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Labor's Political Struggle

Notes Indicating the Progress of the World's Socialist Movement.

GERMANY.

The Socialists in Berlin are carrying on a vigorous agitation against the measures promoted by the Agrarian Party to increase the taxes on corn.

In Germany, during January, Socialists were sentenced to four years and eight weeks' imprisonment and \$500 fines. This is rather below the average.

The Socialists at Recklinghausen have, since the first of January, published a monthly newspaper, and its success has been so satisfactory that in May next it is intended to publish it twice a month.

At the last elections for the Wurtemberg local parliament the Socialist candidates obtained 58,721 votes. At Stuttgart they polled 49 per cent of the total number of votes given, and at Ludwigsburg 43 per cent.

Coburg, March 19th.—Herren Liebram and Bock, Socialists, were today elected President and Vice-President of the United Diet of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, the first German Parliament to choose both presiding officers from the Socialist party.

AUSTRIA.

The Socialists have been successful in returning many of their candidates to the Boards of Conciliation at Vienna.

Last year the Government promised to introduce a nine hours' bill in mines, but nothing is said about this measure in the Government program. The "Arbeiter Zeitung" pointedly asks how can any trust be placed in the Ministers' promises.

HOLLAND.

Our well-known Dutch comrade, Henry Polak, has been again selected as candidate for the third electoral division of Amsterdam for the second Chamber of Parliament. The former Liberal representative, Mr. Hartogh, died a short time ago. The election takes place in a few weeks. There is a good chance for Polak, who deserves success.

At Amsterdam a new co-operation has been founded on the basis of the Belgian co-operations of "Le Peuple" and "Voortuit," to support the political and economical struggle of the working class, as well as to benefit the members of it directly. The executive consists of the most prominent persons in the Social-Democratic and trade union movements. The name of the new co-operation is "De Dageraad."

BELGIUM.

The Belgian Government proposed by the bill putting down gambling to allow it to go on at Ostend and Spa, but the Chamber of Deputies, by a large majority, 97 to 16, after a vigorous speech by the Socialist Deputy Malempre, rejected the clause.

The next conference of the Belgium Workers' Party, of Social Democratic, co-operative and trade union organizations, is to be held on April 7th and 8th at Liege. On the agenda are already the following questions: Proposal of a national manifestation for universal suffrage; general strike; the rights and duties of the employees of co-operations; founding of an international school of Socialism; duties of the different organizations towards each other; the application of the law on workmen's pensions, and legal sanction of societies for mutual help.

FRANCE.

Millerand has introduced the eight hour-day for all workmen employed by the Postoffice.

It was stated that Lissagary had been converted on his death-bed, but this, like so many death-bed conversions, has been proven to be a pious lie.

A meeting has been held in Paris to commemorate the four Polish workmen who were hung for high treason at Warsaw, Russia, on January 28, 1886. The president was Legitimus, a Negro, who represents the Socialists of the island of Guadeloupe in the French Parliament.

ITALY.

Socialists of Milan have started a daily paper.

Immense meetings are being held in Italy under the auspices of the Socialists to protest against the levy of taxes on grain and other necessities. No disturbances are reported, the police having kindly decided to do no disturbing at present. There is much suffering among the poor owing to the war levies, which are, of course, dodged by the rich.

The office of the "Avanti," the Socialist daily in Rome, has been broken into and rifled of 5,000 francs. This is particularly hard, because recently the paper was heavily fined. One of the writers said: "Everything is against us, but we are not going to give in just yet."

SPAIN.

Some Socialists who had been imprisoned at Cadiz have been pardoned because of the marriage of the King's sister.

There were riots at Ripoll, Province of Gerona. A number of groups paraded the town with banners, inscribed, "Justice for All" and "Give Us Bread and Work." The windows of several stores and houses were shattered with stones, the police were greeted with showers of missiles, and a shot was fired. The police fired a few shots in the air and then charged and dispersed one band of the rioters, but another, composed of men and women, attacked them desperately. A man was shot dead and three others were injured. A lieutenant and a policeman were wounded.

CANADA.

The National Executive of the Canadian S. L. P. has declared that the use of the "pure and simple" trade union label is a detriment to the party and ought to be discontinued; also that no officer of a "pure and

simple" union be accepted as a member. "Whom the gods would destroy they first make mad."

UNITED STATES.

On Thursday, March 8th, the comrades of Springfield, Mass., have organized a Socialist Woman's Club, with good promise of arousing interest among the working women of that city.

In Skowhegan, Me., the Social Democratic municipal candidates received 288 votes as against 134 cast last fall for Debs and Harriman. A gain of over one hundred per cent within a few months!

At the town election in Milford, Mass., 213 votes were cast for John Wulf, the Social Democratic candidate for selectman. In the national election in November we had only 41 votes for Debs and Harriman. Milford is not slow—400 per cent gain.

The Omaha "Nonconformist," the leading Populist-Bryan paper still alive, is evidently getting ready to move out of the rut, concluding after reviewing the trust movement that present development is ushering in Socialism, "the only bright spot on the darkened horizon of humanity."

The Socialist party of Chicago, an independent organization with a thousand dues-paying members, has declared in favor of complete organic union of all factions, and that the propositions of the Springfield committee are nearest correct—that is, that an early convention should be held, that each delegate should have but one vote, etc.

Comrade Chas. D. Raymer has been elected Literary Agent of Local Minneapolis, Minn., and Secretary of the Socialist Twentieth Century Club, with headquarters at 424 Nicollet avenue, Room 11, Minneapolis, Minn. He would be pleased to receive catalogues, circulars, and discounts of all new and standard Socialist books, papers and magazines. Write or send to above address.

Governor Dockey of Missouri has signed the infamous bill by which new political parties will be prevented from entering a campaign under the name or "part of a name" of one of the old (capitalist) parties. Of course, this bill was framed by the political committee of the capitalist class and solely directed against the young Social Democratic Party which, by its first vote of nearly 7,000 (last fall) has frightened the capitalist parties of Missouri. But no capitalist law can stunt the growth of the Socialist movement.

At the recent local elections in Peekskill, N. Y., the Social Democrats polled 131 votes for Comrade Everett L. Holmes, candidate for president of the village; 129 votes for Henry Kaste, for treasurer; and 136 votes for D. T. Denfield for assessor. There were 117 straight Social Democratic tickets. Last fall we cast 61 votes in the village for Debs and Harriman. Thus, counting only our straight vote, we have gained more than 93 per cent. The Socialist Labor Party received 39 straight votes and 5 on split tickets. One year ago they had 71 votes in the village election. Last fall they had 26 votes for Malloney.

At one meeting of the general committee of the Socialist Party of Chicago ninety-five applications for membership received during the previous week were acted upon. There were forty-one organizations represented in the general committee. A plan of agitation was adopted, dividing the city into four organization divisions, each of which has an organizer, who receives a salary of five dollars a week from the party treasury, supplemented by whatever sum he may receive from the membership of his division, but his total salary must not exceed fifteen dollars a week.

Over one hundred Italian Socialists who, heretofore have supported the S. L. P. and its paper, "Il Proletario," have resolved to support the Social Democratic Party. They have acquired a paper published in Orange, N. J., under the name of "La Cometa," and will issue it as an S. D. P. paper, changing the name to "Avanti." Comrade F. M. Garzone will act as editor. Socialists who are willing to help are invited to send contributions to the "Volkszeitung," 184 William street, which will be duly turned over to the manager of "Avanti." Free copies of the first number will be sent to any comrade who is in a position to distribute them among Italian workmen. Communications in regard to this matter should be addressed to F. M. Garzone, 103 W. Third street, New York. The first number will be issued on May 1st.

The Commune Celebration.

The thirtieth anniversary of the Paris Commune was fitly celebrated at the Turk St. Temple Monday evening, March 18th. A large crowd was in attendance, filling the seating capacity of the hall. The meeting was called to order by Comrade Scott Anderson, Organizer of Local S. F., who made some well chosen introductory remarks. F. I. Bamford recited the "Ode to Freedom" effectively.

Emil Liess, editor of "Advance," spoke for half an hour in German. His address was forcible in style and content and was very well received. The speech of Comrade Geo. B. Benham was also liberally applauded. It was pointed and impressive.

The soul-stirring revolutionary songs of the Socialist Maennerchor aroused the audience and elicited a hearty encore.

Comrade Jean Wieck who was to speak in French was greeted by the audience rising to cheer the fellow-countryman of our martyred dead. His speech was keenly appreciated by the French-speaking portion of the audience.

A few brief remarks by Comrade C. H. King Jr., urging those present to vindicate by vigorous propaganda the sacrifices of the Parisian workmen, closed the meeting.

It was in every way successful and abundantly attests the international sympathies and solidarity of the local movement.

PARIS COMMUNE of 1871

Some of Its Results Upon the Thought and Action of the World's Proletariat.

BY G. B. BENHAM.

Concerning the commune, the Socialists' thought is a mingling of reverence and admiration. Reverence for the principles of political and economic freedom upheld by those who in this struggle braved the swords of every kingdom, and the sneers of all the world of capitalism.

Again and again the historical details of the communal uprising have been narrated, and with each repetition is thrown a new light upon this eventful and momentous struggle. It warms the blood and strengthens the courage of every lover of liberty who reads the lines in the chronicles of proletarian steadfastness and valor. But to those whom frequent repetition has cooled the warmth of interest in the plot and tale, there opens a new field in the study of the results of the establishment of the Commune. Between the lines in its history is read the opening chapter of a story which has potentialities of world-wide significance.

There was more than ordinary care and energy exhibited by the hereditary tyrants, unscrupulous politicians and hired butchers that trampled out the Parisian revolt. The most acute statesmen of the time saw something more than a struggle for municipal independence. They saw something more than a host armed workmen with all of society's forces drawn up against them. Bismarck and Thiers saw rising before them an example which could not be dimmed by blood and which no force on earth could stamp out. And the politicians were well within bounds in their surmises regarding the commune's far-reaching influence, for no country in civilization is so distant but that the commune's history is read, and a discussion of its details has occupied the language of the lands most foreign to the French people.

The commune's legislative acts relating to the city's government have served as examples to be approved as just, and in many instances they have been introduced into programs for Socialist municipal work in far-away lands.

Scarcely a Socialist meeting held in America but bears the hereditary marks of a descendant of the International and the Commune. The election of officers and the method of conduct are easily recognized as a continuation of the procedure of the pioneers in the economic and political field now being cultivated by the Socialists of the world.

By no means the least interesting are the psychological effects of the communal events. Its suppression was the foremost and most characteristic (by that I mean the bloodiest) example of capitalist revenge upon the writhing victims of capitalist oppression. It was glaring, unmistakable evidence to the workers of the world that they have but the choice of submission or death so long as capitalism is the social law. It is because this lesson was so firmly and ineffaceably fixed in the minds of the ardent, impetuous and sometimes rash proletarians of France, that for the thirty years since the commune their struggle has been a ceaseless one to gain that power, the political power, which will give the death-blow to capitalism. This lesson has sunk no less deeply into the minds of every worker who recognizes his social status, and the influences of the lesson know no limit by either time or territory.

The opportunities for the philosopher to render to himself a satisfactory verdict regarding the actual operation of the Commune are small indeed. It was a strange combination, this hastily summoned body of municipal legislators, and as in all things done in haste, there was opportunity for much repentance thereafter. The brave, the honest and the intelligent were in the majority. To these the usual tribute of imitation and envy was paid by the ignorant and the malicious. The noisy fault-finder, the factious orator, the insinuating, the insulting, the insincere—all had a place in the personnel of the Commune. The honest were suspected, the truthful were distrusted, the gifted were denounced. But when the day arrived that called for the acts of men, Delescluze went to his death like a Spartan, and Domorowski died defending the barricades, while those who had traduced and chided were active only in an attempt to escape from the disaster which ignorance and malice had hurried upon the defenders of the Commune.

Notwithstanding the bitterness, incapacity and apparent insincerity displayed by some of the members of the Commune and by others connected with the insurrection, it is a noteworthy fact that no one—man, woman or child—was driven from the cause by threats, bribed by gold. The bourgeoisie found their spies in their own ranks: they recruited their hired informers from their own people. No communist, nor one identified with the movement in any capacity, has been displayed in the role of traitor. The only purchase made by Thiers' gold proved to be an ambush, in which the assembly lost heavily in men, which was little to them. But they lost their gold, which they prized above the heaven they so hypocritically called upon to witness the justice of their infamous and cruel acts. The communal movement, drawing its supporters from every station in life, from the titled aristocracy to the poorest in a great city, developed strong men and weak men, wise men and foolish men, good men and bad men, but of traitors—not one. Gold in the banks, gold to be had for the asking for service to the enemy—but the principle for which they strove was held without price and beyond purchase. This fact pressing home in the heart of every proletarian strengthens him in his purpose to avoid the errors, but cling close to the wisdom and honor of the Paris Communist.

Allowing for the errors from which no human ef-

fort is free, and realizing the astounding temerity which forwarded the establishment of the Commune, none can escape a deep conviction of the integrity of the effort. Narrow them as you may, the grandeur of the principles involved and the very helplessness of the struggle inspire an uncommon respect for those foremost in the uprising and raise new hope for the class, which so valiantly defended their cause, the cause of the workers.

From Stockholm to Rome, from Constantinople to San Francisco, the seeds of economic liberty, planted by these pioneers, are growing and bearing fruit, forbidden no longer to the common people. A rising tide of political intelligence bears us on toward the heaven of equality in opportunity. Socialism advocates labor, only that the day may be hastened when no man can live by the exerted energy of another.

We hope for the time when National barriers will fade into the lines for humanity and justice. We strive for the establishment of social conditions in which the last tyrant—economic or political—shall be swept from an earth owned by the people and operated for the benefit of mankind.

Labor's Economic Struggle

Notes Showing the Strife Between Organized Labor and Capitalism

GERMANY.

According to a recently issued report the trades unions of Germany had a membership of 864,350 at the close of last year.

The law raising the age limit of child labor and abolishing night work for women and children, which was hammered through the Reichstag by the Socialists, has gone into effect.

The South German cotton weavers met at Stuttgart and voted to restrict 25 per cent of the production during April, May and June. This will result in the forced idleness of thousands of working men, women and children.

AUSTRIA.

Twenty-five per cent of the women who earn their own living are engaged in mines and factories. An examination of the general conditions under which women exist in Austria gives very lamentable results.

FRANCE.

At the close of 1899 there were 2,685 trade unions in France, the total membership being 492,647, an increase of 73,000 as compared with the previous year.

There is great excitement in Paris about the Rue de la Paix, where all the fashionable dressmakers are, as the work-girls, dressmakers, and milliners are on strike. They are agitating for an eight-hour day and for higher wages.

The French National Federal Committee of miners has decided to support the strikers at Saint Eloy and Montceau les Mines. It has declared a general strike, and issued an appeal to the public for funds to assist in carrying it out.

Three thousand dock laborers struck at Marseilles because the contractors refused to dismiss certain objectionable overseers. Later the strikers enlarged their claims and demanded a reduction in the hours of work and increased pay. They are encouraged by the sympathetic attitude of the Socialist mayor of Marseilles, who is president of the International Dock Laborers' Union.

ITALY.

Naples, March 19th.—The dock laborers of Naples today refused to unload a ship which came from Marseilles, where the dock-laborers are on a strike. They threaten, if any attempt is made to unload any ships which are prevented from unloading in the French port, that they will strike. This is a noble example of class-conscious international solidarity.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Trades unions in Great Britain gained 20 per cent of an increase for the last eight years of the past century. Last year the gain showed an increase of nine per cent. The clothing trade organizations, however, suffered a decrease.

CANADA.

Four Boot and Shoe Worker's Unions in Montreal, representing about 3,000 members, have voted by overwhelming vote to join the International Union in a body. Two large unions in St. Hyacinthe have done likewise. In Three Rivers and in the city of Quebec the same result is expected.

UNITED STATES.

Printers are criticising Bryan because his paper does not bear the union label.

A sweeping injunction has been issued against the striking miners of New Mexico.

There are now 63 unions in the International Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers' union.

The Falls Cotton Mill of Norwich, Conn., reduced the wages of the operatives 10 per cent.

A charter has been granted to the bricklayers and masons of Honolulu. Eight hours prevail.

The trades unionists of Philadelphia are after a policeman's scalp for breaking up a labor meeting.

Reports from the large cities indicate that the machinists are getting ready to enforce the nine-hour day in May.

Bakers are angry because in New York scabs have been organized by K. of L. schemers to fight the union.

Some of the Southern cotton mills are closing to "curtail production," and the workers will soon be hungrily waiting for them to start.

(Continued on Page 3.)

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Send no money directly to ADVANCE, if you do not subscribe through our accredited agents. No other person is authorized to receive money for this paper.

Contributions and items of news concerning the labor movement are requested from our readers. Every contribution must be accompanied by the name of the writer, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith.

Recruiting officers report that enlistments are very slack. It would seem that the people who do the work for the capitalists are growing tired of committing murder for them.

In view of the professor's "biologico-astronomical" propensities, we suggest that the star which blazed so brightly for a while in the sky and is now fading away be named De Leon. Both will soon be but a memory.

The conduct of the Russian students in their long, self-sacrificing and heroic battle against the powers of despotism and darkness affords a gratifying contrast to the contemptible cowardice of the bourgeois lickspittles who at Stanford University endorsed Jordan's suppression of academic freedom.

Tuesday morning's "Chronicle" contained a most pointed object lesson in the economics of the trust. On the first page was an announcement that the Rockefeller Iron interests have been definitely merged in the great billion-dollar steel combine, raising its capitalization \$100,000,000.

The constitution is supposed to guarantee each citizen his right to life, to liberty and to the pursuit of happiness. To show how far it fails in this under modern conditions, it will be sufficient to examine how the first and primal right is guarded.

Augusta, Me., Feb. 25th.—Owing to the fact that the ice trust has found it profitable not to work on the Kennebec this winter, seventy-five hundred men are out of employment.

In the face of this, of the Fall River close-down and other numerous lockouts, who will dare say that the constitution guarantees that necessary corollary of the right to live—the right to work?

A SILURIAN EDITOR.

An ignoramus by the appropriate name of Green, who drives the editorial farm-wagon of the Colusa "Sun," has ventured unwarily from the obscurity of his rural pastures and sought to emblazon the "Evening Post" with his mental excretions.

Then, as our prosperity must be based on agriculture, I would encourage small land holdings and discourage large land holdings by exempting from taxation every tree and vine, every improvement and everything animate or inanimate pertaining to the farm.

boom the State, and put her foremost in the ranks, but nothing will do it like small land holdings and diversified farming, and, in fact, all the rest will follow these."

The antiquated notion that prosperity is based on agriculture is an inheritance from the Physiocrats of the eighteenth century. That the solar luminary from Colusa should display this heirloom is not specially remarkable.

It is the productive superiority of the industrial trust which has wrested from Europe her erstwhile commercial supremacy and transferred the seat of financial empire from London to New York.

Against the desire of this editorial relic of the dark ages we place the opinion of a twentieth century business man, to show that any reversion to primitive forms of industry is improbable, and the comment of the editor of the "Bulletin" to show that it is quite undesirable.

Mr. J. Sterling Morton, ex-Secretary of Agriculture, has expressed the opinion that within the next fifty years the business of agriculture will be carried on by larger corporations which will displace the small farmer as the corporations have already displaced the small manufacturer.

From this we see what is necessary to the maintenance of the "buffer between the trust and the dinner pail." The low standard of living, the "self-supporting" infants, the overworked farmers' wives, the slaves of farm labor who work from starlight to starlight—all these are the condition of the maintenance of the great balance wheel of civilization.

The desire to be different, to be unique, is the explanation of many a fluctuating opinion. This childish characteristic need not lead one into being absurd. One can be a true man; the quality is sufficiently scarce to confer distinction.

LETTER BOX

J. A. J., Los Angeles: Yours of the 14th inst. at hand and subscription renewed. Many thanks for encouraging words. Will drop letter as soon as we find time.

Chas. F. K., Los Angeles: We do not believe in such circus-down tactics that are doing more harm than good to the movement. Neither do we believe that men who can be caught by such tactics will make intelligent, strong, reliable Socialists.

"First Freedom, and then Glory. When that fails, Wealth, vice, corruption—despotism at last. And History, with all her volumes vast. Hath not one page." Byron.

Organized labor has, times without number, aided the election of "good union men" to office on old party tickets, only to find when success crowned their efforts that their chosen champions were just as subservient to the party lash as any time-serving politician.

IN THE Industrial Arena

BY JOS. J. NJEL.

Wage workers, who belong to any trade that is not yet organized should send their names and addresses to the Labor Editor, whose name will be classified into their respective trades and as soon as enough are obtained of any occupation, a meeting will be called and a union organized. All unions organized through the medium of "Advance" will be affiliated with the Labor Council and the American Federation of Labor.

There is a supreme moment in the affairs of every man when his decision determines his character. These culminative periods come in the ordinary course and are often disguised or are so out of mental focus as to be indistinct.

Through a process extending over years their sensibilities have become dulled, their delicacy non-existent. Every emotion, every sentiment, has acquired a market value. Their smiles go to the highest bidder and the highest bidder may be a pure and simple labor faker.

It is an unlovely word, labor faker, but it has a wealth of meaning. There was once a time that I vowed never to let it pass my lips: now I must thank Mr. De Leon for preserving it to the vocabulary of the social revolution.

It is a pitiful exhibition of human weakness to see men sacrificing their principles for the sake of place and power. It is even worse to watch the struggles of men you once trusted, clipping from a so-called philosopher here and another there, to find apology for becoming a pervert.

The reason for the foregoing preaching is found here at home:

The supreme moment has arrived in our movement, in San Francisco, that determines the character of the Socialists in the trades' unions. Gradually, the necessity for a choice between two courses has been developed.

The desire to be different, to be unique, is the explanation of many a fluctuating opinion. This childish characteristic need not lead one into being absurd. One can be a true man; the quality is sufficiently scarce to confer distinction.

It is an unfortunate truth that the class of men who come to the top in workingmen's organizations are in more senses than one a regrettable lot. Perhaps the quality is innate, perhaps the environment is too much for them.

Perhaps this article may cause them to classify themselves; it may even cause them to hedge. But whatever it does, there will be the same watchfulness in the future there has been in the past and wherever a tendency to pure and simple methods crops up among men we have put our faith in, there will be exposure.

Despite the sociologists and other quick thinkers

the trusts are not controlling production and keeping it within such bounds that a crisis is impossible. Already the rumblings of the impending crash are being heard in England and Germany.

The absurdity of certain superficial reasoners, who contend that, as the trusts control production, a crisis would be impossible, as it would be against the interests of the trusts to glut the market, appears when we know that a permanent crisis would be the result of a curtailment of the production of commodities to meet the demand only.

The trusts, however, are not a static entity. Nor are they limiting production to meet the demands of the market. A couple of years will open up a world of possibilities in the way of propaganda for Socialism and the occasion will be a crisis that will encircle the world of capitalism.

Streator, Ill., is the best organized town in the United States from a trade union standpoint.

The city is so well unionized that at the present time it is impossible for a man or woman to work on any job, skilled or unskilled, without being first admitted to membership in some labor organization.

A striking feature about Streator is the great success of the Federal Labor Union. This union numbers about 800 members and includes all wage workers who are not members of any regular national union.

Following the organization of the federal union as a branch of the American Federation of Labor, the minimum scale for unskilled labor was raised from \$1 and \$1.25 a day to \$1.65 for men.

Streator is a mining center and has a large union of mine workers. The unions are active in politics, and have already elected members to the municipal board of aldermen who are independent of the regular parties.

Work has stopped in the Gambrinus and Weinard breweries in Portland and also in the Star brewery in Vancouver. It has been so ordered by the local Executive Committee of the Pacific Coast Brewery Workers' Association.

In the places where the men will strike non-union men are employed and the union men are blacklisted. The above-named breweries will be boycotted until they employ only union men and reinstate the blacklisted men.

Boycotts will be declared in all cities where the Portland beer is sold. The San Francisco Labor Council will be asked to declare a boycott in this city.

TO MAKE MEN FREE.

To make men free has been the dream Of every noble soul on earth— To bring a better time to birth; To see the future's hills agleam With the first holy light Of a new era bright, From which the human night Of ages speeds away. Its sable folds withdraw Before the golden dawn. Where earth goes rolling on Into the grander day.

—Exchange.

"See here!" exclaimed the shopper, excitedly. "there's a man dropped dead in that bargain crush!" "How inopportune!" cried the floor-walker. "We have not yet opened our undertaking department."—Philadelphia Press.

Like Queen Anne, Queen Victoria is dead. She held the same situation for over sixty years, was frugal and attentive to her duties all that time, and left a large family well provided for. We are also informed on high authority that she was virtuous.—Worker's Republic.

LABOR'S ECONOMIC STRUGGLE

The Window Glass Workers' Association of Pittsburgh, Pa., has increased the appropriation for the striking window glass workers in Belgium from \$1,000 to \$1,500 a week.

At a meeting of labor leaders at Reading, Pa., recently, it was decided to establish a co-operative store, at which only goods made by union labor will be sold. It is to be capitalized at \$20,000, and shares will be sold at \$10 each.

A compulsory arbitration bill is before the New York Legislature which, if enforced into law, according to trade union people, will put organized labor out of business.

Plumbers' union of Marion, Ind., after a strike of five days, gained a reduction in hours and a scale of 20 cents per hour for gas-fitters and 30 cents per hour for plumbers.

Nearly 200 silk ribbon weavers are on strike in New York, because of the discharge of two of their fellow employes and to secure the right to form a union.

The United States Cotton Company of Rhode Island notified its 650 "hands" of a 10 per cent reduction in their wages. Cause given: depression in the print cloth market.

The International Boilermakers union organized 51 new-unions with a gain of 2,212 in membership, during the past year. Hours were reduced and wages increased in many cities.

Eleven hundred men, women and children have been locked out by the Maynard (Mass.) Mills, owned by the American Woolen Company, as the result of a demand for \$10 a week for sewers and menders.

Carroll D. Wright, the labor commissioner, has come to the conclusion that the employers' liability laws of the various states are practically worthless as a means of protection to injured employes.

The Longshoremen's unions of Cleveland, Lorain and Fairport, Ohio, have formed a central council composed of nearly 75 delegates and representing 5,000 men employed on vessels and docks.

A dressmakers' union has been organized in New York, and it is proposed to place organizers in the field and make the union a national one. Better pay and shorter hours is the object.

Within the last ten days 20 engineers and firemen on the Galesburg division of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad have been discharged, as the men allege, for holding membership in the railway brotherhoods.

Of the 33,000 operators in the cotton mills of Massachusetts, 15,800 are women and children. Skilled men receive \$1.10 per day; unskilled, 60 cents; skilled women, 65 cents; unskilled women, 47 cents; and children, 21 cents—working from ten to twelve hours per day.

Three hundred shoemakers of Haverhill, Mass., struck on account of the discharge of three union men. At the end of three days they all returned to work, having unionized the entire factory and secured an advance of wages in three departments.

The unions of Mecca, Indiana, have notified the merchants of that town that on and after April 1, 1901, all merchants must handle goods bearing the union label, and that they will absolutely refuse to purchase goods from those who fail to comply with the request. Mecca has three unions—two miners' unions, the other a federal labor union.

After several years of agitation the unions of New Haven, Conn., secured the passage of an ordinance compelling contractors to employ union men whenever possible on city work. Now the corporation counsel has declared the act unconstitutional, as interfering with "the freedom of contract." Of course, the unionists are swearing and the capitalists and politicians are much pleased.

Carroll D. Wright's last bulletin gives an interesting table of wages and cost of living in the Philippines. The cost of living for a white man is rather higher than in this country. Here are a few samples of wages: Bakers, \$8 and \$9 a month; blacksmiths, \$5 to \$9 a month; cigarmakers, 25 to 50 cents a day; electricians, \$5 to \$15 a month; woodworkers, 25 to 37 cents a day. It is rather difficult for a union man to see the advantages of a change of climate for such wages, but how about the competition of articles made at such prices, with the product of union labor?—Citizen.

The French and Italian bakers of Los Angeles are on strike for six work days in the week.

The organized bakers and confectioners of San Francisco will celebrate the 1st of May, the international holiday of the militant proletariat all over the world, by staying out of their shops on that day and holding a grand parade and picnic. This decision was reached unanimously at the last meeting of the union, held on March 16th.

Socialists and Oratory.

The movement demands speakers more than anything else. Good ideas are often ruined by a poor expression. Men who would otherwise make their mark among us are handicapped by lack of training in this particular line. A chance to overcome this defect is presented by Comrade F. Cooke Caldwell, trainer of the University of California Debating Team and formerly instructor of oratory and elocution at Santa Clara College and elsewhere, whose advertisement is on the last page.

SOCIALIST DEBATING CLUB.

Justice Hall in Pythian Castle was filled to its capacity on Sunday night. The subject of debate was: "Do modern implements of war promote or retard the progress of the world?" Messrs. Zant and Hansen were on the side of the implements, and Messrs. Wells and Hilken fought against them. They were about fairly matched and an interesting debate followed. The vote stood 21 in favor of Zant and Hansen and 37 for Wells and Hilken. On the question itself 21 were for war and 54 against; but not more than one third of the audience voted. Next Sunday the question is: "Resolved that the Class Struggle is a living fact in present society."

THE JUGGERNAUT OF RUSSIA.

The Flower of Her Youth Sacrificed to Brutal Despotism.

Russia is the most despotic country in the world. Freedom of speech, freedom of press, free gatherings for the discussion of some political or moral problem are strictly prohibited.

In other words, no person has a right to express his opinion FREELY, without asking the permission of an official, and if he violates the law he is subject to the most severe punishment.

But there are people in Russia who defy cold Siberia, who defy the most exhausting Russian goods, who laugh at the hangman's rope, and do break the laws when an occasion arrives.

And these people are the noble Russian youth (very often belonging to the highest aristocracy), the Russian studentship.

In no other country in the world does a body of young men and women work so hard for the cause of liberty. Hundreds of them have been sent to Siberia, hundreds of them have been executed in the most shameful manner and who knows how many noble and precious lives will yet be lost, but the struggle is kept up, and will likely not be given up until the battle is won.

The history of the Russian revolutionary movement is a series of attempts and failures, and each attempt and each failure has cost Russia the flower of her youth. The future historian of that noble movement will have to tell a bloody tale of that heroic struggle.

Yes, the Russian revolutionary movement stands unique, and is unparalleled in the history of similar movements, and for the following reasons:

A body of men working for a certain cause are generally capable to arouse the sympathy of their fellowmen, by appealing to them through the press, through lectures, meetings, etc.

Let us recall, for example, the CAUSE FOR ABOLITION OF SLAVERY, or the present SOCIALIST MOVEMENT.

But not so in a country like Russia. The Russian peasantry, numbering about sixty million of people, are kind and naive, but the majority of them are illiterate, and cannot be appealed to very well. Some of them maintaining, even up to the present day, that the Tzar (Czar) has been appointed by the Almighty to watch over the welfare of the Russian people.

The factory workers, who are a little more enlightened than the peasantry, could not be reached for the simple reason that free speech and free press are forbidden.

And yet the noble Russian youth, inspired by the Holy Cause, taking the Napoleonic "nothing is impossible" as their motto, have exclaimed: "To work!"

And what did they do? Hundreds of them, armed with the Gospel of Freedom, at the risk of their lives, went "among the people," lived and worked with them, taught them the art of reading and writing and thus succeeded in spreading ideas of freedom among them, and arousing their sympathies and activity.

The same thing was done among the industrial workers, concentrated in the factory towns.

True, this mode of propaganda has cost Russia an enormous price, hundreds of these noble apostles being lost in the battle, but a grand piece of work has been accomplished.

Recent strikes and all sorts of demonstrations in Russia clearly show that the Russian people are awakening from their slumber, and that the heroic efforts of the young martyrs have not been in vain.

The cause of liberty is progressing slowly but surely. The secret societies, spread throughout Russia, supply the people (and there is a great demand for it) with necessary literature and thus imbue them with ideas of freedom. Even the peasants are getting discouraged and are gradually losing faith that anything is to be expected from the Tzar.

Among the educated people of Russia the political pulse is becoming quicker. They no longer look upon the movement as a mere dream, a voice in the wilderness, and try by all sorts of legal means to assist the movement by spreading useful knowledge among the masses. To be sure, the Russian government is not very much pleased with this state of affairs, and is trying most shameful means to thwart the progress of that movement.

A couple of years ago the Tzar issued a decree forbidding all sorts of "gatherings," meetings (schodki) political or otherwise, within or without the walls of the university, threatening those who would violate the law by excluding them from the university or MAKING THEM SERVE IN THE RUSSIAN ARMY.

A short time ago a rumor was spread among the students of the university of Kiev that two of their comrades had stolen some valuables from two loose women with whom they had been carousing. This shameful deed has made such a powerful impression upon the students that they have immediately called a meeting to discuss the question why some students have lately been shamefully behaving. The orators, addressing the meeting, have pointed out that the government, having introduced a military regime into the universities, is directly responsible for the apparent misbehavior of some of the students.

The university was immediately surrounded by troops, and after a few sharp words that were exchanged between the military officials and the students, the latter were compelled to leave the university hall, and on the following day numerous arrests were made. Many students have been banished from the university, and about 183 were made soldiers and are compelled to serve in the Russian army. This barbarous act has called forth strong indignation in every civilized nation, and the Society of Friends of Russian Freedom of England, consisting of many prominent Russians and Englishmen have issued a protest condemning such unheard of punishment.

The above mentioned society has sent a copy of this protest to the Russian colony of New York, asking them to make it known to the American people.—Archibald Goudiss, in New York "People."

PROPAGANDA MEETINGS.

Cameron H. King, Jr. was greeted by a crowded meeting in the Academy of Sciences on Thursday evening. His lecture was entitled "Supposing." The subject was handled with his usual ability. Questions and short speeches followed in their order to the close. Next week A. A. Crockett will speak on the "Benefits of co-operation."

Why Mary Would Not Wed John.

BY SCOTT ANDERSON.

Mary Thompson was a very bright and attractive young woman some twenty years of age. Her parents were very poor. Her mother, however, had helped and encouraged her in every way to get a good education. When she was eighteen she passed a very creditable examination, obtained a certificate of competency as a teacher, and some few months afterwards got an appointment in the public school. Her salary, which was \$60 per month, placed her above want and enabled her to help her parents, with whom she lived.

Mary was naturally of a very cheerful disposition and delighted in making everybody feel as happy and joyous as she showed herself to be. She was loving and kind to her scholars and they all returned her love; they would do anything for her—in fact, she had no trouble with them. The superintendent of the school said that she was an ideal teacher.

One thing Mary never forgot and that was the wretchedness and poverty in which she had been placed in her girlhood, and the struggle through which she passed up to the time of her examination. Early in October, 1900, a lecturer on Socialism came to the town and announced his subject—"The Abolition of Poverty." Mary attended the lecture and listened attentively to all that was said.

The lecturer showed that "poverty only existed because the idle rich, having secured the machinery of government and the tools of production, had made laws in their own interest and that of their class." He claimed that "Mother Earth was rich and could keep in luxury a thousand times her present inhabitants. Every year there was enough and to spare for all. But the bees (the toilers) only got one-quarter of what they produced, while the idle drones stole the rest of the honey."

The lecturer made it very clear that "there was only one legitimate way to alter all this, viz., that the bees should secure their own, by electing to office in every city, county, State and in the Nation bees who would change the laws, give the full fruit of their labor to the toilers, and turn out of office every drone."

When he described, in forcible language, the condition of the miners in Pennsylvania and of the workers in the sweat-shops in Massachusetts, Mary's eyes were suffused with tears. The lecture over Mary was found to be an enthusiastic convert. She bought the party papers and a quantity of literature and handed in her name for membership.

Mary was noted for having a very strong will and an independent mind. She had many accomplishments, although she could not play any musical instrument. She had had no time and no means to acquire skill in that direction, but she could sing beautifully and had considerable ability as a reciter, so she was in constant demand at church, school and other places.

Among her numerous acquaintances was John Elliot, a journeyman carpenter. The girls all said that John and Mary were keeping company and would make a match. John was a young man almost any girl would have admired; he was tall, handsome, always well dressed (his parents were fairly well-to-do), a witty and sparkling conversationalist, and the best dancer in his circle. Mary like him very much and was always pleased to be his companion. John loved Mary, and thought her the sweetest and best girl he had ever known, but he had not yet asked her to be his wife; he had not screwed up his courage to the sticking point.

On the occasion of the Socialist lecture he had been out of town and therefore did not hear it. The next night Mary and he spent the evening together and Mary could talk of nothing else but the lecture; her mind was full of it. John made one or two observations, not very complimentary, to Socialism which Mary completely demolished. In solid argument he was no match for Mary, so, very wisely, he ceased to try. Mary had been invited to come to the business meeting of the Socialist Branch and had agreed to attend. She asked John to accompany her, but he declined, promising, however, to meet her at the door and see her home. She said nothing, but in her heart was sorry that he had not consented, above everything she wanted him to join.

All this happened in October, 1900. During the last week of that month Job Harriman visited the town for the final Socialist rally, and Mary and John went to hear him. John was completely carried away by Harriman, and applauded all his strong points heartily. To say that Mary was delighted was to put it very mildly indeed. She showed it unmistakably by her manner.

John noticed this, and thinking that a favorable opportunity had come, he asked her to be his wife. He was not mistaken for she willingly consented, but at the very moment of doing so, asked him as a special favor to allow her to nominate him as a member of the Branch. How could he refuse? He did not, but yielded cheerfully, and made Mary the happiest of girls.

The night before the election John had promised to meet her and go for a stroll. He came to say that the foreman where he worked had invited him to go to the house of his boss, and he hoped she would excuse him. Of course she did—innocent girl that she was, she suspected nothing wrong.

On his way home he called to say that next day at two o'clock he was going to a job in the country and would not be home until Saturday night, so he kissed her good-bye.

Mary and the members of the Branch had been figuring how many Socialist votes would be cast in the town; they cared nothing about how many went for McKinley, or how many for Bryan. How many would they get? Mary estimated 420 for Debs. Judge her disappointment when the morning after the election the number reported was but 155.

The Branch held a meeting that night and Mary handed in the name of John Elliot for membership. When the name was read out a comrade, who worked in the same shop as Elliot, rose and objected to his name, as he was certain that he had voted for McKinley. He said: "Elliot, the foreman and some twelve others were at a meeting at the house of the boss the night before the election and that they had all promised to vote for McKinley."

Mary rose and said there must be some mistake, but action was deferred for a week.

Mary was in great distress; herself the soul of honor, she could not imagine that John had deceived

her; it would not have troubled her, only there was the meeting at the house of the boss, where she knew John had been; however, Saturday or Sunday morning would put the matter straight.

John returned to town a little after five on Saturday, went home, had his supper, cleaned up and came straight to Mary. She met him kindly enough. She had made up her mind to be careful and diplomatic, so as to get the truth if possible. Therefore, watching her opportunity, she said, "John, how many of you were at your boss's the night before election?" John paused and then said, "14." "Yes; that was the number," said Mary. "And you all promised to vote for McKinley, did you not?" "Well, yes," said John, "we could hardly get out of it." "Then you voted for McKinley?" asked Mary. "Well, yes," said John.

Mary took her hand from his arm, put it to her brow and exclaimed, "My God!" As she did so she staggered. John put out his arm to catch her. As he did so Mary rallied and pushed his arm from her with considerable force, saying quickly and firmly, "Don't touch me!"

John was amazed. He could not understand it. So perplexed was he that he hardly knew what to say or do.

While he was in a state of indecision Mary recovered herself, and said in a calm, low tone, "I will bid you good night, John. Please do not follow me. I forbid it. I will explain all tomorrow." With a firm step she walked down the lane to her father's cottage, which she entered and closed the door behind her.

John stood watching her. After she had disappeared he said, "Surely, my voting for McKinley did not excite her so. Well, she promised to explain all tomorrow. I am certain she loves me, and then we can make it up."

When Mary got home (pleading a headache) she retired straight to her room. After closing the door, she flung herself on the bed and indulged in a fit of passionate weeping.

To many the act of Elliot would have appeared a mere trifle, and some would have laughed and called Mary a silly girl.

Mary took the most serious view of the matter possible—did so from the moment John's name was objected to. John had been placed by her on a high pedestal, as the soul of honor. She had made him her ideal.

Suddenly he was flung from his throne by the wiles of his boss and the subtleties of politics into the gutter of dishonor. In her eyes nothing could wash him clean.

Had she not been a very strong woman, and naturally calm, she would have been in a high fever, and possibly her very life might have been in danger. As it was, she fell into a feverish sleep, and awoke on Sunday morning weak and ill. She managed, however, to come down to breakfast. After it was over she sent her youngest sister with a message to John, asking him not to call until she sent him word. That done, she became calm and resolute, and retired to her room to write to John. Her letter when finished read as follows:

"John, when I promised to be your wife I did it unreservedly and lovingly. I had full and complete confidence in you. I left you filled with bright visions of the future. Nothing doubting, I asked for your name that you might become a member of the Socialist party; you gave it to me freely. Your engagement ring, made of diamonds and rubies, would not have pleased me half so much. The diamond of your promise shone into my soul. Before me lay a bright future. You and I, soul to soul, heart to heart, would labor to change the hard conditions of the past. John, my father never received more than seven and a half dollars a week in his life. He did not average more than eight months' work in the year. Thus, all my mother had for everything was five dollars a week. She was a strong woman, but I have come home from school and found her weak from hunger. John, the iron entered into my soul. Every dollar my father earned he was robbed of seventy-five cents. Taking that was taking his comfort, my comfort, and my mother's life blood. I suffered in that condition for eighteen years. Thousands suffered, and today are suffering. Two days after I had promised to be your wife you parted from me to go to the house of your boss. Your promise was in my heart to join the army of justice and retribution. Your kisses were on my lips. Why did they not blister them? Then, like a slave, a coward, a poltroon—nay, a traitor—you promise to vote for McKinley and do it. Such a man cannot be my husband, or the father of my children. Every drop of blood in my body rebels, is turned to living lava. Do not write to me; I will not answer. Do not speak to me. I wish to forget you. Everything is at an end between us. MARY."

MINUTES OF CITY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, LOCAL S. F., S. D. P.

The Minutes of the City Central Committee, Local S. F., S. D. P., at Labor Bureau, March 20th, Comrade Whitney, chairman, are as follows:

The Financial Secretary reported receipts of \$25.58. The Treasurer reported the receipts of the week as \$32.08; expenses, \$52.94.

It was moved and carried that a committee of five be appointed to examine store on Mission street and rent it for Social Democratic Headquarters. The committee consists of Comrades Liess, Appel, Fleming, Everett, Dunne.

The Seventeenth Senatorial District Club passed a motion proposing the following amendment to the constitution: To substitute the term "month" for the term "week" on page 16, Art. IV, Sec. 2, "C," 7th line. Proposed amendment to read as follows: "They (the Board of Directors of ADVANCE) shall meet at least once every month and shall make regular monthly report to the City Central Committee."

It was moved and carried that the District clubs be given another week in which to make their nominations for the three vacancies in the Board of Directors of ADVANCE.

Comrades Fleming and Lilienthal were elected members of the Propaganda Committee. The chairman for the next Propaganda meeting is Mrs. Walker. Adjourned. ANNA STRUNSKY, Sec.

Seventy-five policemen protected the City Council of Columbus, Ohio, while that body was presenting a long-term blanket franchise to a street railway company. Another black eye for "public opinion."

