

The Worker

NEW YORK, AUGUST 18, 1901.

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VOL. XI.—NO. 20.

THE GOVERNMENT'S DUTY IN REGARD TO STRIKES.

What Republican and Democratic Officials Do and What Socialist Officials Would Do.

Government, Whether Local, State, or National, Cannot Remain Neutral—Represents Either Capitalist Class or Working Class and Must Serve Its Masters—Socialists Would Turn Against the Capitalists' Political Weapons They Now Use Against Labor.

It is coming to be fashionable to speak of a strike as an act of war. The phrase is perfectly correct. Strikes and lockouts, boycotts, and blacklists are incidents of the war between labor and increasing war between the class that owns the means of production and lives upon profits and the class that uses the means of production and creates all wealth, the irrepressible conflict between Capital and Labor.

Shifty politicians and mere theorists may try to conceal this fact of the case; struggle; but the fact asserts itself in spite of their quibbles and evasions. When a thousand workmen go on strike, it is quite a different thing from a thousand workmen leaving their jobs as individuals; when an employer locks out a thousand workmen it is quite a different thing from a thousand employees as individuals.

Every one knows this. The working class at large recognizes it by attacking the opportunistic exploit of "scab" to a man who takes the place of a striking or locked-out brother.

A strike is an act of war. Let us admit this frankly. It is always better to call things by their right names. Now war has its laws; but they are quite different from the laws of peace. War has its own laws, and imposes its own duties upon those concerned in it or affected by it.

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Moreover, as labor conflicts thus become more significant, the powers of government are actually drawn into them, in spite of the theories of economists and the pretenses of politicians. The government is forced to take action on one side or the other. It cannot remain neutral.

That seems a modest demand and a reasonable one. But it is really an impossible and unreasonable demand. The government cannot keep its hands off, and it ought not to if it could. This is a case where it is foolish to ask for the halfpenny, because the whole loaf is easier to get than the half.

The people are divided into two classes, capitalists and workers, with opposing interests. The interests of these two classes are involved on the two opposing sides in every strike. The public officials at any given time represent one class or the other. They cannot represent both. They owe a duty to the class they represent, whichever that may be.

With representatives of the capitalist class in power, put there by a capitalist party, we know very well what will be done. We know that the public powers will be used to help the capitalists, to the height of folly, there is to do anything that representatives of the working class were in power, put there by a working class party, they would use the powers of government to help the workers.

law and Socialist judges would punish them. Socialist magistrates and sheriffs would private armies of armed thugs; they would prevent violence to persons and destruction of property, of course, but they would protect also the right of free assembly, free speech, and free publication on the part of the strikers. Socialist judges would hold that anyone has as good a right to call a scab a "scab" as to call a thief a "thief."

Second, a strike is sure to be lost if the bosses can get enough scabs to fill the strikers' places.

Third, a strike is sure to be lost if the strikers are starved out.

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THE BIG STEEL STRIKE.

Correspondence from the Field of Battle Between Union and Trust.

The Strikers Resolute, but Expecting a Severe Struggle—Mayor Black's Attitude Approved—Shaffer's Position on Labor Politics.

Notwithstanding the continued vague talk about the possibility of arbitration and rumors that the Amalgamated Association will soon make overtures for a settlement, there is no reason to doubt that the steel strike has passed the stage of negotiations and that it will be a long and hard fight.

There are unquestionably terrible odds against the men. The Steel Trust is an enormously rich corporation, with powerful financial backing and with great political influence.

But in the present struggle, in spite of the overwhelming power of their foe, the strikers seem, from the most trustworthy reports, to be resolute and hopeful. They count upon the scarcity of skilled men, upon the sentiment of their fellow workers, and upon the sympathy of the whole working class.

Several railroad men told me that their mates were in favor of stopping the hauling of non-union products if the mills were started with scabs.

There have been no disturbances. The men are good natured, and I have heard no talk of violence nor any threats.

It is to be expected that many of those who have failed to come out for the strike will be seen at the mills.

There are two reasons assigned for this. First, the desire of the men to follow Shaffer's advice not to drink, and second, the men are saving their money in preparation for a long fight.

The Trust has evidently underestimated the strength of the Association, and the feeling of the men themselves.

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"LAW AND ORDER" IS NOW AN EMPTY PHRASE.

Two recent incidents in the labor world have stirred the capitalist press to comment. The comment is most instructive.

The first is the refusal of the Mayor of McKeesport to give special police protection to the Steel Trust in its battle with the workers, and his declaration that he considered imported scabs as "suspicious characters."

Nothing could be better justified by the facts as observed in a hundred strikes than this decision of Mayor Black. It is a well-known fact that while strikes may last for weeks without any disorder, the appearance of armed forces is almost always the signal for disturbance.

But Mayor Black's action has called down upon him the slurs, the sneers, the denunciations of capitalist papers of every sort. They talk loudly of "law and order" and describe Mayor Black as a blatant demagogue who is wantonly sacrificing public duty to a desire for popularity.

The other incident was the kidnapping of eighteen leaders of the Spanish cigarmakers' union in Tampa, Florida, by an organized mob of "respectable citizens."

A strike has been on for some time in Tampa, and these respectable have become exasperated by the courage and patience of the workers.

Secretary Williams stated that a call for funds was being sent out to every city, town, and village in the country. More money than ever before is being poured into the treasury of the organization.

While waiting in the headquarters for President Shaffer, who was engaged when I entered, I fell into conversation with some of "the boys."

There's a problem. So long as the workmen do not vote for their own interests the powers of government remain in the hands of the capitalist.

There came once a great crisis in the history of France. In that day the voice of Danton was heard, thundering out the words: "WE MUST DARE AND AGAIN DARE, AND ALWAYS DARE, AND FRANCE IS SAVED."

There came a great crisis in the history of the American colonies. In that day the words of Patrick Henry were heard through the land: "I KNOW NOT WHAT OTHER MEN MAY CHOOSE; BUT AS FOR ME, GIVE ME LIBERTY OR GIVE ME DEATH."

—Socialism is becoming more popular with the masses day by day, as they can plainly see that it is the only hope they have of remedying the present evils practiced on them by the brazen capitalist class, who are slowly but surely sucking their life blood, and impeding all American institutions.—Oklahoma Socialist.

(Continued on page 4.)

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The Worker

An Organ of the Social Democratic Party... PUBLISHED WEEKLY... At 184 William Street, New York

TERMS TO SUBSCRIBERS... One Year... Six Months... Three Months... Single Copies

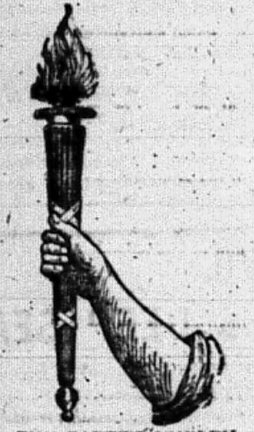
Who will vote for them next November... The newspapers have gone into hysterics over the occasional violence of... to take the places of striking machinists, steel workers, weavers, or other workers.

THE CALL OF DUTY... We are having a good deal of jubilation and mutual congratulation within our ranks, just now, over the result of the Indianapolis Convention. This is all right and proper.

But let us not think that because this is a season of rejoicing it is also to be a holiday season. Let us not think that because we have settled the "united question" we have done our work.

SOCIALIST VOTE IN THE UNITED STATES... In 1888 (Presidential) 2,069... In 1892 (Presidential) 13,331... In 1894 (Presidential) 31,137... In 1896 (Presidential) 33,164... In 1898 (Presidential) 32,204... In 1900 (Presidential) 9,545

S. D. P. 96,918... S. L. P. 33,450... NEW YORK CITY TICKET... For Mayor—BENJAMIN HANFORD... For Controller—MORRIS BROWN... For President of the Board of Aldermen—HENRY STAHL



THE PARTY'S EMBLEM

The necessity of publishing in this issue the rather lengthy but very satisfactory report of the Provisional National Executive Committee has compelled us to postpone for a week the promised publication of Görk's story, "On the Steppes."

There is one virtue in slanders; it helps to reveal the slanders. It is easy to learn where profits come from when workmen go on strike.

Socialism is the best cure for the workmen's faith in old party politics.

The real fruits of the steel workers' strike will show in the next election returns.

If education is the great need, The Worker can fill it. Do you know a better educator?

The organized capitalists are agreed; they organized workmen are a menace to individual liberty.

The chief interest working people have in automobiles is in keeping from being run over by them.

It is only during a strike that the fetters of capitalism are anxious to be idle workmen get work.

Idle capitalists cannot be blamed for arguing against a system that would cause everybody to go to work.

The unity convention was a success, but after all, it depends upon Socialists everywhere to make its work effective.

Presumably Mr. Bryan is too busy repairing fences in his Democratic pasture to answer Wilshire's challenge.

American civilization, according to General MacArthur, is making great progress in the Philippines. The Philippines have our sympathy.

From the side of the latest Standard Oil dividend, one can readily understand why capitalists are opposed to dividing up with everybody.

Even the capitalist papers haven't dared to say that the settlement of the Ashley-Sampson controversy will raise the wages or shorten the hours of the working class.

deems him. The Republican party will not support him and the Democratic party could not welcome him. We predict that such a man can have no political home outside the Socialist Party.

It is pleasant to know that young Mr. Rockefeller is to have a nice little house given him by his thoughtful papa. The house will be of granite and marble, and modelled after a castle in the North of England.

Moreover, unless the party does its full duty in the class struggle it will inevitably find itself involved in new internal struggles. "Satan finds some mischief still for idle hands to do."

There is plenty to be done. The N. E. C. should at once be supplied with funds, so that it may send out speakers and distribute literature. Many states and cities have campaigns on hand which call for vigorous action.

The last excuse for inactivity is removed. The Socialist who still sulks in his tent or dawdles by the wayside is unworthy of the name.

"A New Sympathizer" asks us what the red flag typifies. The red flag has long been recognized as typical of revolt and more especially of the revolt of the toiling masses. It is commonly asserted that the color red is taken to represent the idea of international brotherhood, as the red blood flows in the veins of men of every nation and of every race alike.

HE OUGHT TO BE A SOCIALIST. It is a pleasure to be able to give unequalled praise to a public official who was not elected by our own party. We hasten to take advantage of the opportunity.

Mayor Black of McKeesport, Pa. has shown himself to be a brave and honorable man, a man who feels his responsibility to his brothers of the working class and is not afraid to do his duty.

The newspapers have been cursing Mayor Black roundly. He should be proud of that. They say he uses very bad grammar. Very likely it is he, but it does not matter much anyhow. Phrases of random use perfect grammar.

ALL MUST AID IN THE WORK. The Socialist Campaign is the Campaign of the Working Class and Every Workingman Should Do His Part. To the Workmen of Greater New York: The Social Democratic Party again enters the field as the party of the working class.

THE RELIGION OF THE FUTURE. In the Daily Struggles of the Working Class is the Great Regenerating Force of Society. Comrade Caroline H. Pemberton, the author of "The Chastity Girl," now running as a serial in the "International Socialist Review," writes us as follows: "Your review of Ferguson's 'Religion of Democracy' expresses views that have been uppermost in my own mind for some time.

INTERNATIONAL TRUST. American Window Glass Company Planning to Control the Industry the World Over. A representative of American capitalists in Belgium, buying up glass factories. Several companies, it is reported, have already decided to sell.

OHIO TROLLEY SYNDICATE. The Lake Shore Electric Railway Company of Cleveland is incorporated with a capital of \$4,500,000, for the purpose of operating a line from Cleveland to Toledo, through Cuyahoga, Lorain, Huron, Erie, Sandusky, Ottawa, Wood, and Lucas counties.

Being an Attempt to Present the Main Principles of Scientific Socialism in Popular Language. VIII.—THE LABOR MOVEMENT. The French Revolution and all the great transformations of political institutions that went with it failed utterly to bring relief to the toiling masses of the people.

THE M-NKEY AND THE PARROT. A toothless old monkey, who was very fond of nuts, sat desponding one evening at the mouth of a cave, bewailing the miserable starvation that loomed before him.

THE CITY STREETS. A City of Palaces! Yes, that's true; a city of palaces built for the use of the masses. Look down this street—that a splendid one—where the wealth of the world is spread for sale.

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WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR SOCIALISM

YOU can see that every voter in the shop where you work is supplied with THE WORKER every week from now until election.

YOU can get some of them to subscribe. YOU can get ten or more copies of THE WORKER each week for ten cents or less.

Every comrade who has employment can and should distribute ten or more copies among his shopmates each week.

Comrades, doing this alone would double our vote this year.

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Our Esteemed Contemporaries (and OTHERS)

Sargent, Neb., New Era. The best service Bryan can now render to plutocracy is to head a "reform," middle class third party, and to help keep down the Socialist vote.

The Wage Worker, Detroit, Mich. To those working people everywhere who are either striking for better wages, looking for a chance to get good jobs, we wish to say: First, don't forget on election day that your sympathizers were your enemies during the strike.

CONVENTION COMMENT. Missouri Socialist. There can only be one comment on the work of the Indianapolis convention.

As the news of the success of this remarkable convention reaches the Socialists throughout the states a wave of enthusiasm is bound to sweep across the country.

The Toller, Terre Haute, Ind. What is our obligation will prove to be the most important and historical convention yet held on the continent in the development of the labor movement.

THE EXPOSITION, Saginaw, Mich. The different factions of the Socialist Party of America, the Indianapolis convention has set on foot a fact which will be a social force.

OKLAHOMA, Socialist. There is now no doubt of the uniformity of the different factions of the Socialist Party of America.

A special meeting of Reed Wood County is called for Sunday, August 19, to consider the McMahon case and hear the report of delegates to the National Convention.

HUSON COUNTY. A special meeting of Reed Wood County is called for Sunday, August 19, to consider the McMahon case and hear the report of delegates to the National Convention.

REPORT OF NATIONAL EXECUTIVE.

Statement of Work and Condition of Provisional N. E. C., as Presented by National Secretary Butscher at Indianapolis Convention.

To the Delegates in Convention Assembled at Indianapolis, Ind., July 22, 1901. Comrades—Your National Executive Committee hereby submit for your consideration this report of the work accomplished by them during their term of office...

When the N. E. C. took over the management of the affairs of the party last July, the path before them was by no means an easy one, considering the condition of the internal affairs in the Socialist ranks at that time...

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the rank and file of the organized Socialist forces was again brought to the front and discussed in the party press...

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they can for the advancement of the cause of Socialism there. With the strong nucleus of a party in Puerto Rico, there is no better field for our propaganda anywhere in the United States...

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NATIONAL PLATFORM OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

The Socialist Party of America in national convention assembled, reaffirms its adherence to the principles of international Socialism, and declares its aim to be the organization of the working class and those in sympathy with it, into a political party...

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FINANCIAL REPORT. STAMPS. Stamps received from printer to date 54,050. Stamps sold to locals and state committees 52,579. Stamps on hand July 25, 1901, 1,471.

CASH. Cash receipts from all sources from July 25, 1900, to Feb. 9, 1901, \$2,776.47. Cash receipts from Feb. 10, 1901, to July 24, 1901, 1,411.19. Total cash receipts from all sources to date 4,187.66.

EXPENSES. Expenditures for the term have been as follows: Office expense, postage, express, telegrams, etc., \$412.34. N. E. C. expenses to meetings 174.84. Organizers and agitators' expenses 1,543.03.

ASSETS. Due N. E. C. for stamps, due cards, and constitutions, \$9,000.55. Due N. E. C. for lithographs, 3.90. Total assets \$9,004.45.

LIABILITIES. The indebtedness of the N. E. C. to date is as follows: Chas. H. Vall, salary and expenses, \$246.03. Geo. Spyer, printing, 202.00. M. Hillquit, expenses to N. E. C. meetings, 47.00.

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Don't write on both sides of paper. CORRESPONDENCE. Don't send anonymous letters. They Mean Their Loss.

THE JOURNAL OF THE SOCIALIST SPIRIT - A magazine for the Socialist Writers and Artists. THE COMRADES contains stories, poems, sketches, descriptive articles and biographical sketches.

Over the Water. Prosperity Affects New England Cotton Mill Employers. The Fall River cotton manufacturers voted on Tuesday to impose a reduction of 14 per cent. in wages of all mill operatives.

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Letter Box. E. J. WISE, Berkeley, Cal.—We don't know. Do you? A. P. HILL, Boston.—Because the strike is greater in the numbers and of greater importance to the workers and of greater importance to the workers and of greater importance to the workers...

