

TO ORGANIZE THE SLAVES OF CAPITAL TO VOTE THEIR OWN EMANCIPATION.

# The Socialist

Combined with "THE NEW LIGHT" January 1, 1901.

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## On to Socialism

That Americans Will Control Canadian Railroads.

(From Associated Press.)  
OTTAWA, Ont., Feb. 18.—In a speech in the house, Mr. McLean, of York, Ont., called attention to what he said was a menace to Canada, the railway situation in the United States, where most of the principal roads were now in the hands of half a dozen men.

He asserted that there was immediate danger of this gigantic octopus absorbing the Grand Trunk and the Canadian Pacific roads. Already tracers were out locating the stock of these two great Canadian lines. Mr. McLean advocated purchase by the government.

John Charlton, from the ministerial side, also warned the government.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier succeeded in shutting off further debate.

Poor C. P. R. What can she do against this "octopus?"

With all the American roads combined, the Canadian Pacific can do only one of two things—perish or join the combine. She cannot possibly compete, for they can carry on a "rate-war" that will destroy her dividends in a month.

And when dividends cease the holders of stock will sell out the "combine" at its own price.

But the holders of stock can see the point just now. Hence those "tracers" spoken of above will have no difficulty in locating the stock for purchase.

And suppose Mr. Lean's remedy, "purchase by the government," were put into effect, how would that help?

Don't you see that the Canadian Pacific owned by the Canadian "government" would be in just as bad a fix as it is now. The American R. R. combine could drive it out of existence by taking all its business away with lower rates.

Here behold the International character of "business" or capitalism. Socialism is the inevitable next step. Capitalism is almost ripe for its transformation into Socialism.

Let the good work go on. The C. P. R. will be absorbed into this vast Transcontinental Railway Trust, at one stroke abolishing Canadian and American boundary lines, anticipating the time when we shall become one industrial and social Democracy international boundaries and disputes disappearing by disuse.

Iron and Coal and Railways Go Together.

(From Associated Press.)  
NEW YORK, Feb. 18.—The Times tomorrow will say: One important step has been taken incident to the formation of the great steel combination. The plans under way are comprehensive enough to include the equipment and control of certain coal and iron railways operating in what will be the steel and iron territory.

The first reported accomplishment appears in the purchase of the control of the Cleveland, Loraine & Wheeling railroad. Final details of this transaction were completed on Saturday and yesterday at the banking offices of Blair & Co. and J. P. Morgan & Co. Along the line are a variety of prosperous industrial properties. In the syndicate which acquires the property, Federal Steel interests are prominent. One of the most important members of this syndicate is Norman B. Ream.

To some extent, in some ways, Baltimore & Ohio railroad interests may have a noteworthy part in the railroad purchase. Ream is also one of the most active and influential directors of the Baltimore & Ohio, and at Wheeling the coal and iron road meets the trunk-line system and by the use of about sixty miles of Baltimore & Ohio tracks is able to run into Pittsburg.

Here is Social Production for you. Society by the million all working together under one common management.

Iron interests must have coal supplies. Coal interests must have railroad facilities and so must iron.

Iron, coal, railways, all interlocked into a stupendous economic machine!

The organization of industries goes on apace. America leads the world in its capitalist preparation for Socialism. The chick is pretty well developed and will soon peck through its capitalist shell—the revolutionary climax of this stage of evolution.

Eleven Hundred Millions Is the Figure.

(From Associated Press.)  
NEW YORK, Feb. 18.—The Mail and Express says: It was reported in Wall street today that the final papers in the new steel consolidation would be signed at a meeting at the Metropolitan Club this evening, at which J. P. Morgan will be present. The capital will consist of \$400,000,000 7 per cent. preferred stock and \$400,000,000 common stock, besides which \$300,000,000 5 per cent. mortgage bonds will be issued.

All the important stocks and bonds of the constituent companies are to be cancelled if the plans now in prospect are carried through. This depends upon the stockholders of the constituent companies. If they should oppose the consolidation the plans first broached for a company of relatively small capital to absorb the Carnegie company would be carried out.

That beats the Billion Dollar congress, this one, Iron Giant P. Morgan, "and wizard," was behind the R. R. Giant, too? To him, Croker and Platt and Quay and Depew and McKinley and Hanna and Laurier,

with all the political brood, are mere pawns to move on his chess-board. He can displace any one of them. No matter what their investments, he can make them valueless if he chooses to enter the field against them. A million or two more or less that Teller or Lodge or Jones or Foster or Hearst may have counts no more than my dollar against your thousand.

And as to the miserable mouthpieces like Beveridge or Towne or Pyle or Blethen—they must come to their master's table for their crumbs and lick their hands for a bit of cake.

You can't help yourselves, gentlemen of the middle class. The march of evolutionary forces goes on and you, too, belong to the race of slaves. They let you have broadcloth and silk to make you content to be slave-drivers, and keep the producing common multitude in order.

How long will you remain content? How long will you abdicate manhood's rights and serve like cunchos appointed as slave-keepers over your fellow men?

### SOCIALISM IS GAINING.

I have just returned from a two weeks' trip in Whatcom county, Washington.

In nearly every sawmill, shingle mill and logging camp I found a larger per cent. of the workers are Socialists than I have found in seven years' traveling. Let every one who believes in humanity strike now, while the iron is hot. The seeds sown in the last five or seven years in this country are just beginning to grow now very rapidly.

We must show the workers that if an employer has twenty men to do a certain work to-day, but tomorrow he can get a machine and one man to do the same work, he will turn the nineteen men out to starve for all he cares and reduce the wage of the one he keeps, for the one won't dare to strike when there are nineteen others wanting the place and each one can fill it. It don't make any difference what the other conditions may be.

All the clatter about "free silver," "protection," "imperialism," or what not, is only to keep the minds of the workers away from the private ownership of the land and tools. The few that own the land and tools also own workers that don't. The chattel slave was worth \$1,000 to \$1,500 in the days of slavery. To-day the wage slave is not worth a cent. The man that has to go to another man and beg for a chance to work is not free.

All or nearly all of human suffering is caused by mistakes made through ignorance of nature's laws. With Socialism no one would have to work enough to get fired. No adulterated foods, no unnecessary exposure, no fear of the future want on the minds to drive people to crime, drunkenness, insanity or suicide. Then we would have plenty of time to learn to live in brotherly love instead of hate. We would progress here on this earth.

L. KLAMROTH.

## WILLIE AND HIS PAPA

"President Willie" or "Emperor Willie" or any other Government—all same "Papa"



"Yes, Willie, Papa is a better hunter than T. d. v. Teddy kills game and takes their skins, but Papa doesn't kill them; he merely skins them and then lets them go, to grow more skins and then he skins them again. Teddy has lots to learn. Willie."

## Capital Skinning His Wage Slaves.

"GOVERNMENT IS ONLY A COMMITTEE OF THE CAPITALIST CLASS TO EXECUTE ITS WILL."—KARL MARX.

Most people fondly fancy this is a government by the people, for the people, and so forth. Did you read in last week's issue of *The Socialist* how the U. S. Constitution was formed? Did you know that men like Randolph and Mason declared in the convention: "This constitution was a bold stroke for a monarchy or an aristocracy and was sure to end in one or the other."

See the silly little Willie in the picture. He can only stand and look on while his great Father Capital chases and skins the workers.

This cartoon teaches more Socialism than the reform papers thought. *The Seattle Times* is constantly copying cartoons from *The Examiner*, but you didn't see this one in *The Times*, did you? It teaches too much Socialism.

That is just what capital is doing all the time, skinning the worker and letting him go to grow more skin. All capital, all wealth, has been accumulated just that way. It is inhuman robbery and we can prove it mathematically. Read our *Lessons in Socialism* on page 3, if you want to be convinced.

Science has proved just how capital and the trusts have grown by skinning the workingmen alive. You go and learn what "SURPLUS VALUE" means, and you will discover the most gigantic injustice of all time.

In the picture, notice how "Taxpayer" is right under the horrible hand and can't escape. "Taxpayer" is the fast disappearing "Middle Class," the small mill-owner, the small lumber seller, the small railroad has gone. The small glass-factory, the small iron foundry, the small salt-factory, the small slaughter-houses—all gone. What becomes of them—these middle class men? They too, must go to work for wages—maybe big wages, but only wages. No chance to become capitalists themselves.

The picture ought to be different in one thing. Those workingmen trying to run away instead of two or three ought to be represented as millions. There are about 12 millions of them in 15 millions of voters. Instead of even trying to escape, most of them are going up and asking to be skinned alive. Only 150,000 of them in the last election stood up like men and said, We won't be skinned. The rest of the 12 million voted to be skinned.

## The President Not In It.

Washington, Feb. 2nd.—The gigantic railway deal which has consolidated nearly all of the great railway interests of the country has profoundly stirred and alarmed many of the leading members of the Senate and House of Representatives. The most significant note struck in the comment by these legislators is that there is no law which will apply to this specific case of consolidation.

With very few exceptions all Senators and Representatives seen today agree that neither Supreme Court decisions, anti-pooling, nor anti-trust laws, nor the powers of the Interstate Commerce Commission can avail against the monopoly of the millionaires who have succeeded in controlling traffic of all kinds from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Coupled with amazement at the boldness and magnitude of the deal is a confession that the law to meet the emergency is yet to be made.

"These millionaires are aiming at a power to which that of the President of the United States is a minor consideration," said one Senator.

"Once upon a time the great powers of the railroads were exercised by syndicates; now, the very syndicates are to be controlled by an individual," said another.

"There is no remedy for it at all unless the United States Government shall slip in and control these powerful corporate interests," said another.

"Such deals as this, and this one especially, offer the arguments that the socialists are always seeking," said another. And so on.

# THOUGHTS, by Your Uncle.

The fast disappearing middle class and the shoddy capitalist class now have a new excuse for a further reduction of wages and the raising of rents. The California Wine Association has decided to raise the price of wine about 25 per cent. Otherwise the matter is of no concern to the workers in this country, who cannot afford wine like their European brothers.

The Idaho State Tribune, of which Sovereign, of the K. of L., was long an associate editor, can now be classed among the labor papers who have seen the light.

Not only have the Socialists of Wallace hired a column in the paper in which they print some warm Socialist truths, but the editorial columns themselves bristle with Socialist talk that will in future days bear fruit. I venture the sure-thing prediction that in proportion to its Socialist talk will its list of paid-up subscribers grow and fatten. Try it, Bro. Stewart: Socialism is an elixir of life, even for newspaper men.

A young lady of Seattle, Laura E. Peters, got into the Seattle Times with a long wail of grief over the selfishness of the street car company, and recites several causes for just complaint. She concludes by a mention of Paris, France, where the city railways have been heavily fined for overcrowding and where "American methods will not be allowed to prevail." True, Laura, very true. But what are you going to do about it? We have a constitution which prohibits interference with private property, and charters as generally granted to street car companies cannot be forfeited as long as one car a day is run over the route. Besides, Laura, this is a "strenuous" system we are living under, and if you aren't strenuous enough to take your part in the struggle you can sit down on the bank and watch the rest of us chase the Almighty Dollar so that we can fondly handle it for a moment before handing it over to those who drain us of our energies and our wealth. No, Laura. I'm awfully sorry, but your effusion, honestly written as it may be, is entirely wasted. The city council can't, if it will, which it won't, and it wouldn't do any good if they did. So take your choice, if you wish to monkey with either evil. As for us Socialists, we'll have none 'o it, but steadily demand that which will remove not only the evil of having to stand up in a car when tired out with a long day's toil, but will prevent you and others from being tired out in the first place. But may be you prefer to be all tired out if you can only sit down on your way home. If you do, then peck away at the little fly-blows on the surface of the economic sore. A sore is nice, you know, if you can only keep the fly-blows off.

"A menace to the world," say the capitalist papers of England, referring to the new and gigantic steel combine just perfected in this country. It is a menace to the world—the world whose papers represent and which they so strenuously uphold—the world of the small capitalist and his profit. To the workers of the world, to the men and women who have made and are making everything that the world uses, even the combine is not a menace. It is a beacon of light that marks the path which leads to the haven of peace and plenty. It is proving that the private capitalist is no longer necessary and the industries are being brought to that

or goods is something I cannot fathom. Besides, it is dishonest. And I am surprised at certain prominent labor men objecting to the proposed law. They are either Democrats or Republicans, and now that they have succeeded in voting themselves into such rotten condition that they have to get into debt, they shouldn't cry baby and try to protect themselves from their own folly by becoming legalized dead-beats. Vote your medicine, boys. You voted for it. How do you like it? Afraid that Socialism will destroy the home, eh? What's the matter with the Republica—Democratic system of competition doing it?

Mrs. Nation calls saloons, "hells." You are all wrong, ma'ame. A saloon is not a hell. It is simply one of the vent-holes of the real hell—Profit—and if you succeed in stopping up all the vent-holes and confine all the gases before you put out the fire—Competition—there'll be something happen that your little brain hasn't yet grasped. Just ask the nearest chemist, and see if, after all, a saloon isn't a necessary evil, where men, and women too, may drown their sorrows and become sullen idiots instead of raving maniacs running a-muck. I don't wish to associate with either, Carrie, but if I had to choose I'd take the idiot every time. It would be safer. If you shut up the saloons then men will think over their wrongs—and their—well, you can't shut 'em up, anyway, as long as there is a cent profit in selling liquor, and it is a waste of time talking about it.

The goody-goody women of Tacoma are all stirred up over the Tenderloin district in that city. That district has always been there, for that matter, but as the various W. C. T. U.'s and Volunteers and Salvation armies notice a falling off in attention to themselves, they wish to regain it in some way or another. Now they want to close up the houses of ill-fame. At present they are practically licensed and are under the strict supervision of the police. It will be far worse for the morals of the city to scatter the social evil broadcast throughout the city, for the girls will have to live somehow. But with a mind like an ostrich the "purity" women imagine that if the public eye can only be filled with sand the sores on the body will cease to exist. I'll tell these good women of the W. C. T. U. and other vagaries how to get rid of their scartlet sisters and also how to prevent their daughters from joining the ranks as they are doing, and I won't charge a cent for the advice, either. Just advocate, work for and insist upon an industrial system that will guarantee to every woman more money for a few hours' pleasant toil than she can earn in a dance hall or similar place. Just try it and see the magical results. Surely virtue ought to receive greater reward than vice. But what do you think of so-called "purity" women anyway, who support a system that holds out greater incentive to the prostitute than to the pure? Who is the more to blame—the tempter or the tempted?

UNCLE SAM. SECRETARIES of all Locals in State please send at once list of members' names to J. D. Curtis, State Secy, 4735 18th Ave., Seattle.

Comrade Spring writes from Spokane: "We are to move from our old hall on Main to one on Riverside. Have about 50 members and everything is lovely. Greetings to comrades."

Make it pay to advertise in The Socialist. One hundred new stubs this week. Pile them in.

ENTERTAINMENT! DON'T MISS THE ENTERTAINMENT AND DANCE to be given Saturday evening, March 2, at SOCIALIST HALL, 220 Union St. Gents, 25c; ladies, free. Come and get acquainted.

LOCALS ATTENTION. Brief notices of meetings of locals, location, time and subject, will be published free of charge. Send in your notices.

# Labor Column

The rapid consolidation of the large industries in the United States is to labor a portentous fact. It proves that the various means of production are swiftly passing into the hands of the few. Who, having acquired absolute control of an industry, and completely stifled all competition, will exploit labor to the last farthing in order to pay big dividends that they may build palatial yachts, elegant country places, gorgeous city mansions, and indulge their leisure in annual trips abroad. While the poor devil who actually produces this wealth lives in a hotel and his trips abroad seldom extend beyond some convenient peer garden.

No matter how good times are or how large a day's wage, there are always quite a few who persist in trying to buy out a saloon as soon as they draw their week's pay. Consequently they are broke until next day, besides having a swelled head and a disrupted stomach, and are not capable or competent to do a day's work. The proper way to treat a scorpion of this kind is to absolutely refuse to assist him in any way whatever. It is necessary to hang some men to make them good.

The absorption of the Carnegie plants by the new trust means that Morgan & Co. will require labor to pay handsome interest on \$800,000,000, and no kicking. However, this is one of the things that labor voted for. It now remains to be seen how much the poor man will love the rich.

The mill men of Seattle have effected an organization and have affiliated themselves with the American Federation of Labor. It is to be hoped that this union will be successfully extended to every mill on Puget Sound. The mill men of Washington are the poorest paid of any labor in the state. The operators claim that they cannot pay more and meet competition, and yet they are all becoming enormously rich.

There are a number of non-union jobs going on in town at present, in spite of a very effective organization of the building trades. The business agents of the different unions should form a combine and camp on the trail of these fellows and teach them that a combine is a diabolical fact.

A common everyday workingman of Toledo, O., has invented an automatic glass blowing machine that makes various kinds of glassware, such as lamp chimneys, bottles, tumblers and electric light bulbs. A few more skilled workmen displaced by the machine that surely falls into the hands of organized capital and greed.

The next regular meeting of The Socialist Educational Union will be held at 220 Union St., Seattle, Sunday, March 3, 1901. J. D. CURTIS, Sec.

# Here's Liberty!

COMRADE JOS. O'BRIEN IMPRISONED AT SAN JOSE FOR SPEAKING ON THE PUBLIC STREETS. His Own Letter From Behind Prison Bars—Capitalists Trying to Suppress Socialism Everywhere—In Indiana, Wisconsin, Washington, Minnesota, Infamous Election Laws Are Proposed—We Must Fight These Beginnings of Tyranny or Be Disfranchised Before We Know It.

City Prison, San Jose, Jan. 25, 1901. Dear Comrades: Branded as a criminal, classed as a convict in a prison cell, surrounded by bars of steel, caged as if a bear, sit and silently contemplate the enormity of my crime. Carried through the public streets in the hands of a police officer, arraigned as a criminal before an alleged Court of Justice, and convicted by a jury representative of San Jose Capitalist interests, and sentenced to pay a fine of \$30 or serve thirty days in prison, for the "deliberate and malicious" crime of "freely assembling for the consideration of the public good" with my fellow-citizens and Socialists at First and Santa Clara streets, and refusing to move on at the unlawful demand of a petty police officer (who assumed greater authority than the State Constitution), I can now, for the period of the days, rejoice in the fact that America is the land of the free and home of the brave. They have imprisoned my body, but, thank Socialism, my mind is free, and all the persecution Capitalism or agents may employ will not cause me to fall a moment of duty to express my honest and sincere convictions and to voice the appeal of the international Socialist movement: "Workingmen of all countries, unite; you have nothing to lose but your chains, and the world to gain."

We are told by our persecutors that a violation of law was committed and the officers were "duty bound" to arrest and punish the offender.

But this is simply rot; the class-conscious Socialist sees something operating that is a little nearer "the ground." Class interest is at work. It is strange that on November 5th, the night before election, when a crowd of a dozen or more hoodlums stood on the corner of the street and for an hour and more persistently interrupted a meeting (held by the S. D. P.) and disturbed the peace of the community by repeated yells and continued boisterous conduct, that the same Police Department, when personally notified, refused to arrest and restore order, though "duty bound."

It is still stranger that meetings have been held and allowed for months on this same corner, and not until election is over and the people have cast their votes it is discovered that it is a violation of the city ordinance for citizens and especially Socialists, to assemble in a public street meeting.

(Gambling is allowed to run wild, corruption is silently permitted, but citizens must not have the right to "freely assemble for the consideration of public questions," even though a thousand State and National Constitutions make such gatherings lawful, and moreover make it a criminal offense for any one to disturb such gatherings.)

"But," says Attorney Partridge, in his argument before the jury: "These crowds are composed of disrespectful people, and an lady or decent gentleman would pass such a crowd, and no business man can profitably allow such meeting to gather in front of his store."

So, gentlemen of the prosecution, it is not the alleged offense but the character of the assemblages which you are considering; propaganda be allowed to continue; or, in your own words, shall these crowds of disrespectful people be allowed to gather and injure business men.

Yes, class interest is at work. Thoroughly conscious of the danger of an enlightened public mind, fully aware of the existence of the Socialist movement, the Capitalist class are working silently and openly to confine and kill it. But, on the other hand, Socialism grows, taking an additional step forward each time its enemies endeavor to impede its growth.

"Oh, liberty, can man resign thee, Once having felt thy generous flame? Can dungeons, bars or bolts confine thee, Or whip thy noble spirit tame."

With the spirit of Socialism heaving in my heart, and the duties of the Socialist movement guiding me, I answer, "No!" Comrades, do your duty! It is a class war. The principles of the Socialist movement warrant us in doing whatever is in our power for the cause. With a manly stand we have nothing to lose and everything to gain. Fraternally, JOS. O'BRIEN.

MUST CURTAIL EXPENSES. furnished them. Judge Beach permits the payment of \$200,000 a year to the countess for the support of herself and children pending the trial of the action.

NEW YORK, Jan. 28.—Justice Beach, in the supreme court today, handed down a decision continuing the temporary injunction restraining George J. Gould, Edwin Gould, Howard Gould, and Herce Gould, as trustees of the estate of their father, from paying over the income of the portion of the estate belonging to their sister, Anna Gould, Countess de Castellane, pending the trial of an action brought by Asher Vertheimer, a London brick-brace dealer, against the Count and Countess de Castellane for \$2,800,000 for paintings and brick-brace.

Next Sunday night at 220 Union St., Seattle. SOCIALISM AND THE PRESS. by Dr. Titus. Good Music.



# Lessons In Socialism

Based on Vail's "Principles of Scientific Socialism" For Use in Weekly Meetings of Locals, Branches or Clubs.



CHAS. H. VAIL.

## LESSON IV.

(Read Vail's Chapter II Again.)

### VALUE.

**QUESTION.** What is Exchange-Value or simply Value?

**Suggestions:** Does value depend upon "supply and demand"?

An article of use which can be had by any one without labor, like air, has no value on the market, i. e., no **Exchange Value**. Its **Use-Value** is of the highest order but it has no **Exchange-Value** because it costs nothing to produce it.

If an article indispensable for use, i. e., necessary to preserve life, like air, were limited in amount, so as to supply only a few people, it would become of untold value. Men would have to fight for it, would give all, even life itself, to obtain it.

Hence some economists have argued that value, exchange-value, depends wholly upon the supply; if the supply runs short, value rises; if the supply becomes abundant, the value falls. This might be a true conclusion as such indispensable articles as air, fuel, food, shelter, are actually limited in the case of being produced in unlimited amounts. But such limitation is true of only a few articles, and hence it is not fair to base a law upon these exceptions.

rich gold mine, pictures done by geniuses, rare jewels, ancient vestries and old wines are examples where the product is necessarily limited in amount. In such limitation does not exist the case of the vast majority of articles of commerce. For instance, meats and grains, cotton and wool and silk, lumber and iron and glass, books and musical instruments and engravings, all these can be produced in unlimited quantities by means of power. It is from the exchange of such common articles that we can deduce our law of exchange and discover the real **Exchange-Value**.

If an article can be had in unlimited quantity, without labor, like air, it has no value, i. e., it is not bought or sold at all. If it cannot be had in unlimited quantity, even with labor, its value, like one of Turner's paintings, becomes very great. It is this that we mean when we say that the "supply and demand" is not the true test of value is based. But fact coat he has made. The question of these classes are exception is not one of quality but of quantity, the first not entering into quantity. How much shoes for

the market at all, and the second constituting very few of the articles of commerce.

Now again to the question—**What is value?**

Take any common commodity, say shoes. The bootmaker wants to exchange some of his shoes for a coat. The tailor too, let us say, wants to exchange his coat for shoes for his family. Now, how will the shoemaker and the tailor decide on the number of shoes to be exchanged for the coat?

The answer to this question will indicate their "**Exchange-Value**" or simply their value. Recall Marx' definition, given last week: "The varying ratio, in which commodities of different kinds exchange for each other, constitutes their '**Exchange-Value**.'"

The tailor will try to get as many shoes as possible for his coat, while the shoemaker will try to give as few shoes as possible for the coat.

This is a simple example, and we leave money entirely out of the question, because money is only one commodity which is used to help effect the simple exchange. The exchange is the main thing—so we can leave money and the money price out of consideration.

Notice, that this one simple example is a fair sample of all other examples. If we analyze and comprehend this, then all the network of exchange we call "business" and "commerce"—in fact, the whole industrial world, will be explained. If you understand how one grain of wheat grows, you need not examine the whole field.

Now, watch this tailor and this shoemaker as they higggle to an agreement and effect this exchange of shoes for coat.

The tailor shows his coat, sewed good a coat it is, how well sewed together, how perfectly he has cut it to fit the shoemaker, how fine the goods in it, of the right color, etc., etc.

And the shoemaker in his turn expatiates on his shoes, they are hand-sewed, of best quality, calf well finished throughout, easy on the foot, etc., etc.

"Now," says the tailor, "I ought to have four pair of those shoes for this coat."

Shoemaker: "That is out of the question."

Tailor: "How so? That is a fine coat."

Shoemaker: "That may be, but so are those shoes fine. They can't be beat. Two pair are all I'll give for your coat."

Now, what are the two going to do about this matter? How arrive at a bargain, how decide the "exchange-value" of coat and shoes? Remember, they know nothing about "money" and "price." We are picturing an exchange such as took place before "money" had come into use. But the barter and exchange is a "sample-brick" of our great modern building we call trade.

How are they going to get together on some common basis? It doesn't help the shoemaker to tell what excellent shoes he has nor the tailor to show what a quantity of value is based. But fact coat he has made. The question of these classes are exception is not one of quality but of quantity, the first not entering into quantity. How much shoes for

so much coat.

Has it not occurred to any of you yet what they will say next? They must find something in both shoe and coat to serve as a sort of yardstick to measure with.

Is there not something in common to both shoes and coat? something to measure or weigh or value both?

Well, listen to the tailor. He says: "It is nonsense to ask me to give you this coat for two pair of those shoes. I tell you I worked four days to make this coat and you can make a pair of shoes in one day; isn't that so?"

"Yes," says the shoemaker, quite crestfallen, "that's so."

"And that is the end of the argument—for the shoemaker cannot think of anything to answer the tailor—not if he thinks a thousand years. He cannot claim that his two days' work is worth four days' work by the tailor, for the tailor is just as good a man as he. So there you have our conundrum answered."

The value of an article in exchange, the only value that we know anything about, depends upon the amount of labor put into that article. And when you want to know how to exchange one article for another, you must find out how much labor was put into the two, and that is your yardstick.

A bushel of wheat cost one day's labor and a pound of nails cost one-tenth of a day's labor, why, then, a bushel of wheat is worth ten pounds of nails.

And now we know at last the whole secret of **exchange-value**, or simply of **value**.

As Marx says: "We know the substance of value; it is labor."

**Final Suggestion.** You ought to have "**The People's Marx**" in your club as well as Vail's **Principles of Scientific Socialism**. If you do not have the money, hire for three or four subscribers to **The Socialist**. Three subscribers will get Vail and four will get Marx. Any local can easily get both by a little work and push.

## In the Saddle.

The corporations are in the saddle in the State of Washington, and will refuse to be regulated, no matter how justly or mildly.

So says our friend Stein. Correct. But what are you going to do about it?

And not only in Washington, but in America, they "refuse to be regulated."

Again, what are you going to do with said refusal?

True, they are "in the saddle," and they have a billion-dollar cinch on you, and a Mexican bit and quirt to boot.

The Republican party is the "cinch," and the Democratic party the bit and quirt—and there you are.

And what do you propose to do? We Socialists do propose "refuse" to help strengthen either cinch or bridle.

We propose to change places with the trusts, and let us do so riding ourselves.

Drop the figure, and we say: Stop trying to "regulate" by voting for Bryans, and resolve to the Socialists, who propose the only solution that is in the line of evolution and that is not "an iridescent dream."

You are the dreamers and Utopians, you "Democrats," and we Social Democrats are the only practical, common-sense party left. See!

When you offer an honest man a public office you are giving him a premium to become a rascal—Capt. James.

# See the Octopus Grow.

FROM THE SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER'S DISPATCHES.

New York, February 2nd.—Months will elapse before the stupendous events in the Union Pacific southern Pacific railway deal are fully realized by the public. The immense interests involved, the millions in the Wall street market through the free and constant outpouring of the most wonderful and weighty chapter of finance this or any other country has ever known.

Like a great network of harpstrings across the sounding board of the continent, the railroads of seventy million people in the country will dance. These are: J. Pierpont Morgan, James J. Hill, John D. Rockefeller, E. H. Harriman, W. K. Vanderbilt and George J. Gould.

Thus, when the consolidations now in process of completion are finished and the huge parts of the machine are joined and in running order, these interesting things will be made probable. Rockefeller and his friends can determine the prosperity or adversity of any merchant, any firm or corporation, or State, or of the entire United States. They can make you a millionaire by favoritism in business or take you by the heels and shake the last nickel from your pockets.

## "POETRY" AND "POETS."

We have received a good deal of "poetry" for publication and we have a few words to say about it.

We want to hurt nobody's feelings, but must tell a little plain truth.

It is not every one who can write poetry or even verses. The editor of this paper, for example, is not fitted to write either poetry or verses.

Poetry is a work of art, in fact, the highest work of art, and none but an artist can be a poet. Even verses must be framed according to certain rules of metre and rhyme and line, and no one who has not studied and practiced a good deal can produce even mechanically correct verses.

Now, even if you have learned the art of grinding out correct verses, the soul of verse may be absent. None but a nice literary sense can save you from absurdity.

The present writer has had the advantage of literary training and is pretty familiar with the world's poetry and an ardent lover of it, but he has never ventured to write more than four stanzas in his life, and those were not worth publishing.

You and I would much rather try to lay bricks or make a watch or run a cotton factory when we don't know a thing about either, than to write "poetry."

Stick to prose, boys (and girls), for we all have practiced that every day of our lives. And even in prose, stick to your last. Don't try to "write" just talk as you are in the habit of doing.

Good prose even is an art, too, and only attained by long practice. But straightforward talk, like a letter, is always good and worth while, because it is a spontaneous expression of one's own life. Always providing, even then, that you have something to say.

As to the poetry, again, about all we have received contains twenty or more verses, and is, therefore, impossible. No contribution of verses ought to exceed four, and then they must say something and say it well.

If there is one thing we have got to learn all round, it is this, that **everybody is not fit for everything**. Each has his own peculiar gift, and must not feel bad because he cannot do what another can do.

We do not wish to discourage the writing of letters. That has been a special feature of **The Socialist**, which has made it very interesting. But we do not want "fine writing," essays, poems, for the simple reason that we have not the men in our ranks who have learned how to "do such things."

Short, snappy, newsy contributions and simple natural letters are most welcome.

And if you don't mind having your articles rejected, send along anything whatever. No one will be happier than the Editor to dis-

cover latent talent among us, "some mute inglorious Milton," who can sing Socialism into the hearts of men.

## Local Seattle.

The regular propaganda meeting of the Local on last Sunday evening was well attended.

Comrade D. W. Phipps in a short address presented to the meeting the question of union of all the so-called reform forces as advocated by Rev. W. D. P. Bliss in his new paper, Social Unity, leaving the answer to those in attendance.

During the short speeches made by members and visitors it was clearly brought out that such a union was not only impracticable but also impossible. The line must be clearly drawn by Socialists as a political party based on scientific facts.

These plain-sense show that there can be no compromise, as the movement is and must be a strictly class conscious movement, a movement of the nonpossessing, propertyless and exploited class against the possessing capitalist class. The movement is not based on brotherly love and sentimentality, but is a plain business proposition based on the material interest of the worker. When the co-operative commonwealth is once established then the human race will be in position not only to preach but to practice the brotherhood of man and fatherhood of God.

The church has for 1800 years advocated love and justice and the conditions of the producers are today worse than ever. The worker of today is awakening to the fact that two classes exist, namely, he himself, and the one who plumes and exploits him and gives nothing in return.

On next Sunday evening Comrade Dr. H. F. Titus, editor of the Socialist, will address the meeting on "Socialism and the Press." Non-Socialists are especially invited to attend. They will be given an opportunity to show whether we are right or not.

Meeting at 8 p. m. sharp.

H. N. BAUMANN, Correspondent to **The Socialist**.

We are getting new advertiser every week. We tell them it will pay to advertise in **The Socialist**, because our subscribers will see to it that it does pay.

Already Mr. Hall, of the Scranton Correspondence School, reports returns from one week's ad.

Mr. J. M. Lang, the old reliable and also up-to-date druggist, appears this week. Also **The Union Laundry**, which is not what its name implies, all union help. In fact, it was established by union men for their own benefit. Take your laundry to them as we have.

Simison Bros., shoe dealers, are one of the oldest and best firms in Seattle. They give you honest

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Receipts.	
Previously reported	\$624.05
Feb. 5, subscriptions	4.10
Feb. 12, subscriptions and donations	18.01
Feb. 18, Mrs. Titus, Dues S. E. U.	2.00
Subscriptions and donations	42.75
Total	\$690.91

## Expenses.

Previously reported	\$618.39
Feb. 2, typesetting on linotype	5.20
Feb. 10, Printer	21.00
Feb. 18, Printer	21.00
Commission on subscriptions, Sturgeon	2.00
Express, twine and printer's ink	1.05
Commission on subscriptions Klamroth	14.85
Commission on subscriptions, Cartwright	40
Commission on subscriptions, Wingoid	10
Paper for ad. contracts and wrapping paper	3.00
Postage on premiums, etc.	1.35
	\$685.94
Bal. on hand	4.97
	\$690.91

## PLANT FUND.

Receipts.	
Previously reported	\$125.10
Feb. 4, Shoemaker, donation	50
Feb. 17, Lynden (\$45 previously reported)	2.50
Books sold	2.10
Collected by Bus. Agent—Tacoma (\$13 previously reported and \$5 still due)	22.00
Aberdeen	2.25
Elma	5.75
Olympia and Tumwater	11.00
Hoquiam (\$13.50 still due)	13.00
Buckley (\$5 still due)	12.75
	\$196.95

Expenses.	
Previously reported	\$123.06
Feb. 10, Piggott & French	24.85
Expenses Bus. Agent and Editor to Tacoma Jan 27	3.00
Ditto, to Hoquiam, Aberdeen, Elma, Olympia and Tumwater, Jan. 29	24.85
To Feb. 7	6.65
Books, Kerr & Co	1.10
Books, Local Seattle	1.10
	\$184.41
Bal. on hand	12.54
	\$196.95

## STATE COMMITTEE S. D. P.

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