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The People

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INVENTIONS

That Mean Economy to the Capitalist and Loss of Work to the Toller.

(Special to the New York Times.)
ANDERSON, Ind., Special.—Charles Macbeth, the big lamp-chimney manufacturer, to-day patented a new and decidedly novel process, which will probably revolutionize glassmaking. Herefore the greatest trouble in glass manufacture lay in the melting of the sand. It has taken a great deal of time, and requires good fuel, natural gas being the best.
While passing through his plant recently, Macbeth saw a globe on an arc light break, and a piece of the glass fell over on the carbon. In a second it was reduced to liquid and dripped to the ground. That gave him the cue, and he directed the construction of a big vat, with sides and bottom composed of carbons, over which he could turn a current.
An arrangement was made to run the sand through this vat. It worked perfectly, and the very best molten glass is now being turned out in almost as many seconds as it required hours for the old fuels to melt it. The vat was patented to-day, and is now being used. It is so arranged that it can be adapted for every kind of glass-making from plate to bottles.
This invention, in connection with the automatic blowing machinery which is being turned out, is likely to have a great effect on glass-making. The cost of melting by this process is not as great as with the use of coal or oil, although it may be more expensive than natural gas. At present it takes twelve hours to melt a pot of glass and sand.

(From the Textile Record.)
"Industrial economists in Germany are just now greatly interested in the development of an invention which promises to solve more effectively than has been done hitherto the problem of consuming bituminous coal, slack, sawdust and other inferior forms of fuel, without smoke and under conditions of extreme economy.
The process consists simply in distributing heated and slightly compressed air through hollow grate bars to the whole lower surface of the furnace, which, being injected upward through the mass of burning fuel, secures equal and perfect combustion, and an intense, regular heat from materials that would not be available if burned by ordinary methods. This system has been in practical use since September last at the works of Messrs. Heissner, Wahl & Co., manufacturers of cloth at Guben, and since December last at a large hotel in Berlin, where a steam engine supplied by two boilers is kept in service to drive a dynamo that generates electric current for lighting purposes, elevator, etc.
"With an apparatus so simple and natural in principle as this, some surprising results have been already obtained, although the practical application of the process is in its infancy. The proprietor of the hotel, who has had the apparatus in use since December, gives it the highest approval, stating deliberately in his certificate that it has reduced by three-fourths the fuel consumption, worked with efficiency at all times and completely eliminated the smoke and soot which formerly, when the best Silesian lump coal was used, blackened the walls and floor of the hotel court, and formed a nuisance of which his guests frequently complained. All elements duly considered—cost of fuel, labor of removing ashes, etc.—the fuel cost of running the engine, month by month, as compared with the previous year, has been less than one-fourth of the fuel cost for the same boiler engine, and electric current generated with Silesian lump coal."

It is usually claimed by university professors that new labor-saving inventions do not displace labor, and that the manufacture of new machines and appliances which take the place of the old tools and devices absorbs all the labor set free by the new process.
Common sense revolts against such a silly assertion, for stripped of all its scientific verbiage it simply means that all the labor-saving machinery is actually labor-saver at all for what it saves in labor in turning out products it uses up in its own manufacture. But if that were true how are we to explain that great unprecedented accumulation of wealth during the present century which has been preeminently a period of labor-saving machinery? Common sense tells Socialists that it is due to that machinery which enabled labor to produce more in a given period of time than it did before. True, not all labor that is displaced by a new machine is thrown out forever on the streets. Part of it is employed in turning out a greater amount of the product, for which there is now an increased demand owing to the cheaper price at which it is sold. Part is employed in manufacturing the new machinery invented. But it must not be forgotten that very often the new machinery requires less time for its construction than did the old one, and that the increased product of the cheaper article is sold at a price which enables the manufacturer to turn out more of it than he could have done under old methods. The net result in any event is the displacement of some of the labor previously employed.
In the light of this the two items of news we give here mean so many more idle miners who will be given enough idle time to contemplate the beauties of the capitalist system of private property in the means of life. Under Socialism it would mean so many more hours of leisure for the toilers who could use them as they liked best.

DEBAUCHING THE CENSUS.

Census Supervisor Ritzel, of the Seventh District, which embraces Berks County, has made a statement that would have been impossible to an official not educated in the degrading methods of the machine. In Reading the other day he declared that he had been instructed by Senator Penrose to appoint as enumerators in Berks County only those recommended by Post-master High.

The Supervisor followed this declaration with the assurance that he knew Mr. High was the boss in Berks County, and he showed his high appreciation of the responsible position he holds by announcing his purpose to obey these humiliating instructions. Supervisor Ritzel will not have the thanks of the machine bosses for his frank revelation of the fact that they are going to make use of the census machinery to promote their own personal ends. That, however, is what he believes he was appointed for, and he is only a little more blunt than others in like position, when he publicly announces that the taking of the census is to go hand in hand with the work of the machine. It is intended that the enumerators shall earn their appointment by political servility; whether they perform their official duties or not.

It is no secret that a similar situation exists in the other census districts of the State. The appointment of supervisors having been substantially put in the hands of the United States Senators by that provision of the law which requires them to be confirmed by the Senate, only those have been selected in Pennsylvania who are known to be subservient to the bosses. Until these supervisors were named, the appointments were traded on to secure support at the primary elections, and many were cheated with promises which have not been fulfilled, and which it was never intended to fulfill.

Now that the supervisors can no longer be traded on the promise of appointment as enumerators is held out. The county boss is given these places to work them for the machine. Promises of them have done duty at primary contests for several months, and as there will be no definite selections until next June they will continue to serve as a means of cheating a good many. Not one-half of those who get promises will get appointments, but they will be required to do their political work for the promises and take their disappointment as well as they can when the time for that comes.

Under such circumstances, it is not surprising that there should be quite general apprehension as to the character of the census work likely to be done. Those who are made enumerators as a reward for machine servility are not usually the sort to show superior qualifications for such delicate duties as are involved in gathering and compiling census statistics. If the lofty ideas of Supervisor Ritzel are carried to their natural conclusion the census is pretty certain to be debauched by politics. This will not grieve the bosses, but it will be a lamentable thing for the state.—Philadelphia Press (Rep.).

After that great "statisticians" of the caliber of Edward Atkinson will come to tell us of the great prosperity of the working people of this country as conclusively and incontrovertibly proven by the official figures of the twelfth census. But then, "there is a sucker born every minute," and no doubt Mr. Atkinson and his like will find enough to listen and believe him.

Killing Injunctions by Petitions.

Chicago, Aug. 23.—The "Record" says that Chicago central labor organizations will unite in a petition to the United States Congress and the various State Legislatures to enact laws which will restrict the rights of judges to issue injunctions without hearing evidence from both sides. The petition will recite that numerous injunctions have been granted on ex-parte evidence which have worked hardships on innocent persons against whom they have been directed. It is not sought by the labor unions to restrain the judges from exercising the full power of their courts where there has been damage to property, loss of life, or injury to body, but they will insist that where there has been neither of these conditions the judges have no right to issue restraining orders.

In the first place we doubt that such a petition will bring about the desired legislation. The cry against the injunction is not new, and so long as the workmen continue to vote for the old parties just the same, there is no reason why the politicians should change their usual attitude of hostility to working class interests. In the second place if they should pass an anti-injunction law, it will be solely for the purpose of cajoling the working people by changing open hostility to masked one. The restrictions contained in the above telegram from Chicago if embodied in the law are enough to rob it of all terrors to the capitalists. For it would be enough for them to destroy a few dollars' worth of their property through hired thugs to be entitled to an injunction against striking employees. Only the voting of the Socialist Labor Party into power will put a stop to the injunction infamy along with all the other infamies of the capitalist system.

APPEAL FOR AID OF THE DANISH TRADE UNIONISTS.

Copenhagen, August, 1899.
To the Workmen of all Countries!

Fellow Workmen and Comrades!—The Danish Employers continue as yet the lock-out declared by them, comprising between 30—40,000 workmen. It has now lasted for three months and there is a prospect of extending it to 10—20,000 other workmen, so that this compulsory suspension of labor in our country will then include about 60,000 organized workmen.

The aim of the Capitalists is, as already known, to paralyze the Danish Trades Unions, that they may not be able to defend the interests of the working class. As, however, the Employers cannot, in our country, hope to obtain laws limiting the freedom of action of the Trades Unions, the great manufacturers and patrons intend to starve out the Unionists, and to force them in this manner into a surrender, to compel them to agree to such terms as will, in the future, render their activity nearly insignificant, or, if this be possible, to reduce them to despair, to make them revolt, that the Employers may get an opportunity of using the official social means of power against them.

But as yet, they have not attained their ends. With heretofore perseverance and energy, the locked-out men have endured the sufferings of this famine struggle; and this has been possible by means of the self-sacrificing spirit of their working comrades, and of our foreign brethren.

During the last days, negotiations have been conducted for closing the lock-out, but with no result. THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES YET.

Before closing these deliberations, it was discovered that the Employers intended to introduce work shop and factory rules absolutely contrary to the agreement in discussion; likewise, it was known, that Intelligence Offices, so-called "BLACK CHAMBERS" were to be established. To these, every employer was to send a notice about every man leaving him, or obtaining work, that it might be examined, if the man was not looked upon unfavorably, in which case he was to be dismissed immediately—in other words, this was a complete BOYCOTTING SYSTEM directed against all men who, by defending the cause of their comrades, or otherwise, had become disagreeable to the employers. Moreover, the employers publicly disavowed, through the press, the declarations of their trustees about reducing, later on, the number of working hours, and of making a loyal use of the proposed agreement.
"At the beginning of the discussions concerning this agreement, we demanded that no extension of the lock-out must take place; now, however, the official press announces, that such an enlargement will take place in a few days.
But the Danish workmen will stand their ground against this new attack, and they will struggle with their utmost power to preserve their independence.

We look upon this struggle as a serious affair of outposts in the contest, between the different classes of society, and feel bound to persevere, until we obtain a satisfactory close. The employers' press is every day attacking us furiously, but we confide in our just cause and in our solidarity, and hope for certain, that our brethren in all countries will, during the days to come, increase their contributions, now we stand before an extension of the lock-out.
We hope that the international solidarity of workmen will stand the test and conclude with a cheer for the organizations of workmen in all countries.

For the Associated Trades Unions in Denmark (De samvirkende Fagforeninger i Danmark):

J. JENSEN.
We beg you to send your contributions as fast as possible to our Cashier: Mr. E. Svendsen, Romersgade 22, 1. Copenhagen, K.

N. B.—As stated in last week's People we will receive contributions from all those who desire to help our struggling comrades abroad. All moneys received will be acknowledged in this paper and forwarded to the above address. Send moneys to:
HENRY SLOBODIN,
184 William street, New York.

We call especial attention of our readers, and of the members of the party particularly to the series of articles by Comrade Lee on Socialism and Unionism now running through The People. The series which is to be concluded in the next issue will serve splendidly to open a discussion on the question of the attitude of the Party towards Trade Unions and the Socialist Trade and Labor Alliance for which we shall tender the columns of The People in the event the general vote decides in favor of an early convention.

Are you doing all you can for the People? Don't forget that the best way to reach those who are strangers to our cause is to supply them with literature in which our ideas are presented in a form attractive and accessible to the average worker. The easiest and cheapest way to do it is to pass your copy of The People to your neighbor after you are through with it.

CAPITALIST ITEMS WITH A SOCIALIST'S COMMENTS.

DAVID B. HILL has again emerged from the "imbecuous desuetude" of his seclusion at Wolfert's Roost. He is counsel of the "Vigilance Committee" whose appointed mission is "to destroy the \$200,000,000 conspiracy steal" which the "Journal" with scare headlines is attacking. Capitalism has a scapegoat now and it will hunt it to the death. Meanwhile watch out that they do no worse stealing in another direction. As we said last week, "there is no occasion for hysterics." One steal more or less matters little. Abolish Capitalism and you abolish stealing. Spend your energy chasing one thief and another will get away with the plunder. This outcry is for the purpose of putting salt on the tail of the labor bird. Some will be caught, but Socialists will not. "The Labor Men" named on the so-called Vigilance Committee are not there to work for Socialism. Their mission, whether they are aware of it or not, is to act as stoop-pigeons to catch the labor vote for "reformers."

SENATOR MATTHEW S. QUAY cannot get on of his party and the State of Pennsylvania. Vanauker, McGee, and other "reformers" are fair to die down. "Business interests" require Quay, and Quay requires the business interests. There you are. Business is business.

By the way, Senator David B. Hill's saying that Croker et al. "should not mix business with politics" is resurrected with its author in the campaign against Platt and the Ramapo Water steal. Bless his little heart, business is politics and politics is business! If it were not for their "business interests" there would be no politics worthy the attention of either Platt or Croker or any of their lieutenants, sub-bosses, leaders or heeled. It is to play the labor vote, so as to conserve business interests that all the campaigns are conducted. If the workers would just one vote for their own business interests, the Socialist Republic, the largest business concern in the world, would be established.

W. J. BRYAN at Omaha sets forth the definite remedy for "the engulfing and corrupting trust system." He would have a national law passed "for the purpose of corporation organized in one State from carrying on business in another State without a special license from the National Government." It is to laugh. The National Government, elected by and for the business interests of the trusts, would be the licensing power. Capitalism is surely causing senile dementia among its advocates. The march of the trusts is invincible and irresistible by any power less than that of the whole nation. License and control is impossible. Seizure and confiscation in the name of the people they have robbed is the only programme, and the Socialist Labor Party alone dares to campaign along this line.

Twelve deadly dynamite guns sent to blow up the Filipinos. This is the benevolent assimilation of capitalism. It is of no use to oppose this movement. Capitalism needs dynamite. Capitalism must have the Philippines, Cuba, etc. The natives have no rights which capitalist governments are bound to respect.

We accept the precedent and will act upon it when we come into power. Capitalism, which has grown rich on robbery, will send its committees to make terms with the Socialist Republic. They will receive the reply: "There is nothing to arbitrate." SS.

THE BOYCOTT STILL ON.

The following from the "Cleveland Citizen" is what we call practical manifestation of class-solidarity. It is the step which supplemented with the agitation of clear-headed Socialists leads to class-consciousness of the working people: "The street railway strikers are just as firm as ever. The boycott is just as effective as ever. The Chamber of commerce plumes have played a big bluff with their anti-boycott resolutions, as the masses treat them with contempt. Everet is evidently getting down to bed-rock, as there is a persistent rumor in circulation that a 10 per cent. assessment has been levied on stockholders. Meanwhile the imported scabs and thugs are brandishing their revolvers and shooting at citizens, running over people and smashing into each others' cars in a manner that is quite hair-raising.
"Our 'best' people of the East End ride in the splendid new cars to and from their offices and places of business, thus displaying their sympathy for the plutocratic company. Our working people of the South End and South Side ride in slow and crowded busses or walk to and from the shops and factories, and thus display their sympathy for their striking fellow-laborers. Our 'best' citizens are conspicuously in the minority, and yet they dominate politics as well as industry. The working people are the vast majority, but still they are the under dog politically and economically. They have 'thrown away' their votes and with them the wealth they produced for years.
"But now class lines are drawn. Carry your class-conscious boycott into politics! Vote the Socialist Labor party ticket!"

If you have any difficulty in securing the paper please notify this office.

COINCIDENCES.

When it was brought to the attention of a high Rapid Transit official of Brooklyn that thirteen deaths have been effected by and added to the murders of the company in thirty days, he declared, in an off-hand way, that this slaughter was not due to the unskilled hands and rattled heads of raw workmen, but was a mere coincidence.

The Irish tenantry some few years ago invented the boycott. Landlords and capitalists declared it to have been an utter failure, and immediately after began to form themselves into secret societies for its adoption by themselves. While some people of Cleveland are boycotting the patrons of a railroad, the Bishop of Belleville is boycotting the patrons of one of the churches of his own diocese. Is the boycott coming into fashion or is it only a coincidence?

When the fakir season is over, Kangaroo comes in. So does brass monkey and other nice things. Yahoos like them, is that a mere coincidence?

The New York ship of State is always found cruising through the canals a little before election time.

When water is consolidated it is ice stock. When ice stock is consolidated it is watered stock. Which will you have? Or are they only coincidences?

They say we give no quarter in the Philippines. We came very near to it, anyway. The government is paying eight cents a piece for the making of our heroes' canvas suits. Which, with three pieces to a suit, makes twenty-four cents, and being light, a one-cent stamp takes them there. Is that a coincidence?

The business of civilizing foreigners always begins about the time our own people discover that it is a failure at home. When one man knocked down another man goes away somewhere. European civilization must end with syndicates, or African civilization must begin with them.

The water consumption of New York is discovered to be greatly increased under a Tammany administration (?). At the same time water has been discovered in the Ramapo district; but it refuses to come down hill for less than \$5,000,000 per ann. for forty years. What it will do afterward, it does not say. Coincidence. Several gentlemen have kindly asked for a franchise to bring it down on those terms.

Two very well connected young persons were in Old Trinity together the other day. One a young lady, and the other a young gentleman. Her pocket-book lay on the seat before her as she prayed. Suddenly the young man seized it and ran, the young lady also ran. Coincidence—both had an eye on the pocket-book. But being well connected he was set free from the Central Police Court.

Gay feathers are often found on dark-skinned birds. The French military officers are prettily, very prettily, feathered. Those of them who are being plucked in the Dreyfus inquiry look very dark inside. Which is the cause, and which the effect, and which is the coincidence?

Malignant, reckless and irresponsible editors of Paris are ready the authors of many of the Parisian's greatest follies and misunderstandings, if not also of political crimes. Could similar effect follow similar cause even among New York Socialists or would that be only a coincidence?

Just as the police of New York have become intellectually exhausted with sponge-holding for the trolley companies, the number of undetected crimes are greatly increased in Manhattan. Is it a coincidence or exhaustion? Send your bills to Roslitter.

The Countess of Warwick, while studying the problem of poverty, became a Socialist. So did somebody else. Is that a coincidence?

The Czar has improved one of the Ten Commandments by turning it into a warning, "Honor thy father, and mother, the Czar and his officers; that thy days may be long in the land." If you don't, the Czar will cut them off short in the land, which is a curious coincidence.

The cloakmakers are on strike. It strikes me that I have heard of that strike before; or is it a—?

M. Guerin, the anti-Semite, with his cauldron of boiling oil defies the government of France and police of Paris. The police and government aforesaid manifest the most amiable disposition towards him, and offer to "arrange" matters so that he may get a little needed rest, without being arrested. The Bible speaks of throwing oil on the troubled waters, and Guerin with his friends are known to be extremely religious. Did he get the hint from the Bible or is it merely a coincidence?

Mr. Mackay is about to build a beautiful palace for his daughter-in-law on a Long Island estate recently purchased. When they found a colored cemetery on the property they wired him about it. He wired back: "Dig 'em up and stick 'em somewhere else." He did not add: "This isn't the first American estate built on dead niggers"—that being merely a coincidence.
PETER E. BURROWS.

ENGLAND.

The English Socialists Hold Their Annual Convention.

The nineteenth Annual Conference of the Social-Democratic Federation, held at Manchester last Sunday and Monday, was one of the most successful and inspiring gatherings that the organization has ever held. Says, perhaps, in 1896; when the International Congress caused every branch to make a supreme effort to be represented in London, there has never been so large a gathering of delegates to a Conference of the S. D. F. as that which assembled in the Manchester Corn Exchange on Sunday afternoon. The whole proceedings went smoothly. So far as keeping order was concerned, the chairman, T. M. Purves, had practically nothing to do. The speaking, too, was terse, crisp, and argumentative.

The agenda paper of the Conference was a full one, but there were two matters which particularly engaged the attention of the delegates. They were the present position of our paper, "Justice," and the electoral policy of the S. D. F. Strange to say, the question of the fusion or federation of the S. D. F. and I. L. P. was passed over without discussion, although the whole of the correspondence which has passed between the two organizations was given to the Conference in the yearly report. As this correspondence will be published in full in the usual report of the Conference, the branches will have an opportunity of having it before them in its entirety when the matter comes again, as it is bound to come again in some form or another, under their consideration. It is questionable if it were altogether wise on the part of the Conference to pass over entirely such an important matter which must necessarily have a great bearing on the future of the Social-Democratic movement in these islands.

As regards the position of "Justice," raised by the resolutions from the Edinburgh and Leith branches, every branch agreed that those working in connection with the paper were producing the very best journal that could be produced under the difficult circumstances with which "Justice" has always been surrounded since its birth fifteen and a-half years ago; and that this happy result was due mainly to the untiring and persistent exertions of our editor, H. Quelch. All recognized that "Justice" was open to improvement. That would apply also to every journal published on the planet. Several delegates voiced the opinion of the branches that they desired more control over the editorial appointment for "Justice," and to meet that opinion the board of the Twentieth Century Press suggested that the appointment of the editor of "Justice" should be made annually and ratified by the Executive Council of the S. D. F. This will place the S. D. F. in absolute control of the editorial policy for all practical purposes, seeing that, with some half-dozen exceptions, the shareholders of the Twentieth Century Press are members of the S. D. F., and the London members of the Executive Council are also on the board of the T. C. P.

It was, of course, on the question of the electoral policy of the S. D. F. that the most important discussion took place. The resolution submitted by the Executive Council to the Conference laid down the basis for an entirely new political departure. It called for the organization of the Socialist vote with a view to the extinction of Liberal candidatures generally by that vote being thrown on the Tory side up to and through the General Election. On such a policy there was necessarily a strong difference of opinion among the delegates. No one had any sympathy with Liberal candidatures; everyone recognized that, under present circumstances, the Liberals are our greater enemies inasmuch as they exploit our work and enthusiasm. The difference arose on our ability to carry out such a policy as was proposed in the resolution, and the misapprehension which might arise in the minds of people generally as to the motives which actuated that policy. The resolution was finally carried by 51 votes to 31, and afterwards an instruction was given to the new Executive Council to obtain a return of the Socialist voting strength in various constituencies, the operation of the new policy to be suspended meanwhile.

It is obvious that, until we are prepared, both as regards our inclinations and our voting strength, to damage the Liberal Party, and render it even more of a negligible quantity than it is today, we are not, as a party, going to make much political headway in this country. Abroad the Liberals have been and are being crushed between the millstones of reaction and revolution. The Liberals there have steadfastly adhered to the old Manchester school on social matters and are suffering in consequence. Hence in Germany, in Belgium, in France, in Austria, in almost every other country in Europe, the proletariat classes and the proletariat face each other preparatory for the final struggle, in which Socialism shall triumph over capitalism. Here, in this heaven of compromise and half leaves, both parties have always been prepared to give way to public demands, not with the intention of carrying them out, but for the purpose of emasculating them and hoodwinking those who pressed them forward. In this respect the Liberals have been our more dangerous enemies. When and where we are strong they profess a friendship which ends at profession; when and where we are weak they abuse and vilify us. Under all circum-

(Continued on page 2.)

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SOCIALIST VOTE IN THE UNITED STATES.

Table with 2 columns: Year and Socialist Vote. Includes data for 1888, 1890, 1892, 1894, 1896, and 1898.

The vote upon the question of holding a National Convention submitted by the N. E. C. must reach the National Secretary not later than October 1 to be counted.

THE SECEDEES BEATEN AGAIN.

Close upon the heels of the recognition of the Acting National Executive Committee by the Board of Appeals comes now the second victory of the Party over the would-be bosses.

It is an interesting incident that our Beekman street friends learned of the Judge's decision before we did, and thus were able to announce the news of their defeat in the last week's issue of their sheet, which is of course another proof that Tammany is back of the Party.

Our Syracuse comrades, as well as all those who may have been misled by the agents of the Boss into the belief that a word from him to the State and county officials would be enough to remove from the ticket with the Arm and Hammer on top, the candidates of sections refusing to swear allegiance to him will see now, as we have foretold them last week (see correspondence on Syracuse), that they were in error.

Sections which have still entertained any doubt on this point will now easily see through the fraudulent claims of the impostors.

A PRACTICAL ADVICE TO PRACTICAL TRADE UNIONISTS.

Thoughtful and conscientious trade unionists generally complain of the slight interest taken by the rank and file in the affairs of the union. The disease, like the complaint, is widespread.

Just then the Engineer took a spark of the Fire and touched it to a fuse—the rock went up in the air. The Engine kept on puffing.

How is this lethargy to be overcome? How is the worst possible danger

threatening the existence of every union to be done away with?

It has been a matter of common observation on the part of those who have had long experience in trade union activity that the Socialists generally are the most active, the most devoted, and the most trusted workers in the trade union cause.

Not so with the Socialist. Fired with the enthusiasm which a great cause alone can inspire, full of the fighting spirit which fills him as a result of his recognition of the necessity of a long, unavoidable and uncompromising struggle with the class that oppresses him and his fellow workers, his blood is kept at that healthy temperature which allows of no relapse, and which his less informed fellow worker cannot possibly have the benefit of.

It seems to us that only one remedy is left under such circumstances. The old cry of "No Politics in the Union," by which all discussion used to be and, to a great extent, still is shut out, must go.

"Do Something Practical."

The following, though not written by a Socialist, is about the best parable we have read on Socialist politics vs. "Practical" politics.

"Why don't you do something practical?" said the Engine to the Fire. "You have been getting up steam all day, but that rock still stands in front of us."

"Taxation is not a question for the working people to waste too much time on," says the Boss. Hence a long article on taxation in each issue of the Beekman street

Some people think we are going to have Labor Day next Monday. Others say it will be politician's day. Which do you think is the right name?

IN THE TRADE UNION WORLD.

The Journeymen Tailors' Union of America.

The August number of "The Tailor," official organ of the Journeymen Tailors' Union of America is entirely devoted to the report of the Proceedings of the "Committee on Law and Aid," which in this union serve to a great extent as a substitute for conventions.

It appears from the report of the General Secretary that the union is again enjoying prosperity. "From 1893 to 1897 there was a constant decrease in the number of our local unions and in our membership as well. The great depression of those years had a serious effect upon our craft and made progress absolutely impossible.

The increase of money in the treasury is more considerable. Two years ago the balance on hand was \$2,400; at present it is \$14,000.

Like most of the unions of this country, and indeed throughout the world, the Tailors' Union is coming by experience to see the advantage of sufficiently high dues combined with a system of benefits.

"The beneficial features of trade unions are no longer an experiment. High dues and many benefits paid by the trade unions have been demonstrated as the only safe system upon which to build a substantial organization.

The strikes in which the members of the union were engaged were mostly successful. Thus during the entire two years there have been forty strikes and lockouts, and of these thirty-three have been won and seven have been lost.

The most important demands which the J. T. U. are about to make upon their employers are what they call "free back shops" and a ten hour work day.

Besides suffering from the many evils in common with all wage-workers, the tailors have grievances of their own, the most serious of these being the necessity of working in their own homes, which leads invariably to long hours and a lack of solidarity among the members of the trade.

The report of the General Secretary finally winds up in a statement on the most burning question of trade union policy, that of politics in the union. He says:

"I have been accused by some of our members as being opposed to the introduction of or discussion of politics in our organization. This charge has always been false and is so now. I am most bitterly opposed to introducing partisanship into our organization, no matter what the name of the party may be or what principles it may claim to advocate.

While this is by no means all that a Socialist would say on the subject if he were in Mr. Lennon's place, we welcome this as a step forward from the old pure and simple cry of "No politics in the union."

SOCIALISM AND UNIONISM.

The Uses of Trade Unionism and the Attitude of Revolutionary Socialists.

By ALGERNON LEE.

I have pointed out in the preceding article the faults of the pure and simple form of unionism which prevails in America and in Great Britain. Even if it could succeed in achieving its avowed ends, it would accomplish but little; it would lessen, but not abolish, the exploitation of the workers by the capitalists; it would still leave the workers a subject and oppressed class.

So much for the short-comings of the American union. So much it was necessary to say, frankly and without apology, simply because it is lamentable truth. But let it not be understood that I would denounce the union as futile and hopelessly faulty.

Trade union organization, I have said, is an absolutely necessary part of the labor movement. It is the indispensable complement of the Socialist Party—the other wing of the proletarian army.

In the first place, it is not to be expected, it is not even to be desired, that the great mass of the working people in any country will enroll themselves in the Socialist Labor Party. The greater part even of those who give their vote to that party will not become actively engaged in its propaganda.

But there is a second point, which must not be overlooked. Trade unions are valuable for the immediate purpose for which they are organized—the maintenance and, if possible, the improvement of the condition of the working class during the conflict for its complete emancipation.

There is a wide-spread but wholly false idea held even by some Socialists—who ought to know better—that the worse the condition of labor, the easier will be the growth of class-consciousness and the spread of Socialist ideas. "The working people," some say, "must be starved into accepting Socialism." This is a most false and pernicious idea.

So it is the desire of the revolutionary Socialists, while carrying on an uncompromising battle for complete emancipation, at the same time to gain whatever immediate advantages may be gained—increased wages, reduction of hours, protection of health and of life and limb, restriction of child and female labor, better facilities for education, and the like.

Some of our doctrinaire Socialists will say that it is useless to fight for better pay and easier hours, because these things are fixed by a natural economic law—the famous "iron law of wages."

rated this law. What, then, is this law of wages? Briefly stated, it is this: The price of labor-power, which is the wages of the laborer, tends always to be equal to the cost of reproducing that labor-power, that is to the cost of living of the laborer. Average wages keep pretty closely to the average cost of living, because workers are obliged to compete for employment.

With this understanding, let us apply the law to the question in hand. Let us suppose that, owing to the use of machinery and good capitalist organization, the employers are able to force average wages ten per cent. below the present standard, without reducing prices—thus increasing their profits by that amount.

Now no candid and well-informed person can deny that, with all its faults and weaknesses, the American trade union has done something to maintain or even to advance the standard of living of the working class.

The trade union alone cannot abolish capitalism and free the proletariat. But even alone it can do something, and in conjunction with the Socialist Party it can do much, to ameliorate the results of capitalism and to help in its abolition.

What, then, should be the attitude of the Socialist toward unions? What, definitely, should be the attitude of the Socialist Labor Party toward unions here in America? We come here to a question which it is difficult to discuss frankly.

There are a few in our Party who, to this question: "How shall we act toward existing union?" give a ready and vociferous answer: "Smash them." The answer is a bad one. Suppose we succeed in smashing these pure and simple unions, what shall we have accomplished? We shall have destroyed something which is now a mixture of good and evil and which has within it the possibility of increasing the good and reducing the evil.

We shall have gained nothing by "smashing." And we shall have lost something in that we shall have disgusted and discouraged many thousands of the rank and file.

The progressive character, the "new trade union" character, depends, not on the name or form of organization, but on the knowledge and feeling of the members. And the organization, the machinery of the union, is too valuable to be recklessly smashed.

able. First, we must criticize and expose the faults, the misdeeds, the men who are actively responsible for the perversion of the union. This is eminently proper—in the press, on the platform, at every opportunity. But we must be careful, in so doing, not to include men who are innocent, or only passively responsible.

But the exposure of fakirdom is only the smaller, the negative side, of the work that must be done. The more important thing is the positive side, the education of the rank and file, the great masses of whom are neutral and open to conviction. And the best place for this work is within the union.

This was plainly the opinion of our Party at its last convention, as shown by the resolution previously cited. And this leads us to a further question. It was evidently the opinion of that convention that Socialists ought not to organize rival unions; that Socialist organizers would find an ample field in unorganized trades and localities.

There remains much to be said, but space is limited. In the closing paper of this series I shall suggest some of the possibilities of the union of the future and the work it has to do.

ENGLAND.

(Continued from page 1.)

stances and conditions their policy has been, and still is, to keep Socialists out from all political representation unless they are prepared to go in as a portion of the Liberal Party.

What can Socialists do under such circumstances? Independent parliamentary candidates are, in the great majority of cases a failure. A Socialist cannot hope to get elected until there is in a constituency a majority of voters prepared to vote for a Socialist candidate as a matter of principle at all costs.

The carrying out of the resolution passed at the Annual Conference will depend entirely upon the members of the S. D. F. It will, however, have little effect unless all are prepared to work together in support of the policy. This, bear in mind, is not a question of principle. It is purely a question of how to overcome the obstacle in the shape of the Liberal Party which bars our progress.

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This is the way several New York Assembly Districts try to increase the circulation of The People: A list of voters of the district is obtained from the City Record and many names are placed on the mailing list of The People for about five weeks. At the end of this time, individual members of the District, elected for that purpose, call at the respective houses and try to induce the readers to subscribe.

AN APPLICATION

FOR EDITORSHIP.

To the Editor of The People. Dear Sir:—I understand that the Courts have forbidden your Beekman street friends to share the name of our Party organ with you any longer, and that their editor has threatened to re-

sign his position as a just punishment for the disloyal Courts. In this way our mutual friends may find themselves in the very embarrassing position of having an organ without a name and without an editor unless a new name and a new editor are supplied at once. Now, Mr. Editor, I write to you to say that I desire to save our friends: I have an excellent name for them and I am ready to serve as editor for them. I know how influential you are in the Beekman street circles, and I respectfully request your endorsement. Without false modesty I may say I

am well qualified for the position I apply for: I have been an attentive reader of the old People for years, I have carefully studied its philosophy, its methods, its style and its language, and I may proudly say, I have mastered them all. I enclose a sample of a newspaper just to prove that I am not merely boasting, kindly read and judge yourself of my qualifications. Yours very truly,

But I will rather not mention my name until I am sure of my appointment.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[Correspondents who prefer to appear in print under an assumed name, will attach such name to their communication, besides their own signature and address. None other will be recognized. All communications should be written on one side of the paper only. The appearance of an article in these columns does not commit the editor to its views.]

A Reply.

To the Editor of The People.—I have today (August 21) sent to the editorial board an emphatic denial of the statements made in regard to me and Comrade Barnes in the issue of August 20. Expecting, however, that in accordance with Kuhn and De Leon's usual practice, the responsibility would be suppressed or garbled, I ask you to publish this denial. When I shall have been able to do so, I will send you a copy of the letter I shall demand formal investigation.

Barnes Scorns Slanderers.

Philadelphia, August 20, 1899. In the Beekman street "Product" of August 21, 1899, one of the ex-officials rises to give another reason of why Barnes became a "Kangaroo," encouraged I presume by the knowledge that it cost not a little money to get under the skin.

It is needless to deny the truthfulness of such statements as they are beyond the possibility of doubt. If one word of each fifty words that the article contains were selected and rearranged that proportion of the whole is true. If however the accusations were wholly true, the slanderer would be all that he is, a scoundrel and a villain, and would be recognized as the most infamous wretch in the world.

The official says, "Barnes knowing that I and some other members of the Party were after him to save himself and force us to resign, he jumped to THE RESCUE OF HIS OWN SELF, he jumped to the 'Volkszeitung'."

In fact the alternative has been given to Barnes by the slanderer: either silence, or an alleged exposure according to his choice.

As the ex-officials go blind as to think such Maria Halpin and political huckster stories (traces of their late allegiance to the "Kangaroo" and "Volkszeitung") will becloud the prominent issue, now being so satisfactorily settled, of the Party's refusal to govern itself without the aid of little.

During 1897, Barnes visited according to records 48 cities and towns in the United States, meeting and addressing comrades of the Party and their families, and their opinion I rest upon, quite safe from the charge of bias, where he is best known is least trusted.

I shall ignore all further sewer vapors which are contained in such a vehicle awaiting an opportunity for its settlement in another tribunal. No persons are entitled to move by material interests. Who would have thought the loss of an organizer's job would result in hydrophobia.

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Why were they tolerated so long in the Party? How does it happen that the members make up such an immense part of the S. L. P.? Why are the largest Sections made up almost exclusively of those elements? Why is treachery so rampant in the Party like an epidemic disease?—Merry! save us from the effects of your absurd questions, you are getting impatient now, your spelling and grammar are becoming ridiculous, your crooked mind cannot comprehend straight ideas, you are a blockhead and a barfoon and unless you stop pestering this office with your malicious scribbles, we shall have a warrant issued for your arrest.

U. D.—Ignore fiddlesticks. I shall publish a report of those actions in the fattest type I have at my disposal.

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THE SKUNK.

None Genuine Without the Facsimile Signature of the Chief Flunkny. NEW YORK, SEPT. 3, 1899. NO. 1, VOL. 1.

Three Cheers for The Skunk!

Comrades, Friends and Sympathizers:—A new outrage has been perpetrated. A Tammany judge of the Tammany Supreme Court has issued an injunction restraining us from further issuing our paper under the name of the Party's official organ, THE PEOPLE, thus inferentially branding our organ as a fake and declaring the Kangaroo publication to be the genuine PEOPLE. Tammany is back of the Kangaroos. Ungrateful and treacherous Tammany! Was it for nothing that we had on the occasion of the memorable siege of July 10 regaled the Tammany policemen with the choicest of cigars and whiskeys; that in our issue of July 16 we related of the self same Tammany policemen that they had protected us against housebreakers (the Kangaroos) and styled them "police officers" instead of simply calling them blue-coated Tammany beasts as we had the power to do!

And have they utterly forgotten that we were the first to invoke Tammany aid by applying to the self same Tammany judge for an injunction against the Kangaroos? No, no! Those Tammany heebers are well aware of these facts, but there is more behind the monstrous decision than would appear at the first glance: it will be recalled that we had stated in the columns of our paper that the "Volkszeitung" application for an injunction had been denied by the Court. The present decision, therefore, looks very much like a deep-rooted conspiracy on the part of the Kangaroos and their Tammany allies to create the impression as if we did not always strictly adhere to the truth.

But in vain are all their diabolical conspiracies, we stand firm as a rock for our noble cause and shall continue our great work as heretofore.

We may not call our organ THE PEOPLE, but what is in a name! Under a new name our organ will retain the same brilliant qualities which have conquered for it the universal respect and admiration.

We have chosen for our organ the name THE SKUNK and shall now explain to our readers the reason for our choice: unlike the kangaroo the skunk is a very wise animal, and has a very effective weapon of defense; the skunk is endowed with a special gland containing matter of a highly offensive odor, and that matter the animal is in the habit of emitting whenever it is being pursued by its enemies, the terrific stench is sure to drive away its tender nostrilled, sentimental pursuers who no other weapon might avail.

The editorial management of our organ has a similar gland (in a moral sense), and we have seen using it for a number of years as a powerful weapon of attack as well as of defense and shall continue using the same as such. Armed with that weapon we shall continue to wage war on all labor fakirs, small traders, traitors, and foreigners outside and inside of the Party; with the last drop of the matter contained in the gland aforesaid we shall defend our infallible methods, tactics, and views until the last of the dissenters, heretics, and traitors has been made harmless and until the Party bows in implicit submission to our wise and paternal commands, even though the Party be thereby reduced to the Three who alone stand above reproach and criticism—better three class-conscious, consistent, and aggressive adherents of THE SKUNK than thousands of vacillating, chicken-livered, criticising, and unruly Socialists.

Vivat Skunk! Pererat mundus!

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CRITICAL and IDIOTIC.

The following item is taken from one of the local daily newspapers: The recent increase of the price of meats has been a very hard blow to the workingmen, and especially to the poorer paid class of workmen, many of whom have, as a consequence, been compelled to give up the use of meat altogether.

The only comment we have to make to this statement is that the workingmen referred to by our contemporary are retrogressive class-unconscious pure and simple who have evidently been imbued with the fallacious politico-economical doctrines of middle class newspapers like the N. Y. "Volkszeitung." Had they been clear thinking Socialists they would know that the price of articles of consumption does not concern them in any way; wages are always equal to the necessities required for their existence, and instead of giving up the use of meat, they would increase the quantity of meat heretofore consumed by them.

The editor of the "Arizona Workingman" in a long article entitled: "How Capital is Acquired" advances the very original idea that capital owes its existence to surplus value.

Our esteemed contemporary seems to have a passion for learned expressions although he may not always be very skillful in their application. As far as we are concerned we must confess our inability to grasp the novel theory, it has always seemed to us that the answer to the question as to how capital is acquired in modern society has been met long ago by our clear and plain theory; it is being borrowed from the savings banks.

Air has no use value as it can never be used up.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

[Correspondents who prefer to affix their signatures to ready communications will find a full supply of such at this office.]

All Kangaroos Look Alike to Me. To THE SKUNK.—Permit me to communicate to you a few facts from the biography of Jimmy Smith which may not be without interest to your readers in view of the prominent part now played by that individual in the councils of the Kangaroos.

One dark evening in the fall of 1892 Jimmy was seen on X street stopping before a man and asking him for a match wherewith to light his pipe. The man with whom our Jimmy thus hobbled and fraternized was none other than Charlie Brown, the notorious labor fakir and tool of Sam Gompers! (Let Jimmie deny that if he can.)

Generally speaking, Jimmy Smith always was a bad egg and his morals always were rather lax. Thus while a member of our Party he also held office in several church organizations and in Democratic and Republican clubs; he misappropriated money entrusted to him and led a very dissipated life. Once, coming home in a drunken rage he behaved like a beast, abused all members of his family, and finally killed his aged mother by several blows with a heavy whiskey bottle.

I and several other comrades were present and I said to him: "You ought to shame yourself," and left him in disgust.

I did not mention these facts before because I thought that he was a loyal comrade, but seeing that he is with the Kangaroos, I deem it my duty to open the eyes of your readers upon the moral make-up of the man.

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U. D.—Ignore fiddlesticks. I shall publish a report of those actions in the fattest type I have at my disposal.

B. S.—(looks befuddled)—I don't understand.

U. D.—(pulls B. S.'s ear)—Of course you don't, you don't know how a newspaper is made up. Now answer me a few questions: Some Sections have declared for us? U. D.—What of it? Now, some Sections have not yet declared themselves either way, have they? B. S.—(sucks his thumb in perplexed silence)—Well?

U. D.—(mockingly)—Well, well—and some Sections have declared themselves against us, catch on now? B. S.—(stares).

U. D.—(crosses his arms and beaming down on B. S.)—Well, then, we shall prepare a statement which we shall entitle: "The Hurricane," and in it we shall enumerate as being for us:

1. All Sections and Party organizations that have declared for us. 2. All those that have not declared at all. 3. All those that have declared themselves against us. 4. All other Sections. See it now? B. S.—(with a twinkle in his eye)—I see.

U. D.—(pulls B. S.'s ear)—Of course you don't, you don't know how a newspaper is made up. Now answer me a few questions: Some Sections have declared for us? U. D.—What of it? Now, some Sections have not yet declared themselves either way, have they? B. S.—(sucks his thumb in perplexed silence)—Well?

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referendum? Then do not make a spectacle of yourselves by advocating a convention with reference to settling the question of the referendum. It is the weakest move you can make, and opens up a breach in the walls of our stronghold that will let in the whole horde of capitalist political orators and demagogues, our best and truest friend and defender. The initiative and the referendum and the impurity of manner will go with it.

In my opinion, all who are not willing to stand by the constitution now, and put in force an example of this principle, the referendum, must be considered enemies and not friends of the Party.

They may be honest, yet their counsels, in my mind, would lead the Party in the wrong direction.

Comrades, I believe our plain duty is to go to our Sections and have an vote upon this question of the suspension alone. Settle that matter, then if a national convention should be held, we will have a right to quarrel over what the Party has the right and can settle through the referendum. Therefore, as not to cripple our propaganda for the referendum, let us be cool about this matter and recognize as we should those who I have shown are by the constitutionally installed N. E. C. officers, until we by our votes either remove them or extend their term of office. I will frankly confess to my own regret that the old N. E. C., as well as Editor De Leon for the way they have refused to submit to the Party discipline, are in my opinion, the worst I do not think they have been justified in doing, and while I would probably have voted for their removal had they had the disposition to obey Party law, which they have been so particular about that all others should do, I can not consistently do so now.

If one word of each fifty words that the article contains were selected and rearranged that proportion of the whole is true. If however the accusations were wholly true, the slanderer would be all that he is, a scoundrel and a villain, and would be recognized as the most infamous wretch in the world.

The official says, "Barnes knowing that I and some other members of the Party were after him to save himself and force us to resign, he jumped to THE RESCUE OF HIS OWN SELF, he jumped to the 'Volkszeitung'."

In fact the alternative has been given to Barnes by the slanderer: either silence, or an alleged exposure according to his choice.

As the ex-officials go blind as to think such Maria Halpin and political huckster stories (traces of their late allegiance to the "Kangaroo" and "Volkszeitung") will becloud the prominent issue, now being so satisfactorily settled, of the Party's refusal to govern itself without the aid of little.

During 1897, Barnes visited according to records 48 cities and towns in the United States, meeting and addressing comrades of the Party and their families, and their opinion I rest upon, quite safe from the charge of bias, where he is best known is least trusted.

I shall ignore all further sewer vapors which are contained in such a vehicle awaiting an opportunity for its settlement in another tribunal. No persons are entitled to move by material interests. Who would have thought the loss of an organizer's job would result in hydrophobia.

No persons are entitled to move by material interests. Who would have thought the loss of an organizer's job would result in hydrophobia. Fraternally yours, A. D.

A Practical Joke.

To the Editor of The People.—Some practical jokes are worth good money in sending out notices dated August 16 to good and trusty Party members of Section Greater New York, asking them to defend themselves before the Grievance Committee of the above Section on charges preferred against them for having taken part in a conspiracy against the Socialist Labor Party on Friday, August

