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The Worker

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NEW YORK, DECEMBER 11, 1904.

PRICE 2 CENTS.

OUR INDUSTRIAL FEUDALISM.

Pictures of Actual Life Among the Textile Mill Workers of New England.

Written for The Worker by Gustavus Myers.

FIRST ARTICLE.

CHICOPEE FALLS, Mass., Nov. 29.—Literally within a few rods of the old homestead where Edward Bellamy wrote "Equality" a state of modern industrial feudalism subsists.

The Tenement System.

It is an inexorable rule of the company that no one who does not work in the mills can rent its tenements; an employee who quits work must instantly leave his tenement.

"The Good Old Times."

When the company's houses were first built, the American laborer in the mills was well paid compared to present wages.

Day and Night Profits.

It may seem an extraordinary anomaly that a system is in force whereby absentee industrial magnates are enabled to grind profit out of human flesh twenty-four hours to the day.

Law Constantly Violated.

Child labor is exploited here, as is every other possible resource of exploitation. Under the state laws, children under 14 years of age are prohibited from working in factories; but it is clear, from the testimony of well-informed observers, that this law is constantly violated.

Lords of Land and Water.

The Chicopee Manufacturing Company is essentially a feudalistic industrial concern. It has prior rights, granted long ago by the state, to the use of the water of the Chicopee River.

SOCIALIST VOTE.

Official Returns from Several More States.

Full Result Cannot Be Accurately Known for Some Weeks Yet—States Reporting Quadrupled Vote in Four Years.

The following table shows the vote for the Socialist Party in those states from which we have official reports for the election of 1904, with comparison for 1900 and 1902:

Table with 3 columns: State, 1900, 1902, 1904. Lists states like Alabama, Arkansas, California, etc., with their respective vote counts.

WAPPELO, with 531; and APPANOOSE, with 543.

Washington. TACOMA, Wash., Nov. 28.—The official count shows that the Socialist Party has about 10,000 votes in this state. This is five times what we had in 1900.

Oregon. PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 1.—We have 5,615 votes in this state, according to the official canvass. In 1900 we had 1,494 and in 1902 we had 3,532.

NEW YORK'S VOTE.

Two More Counties Reported—State Canvass Not Yet Done—Our Judicial Candidates Run Ahead.

The canvass at Albany is not completed, as we had hoped it would be, in time for us to give the results in this issue of The Worker.

VICTORY FOR THE OPEN SHOP.

Court Says Union Shop Contracts Are Unlawful.

Principle of "Sacredness of Contract" Thrown to the Winds When Boss Wishes to Repudiate Agreement with Workingmen—Three Republican Judges and One Democrat Agree.

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of New York, Second Department, has decided that contracts by which employers agree to employ only union workmen are unconstitutional and void.

A SCHOOL OF SOCIALISM.

Local New York Will Establish One.

Intended primarily for education of propagandists, though others will be admitted—Between Jan. 1 and May 30 courses will be given in Economics, History, Philosophy, and Application of Socialism.

"THE NATION" IS PROSPEROUS.

The nation is passing through a period of noteworthy prosperity, says President Roosevelt in his message to Congress.

Two weeks ago the Bowery Mission in this city undertook to serve "breakfast" (bread and coffee) free to 1,000 homeless men every day till the first of April.

FAVORABLE DECISION.

For Once, a Decision on Labor's Side—Appellate Division of New York Supreme Court Holds That Contracts by Which Workmen Release Employer from Liability for Negligence Are Void.

SYRACUSE, N. Y., Nov. 28.—Justice Hiscock of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court has given an interesting decision in a labor case.

OUR VOTE IN COLORADO.

Spite of Deportation, Blacklisting, Fraud, and Mere Anti-Socialism, Socialists Hold Over Half of the Vote of 1902 and Six Times That of 1900.

DENVER, Colo., Dec. 3.—Complete figures, not official, but undoubtedly very nearly accurate, show that the national candidates of the Socialist Party received 3,918 votes.

STEEL WORKERS TURNED DOWN.

President Was "De-lighted" to Meet Union Officers, but Wouldn't Raise a Finger to Help Settle Their Strike.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 2.—President Shafter and David Evans of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Plate Workers called on President Roosevelt to-day to ask him to use his influence to induce the Steel Trust to submit to arbitration the questions at issue in the strike at Youngstown.

ANOTHER GOOD GAIN.

City Elections in Portland, Me., Brings Encouraging Growth of Socialist Votes.

PORTLAND, Me., Dec. 6.—The city election was held here yesterday. The Socialist Party polled 406 votes—an increase of 137 over our record of a year ago.

ANOTHER GAIN IN ENGLAND.

Our British comrades have scored another municipal victory. In the elections at West Ham, the candidate of the Social Democratic Federation, John Jones, was elected by a vote of 1,063 to 963 over the capitalist coalition candidate.

ONE OF OUR LITTLE VICTORIES.

ARKANSAS CITY, Kas.—Coville County gave 800 votes for the Socialist Party, as against 250 two years ago, and we elect a Justice of the Peace, a Constable and a Road Master.

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