







### They Are Riding Now . . . .

**T**HERE seems to be a perfect agreement between D. M. Parry, John Mitchell and Samuel Gompers. There must be no labor politics. Any kind of unionism is bad to Parry, but he can stand the "pure and simpler" if they will stay off the political field. All the power of capitalism is being used in the west to break up the American Labor Union and its affiliated bodies, and the capitalists are perfectly willing to use the A. F. of L. to this end, and, indeed, have gone so far as to praise the latter organization. Verily, "The ass knoweth his stall and the ox the master's crib." In the cartoon labor is represented as being ridden by its leaders, while Parry leads the march. So long as Gompers, Mitchell & Co. are good fellows with Hanna and the Civic Federation, they must receive the well merited distrust of the union man who knows that a class struggle cannot be compromised but must be fought out till one side or the other reaches a complete and final victory. Pure and simple unionism is up against the militia, the injunction, and, if necessary, the whole standing army of capitalism. All of these things have been given the capitalist class by the ballot of the working man, and they cannot be overruled till the working class unite at the ballot box, vote the capitalist class out and the working class into power. On this proposition is based the whole program of Socialism. To oppose Socialism, therefore, is to stand arrayed against the working class on that battle ground where at last it must either conquer or be crushed. Capitalism has reached a point where pure and simple unionism is a thing that may be used to tie the workers' hands rather than those of the capitalists. So long as they can tie up a hundred different unions with as many contracts expiring at different times, all danger of a sympathetic strike can be avoided, and this is the only kind of a strike that capitalism fears. To divide the trades into numerous organizations, separate the railroaders in divers unaffiliated bodies,



### But the "Horse" Will Soon Buck

and otherwise segregate unionism from anything like class unity, is to load organized labor with chains of their own choosing. This is the precise policy to which Mitchell and Gompers are committed. It is not, therefore, so much unionism that has caused the formation of capitalist anti-labor organizations, as the very thing that Parry fears and Mitchell and Gompers stand to oppose with all their power, viz.: labor politics. The nightmare that haunts capitalism everywhere is the spectre of an organized and determined body of working men marching to the polls with power to vote out of existence every vestige of capitalist rule. William of Germany faces the near approach of this time. Capitalism of France is nearing the last gasp of life. All Europe faces a coming revolution of the working class. The American capitalist is not so blind as not to see that he, too, is slated for overthrow. He turns at last to make peace with his one time enemy, and he connives with the leaders of the trades organizations to subdue and pacify their followers. It becomes our duty to expose the hypocrisy of every labor leader who is leading his trusting followers into a death trap. Union men are not fools, though they may be fooled for a season. The Socialist press, the Socialist pamphlet and the soap box orator with their cutting logic and determined zeal, are driving home the truth, and a day is coming when labor leaders too cowardly to take the field against capitalism and fight for every inch of ground, both industrial and political, will face ignominy and disgrace. The Socialist waits and bides his time. He can afford to ignore the leader and devote his time to the miner in the pit and the worker at the machine. In due time the humble workers will call Brothers Mitchell and Gompers on the carpet, and when that time comes rather would I be the humblest worker in all the earth than one of the mighty ones who will fall.

A. W. RICKER.

## FROM OTHER PENS THAN OURS . . . .

#### IT IS COMING.

It is coming! It is coming!  
I can sense it in the air,  
I hear it like the distant thunder  
Rumbling, grumbling, everywhere.  
'Tis the fast approaching crisis  
Of a question deep and grave—  
'Tis the final grand encounter  
'Twixt the master and the slave.

Tollers bending 'neath their burdens,  
Giving life-blood for a crust,  
Strike for better terms and wages,  
Asking only what is just,  
Then old lordly corporation,  
With his millions at command,  
Coolly contemplates their action—  
Knows they'll lose on every hand.

Then come days of anxious waiting,  
Hungry children cry for bread,  
Men wrought up to desperation,  
Yow 'twere better to be dead;  
And the public long-forbearing  
Suffers while the war is waged  
'Twixt the money lords and rulers  
And the tollers bound and caged.

Can they hope to win the battle?  
No! for gold alone is king;  
Labor's arm when 'gainst it pitted  
Falls, a weak and helpless thing;  
And the daily press and pulpit,  
Throttled by the powers of gold,  
Add their thrust to honest labor,  
And the cause of greed uphold.

Judging by these object lessons,  
Something soon must come to pass:  
While the world is filled with plenty  
Thousands starve to death, alas!  
Will the sturdy, honest-banded  
Millions robbed of hard-earned gains,  
Meekly bow to old wage master,  
And submit to wear their chains?

No! a thousand times, no, never!  
Not while coursing through our veins  
Runs the blood that bathed "Old Glory"  
On a thousand battle plains.

From the factory, mill and workshop,  
From the farm, and forge and mine,  
We will join the strike for freedom  
And unfulfill its grand design.

In one broad phalanx the people  
Will march forth with certain tread  
And will wrench from corporations  
Their means of earning bread.  
Thus the question will be settled,  
Not with cannon or flintlocks,  
But by peaceful, wise decision  
At the bloodless ballot box.

—LAURA B. PAYNE.  
San Antonio, Texas.

#### SOCIALISM WILL NOT WORK.

**Editor Appeal to Reason.**

Dear sir:—A friend, probably, who is anxious that I should partake of the good things promised by the Socialists in exchange for our votes, sent me some time ago an Appeal to Reason. I have been reading it each week and studying it in all its logical methods. I am a working mule and of course am not supposed to have sufficient intelligence to digest a problem of such magnitude at a glance. But my observation and theorizing thus far convince me that Socialism will never do for many reasons. You have made many arguments as to why it should be adopted by the producing classes, but you are very careful not to show the dark side of the picture. For that reason it requires a man of intellect such as we working mules possess to read between the lines and discover the true inwardness of your theory. In the first place, your method of government removes the incentive to crime (except for downright cussedness) which would in time become extinct for want of nourishment. This would throw an army of people out of employment (and you are always prating about the capitalists shutting up shop and starving their employes) such as lawyers, judges and their attaches, police courts, police and detectives, jails, penitentiaries, asylums, houses of correction and all our great charitable institutions, which would rot down or be turned into factories. I should think you would be ashamed to destroy at one fell sweep what it has taken a philanthropic people one hundred years to accomplish, just to give us ingrates an opportunity to get what you call "our own."

Then again, you place all men and women on an equality, as far as to get-

#### THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF JESUS.

The orders for Comrade Ricker's book, "The Political Economy of Jesus," have begun to come in. On account of sickness in his family Comrade Ricker was called to his Iowa home for about ten days and some delay was occasioned in getting the manuscript to the printers. The book will be out soon and we who have had the privilege of reading the manuscript can guarantee that no purchaser will be disappointed. The book will be issued by February 1. Price 10 cents a copy or \$5.00 a hundred.

Never was opportunity greater to build for Socialism than now.

#### THESE MEN WERE LIKE YOU.

By A. C. Palmer, Tama, Ill.

There once lived a traveling man who received a salary of four hundred and fifty dollars per month.

Also traveling expenses and a liberal present from the firm at Christmas time.

This traveling man thought this is a very lovely world. Any man, woman or child who is not fully satisfied with such a beautiful industrial system as we enjoy, he said, ought to be taken out and shot.

"Yes sir," he remarked to a friend, "Nobody, sir, in all this wide world, has a right to be dissatisfied."

"But," quietly replied his friend, "All people are not so fortunate as yourself. Have you never read of the sweatshop workers of the cities, who are paid fifteen cents for making a dozen pairs of overalls? Are you not aware that Pennsylvania miners are working for sixty-five cents a day?"

With great bursts of laughter the traveling man shouted, "I do not care a damn! the present system can never catch me."

A few days afterward the salesman received from his employers a letter running like this:

Dear Getupandhustle:

Our firm has been taken into the trust and we have no further need of your services. Yours truly,

**GRABALL & SKINNEM.**

So the system caught him after all. There once lived a great financier whose monthly income was many millions.

#### REFLECT.

These be, alas! the days of greed,  
And grasp, and glut of mammon,  
When hard times harder times succeed,  
And famine follows famine.

The wild dog on the prairie vast  
Extinction-ward is darting,  
But human wolves are breeding fast,  
And manhood is departing!

We have philanthropists indeed,  
Requests and donors plenty,  
Who dole a million, and succeed  
'In safety fishing twenty.

Oh, not for their soul's sake they give,  
For monsters such as they  
Are soulless, and each hour they live  
See Brotherhood decay.

How blest this nation of the free,  
With masters all around us!  
How blest we sons of liberty,  
When cold and hunger hound us!

At last were fed the galley knaves  
Chained to their prison's brink;  
But we, o'er fifty million slaves,  
Have scarce to eat and drink.

Reflect! for Freedom springs from thought,  
And multitude express it,  
If man never uttered aught,  
We'd still have royal opposition.

—Alex J. McDonald.

#### ABC of Socialism.

By H. P. Moyer.

We have a large supply of these books on hand which we are going to offer at half price, 50 cents a hundred. Here are the subjects discussed:

Socialism is Natural; Present System Unnatural.  
Wrong Ideas of Socialism.  
What Socialism Will Guarantee to All.  
What Socialism is.  
With Socialism, Order, Life; Without Socialism, Chaos, Death.  
Socialism Right.  
Socialistic Program, First Step, Second Step.  
Details simple.  
Socialism Just.  
Socialism Fair.  
No Money; No Frauds; No Corruption.  
No Money, No Grafts.  
Greatest Incentives.  
Socialism Practicable.  
Socialism Simple in Operation.  
Present System Absurd, Impractical.  
Socialism Desirable; No Real Objections.  
The Great Absurdity.  
Shame and Crime.  
Our Duty.  
It is good to give a person an introduction to the subject.  
Send us your order for a hundred, 50c. Address Appeal to Reason, Girard, Kansas.

#### SOCIALISM AND THE SLUMS.

"Train Up a Child in the Way in Which He Should Go."

The slums, under Socialistic regime, would be impossible.

Under Socialism the paramount question is how to make useful and happy citizens, not how to make money.

Under a capitalistic form of government money is the representative and pledge of all that is good. The motto is, "Get money." Otherwise, "Success—somehow." Hence manhood is sacrificed to money.

Under Socialism character is everything. By character is meant the habit of producing the useful and the beau-

#### 1904 is now in the race.

1904 is now in the race. Are you going to make history for Socialism?