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## MAYOR OF ROCKFORD TACKLES EUGENE DEBS

### CROWD CHEERS LABOR LEADER

Another Recru't in Texas—Former Populist Leader Joins the Social Democrats—Capitalistic War in the Philippines—Shabby Treatment of Veteran

#### Current Notes and Comments

Comrade Eugene V. Debs, accompanied by Manager Rogers, stirred up the usually quiet town of Rockford, Illinois, on the 8th inst., in a manner that will not soon be forgotten by the thousands who heard him. He had been announced for a month before to speak, and as the county fair was on at the same time, an immense concourse of people, estimated by the press reports at between fifteen and twenty thousand, assembled to hear labor's champion, and the meeting was a tremendous success.

Those having the arrangements in hand secured the attendance of the mayor of Rockford, who, be it remembered, is also a salaried official of a railroad corporation—one of that class of individuals with big, bulging brains that so many American wage slaves have a special liking for, who ride into public office with the intelligent voters' aid, not because of any particular merit or ability, but because under an iniquitous labor skinning system they have by some fortuitous circumstances become the possessors of a bank account and the owners of property. The mayor was down for a speech, without which the meeting would not have been the entire success it turned out to be. Whether his honor is accustomed to public speaking we are not informed, but what he had to say the crowd in any American city is accustomed to hear from the average politician and well-paid railroad official. And the theme of his address was prosperity! The country was prosperous, and the working people well employed, and Rockford was especially fortunate, and so forth, ad nauseum.

Comrade Debs followed Mr. Mayor in a two hours' speech, thoroughly analyzing and exposing the false prosperity which, for political effect, had been described in exaggerated terms with the obvious intention of taking the ground from under the principal speaker of the day. But like most of his class who are ignorant of the subjects they presume to discuss, his honor found that when Debs began to shed light upon the subject, to the intense and hilarious satisfaction of the immense audience, his own puny efforts were like the prosperity he extolled, a sham and a fraud. This sham prosperity was described as paying workingmen lower wages than ever before and appropriating a greater share of labor's product; it is a prosperity that substitutes women for men in mills and factories and then substitutes children for both. This it was doing right in the unusually "prosperous" town of Rockford, and in the great and "prosperous" state of Illinois miners are paid an average wage of \$16 per month.

The mayor's "argument" was demolished utterly and having made the discovery that it is no easy matter to go up against a man who knows what he is talking about and tells the truth, the mayor became as obsequious as he was previously confident in his own diminutive powers.

The press reports said Debs was called down by workmen of Rockford and with their customary perversity tried to make it appear that his statements did not meet with approval. As a matter of fact not a single wage worker uttered a word of dissent, and the speech from beginning to end was received with repeated and vociferous cheers. The crowd was simply delighted to have some one come among them with the truth on his lips and they will not soon forget how Debs met the mayor of Rockford.

A veteran of the war of the rebellion living in Wisconsin has just had his hearing restored and this great blessing, thanks to the capitalist system, comes upon him as a calamity. It seems that the old soldier draws a pension of \$22 a month and that when his pension was originally granted he got \$2,500 in pension arrearages. With this money he purchased a farm and has thus been able to live fairly well since. Now that his hearing is restored the government proposes not only to stop his pension but also to get back as much of the \$2,500 as can be gotten by putting up his farm and other belongings at public sale. This will pauperize an old man and fill his last days with bitterness, instead of providing sunshine and good cheer for him as would be done under Socialism. It is a merely technical point that is made against him, for he has only recently regained his hearing and was stone deaf

during the time when he was still able to provide for himself. It makes little difference now he is so old whether he hears or not. Just contrast this case with that of Gen. Eagan, if you want to get a specimen of Uncle Sam's even-handed justice! Eagan was adjudged guilty by court-martial of the offense charged against him, and the usual penalty for such a case was dismissal from the army. Instead of that President McKinley suspended him "on full pay" for just enough years to bring him to the day when he can retire permanently on half pay. Eagan is now loafing and drawing his salary—money that really comes out of the wage-slaves who sweat ten or twelve hours a day in exchange for a barren living. How cruel we are to some, how kind to others!

The Philippine war is a capitalistic attack upon the rights of liberty loving people. It is not surprising, therefore, that all the low arts of the capitalist conscience should be employed in the work of subjugating the Filipinos. The information is now given out that Gen. Otis put up placards all over the island stating that the United States government would pay \$30 for each "insurgent" rifle voluntarily surrendered. Not being able to crush out the Filipino's loyalty to his own country by force of organized murder, he thought to buy them off, to tempt them with money. And just notice the amount. Probably he made it \$30 because it was with thirty pieces of silver that Jesus Christ is said to have been betrayed, and he wanted to follow such a notable precedent. All honor be to the natives, for only a beggarly few were tempted by the despicable bribe. And this sort of thing, you know, is being carried on in the name of the great star-spangled, Fourth-of-July American citizens, who glory in liberty and believe in freedom!

Mr. S. J. Hampton, editor and proprietor of the Farmers' Review, Bonham, Texas, for many years identified with the people's party and chairman of that party in Fannin county, Texas, has resigned and declared himself for international Socialism and the Social Democratic party. Mr. Hampton says: "Capitalism is internationalism, hence the movement against it must be international. The Social Democratic Party is international, and to my mind is the logical home for all men and women who have been earnest workers in the once great populist party, and all others who are struggling to be free."

Homeless and unable to gain a living, Elizabeth McMillan attempted suicide by jumping into the lake at Chicago. She would have succeeded in finding death but for the intervention of two men who saved her for more suffering in a society that fails to provide her an opportunity to live. The poor have no chance to live and no right to die.

Employees of the Dueber-Hampden Watch Company, of Canton, Ohio, who failed to march in the procession in honor of McKinley on his recent visit to the home of Mrs. George, have been discharged. Had an idea this was a free country, you know!

The state employment offices in Chicago are still wrestling with the unemployed problem and the number of applicants who fail to procure work increases. But the prosperity howl continues to ascend.

A Methodist preacher being asked how he would put an end to the Cleveland strike, replied that "the police should do their duty." He believes more in the bludgeon than the cross.

"My instructions are to let nothing go that can hurt the administration."—Gen. Otis, press censor and commander of the American troops in the Philippines.

"The Thirtieth regiment is off for Luzon!" and the campaign of hypocrisy and conquest continues—with the approval of the Methodists.

"Let nothing get out that can hurt us."—Instruction from Washington to Gen. Otis.

#### Rockville, Conn.

The comrades at Rockville passed a most enjoyable time on Sunday, September 3, when Branches 4 and 6 joined together in a picnic, the proceeds of which went into the treasury of Branch 4. All kinds of refreshments were provided and many of the comrades entertained those present with songs and recitations. Chairman Lonergan, of Branch 4, upon invitation, gave a rousing address on Social Democracy, which was well received. R. N.

## SOCIAL DEMOCRACY IN NEW ENGLAND

### AN OLD SOLDIER TURNS SOCIALIST

The Social Democratic Party a Common Subject for Conversation—Intelligent Trades Unionists Among its Most Active Workers

#### "Touchstone" at Haverhill

We were waiting for the train at Rockingham Junction, N. H., when an elderly gentleman was introduced to us. He shook each of us warmly by the hand, and told us what he thought of the Social Democratic Party. He apologized for not attending the meeting held at Exeter the night before, his health preventing him.

"But," said he, "I'm with you boys just the same. Let me tell you something, young men. I'm an old soldier and served my country over four years in the war to free the slaves. I've voted the republican ticket ever since the war thirty years ago, but when I vote next year my ballot goes in for the Social Democratic party. I've studied your principles and I believe in them. I'm for labor all the time, and the laboring class must organize their own party and vote for their own people, and I'm with them every time. I'm a Socialist and I'm proud of the fact."

A few moments later he said "good-bye" and "good speed" and went his way.

This little incident is related to show which way the political wind is blowing in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, and, in fact, all New England. The Social Democratic Party, its principles and its progress are becoming more and more common subjects for conversation. The people are talking Socialism. It is one of the live topics of the day, and the Social Democratic Party is its recognized mouthpiece and representative. For one to experience this, to go from place to place, to meet the growing number of Social Democrats, to note their intelligence, their enthusiasm, and their clear understanding of our principles and the purposes for which the party is organized, is for one to feel deeper and keener than ever that the long hoped-for party of the proletariat of America has come at last.

The most significant and therefore the most hopeful facts about the Social Democratic Party in New England is first, that it is a Socialist party of the working class, and second, the confidence of the members of the party in its policy and its future.

There is no question or dispute here as to whether the workers can organize a party of their own, based upon their class interests, and conduct that party in a manner consistent with the philosophy of scientific Socialism. Whatever doubt may exist elsewhere upon the ability of the working class to emancipate themselves from their present slavery, no such doubt exists here. The workers have already disposed of that question beyond any doubt whatever. Their party is here, they are strengthening it daily with their numbers and ripening wisdom, they know what they want, what their mission is, and they are moving forward; each day becoming more cohesive and solidified, to the glory that awaits them and the freedom which should be theirs.

The conditions in the New England mill and factory towns justify the existence of a working class Socialist party. Here the line of demarcation between the employer and employe is drawn and drawn tightly. Here the capitalist class in possession of the tools of industry is not a theoretical Frankenstein but a veritable fact. No powers of exaggeration are required to depict the iniquities of our industrial system. The factory and mill, equipped with the improved machinery, clangs with strident bells, hundreds, yes, thousands of employes to and from their task of earning a living, by the grace and privilege of a few. The evolution of industry has reached the capitalistic stage in New England and the natural and logical result has been the birth of a working class party, pledged to the abolition of capitalism and the establishment of Socialism.

What also could be more natural than to see the active members in the economic organizations of the workers—the trades unions—become also the most active and intelligent members of the working class Socialist party? This is the case here in Massachusetts. Wherever trades unions exist there invariably will be found the Social Democratic Party, organized and directed by trades unionists. Our party owes its strength and stability to the fact that workers who are conscious of their class interests being political as well as economic, have been among its chief promoters and supporters from its inception to the present day. No stronger endorsement of the

wisdom of the policy of the Social Democratic Party can be given or desired.

The confidence of our members in the party is not ill-timed nor unwise. They know that it is organized on the right basis, first of all. Then the adherence to an uncompromising, straightforward attitude toward other political parties and organizations gives them reason to believe in the party. There is no confusion, no sidetracking, no misleading. They have a certain goal to reach and to reach that goal a certain definite policy to pursue. That policy is being followed and the goal is already in sight.

Another reason for this confidence comes from the fact that every member of the party so far elected to office, from the highest to the lowest, has filled their respective positions capably, honestly and with credit to the cause. It is a matter for congratulation that such is the case, and if this continues to be the rule (and there is no good reason why it shouldn't) the progress of the movement in the next few years will be astonishing.

Of the prospects for the party in the coming election, it is perhaps too early to write, and this can be dwelt upon at greater length hereafter. That there will be a large increase in the vote throughout the state goes without saying, and it is probable four or five representatives will occupy seats in the legislature instead of two. Mayor Chase will be re-elected with an increased majority, even if, as is probable, the two old parties unite to defeat him. This will not prevent the boys from putting up a strong fight and making the campaign warm for the other fellows.

Socialism, in its ideal, stands for all that is beautiful and true in art and nature, and ideals may be born, but they never reach fruition where naught is beautiful and where truth is unknown. Ideals have souls, which can be dwarfed and crushed as can those of human beings when light and hope are denied them. A beautiful ideal, to be realized, must find congeniality in an atmosphere where it will flourish and not fade. Born of the misery and suffering of the human race, the Socialist ideal would wither and die if left to struggle in the dirt and squalor of the city slum. Could anything then be more fitting than to have the Socialist ideal show signs of practical realization here in New England, where the broad landscape and pure air, blotted and sullied only with the ugly factory and its uglier smoke, speaks nature at its loveliest and its best? Among such surroundings we can confidently expect the practical movement for the consummation of our ideal to be of healthy growth and carried forward with the true spirit. New England, historically, naturally and logically, should be and is the leader in the battle for the new emancipation.

Haverhill, Mass. Touchstone.

#### Remuneration of Genius

The usual answer (that given by Mr. Bellamy) to the question of the remuneration of genius, is that inventions are the result of a series of preliminary efforts by former inventors, to whom the last or successful inventor makes no return, and who derive no benefit from his success. An invention is thus a social, rather than individual product, and therefore society generally should reap the reward.

A better answer, we think, lies in the fact that wealth is not, as is generally assumed, a harmless possession—and so a fitting reward to be enjoyed with a clear conscience by any one who can get it. Wealth is power. It is a power over the lives and labor of other men. The greater the disproportion between wealth on one hand and want of it on the other, the greater the pressure power or leverage of wealth. In ancient times it was customary to reward conquerors with presents of slaves. We do not, to be sure, today reward our conquerors or inventors with slaves directly, but we reward them with the means to buy slaves, which amounts to the same thing.

In the old method Thomas Edison or Admiral Dewey would probably be presented with a hundred Massachusetts mill girls or a thousand Nebraska farm vassals. We have ceased this practice because we have become convinced that to give one human being directly into the power of another is wrong. No inventor in the universe could invent anything so valuable that we today should think it necessary to present him with human slaves in order fitly to reward his efforts.

But what we do do all the time, quite complacently in our blindness, is to put into the hands of private individuals for various services—commercial, inventive, political, speculative—the power to control the lives and labor of others; or, in other words, the power to buy slaves. Socialists explain this clearly, and no one has yet been able to refute their arguments.—American Fabian.

## WOMAN AND THE SOCIALIST MOVEMENT

### CAPITALIST SYSTEM AND HOME

Still Bound by the Prejudices of Time Immemorial—The Hope of Freedom by Uniting Herself with a Wage-Slave—Economic Equality of Sexes

#### By "Nemo"

To the earnest student of history no epoch can be more fascinating, or present more interest, than this, our own nineteenth century; this wonderfully complete period so rent with the questions of today, so promising in its prophecies of tomorrow. It is difficult to classify the various intellectual movements that have swayed the thinking world of our times; still more difficult to single out those, which, more than all others, are the true and unending signs of modern progress. Nevertheless, in woman's struggle for emancipation, which has many advocates nowadays, we can see a most interesting phenomenon, and one which the Socialist can study with great profit, both to himself and to the movement at large.

To those who have even a slight knowledge of the philosophy of history, it is easy to assign a cause for this new awakening among the advanced women of the race.

First, the wonderful progress in industry and invention which in the last hundred years has totally modified the face between the sexes.

Viewed objectively, and with the unprejudiced eye of the Socialist philosopher, this claim appears just and well founded; but a little reflection will bring the question forth: Is the modern woman the equal of the modern man? Again, Will the cause of Socialism be benefited by the enfranchisement of the modern woman?

This is a most serious question, and as Socialists we must give it due consideration. It is an almost universally admitted fact that every man is the creature of his heredity and environment, and that the material condition of the individual is the basis of the moral and intellectual man. If this be true, and few will object to it, how important is its bearing on the question, Is woman the equal of man, in this, our modern state? For centuries and centuries, women have led stunted and undeveloped lives. Through neglect and restraint their physical energies have been so atrophied that to the women of today, even the most ordinary and natural functions of life are attended with agony and danger. With few exceptions our sisters are weak, enervated beings, products of the suffering and narrowness of ages. Most of the economic world, changing completely the old conditions of life, and forcing all men and women into a larger and less domesticated existence than has ever before been led by humanity at large.

Second, the growth of capitalism, compelling the women to leave the home and to enter the field of labor, there to compete with their own husbands and fathers. This change from a quiet, indoor life to the busy and active one of factory, store or office, has been the chief means of teaching women how to think. Thirdly, the spread of education among all classes and the facilities furnished for higher development, to all who have leisure to study. It is well to note, in passing, that the women of the higher classes have vastly more leisure than their masculine parents and social equals, who begin early and stay late in the race of competition.

All these influences and many other minor ones which it would be useless to enumerate, have been at work on the women of the century, and they for the first time, thinking independently, and noting the achievements of some individuals among them, have come to believe that the great question of the moment is the emancipation of woman and the establishment of absolute equality of us readily admit that the brain, like the heart and lungs, is an organ composed of various animal substances. Such an organ is capable both of development and degeneration, according to the influences that govern it. If, in woman, all the organs have been weakened, it follows that the brain, the seat of thought and reflection, must likewise have suffered.

This is strictly from the materialist's point of view. Now from another; since the environment of centuries has operated to belittle woman's mind, how can one or two generations of but slightly better conditions annul the work of ages? And again, we are forced to admit that woman's position is not as favorable to her present development as could be desired.

The prejudices of time immemorial

(Continued on Second Page)

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ORGANIZE FOR 1900

In almost every community in this country today may be found from one to a dozen Socialists who are not affiliated with a Socialist organization.

In almost every community a thoroughly wide-awake and earnest Socialist with a very little work could in one week effect the organization of a Branch of the Social Democratic Party.

The platform and constitution of this party will be found on the fourth page of this paper; read it and you will see that the party is a straight, uncompromising Socialist party; it is recognized as such in the International Socialist movement.

The triumph of the Socialist cause requires organization, without which nothing can be accomplished; the Social Democratic Party is controlled by no individual nor by any set of individuals short of its entire membership through the referendum.

The year 1900 will be one of great and far-reaching importance to the people, and especially to the wealth-producing people of the United States; the latter have surely by this time begun to see the futility of any longer following the old political parties only to find that both are subject to the influence and control of the capitalist class which lives, moves and has its being in the exploitation of the working class.

Socialists should have as their main object next year the polling of every vote possible for straight and uncompromising Socialism, and to do this the voluntary co-operation of every unattached Socialist in the work of organization, where he lives, is necessary.

The Social Democratic Party is now organized in twenty-six states; it consists of Local Branches, State Unions and a National Council. A Local Branch may be organized with five members. Wait no longer, but organize a Branch in your town. Full instructions and all necessary supplies may be obtained by addressing Theodore Debs, National Secretary, 126 Washington St., Chicago, Ill.

FRAUD AND FORCE

Socialism aims at the establishment of conditions in which such a sorry spectacle as that which France now presents to the world will be impossible. With no direct evidence whatever against Dreyfus, but with revelations that every day during the trial brought discredit upon the generals and the army, that unfortunate man has been again convicted of a crime of which he is believed by the sane world to be entirely innocent.

We see in the present crisis in France and the shameful treatment heaped upon Dreyfus further warrant for the anarchist propaganda. If France shall escape a whirlwind of passion as a result of this her latest shame, it will be a marvel indeed. There is no peace for the world, there can be none, while justice is assassinated and the innocent suffer at the hands of organized force, the military arm of a nation. There can be no justice while that force exists anywhere. It exists, not alone in France, but everywhere else as a menace to freedom and a protection to the class which has its heel upon the neck of the workers of the world.

Socialism by carrying on production for use instead of profit would put an end to fraud and force. Speed the day when Socialism shall be triumphant the world over.

The King Can Do no Harm

By James T. Van Rensselaer.

I was struck by a paragraph in The Herald of September 2, which read as follows: "Occupying a public thoroughfare, Marshall Field, of Chicago, responds to an order to vacate by retaining the use of the obstruction while he builds above it another three times as large, and the court and the people stand and look on while it is done. However, this thing of compelling wealthy taxpayers to obey the law is quite preposterous. Talk about patriotism and respect for the courts!"

As I read I could not help wondering whether the writer knew the true definition of law. Let me give it. According to Blackstone, law "is that rule of action, which is prescribed by some superior, and which the inferior is bound to obey." Lawyers tell me that there could be no such thing as law without a superior and inferior. Therefore we find that law depends upon there being a superior and an inferior, and moreover it depends upon the superior being above the law. He, the superior, Blackstone tells us in another place, has "laid it down." Now, if he has "laid it (the law) down," it must certainly be below him, and equally he must be above it. Here comes a great truth, viz.: A superior being above the law, he is not bound by it, it is the inferior only who is bound. Therefore we may justly define law as a rule of action laid down by a superior and which the inferior only is bound to obey.

Let us ask ourselves, then, "What do we mean by the term superior?" In earlier days it was claimed that the king made all laws, laid them down. This idea, by a legal fiction, still prevails in monarchical countries. The king by divine right making all laws is above them; therefore the king can do no harm. For contending for this in practice as well as theory Charles I. of England finally lost his head. But pass on to the middle class republic. Here we find no king. Who, therefore, makes the law; to whom belongs the superiority? The answer is, Those who possess the greatest economic power, in other words, those who possess the greatest wealth. Thus in the United States, to use the lines which Tom Moore long ago applied to us:

"Where bastard Freedom waves Her fustian flag in mockery over slaves,"

rich men wreck railroads, bribe juries, corrupt legislatures, buy seats in the United States senate, and commit one hundred and more acts just as immoral, because by "the divine right" of possession they are the makers of the law, while they themselves having laid it down are therefore above it.

But I hear a voice in the crowd, coming from one who has read history with sealed brain and whose imagination has perchance never been developed, asking me, "What are you going to do about it? There have always been rich men and there always will be." No, my friend, that is not true. There was once a time when no one owned private property; when the world belonged to all; when every man and every woman had free access to all the means of production and distribution which then existed. But there came a day when one man—perhaps several men—seized several of his fellows as slaves, thereby creating private property by seizure, and made laws, laid them down, possibly in self-protection. Thus came the first superior and the first inferior. Recall the definition given above, "Law is a rule of action laid down by a superior to govern an inferior." History since that time has seen bodies of inferiors rise and break down or alter the law. The barons of England made King John partially admit them into the superior circle when he granted the Magna Charta. When Charles I., badly advised by Buckingham and Strafford and others of the same ilk, tried to enforce his alleged rights, England rose in rebellion. When Louis XVI. and his nobles attempted the same thing France rose and chopped off their heads. When George III., fondly imagining that he owned the earth, pushed his superior claims just a little too far all America burst into flame. When the slave-owners of the South asserted their "divine right" to hold their brothers as chattel slaves the North rose and crushed them, and so it will be with our superiors in money, the inferiors will some day arise and say "private property being founded on seizure is illegal; therefore we demand that you render back to us that which is our own, for we claim to be kings and we can do no harm."

Jones of Ohio

Mayor Jones, who has announced his independent candidacy for governor of the state of Ohio, has replied to various friends that he will not allow any convention to be called to nominate a full ticket, nor will he allow any convention to be mixed up in his campaign. All this suggests the question as to what the value of Mr. Jones' activity in the political field really is. What is his true value to the Socialist movement?

Mayor Jones is a Christian Socialist, not a Social Democrat, although he did join the old Social Democracy of Amer-

ica. His tactics since then have been such as to give warrant for the belief that he cares very little for the Socialist movement in the concrete, although anxious to advance Socialism in the abstract. Indeed, we may be even bold enough to say, though we say it in no ill-tempered spirit, that his candidacy is for Jones rather than for Socialism.

The Socialist movement calls for solidarity on the part of its workers. It calls for unselfish devotion to the cause. The Socialist who disdains to stand shoulder to shoulder with his fellows in the faith, eating their fare and helping bear the burdens, the discouragements and the inconveniences of the impersonal and collective fight against the common enemy, is, after all, only an oddity—a freak—if that word can be used in an inoffensive sense. The course Mayor Jones has taken, for instance, while it may bring success to him personally, will do the Socialist movement, as a movement (and consequently those whose emancipation actually depends on the success or ill-success of that movement) precious little good. It will to a certain degree obstruct it, for it will tend to confuse the lines of battle, conflict with and even block the way somewhat of the organization that is necessary as a precedent in the effective war on capitalism. Delays are dangerous.

On the other hand, the benefits of the independent personal canvass are not large. His activity will help to advertise Socialism just as every pulpit address on Socialism does, or just as the social development does. It will tend to disabuse the minds of people of false apprehensions as to Socialism, and that will do good. And last, and really greatest of all, success if it comes will flush the independent candidate with gratification and give him the opportunity of administering his office in a more humane and democratic way than it would be administered were some old party politician to be the successful one. In this way, too, the Socialistic ideas will be made more popular and various reforms doubtless be brought about. Having been a seven day wonder, the eighth day will dawn, and then—and then, will anything lasting have been accomplished?

Mayor Jones is a righteous man, evidently filled with high purposes, but his success as an independent Socialist is quite apt to attract the cupidity of a dishonest politician here and there, who, having no fear of a critical and discerning Socialist party to interfere with his schemes, will see a chance of playing the role of an independent Socialist candidate for office, and thus run a new chance of getting at the spoils of office through the favor of a gullible public. Not only the interests of organized, militant Socialism, but the interests of Socialism in the abstract demand that the trained hosts of Socialism have some say as to who shall carry the conquering banner forward in the role of leadership. Socialists ought to have the right—a moral right—to decide who shall represent them in the battle at the polls. The integrity of the movement is dear to them. It would be strange if it were not so. Wayfarer.

WOMAN AND THE SOCIALIST MOVEMENT

(Concluded from First Page)

still bind her to a great degree, and to a considerable extent, modern conditions intensify these prejudices.

At all times woman has been forced, through economic dependence, to seek man's favor. It is so even today. Now, the only way a working-woman can hope to escape the hell of capitalist exploitation is through marriage. This is the cause of that unpleasant fact, so discouraging to the Socialist, of finding woman's hope of economic salvation absolutely disregarded in her mad scramble for a husband. Too blind to abolish the conditions that oppress her, she thinks to escape them by uniting herself to a wage-slave, willing to take a double burden on his shoulders. Hence her interest in economics is drowned in her eagerness to obtain a husband. One mind cannot strive for two ends. So, in spite of cherished dreams, we find woman still laboring under the conditions which, since the very beginnings of history, have been stultifying and repressing her being, physically, morally and intellectually.

Some of the leaders in the agitation for woman's suffrage recognize this fact and use it as an argument in their favor. "The franchise," they say, "would teach woman new duties, new views, a higher life. She would cease to seek her goal in marriage, but would strive to raise herself to new heights and develop herself to a new individuality." This sounds very beautiful and in some cases is quite true, but how quickly do the flaws appear, when viewed in a calm and unprejudiced manner.

Were the right of suffrage to be granted to every woman in the United States today, would her condition be as greatly improved as these agitators for emancipation say? How many of the myriad women, working in factory, office or kitchen, have the time, the opportunity, or even the spirit "to lift themselves to new considerations, and new contemplations of the great questions of life and

eternity?" How many of our tired, fretted mothers, vainly endeavoring, in city infernos, to procure one breath of fresh air to poor, gasping babes, find heart or leisure left "to exalt themselves to new conceptions of the ideal?" It seems almost an irony to propose such a thing.

Evidently the woman's movement, with its panacea of emancipation, could do very little to better the condition of woman as a whole. How painful this truth must be to every advanced but unprejudiced daughter of the race, can well be imagined. Since the suffrage will not lift woman to an equality with man, or break the shackles which have bound her for years, is all hope gone? Can anything accomplish the miracle? Can nothing be done? Clear comes the answer from the Socialist. The degraded condition of woman, like all modern evils, is one of the many dire results of private capitalism. Consequently as long as this system exists, its deplorable effects must also continue until a better form of society is inaugurated and peace at last dawns upon the earth.

Every day the tide of Socialism rises higher, forcing capitalism to concede more and more on every side. One cannot view without awe and admiration that mighty international power, whose avowed pledge is to work unceasingly until all private property in the means of life shall be converted into public wealth. When this is accomplished, all the bitter questions which torture the world today shall be completely and triumphantly answered. The Sphinx element will drop out of the human ken, there will still be the unknown but not the unknowable. Greatest of all will be the solution to the "woman's question." Socialism will place the sexes on an economic equality and as the economic condition is the basis of all others, it will not be long before woman at last shall stand on a complete equality with man.

It is not surprising that the few women who realize this rush into the Socialist movement as into the only path that can lead them to freedom. How beautiful the day when the great majority of intelligent women at last see the light of Socialism, illumining the way, clearing all problems, removing all doubts. To man, the conception of Socialism is an inspiration and an ideal; to woman it is more even than this, it is her very salvation.

What then in its turn is the attitude of Socialism to woman? Theoretically, it advocates the equality of the sexes, and demands the enfranchisement of woman. In so doing it but takes the logical and scientific stand which all the unprejudiced must take, but how different is theory from practice!

As has already been shown, the prejudices of ages still influence mankind, and although some prominent Socialists have been able to overcome them, it is folly to imagine that the great mass, who enter the Socialist fold, can, at present, view matters in the same light. True, the Socialist movement gives woman the opportunity to work for a better day, but it does not, and cannot, give her present freedom. This may sound hard to the many feminine enthusiasts who come into our ranks burning with hope and beaming with the expectation of finding peace at last, but it is true, nevertheless, and truth, though bitter at first, always proves sweet and blessed in the end. Let them not be discouraged or hurt that facts should be as they are, for in spite of all a great and glorious promise lies hidden behind the gloom. Seeing how hopeless are modern conditions, realizing how little can be gained now, how strong and earnest should be their endeavor to hasten the coming day, and end the hideousness of our present night!

Let our brother comrades try then to understand and appreciate the fearful struggle and great odds the women in the movement are laboring under, and may our sisters resolutely accept the situation as it is, striving doubly for Socialism, knowing that they "have nothing but their chains to lose, and more than a world to gain!" Nemo.

The Essex county convention was a success, there being only two branches without representation. For councillor of the Fifth district Daniel Webster Spofford was nominated. The special commissioners are one from West Newbury and the other from Newburyport, and as Lynn and Beverly were not represented it was thought proper for them to fill the nominations of register of probate and county commissioner, respectively. A county committee was chosen, consisting of one member from each branch present. The committee is as follows: Chas. W. Green, Amesbury, chairman; J. W. Bailey, Merrimacport, secretary; T. C. Tracy, Georgetown; S. H. Noyes, Newburyport; Walter S. Morse, Haverhill; Patrick Curley, West Newbury. All branches of Essex county are requested to at once elect a member to the county committee and report to J. W. Bailey, Merrimacport, Mass., if they have no representative on this committee. Comrades Carey of Haverhill and Mailey, late of Nashville, Tenn., gave us short addresses of good advice and interest as they so well know how to do. Prospects are excellent for a good fight and results that will surprise the country when the returns of Essex county are read in November next. Amesbury.

MERLIN'S MIXTURE

Wanted—Men

'Twas the e'er familiar placard That for many days had lain In the dust-besprinkled setting Of the factory's grimy pane; And I paused before the window, While a de.p and muffled sound Crept from out the massive building As the tireless wheels went round, Their allotted task performing As the web of work they spun, Never ceasing in their toiling Till the daily task be done; And the silent-speaking cardboard, 'Mid the labor's dust and din, Spoke the need of active workers In the busy hive within.

"Wanted, Men." A deeper meaning Than its printed face could show Seemed to gleam from out the letters As I slowly turned to go On into the busy city, With its crowded highways rife With the sights and sounds and strivings Of the city's hurried life. All around was din and tumult, And the tread of many feet, Passing by in quick succession On the thickly-thronging street; And above the throbbing pulse-beat, With a deeper meaning fraught, Rang the factory-window message, "Wanted! Men of deed and thought!"

"Wanted, Men!" Amid the tumult Of industrial unrest, Where the idler is rewarded And the worker is unblest, Comes the call for honest manhood, With a manly purpose strong, To assert its rightful justice And overthrow the reign of wrong. Men who state their own opinions In the face of foolish rage; Men who ask a free man's portion, And refuse a master's wage; Men with conscientious scruples, Who will dare to claim their own; Men who fight for their convictions, And not struggle for a bone.

"Wanted, Men!" From halls of learning, Where the philosophic plan Is to make a youth a scholar, Not an honest-hearted man; And the dust of ancient wisdom Shrouds the new truth at our feet, Comes the echo of the notice That I saw upon the street. Men who seek the truth, and find it In the lessons of today; Men who seek a common justice, Not an autocratic sway; Men whose learning makes them wiser, And whose wisdom makes them true; Men who strive to help the many, Not to glorify the few.

"Wanted, Men!" In halls politic Where the legislators sit And applaud a party measure, Or a punster's puny wit; Where a party cry is stronger Than a nation's crying woes, And the people's cause lies bleeding From monopolistic blows; Men who legislate for justice, Not with mercenary aim; Men who seek the common welfare, Not the gilding of a name; Men whose strong right hand is lifted To defend the weaker cause; Men who follow out their conscience In the making of the laws.

"Wanted, Men!" In daily living, Whatso'er the task may be, For the whole world cries in anguish From its fetters to be free; And the message of the placard, With its silent need expressed, Should be answered by the doing Of our noblest and our best. Men who leave a private pathway To pursue the path of right; Men whose genuine deserving, Is their truest claim to might; Men whose sturdy worth has made them Higher than the upper ten; Men whose best and chiefest merit Is that they are truly Men. Merlin.

Branch 2, Eighth Assembly District, New York, will hold a ratification meeting on Thursday, September 21, at 50 Orchard street. Good speakers will address the citizens of the Eighth district. Admission free. Our headquarters are at 291 Broome street, one flight up. Meetings of the branch take place every Friday evening at the above address. All communications, to be addressed to Louis B. Paiewsky, Secretary, 537 East Twelfth street, New York City.

PROPAGANDA FUND

Table with columns for Name, State, and Amount. Includes entries for Appeal to Reason, Edge V. Debs, John Conway, W. C. Burke, F. J. Miller, Friend Fitchburg, Julius Robinson, Kirby, Eug. Dietzen, T. Smoot, F. Mulac, F. Maur, T. Dietrich, Geo. Baumann, and Total \$15.99.

AMONG THE BRANCHES

Notices of Branch Meetings inserted for 20c per month.

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

COLORADO
Colorado Branch No. 1 of the Social Democratic Party, meets every Sunday eve at Woodman's Hall, 1715 California street, Denver, Colo., at 8 p. m.

CONNECTICUT
Branch 3 (Conn.), New Haven, meets 1st and 3rd Tuesday in the month, at 252 Cedar St., at 8 p. m. Secretary, Cornelius Mahoney, 165 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.

INDIANA
Branch No. 6, Indiana, meets first Saturday evening and 3rd Sunday afternoon of each month at Reichwein's Hall, corner Market and Noble streets, Indianapolis.

MARYLAND
Branch No. 1, Maryland, meets every Sunday at 8 p. m. at Carpenter's Hall, 506 E. Baltimore street. Public invited.

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

MINNESOTA
Branch 1, Red Lake Falls, Minn., meets every other Sunday in the evening at office of Fred Geiswein, 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.

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. Jacoby, Frank, 141 E. Broadway, Org.

OHIO
Branch No. 2, Ohio, Cleveland, meets in Ohlson's Hall, 65 York street, second and fourth Sundays, at 3 p. m. Lectures and discussions, business meeting, first and third Fridays at 8 p. m.

PENNSYLVANIA
Branch 2, Erie, Pa., meets every Sunday afternoon at K. of L. Hall, 716 State street, Chairman, Chas. Heydrick; Secretary, Geo. B. Laird, 225 W. 5th street.

WISCONSIN
Branch No. 1, Milwaukee, meets every second and fourth Thursday evening of the month at the Ethical Society Building, 1283 Jefferson st. Visitors always. H. Rooney, Secretary.

Branch No. 11, Milwaukee, Wis., meets the second Wednesday of each month at the office of the Wisconsin "Vorwaerts," 414 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.

Debs at St. Louis
Comrade Hoehn writes from St. Louis as follows: Last night's demonstration was a grand affair. Best Socialist meeting ever held in St. Louis.

Presented by SOCIALIST WOMEN OF ST. LOUIS, To Our Dear Comrade, EUGENE V. DEBS, September 9, 1899.

The St. Louis Republic in its report of the meeting says: "WHEN HE HAD CONCLUDED HIS ADDRESS HE WAS GREETED WITH A WAVE OF PROLONGED AND ENTHUSIASTIC CHEERS, DURING WHICH NEARLY EVERY MAN ON THE PLATFORM AND IN THE HALL, AND WOMEN, TOO, FOR THAT MATTER, crowded forward, eager to grasp his hand and congratulate him for his words."

A Quincy Success
"This is the happiest moment of my life," said Mayor Chase, as he commenced an address at Quincy on Sunday afternoon, August 27.

On Historic Ground
I think it is about time that Plymouth county, Massachusetts, was heard from just to let the comrades know that we are alive and expect to be heard from at the fall elections.

Suggestion About Organization
The Social Democrats may profitably scan those methods of successful political parties which do not relate to corruption of voters, insincerity of platforms or stool-pigeon candidates.

doctrinaires, and it is pertinent to point out ways by which the party may be so popularized that it will take practical hold of the machinery of government and become an acting body instead of a theorizing cult.

If the party is to do this it must adopt a liberal and easy plan of local organization. Our S. D. P. branches are all right and must be rapidly extended to maintain the general organization of the party, but in my opinion we need something in addition in the nature of auxiliary clubs, the members of which should sign an agreement to act with and build up the Social Democratic Party, endorsing its political platform and thereby becoming competent to call and conduct caucuses and eligible to nomination for office upon the party ticket.

Each signer of the club roll should pay 50 cents to the organizer and receive a membership subscription receipt for the party organ for one year. Each club should select a chairman and secretary, who should keep the membership roll and call all caucuses of the party in towns and wards where no regular branch is organized, and from time to time secure and forward to the state organizer of the party additional subscribing members and renewals and such other subscriptions as possible.

Social Democrats are not interested in keeping their party small. We want a million votes in 1900. A liberal and progressive policy will secure them without sacrificing a single plank in our platform. S. F. Clafin, Manchester, N. H.

Joint Meeting in New York
A joint meeting of the branches of the Social Democratic Party of Greater New York was held on August 28, 1899, at Witzig's hall, 85 East Fourth street, for the purpose of taking action on the invitation extended to the S. D. P. by the newly organized Independent Labor Party of New York to send delegates to its conference.

The following officers were elected for the evening: Wm. Butscher, chairman; A. Geyer, vice-chairman; I. A. Hourwich, secretary; J. Baroness, sergeant-at-arms. After a very spirited debate, which continued until after midnight, a motion made by M. London, "that S. D. P. accept the invitation of the Independent Labor Party to co-operate with it in the next campaign," was carried, with only four dissenting votes.

Upon motion of Wm. Butscher, who for the time yielded the chair to the vice-chairman, the following instructions were given to the delegates: (1) That in those districts where the S. D. P. has already nominated candidates, their names shall be placed in a separate column, under the heading and emblem of the S. D. P.

(2) That the S. D. P. will endorse the candidates of the I. L. P. for such offices, for which no nominations have been made by the S. D. P., and that no further nominations shall be made by the S. D. P. in Greater New York. (3) That we request the support of the I. L. P. for our nominations.

A telegram from Mayor Chase, of Haverhill, in reply to an invitation by the Independent Labor Party to address the ratification meeting at Cooper Union on September 1, 1899, was then read. His answer was that he would address the meeting if the Social Democratic Party of New York desired it.

After a motion had been made and carried to invite Mayor Chase to address the ratification meeting of the I. L. P., the meeting adjourned. I. A. Hourwich, Secretary.

They built a large platform, a band stand, seats on the side of the slope in front, piped water into the grove, and erected a refreshment stand. They had huge bills printed, a brass band engaged, and served elaborate refreshments free to all.

There were fully 3,000 people upon the grounds, and a more attentive, interested and receptive audience it would be hard to find.

Comrade Carey's razor-edge witticisms, and Comrade Chase's sturdy truisms captured the crowd. Each crash of applause, and they were many, showed that the granite of Quincy conservatism was being seamed and fractured by the blast of Socialist truths.

The strong arms of the Quincy granite cutters have not dealt their last blow at capitalism, and if this meeting be a first attempt, what may we not expect them to do in the future? —Merlin.

Notwithstanding the extension of time one month to enable all the branches to get in their vote on the conference recommendations, many failed to do so, and every mail now brings in reports which, of course, are too late to be included in the report.

With just and well-defined objects a political party can go before the people and in time gain a majority and place their measure upon the statute books. When that majority is gained it can maintain its ground, having justice, a majority and the law in its favor.

To this end every true American should work, until criminals in office may be made to wear striped clothes.

One hour's solicitation per week for the Herald would do wonders. Some give it. Do you?

In Greater New York
The New York comrades have been working and sullen, like beavers. They have started their campaign and are making things in the greater city pretty lively for their adversaries.

The Independent Labor Party, which has just been formed, invited the branches to each send two delegates. Immediately a joint meeting was called so that the delegates could be instructed as to what action should be taken by them.

A set of resolutions was drawn up by the joint body to be handed to the I. L. P., stating our position and offering them our support, but at the same time informing them that we intended as uncompromising Socialists to hold our organization intact, and under no consideration to appear on the ballot with our candidates under any name other than the Social Democratic Party.

The conference went into executive session and behind closed doors read our resolution, and after much discussion, in which our delegates took part, decided to hand this resolution over to the chairman of each district where we had already nominated candidates, with a suggestion that they should endorse our candidates.

We have entered the campaign in twelve districts and if the hard work of our comrades counts for aught, should make a good, substantial showing in this polluted political city of ours.

The West Side branch has secured headquarters and intends to have a grand opening in a few days. The comrades in this branch have entered into the campaign in a district which has always been known to be a hotbed of republicanism.

All through the past winter and the terrible heat of this summer they have been working by distributing literature, open air meetings, and in fact every way possible to propagate Socialism in this district, and they intend to carry on such a campaign here so that when the votes are counted the common enemy will see that at last their hotbed has been broken into and some of their important plants turned into other hands.

In a few days I shall forward our platform and the names of candidates. We have adopted the Baltimore emblem and it is the opinion here that being the best thing of its kind in sight it would be well if it could be adopted as the national emblem.—Geo. Finger, Organizer.

Socialism vs. Speculative Waste
It is not an uncommon charge, made by schemers and by people unwittingly influenced by them, that Socialism does not offer any definite plan of action, but works for demoralization, with a vague idea that maybe some good will result.

In view of this fact may it not be well to devote a reasonable amount of time and space to details by which the masses are to be benefited by a change in the relations of production and distribution? To illustrate, let us consider the item of street car management.

It is demonstrated beyond all question that three cents fare will pay the expense of the operation of street cars under municipal ownership, pay five per cent. interest on a fair value, and provide a sinking fund of five per cent. by which the investment may be paid; and will also pay a good wage for a fair day's work. This leaves an additional ten per cent. for distribution between the producer (laborer) and consumer, when the sinking and interest funds cease.

Hence it follows that every rider on a street car at five cents pays two cents per trip or four cents per day to speculative waste. On a twenty-year franchise this amounts to \$249.60 for each worker, factory girl et al. On a family of four workers this gives a grand total of \$998.40.

Consider this over the city of Chicago and an idea may be had of why Yerkes could afford to buy the city council and the mayor for a twenty-year franchise, if he could.

This sum is a contribution from those who live by their toil to watered stock speculators and their political hirelings, who violate their oath and betray the people into the hands of speculating drones.

In the matter of the average gas franchise, fully one-half goes to speculative waste. Thus a family paying \$3 per month for gas pays \$360 needlessly on a twenty-year gas franchise.

The same conditions exist through a long list of grievances. And these are the direct cause of the separation of society into the two classes—the very rich and the very poor.

If these speculative wastes can be stopped and the savings properly distributed between the producer (laborer) and the consumer (a laborer in some other commodity), we have thereby a practical co-operative Socialism. This is what the municipal ownership plank in a platform means, except where it is used as a deception to catch votes.

When it is made operative through the different industries the result will be most beneficent and gratifying.

With just and well-defined objects a political party can go before the people and in time gain a majority and place their measure upon the statute books. When that majority is gained it can maintain its ground, having justice, a majority and the law in its favor.

An official has no more right to betray the people's interest than a bank official has to rob a bank. The people should study and attend to their public business as they should their private business, for the simple reason that the public business regulates just what they shall have for their toil.

The man who has ever held office and has not used his influence earnestly and constantly for the saving of these speculative wastes is either an ignoramus or a perjured villain, and in either event is not worthy to represent the people as a business agent. Upon this point every voter should agree as a matter of common business interest, and if his party offers unfit candidates he should spurn the offer as an insult, and look elsewhere for an honest representative.

When we use our brains to better purpose we will get more for the use of our hands. Allen Henry Smith.

Middle Class and the Future
The lowering of profits, whether by raising wages or reducing prices, is a measure which capitalism dare not, in its present competitive era, permanently resort to.

Even if the individual capitalist here and there is convinced that such efforts on his part will raise the general prosperity by increasing the purchasing power of the community, and so "keep things moving," his risks are too great, his anxiety too keen, his margin too narrow, the wastes of the competitive system, in short, are too large to permit him to adopt such a course fixedly unless he has a monopoly of his business.

Monopolists, to be sure, can afford to be philanthropists if they choose, but capital, so long as it is engaged in competing against capital, can succeed only by means of the closest calculation.

This confirms in a curious way our contention in the last issue that the future is in the hands of the middle class. When capital has become consolidated in the hands of a few monopolists, these gentlemen are sure to adopt certain conciliatory measures to keep the laboring masses quiet, and raising wages will be among the most effective of them.

The old Roman conquerors understood this sort of thing very well and kept the people busy with war and work, alternating with "bread and circuses" freely dispensed. The "poor," i. e., the ranks of labor, have curiously enough comparatively little to fear from the coming reign of monopoly.

Much of the oppression which presses upon them now is caused by that fierce competition of capital with capital which is going on above them. When that struggle has fought itself out, and the peace of monopoly has set in, they may well find themselves considerably easier as to condition.

It is the middle class that will be ground to atoms in this struggle. The peace of monopoly will mean the extinction of them as a class. A very few of the shrewdest and strongest will become monopolists, the remainder will descend, struggling frantically to the last, into the ranks of the propertyless.

As we have said before, it is upon the awakening of this class in time to save itself that the future hangs.—American Fabian.

NOTICE TO BRANCHES
The quarterly dues for the quarter ending December 31 are due at the headquarters, 126 Washington St., Chicago, Ill., on or before Oct. 5. Prompt remittance is of the highest importance to insure the interests of the organization, and the branches are urged to provide for the collection, which should be begun at once.

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SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY

THE PLATFORM

The Social Democratic Party of America declares that life, liberty and happiness for every man, woman and child are conditioned upon equal political and economic rights.

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 their product.

That capitalism, the private ownership of the means of production, is responsible for the insecurity of subsistence, the poverty, misery and degradation of the ever-growing majority of our people.

That the same economic forces which have produced and now intensify the capitalist system, will compel the adoption of Socialism, the collective ownership of the means of production for the common good and welfare, or result in the destruction of civilization.

That the trade union movement and independent political action are the chief emancipating factors of the working class, the one representing its economic, the other its political wing, and that both must co-operate to abolish the capitalist system of production and distribution.

Therefore, the Social Democratic Party of America declares its object to be the establishment of a system of co-operative production and distribution through the restoration to the people of all the means of production and distribution, to be administered by organized society in the interest of the whole people, and the complete emancipation of society from the domination of capitalism.

The wage-workers and all those in sympathy with their historical mission to realize a higher civilization should sever connection with all capitalist and reform parties and unite with the Social Democratic Party of America.

The control of political power by the Social Democratic Party will be tantamount to the abolition of capitalism and of all class rule.

The solidarity of labor connecting us with millions of class-conscious fellow-workers throughout the civilized world will lead to international Socialism, the brotherhood of man.

As steps in this direction, we make the following demands: 1. Revision of our antiquated Federal Constitution, in order to remove the obstacles to full and complete control of government by all the people, irrespective of sex.

2. The public ownership of all industries controlled by monopolies, trusts and combines.

3. The public ownership of all railroads, telegraph, telephone, all means of transportation, communication, water-works, gas and electric plants, and other public utilities.

4. The public ownership of all gold, silver, copper, lead, iron, coal and all other mines; also all oil and gas wells.

5. Reduction of the hours of labor in proportion to the increasing facilities of production.

6. The inauguration of a system of public works and improvements for the employment of a large number of the unemployed, the public credit to be utilized for that purpose.

7. All useful inventions to be free to all, the inventor to be remunerated by the public.

8. Labor legislation to be made national instead of local, and international where possible.

9. National insurance of working people against accidents, lack of employment and want in old age.

10. Equal civil and political rights for men and women, and the abolition of all laws discriminating against women.

11. The adoption of the Initiative and Referendum, and the right of recall of representatives by the voters.

12. Abolition of war as far as the United States are concerned and the introduction of international arbitration instead.

NATIONAL COUNCIL

NAME AND HEADQUARTERS.

Section 1. This organization shall be known as the Social Democratic Party of America, and its headquarters shall be located at such place as the Executive Board may decide upon.

HOW ORGANIZED.

Sec. 2. The Social Democratic Party of America shall be organized as follows.

1st. Local branches limited to 500 members each.

2d. State Unions before state convention of 1900 shall be composed of one representative from each local branch; provided that branches having more than twenty-five members shall be entitled to a representative for each additional twenty-five members or major part thereof, after which each state shall provide its own method of organization.

3d. A National Council composed of one representative from each state and territory; provided that states having more than 500 members shall be entitled to a representative for each additional 500 members or major part thereof.

EXECUTIVE BOARD.

Sec. 3. The Executive Board shall be elected quadrennially by the National Council; have general supervision of the organization and be empowered to provide such rules, issue such orders and adopt such measures as may be required to carry out the objects of the organization; provided that no action shall be taken which conflicts with the constitution and declaration of principles.

Sec. 4. A National Secretary, Treasurer and Editor of the national organ (and such other officers as may be required) shall be elected every four years, and their salaries fixed by the Executive Committee, to be approved by the direct vote of the members through the referendum.

Sec. 5. Members of the Executive Board shall receive no compensation for their services. They shall hold stated meetings on the second Tuesday in May of each year, and such special meetings as may be required.

Sec. 6. A majority of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

Sec. 7. Any member of the Board may be removed by a majority vote of all the members of the organization as hereinafter provided.

Sec. 11. At each annual meeting the officers of the Board shall submit complete reports of the transactions of their several offices and transmit a copy to each local branch.

REVENUES AND FUNDS.

Sec. 12. The revenue of the organization shall be derived from an admission fee of twenty-five (25) cents and dues of twenty-five (25) cents, payable quarterly in advance for each member.

Sec. 13. The funds of the organization shall be deposited in such bank or banks as the board may direct and the National Secretary and Treasurer shall be required to execute a bond for the faithful performance of his duties in such an amount as the Board may require.

Sec. 14. The National Council shall meet annually on the first Tuesday in May at such place as the Executive Board may determine, subject to change by referendum vote. The chairman of the Executive Board shall preside over its deliberations.

Sec. 15. The National Council shall constitute the legislative body of the organization and shall be empowered to enact all general legislation, subject to referendum hereinafter provided. It shall determine the policy, and do all other things required to carry out the general objects of the organization.

OFFICIAL PAPER.

Sec. 16. This organization shall publish an official paper, under the supervision of the Executive Board, which shall be known as the Social Democratic Herald. Each member of the organization shall be entitled to a copy of the official paper in consideration of the payment of quarterly dues.

Sec. 17. The columns of the official organ shall be open at all times to reasonable criticism and discussion of party matters by members of the party.

Sec. 18. The National conventions of the organization shall be held quadrennially on the first Tuesday in May, at such place as may be determined by the National Council.

REFERENDUM.

Sec. 19. The members of the Executive Board may be removed by the imperative mandate in the following manner: Any three members of the National Council may demand the resignation of any member of the National Executive Board, by filing a petition with the secretary of said Executive Committee; and upon said secretary's neglect or refusal to act upon the said petition within five days after filing same, then by filing a petition with the chairman of the said Executive Board, and upon the said chairman's neglect or refusal to act, by filing such petition with three members of the National Council, other than the petitioners, who shall act as a committee for the purpose of receiving and acting as herein provided.

Such petition shall contain a statement in writing, setting forth fully and at large the grounds upon which the recall is demanded. Such officers or committee with whom such petition is filed shall forthwith deliver a copy thereof to the person whose recall is demanded, if such person can be found; and said person shall have the right to answer such petition in writing, which said answer shall be mailed by registered letter to the officer or committee holding said petition within fifteen (15) days from the receipt by the person whose recall is desired of the copy of the petition required to be delivered to him.

The petitioners shall be served forthwith by registered letter from the officer or committee holding the petition with a copy of said answer, and such petitioners shall have the right to file, with such officer or committee, a replication to such answer within ten (10) days after receipt of such copy.

Thereupon the said officer or committee holding said petition shall mail a complete copy of the proceedings to the person whose recall is sought, and five (5) days thereafter said officer or committee shall mail to each member of the National Council a complete copy of all the proceedings and shall demand a vote of each member of the National Council thereon.

All proceedings shall be open to the inspection of any member of the National Council at all times.

The time for filing the answer and replication may be extended by the officer or chairman of the committee holding such petition for ten (10) days; and such answer may be amended at any time to meet the allegation of the replication.

Recall of a member of the Executive Committee shall not affect the standing of such member as a member of the National Council.

RECALL OF OFFICERS.

Sec. 20. The selection of the National Secretary and Editor shall be announced for approval or rejection in the official organ, the Social Democratic Herald, within fifteen (15) days from the selection of said officers, and each member shall have a vote thereon, to be sent by the secretary of his local branch to the chairman of the Executive Board, the vote to be announced in the official paper and the polls shall close twenty (20) days after the date calling for the referendum.

Sec. 21. The National Secretary-Treasurer or the Editor may be removed or discharged by the National Council or the Executive Board, but if the said National officers shall be so removed or discharged they may appeal the case to the members of the organization by stating the grounds of protest, serving a copy on the chairman and secretary of the National Council and the Executive Board, the same not to occupy more than two columns of the official paper, an equal space to be given the Council or Executive to state their side of the controversy; the votes shall be mailed to any member of the Council or Executive Board the petitioner may designate; the petitioner shall be entitled to representation at the count of ballots, and the polls shall close twenty (20) days after the date of the publication of the referendum.

Sec. 22. The question shall be: "Shall the action of the Executive Board (or the National Council, as the case may be) be sustained?" and if the vote of the members does not confirm the action the petitioner shall then be reinstated.

Sec. 23. The National Executive Board (or any member of it), the National Secretary-Treasurer or the Editor may be removed by the members of the organization in the following manner: A petition indorsed by 5 per cent of the members shall be filed with the chairman of the Executive Board, who shall cause the same to be submitted to a referendum vote within ten (10) days; should said chairman fail to do this, then any five branches, by official action at a regular meeting, shall have power to call for said vote and the same, after due hearing of both sides as provided in section 21, shall be taken.

STATE UNIONS

Section 1. This organization shall be known as the State Union of the Social Democratic Party of America, and its headquarters shall be located as the union may determine.

HOW ORGANIZED.

Sec. 2. The State Union of the Social Democratic Party of America shall consist of delegates representing local branches in this state, and shall constitute the legislative body of the state.

Sec. 3. The Executive Board shall consist of five members and shall have general supervision of the State Union. It shall be empowered to provide such rules, issue such orders and adopt such measures as may be required to carry out the objects of the organization, provided that no action shall be taken which conflicts with this constitution, the constitution of the National Council or the declaration of principles.

Sec. 4. The officers of the Board shall consist of a chairman, vice chairman, secretary, treasurer and such others as may be determined, who shall be elected at such annual meeting of the Board and serve until their successors are elected and qualified. They shall perform such duties as appertain to their several offices, and for their services shall receive such compensation as the State Union may determine. The Board shall hold stated meetings in April of each year and such special meetings as may be required.

Sec. 5. A majority of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

Sec. 6. Any member of the Board may be removed by a majority vote of all the members, provided that all charges shall be reduced to writing and that the accused member shall be entitled to a fair trial. The Board shall be authorized to fill all vacancies.

Sec. 7. Any member of the Board may be removed at any time by the State Union.

Sec. 8. No member of the Board shall hold political office, except under the Social Democratic Party.

Sec. 9. All questions not provided for in the constitution, and all questions of appeal from local branches, shall be decided by the chairman, such decisions to be final and in full effect unless otherwise ordered by the Board.

Sec. 10. At each annual meeting the officers of the Board shall submit complete reports of the transactions of their several offices and transmit a copy to each local branch.

REVENUES.

Sec. 11. The revenues of the organization shall be derived from such sources as the State Union may determine.

THE STATE UNION.

Sec. 12. The State Union shall meet annually at such place as its members may determine, in April. The chairman of the Executive Board shall preside over its deliberations. The secretary of the Executive Board shall serve as secretary of the State Union and keep a correct record of its proceedings, submitting a copy of the same to each local branch in the state.

Sec. 13. At each annual meeting of the State Union an Executive Board of five members and representatives to the National Council shall be elected, who shall serve one year, or until their successors are elected and qualified.

Sec. 14. The State Union shall enact such laws as may be necessary, determine the policy of the state organizations and do all other things required to carry out the objects of the organization, provided that no action is taken inconsistent with this constitution, the constitution of the National Council or the declaration of principles.

LOCAL BRANCHES

NAME AND LOCATION.

Section 1. This organization, located at \_\_\_\_\_, County of \_\_\_\_\_, shall be known as Local Branch No. \_\_\_\_\_ of the Social Democratic Party of America, and shall hold a charter duly issued by the National Council; which may be suspended or reclaimed by the National Executive Board in case of violation of the laws, principles or regulations of the organization.

MEMBERSHIP.

Sec. 2. Any reputable person subscribing to the principles of this organization shall be eligible to membership.

Sec. 3. A local branch shall consist of not less than five nor more than 500 members, members constituting a quorum.

Sec. 4. A person desiring membership shall make application to a local branch, recommended by a member of said branch, and if accepted by a majority vote shall be enrolled as a member.

Sec. 5. A member may be transferred from one local branch to another by obtaining from the secretary a transfer card and depositing the same with the secretary of the branch desired to be joined.

Sec. 6. A member in good standing may terminate his or her membership by obtaining from the secretary a card of withdrawal.

Sec. 7. Each member shall be entitled to a card of membership, such card to be furnished by the National Council and issued to members by the secretary of the local branch.

DUES AND FEES.

Sec. 8. The admission fee, which shall accompany each application for membership, shall be such an amount as may be determined by the local branch, provided it shall be sufficient to include 25 cents to be forwarded to the National Council.

Sec. 9. At the close of each meeting the treasurer shall transmit to the National Council the names of all members admitted at said meeting, their postoffice addresses and a remittance by postal money order of their admission fee.

Sec. 10. The dues of a member shall be payable quarterly in advance, on or before the first day of January, April, July and October, in such an amount as the local branch may determine; provided it shall be sufficient to include 25 cents per quarter to be forwarded to the National Council. A member admitted on or before the middle of the quarter shall pay dues for the full quarter; a member admitted after the middle of the quarter shall be exempt for said quarter.

Sec. 11. On or before the 5th day of each quarter the treasurer shall remit by postal money order the quarterly dues for the current quarter to the National Council and each local branch shall remit the full amount due for the entire membership of the branch.

EXECUTIVE BOARD.

Sec. 12. The Executive Board shall consist of five (5) members, elected annually in March, and shall have general supervision of the local branch. It shall be empowered to provide such rules, issue such orders and adopt such measures, subject to the local branch, as may be required to carry out the objects of the organization, provided that no action shall be taken which conflicts with the constitution of the State Union, the constitution of the National Council, or the declaration of principles.

Sec. 13. The officers of the Board shall consist of a chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, treasurer and organizer, and such others as may be determined, who shall be elected at each annual meeting and serve until their successors are elected and qualified. They shall perform such duties as appertain to their several offices and as the local branch may direct. The Board shall hold stated meetings in March of each year and such special meetings as may be required.

Sec. 14. Any member of the Board may be removed by a majority vote of the local branch; provided that all charges shall be reduced to writing and that the accused member shall be entitled to a fair trial. Vacancies in the Board shall be filled by the local branch.

Sec. 15. No member of the Board shall hold political office except under the Social Democratic Party.

Sec. 16. The local branch shall hold meetings at such times as the members may determine.

Sec. 17. At each annual meeting of the local branch in March, the officers shall submit complete reports of the transactions of their several offices for the preceding year.

JURISDICTION.

Sec. 18. Local branches shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the State Union and National Council, and the State Union shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the National Council.

ELECTIONS.

Sec. 19. At each annual meeting of the local branch in March an Executive Board of five (5) members and representatives to the State Union shall be elected, who shall serve for one year, or until their successors are elected and qualified.

BY-LAWS.

Sec. 20. A local branch may adopt such laws as a majority may determine; provided they do not conflict with the constitution of the State Union, the constitution of the National Council, or the declaration of principles.

TRIALS.

Sec. 21. Any member violating the laws or principles of the organization may be suspended or expelled by a two-thirds vote of a local branch; provided that any charges against a member shall be preferred in writing, and the accused shall be entitled to a fair trial.

APPEALS.

Sec. 22. Any member having been suspended or expelled may appeal to the Executive Board of the state, and if the decision of that body is not satisfactory he may appeal to the Executive Board of the National Council.

AMENDMENTS.

Sec. 23. The constitution of local branches, State Unions and the National Council is the organic law of the organization, and can be altered or amended only by the National Council in meeting assembled or by the general organization through the Initiative and Referendum.

INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM.

Sec. 24. Upon application of 5 per cent of the membership any matter relating to the amendment of the constitution, the calling of a special meeting of a State Union or the National Council, or the removal of an officer, state or national, shall be submitted to a direct vote of the membership, through the Initiative and Referendum and a majority vote shall determine the result.

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