who appeals for alms on the street, there are a dozen near by whose wants are as great, but whose courage is less.

In a certain governor's inaugural address, he stated that we must have "a government of law, and not of man."

Which meant that human need would be subservient to human greed, that life would be of less value than property, and that the poor would be compelled to fulfill the law, before they filled full themselves.

Humanity would be put into the wine-press of competition, and the wheels of law would turn mercilessly round, pressing, crushing, grinding. Men and women and babies would be crushed, and the blood-red wine would flow, and the rich would drink it to the toast of "law and order."

And when the blood is crushed out, the bloodless crushed ones would be taken out, and the coroner say, "accidental death," and a pauper coffin would receive the body of the martyr to the Reign of Law.

Law does not represent justice. It is for the protection of selfish interests. It more often bolsters a social wrong than enforces a human right.

It is as often the instrument of oppression, as the preventer of it.

It is fatal to commit crime by retail. It is the age of big things in fraud and crime. The bigger the crime, the smaller the penalty.

A robbery by a speculative corner in wheat is an act held up for example, while the theft of a loaf by the desperate father of a starving family is punishable to the fullest extent.

A drunken man, in a moment of frenzy, stabs a comrade, and is hung. A millionaire sits in his office, and by the small dagger of his pen point deliberately stabs a score of his underlings to death. The pens of the rich are more deadly than the daggers of the poor.

Poor criminals have their bodies hung in prison walls; rich criminals have their pictures hung in city halls; that's the difference.

The ears of justice may be plugged by golden coins. The eyes of justice are effectually blinded by the stirring of gold dust.

Nothing is done without a license today. Newsboys have them to sell papers; saloon-keepers have them to sell rum; capitalists have them to sell people.

A license is blood-money paid to the governmental father by one son for the privilege of fleecing another. It simply secures immunity from justice.

The secrets of capitalistic outrage are buried with the victims. The paid press is as silent as the paupers' graves into which they are flung.

The church is more interested in the crimes of Pharaoh than in the crimes of Gould. It is more concerned in the secret of the creation of life by God than in the secret of its finish by man.

The public press devotes large space to the paltry pilferings of pauperized civilians, but doesn't print a line in condemnation of the wholesale steal of Carter, the Judas of militarism.

We need not look for social salvation to either of the old parties. After all the political changes and the disrupting influences and issues of the past few years, the two main parties are still the repub-

lican and democratic heads of the same capitalistic serpent.

Neither of them have taken decided stand for a definite principle; neither of them offer any solution for the industrial problem; both alike are dominated by the same spirit of capitalistic selfishness. The same rotten methods will be adopted by both in order to gain their ends.

An illustration of this was seen in a press account this week of the recent Ohio democratic state convention.

It was stated that if Hanna flooded the state with money in the republican interest, that McLean, the proposed candidate for vice-president, was willing to spend half a million in opposition.

And so the political game is played by millionaires, for the stake of the privilege of exploiting labor.

What have workingmen in common with capitalistic gamblers? What have the paupers of labor to do with the princes of capital?

Unite with your true comrades in the Social Democratic Party, and find real prosperity by the abolition of game, gamblers, and all, and the substitution of the co-operative commonwealth.

Merlin.

To the People of St. Louis

In such times as these all laboring men should stand shoulder to shoulder against the ever growing tyranny of concentrated wealth in private hands. It is not enough that each toiler sit within his hovel, mourning over the degeneracy of the human race and coming forth but once in four years to exercise the sacred right to cast a ballot and choose between two evils.

Bowed as he may be by the "weight of centuries," and even though he carry upon his back "the burden of the world," it is to the "stooped silent toiler" that we must look to save humanity from what is worse than monarchy, an oligarchy of wealth.

With few exceptions, who but the laborer himself has dared to raise his voice in behalf of the workers? Have we not seen Homestead? Have we not seen Pana? Have we not seen Hazleton? Has not our daily press told us that the mill-bondage of New England is worse than was the chattel slavery of the south? Do we not know that Siberian horrors pale into insignificance beside the outrages of Coeur d'Alene? Have not the miners of Shoshone county been forced to sign away their rights as freemen and to renounce all allegiance to their trades unions? Yet what have the well-fed and the well-groomed done in the midst of all this save to avert their eyes from scenes that shocked their nerves but missed their hearts and to close their nostrils to the stench of a decaying republic?

Workingmen, there is no power on earth that will bring to you the liberty and the comforts of life to which you are entitled, except your own voices, your own strength, your own votes!

If you will unite, if you will direct your thoughts to a solution of the difficulties that beset us, if you will let your voices be heard, and back your words with deeds, then your demands will be heard and granted, your rights respected and your liberties secured.

For the purpose of arousing the laboring men of St. Louis to an interest in the question of the hour, the problem of how to deal with vast accumulations of individual wealth, and with the confident expectation that it will lead to a more active and enthusiastic labor movement in this city, the undersigned committee, by authority of the three organizations it represents, hereby calls a grand mass meeting, to be held in Music Hall, Exposition Building, Saturday, Sept. 9th, 8 p. m., to be addressed by the well known champion of labor, Eugene V. Debs, upon the subject: "Trusts, the Middle Class and the Wage Workers."

All trades unionists of this city are called upon to show their loyalty to the labor movement by attending this meeting. All persons sympathizing with the labor movement and all who are interested in the subject of the meeting are cordially invited to attend.

Workingmen, we urge you to put forth every effort to make this meeting a success. Arouse, speak and act, and let your cry be: "Proletarians of all lands, unite!"

The Joint Arrangement Committee of The Central Trades and Labor Union, The Bellamy Club and the Social Democratic Party of St. Louis.

The People Must Act

An attorney for one of the greatest trusts told me recently that in his circle of wealthy clients were a large number of men who saw and felt the wrong of private ownership of these great industrial combines, but that they had to go into them or be run out of business, because in such combinations goods could be produced cheaper than in isolated and competing plants, and that as the public would not assume the ownership they had to continue in control and stockholders demanded the last cent of dividends possible. It is plainly the folly of the mass of voters in not electing men to office who believe in the public doing business, not in having business done for the benefit of a few at the expense of the many.—Appeal to Reason.

AMONG THE BRANCHES

Notices of Branch Meetings inserted for 50c per month.

CALIFORNIA
Branch No. 1, San Francisco, Cal., holds propaganda meetings every Sunday night at 8 p. m. at Temple, 117 Turk St.

Branch No. 1, Los Angeles, Cal., meets every Sunday evening at 8 o'clock in the room of the Friday Morning Club, 231 South Broadway, F. H. Gill, President, C. C. Ford, 623 W. 7th street, Secretary.

COLORADO
Colorado Branch No. 1 of the Social Democratic Party, meets every Sunday eve at Woodman's Hall, 1715 California street, Denver, Colo., 7 p. m. Thos. J. Gibbs, Chairman, Ida Mercer, Secretary, 1799 Washington street.

CONNECTICUT
Branch 3 (Conn.), New Haven, meets 1st and 3rd Tuesday in the month, at 22 Cedar St., at 8 p. m. Secretary, Cornelius Mahoney, 166 Frank St.

ILLINOIS
Meetings of Chicago Central Committee held regularly second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, at Dr. J. H. Greer's office, 52 Dearborn St.

Branch 1 of Illinois, Chicago, meets every Wednesday evening, Thomas Kirwin, Secretary, 254 Wentworth ave.

Branch 2, Chicago, Ill., Bohemian, meets 2d and 4th Saturday evening, 231 North Broadway, Blue Island Ave. Secretary, Vaclav Jelinek, 438 W. 15th St.

Branch 3, Chicago, Ill., meets 2d and 4th Monday of each month at Frank Lang's, 187 W. 18th St. Secretary, Frank Ort, 866 W. 18th St.

Branch 4, Chicago, meets every first and third Monday evenings of the month at 187 W. 18th St. Secretary, Mrs. Mary Horgan, 1456 Fulton St.

Branch No. 5 Illinois meets 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at Frank Lang's, 187 W. 18th street, corner Jefferson street. Secretary, Paul Chlapecka, 41 Ruble St.

Branch 6 (German), Chicago, meets every first and third Sunday at 8 o'clock at Nagel's Hall, 255 Blue Island avenue, near 18th street. Emil Tilly, 639 W. 21st street.

Branch 9, Chicago, meets at Lundquist Hall, corner first and Dearborn streets, every first and third Thursday. S. L. Westine, Sec'y, 6243 Center Ave.

INDIANA
Branch No. 6, Indiana, meets first Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon of each month at Reichwein's Hall, corner Market and Noble streets, Indianapolis.

MARYLAND
Branch No. 1, Maryland, meets every Sunday at 5 p. m. at Carpenter's Hall, 505 E. Baltimore street. Public invited.

Branch No. 2, Baltimore, Md., meets every Monday at 8 p. m. at 311 W. German St. Secretary, Frank Marek, 1408 N. Gay St.

MASSACHUSETTS
Branch 2, Holyoke, Mass., meets second and fourth Monday of each month at Springdale Turner Hall. Organizer, H. Schlichting, 30 James street.

Branch 5, Lynn, Mass., permanent headquarters 22 Summer St., near Market St., business meeting every Monday night at 7:30 p. m. Open house, Public invited. E. W. Timson, 23 Albany St., Fin. Sec'y.

Branch No. 3, Brockton, meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month for business at the City Hall, 2nd St., at 8 p. m. Main and Center streets. Secretary, Frank S. Walsh, No. 332 W. Elm street.

Branch 15, Massachusetts-East Boston-meets every Monday at 8 p. m. at 99 Chelsea St. A. L. Sweeney, 191 Webster St., Sec.

Branch 11, Chelsea, Mass., meets every Thursday at 8 p. m. room 2, postoffice building, Chelsea. Alfred B. Outram, sec., 72 Ash street.

Branch No. 31, Chelsea, Mass., permanent headquarters Room 2, Postoffice building. Open every evening. Business meetings every Thursday at 8 p. m. Public invited.

The Massachusetts State Committee meets the first Saturday of each month at 124 Washington St., Boston. All dues and moneys intended for the State Committee should be sent to the financial secretary, A. McDonald, 104 West Springfield St., Boston. All other correspondence should be addressed to the corresponding secretary, Margaret Haile, 8 Glenwood St., Roxbury.

MINNESOTA
Branch 1, Red Lake Falls, Minn., meets every other Sunday at a real estate office of Fred Geaswein, on Main street. Wm. H. Randall, sec.

MISSOURI
St. Louis headquarters-Room 7, 22 No. Fourth St. Address all communications to E. Val Putnam, Secretary. For information concerning ward branches inquire at the above address.

St. Louis Central Branch composed of all members in the city, meets every 3rd Sunday afternoon, 2:30 p. m., at Aschenbroedel Hall, 684 Market St. Lectures and general discussion at every meeting. Public invited.

Branch 7, Missouri, meets every Tuesday at 8 p. m. at 1200 Union ave., Kansas City. G. J. Storz, 1200 W. 9th street, Sec.

NEW YORK
Branch 10 (4 Ass'n Dist., N. Y.), meets every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at the rooms of the Voice of Labor, 107 Henry St. Jacob Panken, 141 E. Broadway, Org.

East Side Branch, No. 1, New York, meets every 1st and 3rd Thursday at 112 Clinton St. Secretary, A. J. Hertz, 163 Suffolk st.

Branch 3, New York (24th Assembly District) meets every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at 34 E. 64th st. L. Funcke, 239 E. 58th st., Sec.

Branch No. 10 (4th Ass. Dist.) New York, meets every second and fourth Friday of each month at the Club Rooms of the "Voice of Labor" at 107 Henry street. Nicholas Rosenauer, Secretary, 331 Madison street.

Branch 12, Brooklyn, N. Y. Headquarters Social Democratic Party, 251 Redwood street, meets every 3d Thursday at 8:15 sharp. All persons interested in socialism and the Social Democratic Party are invited to attend these meetings and co-operate with us in organizing social branches in every district in the city. Wm. Butcher, 251 Rutledge St., Secretary.

Branch No. 20, New York (23 Assembly District) meets 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month at East 4th St. and 1st Ave. Second avenue, New York City. Secretary, R. Hoppe, 228 E. 8th street.

The City Central Agitation Committee of Greater New York meets every second and fourth Saturdays of each month at 107 Forsyth street, in the Social Democratic League rooms. Alex. Kahn, 118 Broome St., secretary.

OHIO
Branch No. 2, Ohio, Cleveland, meets in Ohlson's Hall, 55 York street, second and fourth Sundays, at 3 p. m. Lectures, discussions, business meeting, first and third Fridays at 8 p. m.

Golden Rule Branch, No. 4, Cincinnati, Ohio, meets at Richelieu Hall, between Ninth and Plum Sts., first and third Mondays in each month, at 8 p. m. Lectures and discussions. Public invited. Secretary, Chas. D. Linsley, 933 W. Ninth St.

Branch 3, Cincinnati, meets every 2d and 4th Saturday, in Workingmen's Hall, 1318 Walnut St. Secretary, J. L. Franz, 1314 Walnut St.

Branch No. 11, Milwaukee, Wis., meets the second Wednesday of each month at the office of the Wisconsin "Vorwaerts," 614 State St.

Branch 12, Milwaukee, meets every first and third Thursday of each month at Peterleus hall, 717 Center street, at 8 p. m. John Koepfer, secretary.

Milwaukee Central Committee of the Social Democratic Party of America meets on the first Monday of each month at 8 p. m. sharp at No. 618 East Water street. Eugene H. Rooney, Secretary; John Doerfler, Treasurer.

The Referendum

The result of the vote on the recommendations of the July conference are given in the following report. The propositions submitted were:

(1) That the present constitution be continued and remain operative until the next national convention.

Adopted by vote of 486 to 74.

(2) That the "Demands for Farmers" be eliminated from the platform.

Adopted by vote of 478 to 81.

(3) That the next national convention be held at Indianapolis, Ind.

Adopted by vote of 481 to 78.

(4) That the time for holding the convention be the first Tuesday in March, 1900, at 10 o'clock a. m.

Adopted by vote of 546 to 16.

(5) That the following be the basis of representation: Each branch in good standing and organized at least 45 days prior to holding of the convention shall be entitled to one delegate; provided that branches having more than 50 members shall be entitled to an additional representative for each additional 50 members or major portion thereof, and provided further, that no delegate shall represent more than one branch, that of which he is a member.

Rejected by vote of 210 to 316.

THE VOTE IN DETAIL.

Table with columns: BRANCH, Prop. 1, Prop. 2, Prop. 3, Prop. 4, Prop. 5. Rows list various branches and their votes for each proposition.

Some of the branches failed to report the number of votes cast on each of the propositions, merely reporting "our branch votes 'yes' or 'no,'" while others offered substitutes for the propositions submitted.

These votes were necessarily thrown out. All propositions being approved except No. 5, relating to representation in the national convention, the National Executive Board will at an early day submit a new proposition.

Fraternally submitted, Theodore Debs, National Secretary, Sept. 1, 1899.

A Finnish Branch

The first organization of Finns under the international banner of Socialism in the United States is affiliated with the Social Democratic Party. The new branch, No. 35, at Rockport, Mass., is composed of Finnish comrades and was instituted August 24.

The officers are: John Hyvonen, chairman; Henry Hinggers, vice-chairman; John Erickson, secretary; Heikki Hokala, treasurer; Elias J. Ranta, organizer.

Chelsea, Mass.

Branch 31, Chelsea, Mass., held a caucus on Aug. 23rd and nominated John Cramb, 58 Marlborough street, Chelsea, for Senator 7th Senatorial district, and J. Howard Whipple, 198 Broadway, Chelsea, and Henry McSorley, 112 Spencer avenue, for representatives for the 26th and 27th districts, respectively.

We also held a social on the 25th at which Comrades Squire E. Putney and Margaret Haile and the candidates gave addresses which were well received by a crowded audience.

We intend to try and have good hopes of electing one alderman in the municipal election.

Alfred B. Outram, Sec.

Have your card inserted in the BRANCH DIRECTORY, 25 Cents per Month. It will help you in the work in your locality.

New Hampshire

The Social Democratic movement is growing in the old Granite State.

On Aug. 29 Comrades Maily and Carey addressed a great crowd at Exeter. Comrade Stewart presided.

On the same date Comrades Howe and Gordon addressed a small but very interested crowd in Central Labor Union Hall, Concord. Two new members were added to the branch and 35 books were sold to the crowd.

Right here is a point: Always have literature on hand to sell. One comrade in New England who has followed this plan has sold over 15,000 pamphlets during the past 3 years.

During the last week in July Comrade Howe, deputy organizer, arranged a meeting to be held on the lawn of Bro. Farmer at Amoskeag. Owing to the rain, however, the meeting was held in a barn with one lantern for a light and a hay rack was used by Gordon and Howe for a speaker's platform.

The Daily Union tried to make a little fun at our expense, but the only result was a good ad for which we are more than thankful.

Comrades Carey and Maily have been in New Hampshire for several days to the delight and welfare of the Social Democracy.

Comrade Clafin is now a regular contributor to several of the local weeklies in this State and great good will result. Comrade Clafin wields a forceful, keen and logical pen and thousands of New Hampshire people read Clafin with joy and instruction. I want to say this much, too, that Comrades Clafin and Howe are doing a great work and results that mean business will follow.

F. G. R. Gordon, Organizer.

Massachusetts' Joint Picnic

There isn't a doubt of it, we are growing! Last year we were gratified at having 125 at our joint picnic. This year we had over 600; with a mayor and a representative among our speakers, and a Socialist band to furnish music for the occasion.

The weather was all that could be desired for a picnic—a trifle hot perhaps, but all the better for enticing people out of the city, and for disposing of our ice cream, tonics, etc. Comrades were present from Brockton, Whitman, Rockland and Quincy; from Haverhill and Newburyport; and from Lynn, Boston, Chelsea, Malden, Somerville and Cambridge—and one strayed in from Colorado and another from New York!

In every department the picnic was a success. The Brockton band arrived about eleven, and at intervals, during the rest of the day, enlivened the proceedings with their music. It is something to be proud of, this Socialist band of ours.

The commissary department was a bit overworked; but, bless their hearts, they are used to it and they enjoyed it, those splendid Lynn comrades. The committee knew what it was about all right when it selected a grove near Lynn and put the Lynn comrades at the head of the commissary department. In all the busy corps of workers we had that day, there is no one who will not gracefully yield the palm to Comrades Mrs. D'Orsay, Mrs. Boyer, Arthur D. Ladd and Joe Segal for genuine hustle. The speakers and the musicians got their applause and appreciation from the audience. The dinner was no less important a feature of the occasion; and those who worked so hard to make it a success deserve their share of recognition as well. I think that one of the secrets of our success in Massachusetts is that we recognize that other things are necessary, besides oratory, and each one is glad to work in his own particular line.

We were all delighted to have with us Comrade Maily from New York and Comrade Hicks from Denver, and to hear from them how the movement in their respective States is progressing, as well as to let them see a representative gathering of Massachusetts Social Democrats.

A large rock in the grove served as a platform for the speakers, which Com-

rade Carey referred to as being as solid as our party platform. He was the first speaker, and put the audience in good humor with one of his characteristically witty and rousing speeches. This, of course, was nothing new; but it was decidedly new and interesting to see him in the role of waiter, carrying around great dishes of steaming baked beans and responding to incessant demands for more coffee. But to return. Comrades Porter and Chase were warmly welcomed by the audience when they spoke, and the latter's confident assurance of victory in Haverhill this fall was met with loud applause. Another and unexpected pleasure the audience had. Of course all Social Democrats know "Merlin," and Merlin's mixture, but the identity of Merlin was a puzzle. So when the chairman arose and announced that they would now have an opportunity of seeing and listening to "Merlin," much gratification was expressed, and "Merlin" was greeted enthusiastically. Comrade Maily's speech was inspiring, and Comrade Putney again proved that, as I heard one man in the audience remark, "he knows what he is talking about." Comrade Timson of Lynn made a highly satisfactory chairman.

At the close of the speaking a special meeting of the State Committee convened, and a committee of five was appointed to map out a plan of campaign and submit it to the regular meeting on the first Saturday in September.

I must not forget to mention the bevy of bright young girls, the sisters and daughters of comrades, who tended the ice cream, tonics and fruit table, and disposed of some seventy dollars' worth of these wares.

And all the others who helped, and whom I have not space to name; well, after all, it's "the man behind the gun" that does the business; and hundreds of comrades have the satisfaction of knowing that they have furthered the cause of Socialism by helping to make this picnic such a success that we cleared upwards of \$150 for our campaign fund.

Margaret Haile.

Farming in the Days to Come

(From the New England Magazine.) The model farm of tomorrow and of the future must avail itself of the most economical systems of plant propagation, and the geomagnetism must play an important part in its workings. Beneath the rich soil in the gardens where the delicate vegetables are growing networks of invisible wires are laid, collecting and distributing the atmospheric electricity to all the plants.

In the forcing-houses similar arrangements are made for stimulating the winter vegetables and flowers for the market, while overhead powerful arc lights make the night as brilliant as day and help to mature the plant growths in half the regular time required by nature. In the fields of wheat and corn the more powerful currents from a storage house work out similar results, lessening the season of growth and doubling the yield per acre. Excessive drouths and the danger from late and early frosts are thus partly avoided on the electric farm, while, if necessary, two crops can be raised in one season where formerly only one could be grown. The electric power that the farmer has at his command enables him to regulate the growth of his plants to suit the season or the markets. One portion of the garden can be forced, while the other half is kept back several weeks.

There is no limit to the use of the new invisible power which he gathers from the atmosphere around him or generates from the wasted forces of the neighboring stream of water. This leads to the examination of the source of the new power that propels the machinery on the farm. A small stream of water that formerly flowed across the farm in an irregular course, fertilizing the lower meadows and irrigating the upland districts, has been widened and deepened near its source, forming a large storage reservoir. This artificial pond has been dammed at its lower end, and as the water tumbles over the open water gates it turns several large turbine wheels.

These wheels do not move the machinery of a flour mill, but constantly manufacture electricity for use on the farm. By means of the huge storage reservoir the work of making electricity can go on through the driest season, for the water power never gives out and the electric power is always ready to do its work.

What do you think of a system of society in which a man may work to the point of exhaustion day after day all the days of his life and then, when the spark of life can no longer remain in his wretched overstrained body, not have accumulated enough to pay for his own burial?

THEODORE DEBS, 126 Washington St., Chicago.

The "Original" Kicker Again

The Herald of Aug. 26th contains quite an array of farmers' champions. As the original "kicker" I guess I am entitled to comment. I will begin with "Wayfarer."

Here is what I call a "scientific statement." "That private ownership of the means of production and distribution of wealth has caused society to split into two distinct classes, with conflicting interests, the small possessing class of capitalists or exploiters of the labor force of others and the ever-increasing large dispossessed class of wage-workers, who are deprived of the socially-due share of product."

This is the second paragraph of the S. D. P. declaration of principles, on which I have been basing my contention against the "Demands for Farmers." If "Wayfarer," Comrade Gordon and others are correct, there should be inserted in the above, after the word classes, the following: "Except in the field of agriculture." Then demands for farmers would be strictly in order, but so long as it stands as it now does, and as I think it should, I will oppose special class appeals.

If I cannot preach the same philosophy to the farmer that I do to the toilers of the city, why, the philosophy does not amount to much. Taking the above "scientific statement" as a text, and using the very same philosophy that I do to the city toiler, we prove that the concentration in agriculture will logically be the last in the field of production, and last of all in new countries, such as ours, with vast extents of uncultivated land, but sure to come unless there be a change in the industrial system. The waste of the present system is a negative argument for that which we would have, and suggests the benefits to come from systematically directed effort, and as a practical illustration cite the article in the "Review of Reviews" mentioned in a former article.

As usual, Comrade Gordon comes loaded with "figgers." As to size of farms, let me say that I live in the outskirts of a county-seat (population about 12,000) of one of the best agricultural counties in one of the best agricultural states in the Union, and have direct contact with farmers of all kinds. Observation shows me this: The original entries of land are now passing through the hands of the third and fourth generations. During and immediately following the war (rebellion) many farmers increased their acres very materially. These acres are being divided among their children, no new land being obtainable. This giving each child a farm reduces the average size, and with this reduction comes waste and increase in cost of production, and with prevailing prices there is no mistake that the small farmer is having a tough time of it, just the same as the small business man. While this process is at work another is growing. I can name half a dozen bankers and lawyers in this city who are each year adding from one to several farms to their holdings, and, as a rule, they are choice land. The size of the farm is not altered, but the ownership is. The constant settlement of new lands by emigration, etc., help to make the figures Comrade Gordon quotes, but back of the figures the signs are not wanting to prove that it will not be long before we may expect to see "business methods" applied to agricultural production. The field for safe investment of capital is being narrowed by concentration in the industrial field, and this will lead to investment in agriculture.

I don't care in what geographical division the farm laborer exists; nor what his color may be; the fact that he is there is one of the reasons that Socialism forges to the front the world over.

I wish the editor would secure and print the article from the pen of Comrade Eugene Hough, quoted by Comrade Gordon. I believe it was originally printed in the American Fabian. Comrade Gordon quotes the part describing the results. It would be of benefit to all readers of The Herald to have Comrade Hough's description of the causes, that produce the results.

Comrade Gordon is willing to drop the demands as a matter of policy, while I contend for their elimination as a matter of principle. The populists took up the cry of silver, saying: "We know that there is really nothing in it, but there are a whole lot of people coming our way who do, and we can get them by proclaiming for it." Well, they did come, and after they had passed there was not enough left of the pops to make a decent noise. The straight goods or nothing for me from this on.

Comrade Linsley in his comments seems to overlook the fact that the wage worker is just as much of a producer as is the farmer. The S. D. P. doesn't intend to ignore the farmer, nor any other factor in society, but it should not make appeals to any special class so long as it proclaims its present declaration of principles.

Chas. R. Martin, Tiffin, Ohio.

PROPAGANDA FUND.

Table listing names and amounts contributed to the Propaganda Fund, including names like Gustav Friedrich, Henry Krieger, Oscar Menge, etc.

