



# The Iowa Socialist.

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The recent appointment of Bishop Quigley, of Buffalo, to the position of archbishop of the Chicago see, made vacant through the death of Archbishop Feehan, recalls his attack on Socialism last spring. Posing as a "friend" of the working class, and especially union labor, Bishop Quigley, alarmed at the headway Socialism was making in the trade unions of Buffalo, addressed a letter to the priests of his diocese which was read in their respective churches, denouncing Socialism as "a recent importation from continental Europe, that here, as there, its avowed object is the creation of a new order of things wholly destructive of the existing social, political and economic conditions under which we live; that the attainment of the new order of things is to be effected not only by political agitation, but by violent and revolutionary methods; that the movement is marked by unbelief, hostility to religion, and hatred of the Catholic church; that it boldly attacks the divinely approved ordinance of private property, regarding it as legalized robbery and the tyranny of the strong over the weak." He quoted a certain paper as saying that "if Capitalism does not voluntarily step down from its throne, then it must come down unwillingly, but down it must come if mankind is ever to rise," and quoted the same paper as maintaining that religion is "the result of a historical evolutionary process intimately related at all times to, and dependent upon, the development taking place in the industrial, political and social life of mankind." He said that "Socialism denies the existence of God, the immortality of the soul, eternal punishment, the right of private ownership, the rightful existence of our present social organization, and the independence of the Catholic church as a society complete in itself and founded by God; and that a man cannot be a Catholic and a Socialist at the same time."

This letter was misunderstood by a large number as an attack on trades unionism and in response to a demand for an explanation on the part of the trades unions of Buffalo the bishop addressed a mass meeting of union men in which he upheld trade unionism, but accused the Socialists of atheism, claiming that Berlin, with a population of 1,800,000 and which returns a solid delegation of Socialists to the reichstag, has only fifty-nine churches of all denominations and these are state churches and supported by the government, while in Buffalo, which has a population of only 350,000, there are thirty-nine Catholic churches, to say nothing of the numerous Protestant churches.

In reply to this charge Rev. W. Thurston Brown, of Rochester, N. Y., writes as follows in Wilshire's Magazine of May, 1902:

I maintain that Socialism does not deny the existence of a God. Individual Socialists may think they do not believe in anything of the kind. And I should be inclined to think that the vast majority of them deny the existence of the sort of God Bishop Quigley professes to believe in. But nothing could better show the depths of degradation or the density of blindness to which the Church has fallen than its judgment on such a question as this. If a man repeats the Catechism glibly, he believes in a God, in the opinion of the Church. If he says so in words, that is undisputed proof to the Church. On the other hand, no matter what a man is doing with his life, no matter how bravely he is living, no matter how great his faith in human possibility, no matter how splendid his hope for the largest fulfillment in social order of the aspirations of men, if he disavows belief in the formula of the Church, if the very name of deity has by the usage of the Church become the synonym of all that is morally and ethically most repulsive, that man is branded as an atheist. Any man who should today adopt for himself the formula of Jesus and say, not in word but in action and in all the mood and thought of his life: "I and the Father are one—in me is the divine essence of the universe—in men alone is the Power which can be evoked for the achievement of any good thing"—any such man would receive precisely the same treatment at the hands of the Church now that Jesus received when he said those very words. For the people then took up stones to stone him. Try that today and see how immediately every religious journal and institution would brand you a blasphemer.

If belief in a God is belief in the omnipotence of justice, if it signifies faith in the possibility of the highest things in human character and social order,

then I maintain that you will find little belief in a God outside Socialism. But if belief in a God means the worship of some blind force that sustains and sanctions every bloodthirsty war—as some of our revered preachers maintained when we were inaugurating our massacre of the Filipinos—that sustains every brutal oppression, every tyrannical custom or tradition, then you may count me among the world's atheists. I do not believe in an Infinite Devil. In the view of Bishop Quigley and of the Church in general, that is a confession of atheism.

For the Socialists are charged in the same indictment with the terrible crime of denying eternal punishment. If any more horrible thing can be conceived than that, I have never heard of it. If any proof that the Church of today, and Bishop Quigley in particular, are worshipping an Infinite Devil as their deity, were needed, it is abundantly afforded in that horrible doctrine of eternal punishment. A man who should deliberately attempt to establish such a condition on the earth for his fellows would be voted a fiend. But we are asked to believe in and worship a God who will inflict eternal torture or loss on all whom he does not happen to approve. I plead guilty to that indictment. I reject with horror that hideous doctrine.

We are charged with denying the immortality of the soul. Surely, that is the "most unkindest cut of all." I can scarcely imagine a more flagrant example of bald hypocrisy than for the Church or any of its spokesmen to charge Socialists with denying the immortality of the soul. In the first place, let me say that I have never found the slightest evidence of a belief in the immortality of the soul in any existing church or any religious creed. I admit that our religious sects not only affirm their belief in the idea that souls persist after the death of the body, but do their utmost to make life a burden for those who see nothing in that belief that is of any moral consequence. But the Christian Church does not believe in the immortality of the soul. It has no doctrine worthy of that title. Mere persistence of being through unlimited time is not immortality. It has nothing to do with immortality. It has no moral value.

The Church has done nothing to prove the immortality of the soul. It has done all in its power to maintain a hell on earth—the hell of industrial servitude without one ray of hope of escape from it—and it has held up before the minds of men a future existence that has not one element of morality in it. Its future hell is purely arbitrary, as is also its future heaven. It has consigned to its imaginary future hell all the interesting and progressive people that have died, and peopled its imaginary future heaven with a multitude of dull and stupid persons. It has never suggested the possibility of one single form of employment in that future existence that could stimulate any real interest or develop manly or womanly character. The most it offers is either an endless singing school—everybody wearing wings, all limited to one musical instrument—the harp—or a condition of endless torment. It is simply the transference of an elaborate cathedral service or a court pageant to the other world. Now I can conceive it possible that after several million years of singing and harping and shouting hallelujahs to various persons sitting on thrones, it would become a little tiresome. The happy hunting grounds of the Indians or the endless Nirvana of the Buddhists seems much more attractive.

The Church has not solved the problem of immortality. It has not even succeeded in assuring its own members of the fact of a future life. The most any of them can do is to hope that it is so. On the other hand, Socialism is the only movement on this earth that is doing anything at all to give men and women an assurance of immortality. No man can even conceive of immortality until there has come into his soul some deep and compelling joy. That is the only proof of immortality. Immortality is not a thing that a man can convince me of by argument or even by coming out of his grave or speaking to me from the surrounding atmosphere. If I am to know it, I must know it for myself, just as I know the beauty of a spring or summer day, as I know the rapture of a pure and satisfying affection. Socialism is doing all in its power to make joy possible for every human being, to take away the things that stunt and stifle life, to give to all freedom, fraternity, hope, happiness. If immortality be a truth, a possibility, its discovery lies somewhere along the path which Socialism is blazing.

Bishop Quigley is quite right in saying that Socialists deny the rightful existence of our present social organization, and I hope he is correct when he charges that Socialists deny the independence of the Catholic Church as a society complete in itself and founded by God. For myself, I do not recognize any existing church or state as complete in itself or founded by God. There is absolutely nothing in church or state that cannot be traced to a perfectly natural origin. Whether a man can be a

Socialist and a Catholic at the same time or not, is a matter of indifference to me. Let every man decide that question for himself.

The famous Taff Vale case, of England, in which the Taff Vale Railway Company sued the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants for damages for breach of contract, was decided against the latter last Friday, and unless an appeal is taken, the labor union will have to pay \$140,000 to the railway company.

The Taff Vale railway strike began on August 19, 1900. 1,200 men were involved, of whom more than 800 had not received notice to end their contracts. The railway company claimed the union induced the stoppage of work through intimidation and picketing, and compelled the workmen to break their contracts. The facts which the jury found to be proved as to the "conspiracy" to molest and injure the plaintiffs in their business, besides picketing, was an arrangement for paying money to induce men who had been hired by the company to withdraw, and several instances of assault on non-strikers, who were called "blacklegs," "scum of hell," and "diabolical humbugs and stabs," although the union officials contended that they could not be held liable for acts which they had not ordered.

In the early stages of the case the point at issue was whether a labor union could be sued. This point was decided by the legal members (lawyers) of the house of lords, sitting as a final court of appeals, as follows: "A labor union can sue for wrongs committed, for or against it, as if it were a corporate body."

The facts of the case were then tried, and the jury, without leaving the box, returned a verdict for the railway company in the sum of \$140,000.

The payment of this sum by the union, which has a fund of \$1,250,000 in its treasury, is perhaps of minor importance. A cable dispatch from London says the decision "is welcomed by everybody but trade union extremists as the most important victory for free labor and industrial progress in many years. It has changed the whole industrial situation of Great Britain."

But the change is apt to be of a different kind than supposed by this capitalist correspondent. Deprived of their last resort as a means of defence—the strike, and this is practically what the decision amounts to—the "pure and simple" unionist may be forced to learn what the Socialist has been trying to teach him for many years—that the only hope of the working class, the only way they can ever secure justice, is in the Socialist program.

With no place to go nor friends to appeal to, Mrs. Mary Kerwin and her four children, 6327 Madison Avenue, face absolute starvation in the street. She has no coal nor any means of support.

At her husband's death she was to have received from the Ancient Order of United Workmen \$3,000 in insurance. This, she alleges, was fraudulently taken from her. Suit, she said, was instituted against Dr. Balhatchett, a brother Workman, in the County Court, but it was dismissed by Judge Carter because it was a criminal case.

Since that time friends have aided her, some giving coal and others enabling her to earn something to pay rent. She still hopes that the members of the United Order of Workmen may take an interest in her case.—Chicago American.

"Man's inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn." And it will continue to do so as long as a premium is placed on the development of the hog nature in man—or to use a more refined expression, individualism.

"Walt Whitman, the Poet of the Wider Selfhood," by Mila Tupper Maynard.—Charles H. Kerr & Co., Chicago, cloth, 145 pages, \$1.00. Mrs. Maynard is more than ordinarily qualified to interpret Whitman. She was educated for the Unitarian ministry and unites the liberal culture of that church with the wider outlook of the Socialist fellowship, since she is now an active worker in our movement in Denver. The thoughtful essays which make up this book will bring lovers of Whitman into Socialism, and will bring a needed uplift of poetry to the Socialists.

Comrade A. W. Ricker, formerly state organizer of the Socialist party of Iowa, is now on the editorial staff of the Appeal to Reason.

Order a bundle of five for a year.

One cent and a half per gallon is the price of a Standard Oil University.

For two cents per name you can have sample copies of The Iowa Socialist sent to separate addresses for four weeks.

The Socialists at Lancaster, Pa., have employed Rev. Jos. A. Klucker, who has espoused the cause of Socialism, as organizer.

Are you doing anything in the way of getting subscribers for the Iowa Socialist? Read our "Business Proposition" on another page.

There are 400,000 people on the point of starvation in Finland, owing to the failure of the grain crop. Under international Socialism a famine in any country would be impossible.

The large Socialist vote cast in Reading, Pa., has caused the Federated Trades Council of that city to change the policy of their paper, the Union Sentinel. It will hereafter be an exponent of Socialism.

The coal strike arbitration commission has adjourned until Jan. 6, when the operators' side of the case will be taken up. Clarence Darrow, attorney for the miners, is hopeful that every demand made by the miners will be granted by the commission.

"Will wage war on child labor," is the heading over an article in a Chicago paper. The only place this can be done is at the ballot box, and as the voters at the last election were in favor of child slaves the latter will have to wait another year or two for freedom.

Do not think that you can learn Socialism at once from the pages of a small weekly paper. The subject is too comprehensive. On another page you will find a list of good books which will help you to master the subject. Order a few and read them during the long winter evenings.

The Socialists of Haverhill, Mass., whose candidate for mayor at the recent municipal election was defeated by only fourteen votes, have demanded a recount, claiming enough blank ballots were counted for the republican candidate to insure his election. The Socialists will fight the case to a finish and carry it to the supreme court if necessary.

The senate committee on education and labor has reported a bill supposed to be the eight-hour bill passed by the house, but it has been through the slaughter house and nobody, excepting possibly a member of the committee, would recognize it even as an amendment to the original bill. And some union men still think capital's representatives will give labor its just dues.

"Advance," of San Francisco, claims there was no fusion of the Socialist party with the Union Labor party at the late election. That the Socialists simply refrained from nominating a local ticket in order to give the Union Labor party a chance to prove its claims if it could. "We never asked," says Advance, "union men to support our state ticket because we had not nominated locally. We gave no word to support their local ticket. We asked them, as Socialists throughout the nation asked trades unionists, to support our ticket, because it was a working class ticket. We gave them a chance to prove whether they had a right to such a title."

Four laws enacted for the benefit of labor were knocked off the statutes by the supreme courts in as many different states in just one week's time. It probably took thousands of dollars and a great deal of labor on the part of the representatives of organized labor to have those laws passed by the legislatures. It didn't take the capitalists very long to inform the judges on the supreme benches that the laws were obnoxious to them, and, being the servants of the capitalists, they obeyed orders. If organized labor would expend the money used in passing those bills to educate the working class to vote for their own interests they themselves would be the supreme court, and no law enacted for their benefit would be knocked out.

Patronize our advertisers.

The Cross Forks, Pa., News has come out for Socialism.

The Denison, Tex., Trades and Labor Council has endorsed Socialism.

A happy New Year to all our subscribers. May their shadow never grow less.

A "good holiday trade" is the most prominent thing in the Christmas celebrations these strenuous times.

Herr Bebel, one of the Socialist leaders of the German reichstag, estimates that the Socialists will increase their representation in that body from fifty-eight members to ninety at the election next spring.

The total earnings of the railroads of the United States for the year ending June 30 last, were \$1,711,754,900, and the total operating expenses \$1,106,137,405, leaving a profit of \$605,616,795. Who paid the profit?

The great nations of the world see in Marconi's wireless telegraphy a dangerous instrument in case of war and are clamoring for government ownership. The Western Union Telegraph Company is very anxious to accommodate Uncle Sam, if it could get "hooks" on the new invention.

The Socialists are first to place a ticket in the field in Chicago for the municipal election next spring. At a convention held Dec. 21 candidates for mayor, treasurer, clerk and attorney were nominated. It will be interesting news to Iowa Socialists that a former Iowa comrade, C. L. Breckon, was nominated for mayor. Comrade Breckon is a printer and formerly lived at Muscatine. As a candidate for congress from the Second Iowa district two years ago he made a run that gave the capitalist parties the first real jolt they ever got in Iowa.

"Resist Not Evil" is a new book by Clarence Darrow from the press of Charles H. Kerr & Co. of Chicago. In the preface the author says the book was inspired by the writings of Tolstoy. It is one of the most powerful arraignment of organized society ever written. It is a discussion of crime and authority from the point of view of the producing class. The dependence of crime upon economic conditions and the way in which all the powers of Socialism contribute in the interest of the exploiting class are set forth in powerful, vivid English. Printed in large, clear type that will rest tired eyes, and daintily bound in silk cloth with white stamping. Price, 75 cents.

In a recent sermon on Socialism and trades unions, Dr. N. D. Hillis, of Central church, Chicago, resurrected an old metaphor he got off several years ago about Socialism being like a mowing machine that would cut off the heads of the taller members of society, that is, those he would call the most able. It may be suspected that the good doctor was unduly alarmed about his own head. However, if his conception of Socialism may be taken as a criterion of his knowledge of other subjects, there is no immediate danger of his losing his head because of its towering height above those of his fellows, due to unusual ability, even if such a thing as a Socialist mowing machine should pass over society in a "leveling process." The doctor is either an ignoramus or an intellectual prostitute. He is either attempting to talk of something of which he knows nothing or is willfully distorting truth for a money consideration. If he knows anything about Socialism he ought to know that it will not curtail ability or reduce it to a common level, but that it simply proposes to furnish a level standing ground for all. Even a superficial examination ought to convince him that the superior height of so-called men of ability is due to the artificial elevations upon which they stand. A closer examination will reveal that these artificial elevations are composed of the bodies of human beings over whom they have trampled and upon whose backs they stand—men, women and children. Socialism does not propose to limit man's growth in any particular, but insists that all shall have an equal opportunity to grow and that none shall rise by crushing others down.



# X RAYS

By JOHN M. WORK

The debate on the tariff bill in the German reichstag shows very plainly that the people who are in power there have a very bitter feeling towards the United States. They want to pass a tariff law that will injure us. The reason they want to do so is because we have a tariff law that injures them. Tennyson's song about the federation of the world does not seem to have been realized yet, although it is in sight. What foolishness it is for two peoples to hate each other and attempt to wreak vengeance upon each other just because they live on separate sections of the earth's surface! But the feeling of the unity of the race is becoming so strong that as a rule the desire for vengeance is disguised, however thinly, under other motives, and the two peoples pretend to be on the best of terms. A while ago President Roosevelt and the German emperor sent each other messages that were overflowing with friendly palaver. They did not say anything about having the two nations quit doing each other though. Our rulers propose to keep right on skinning Germany as fast and as hard as possible, no matter how many German men, women and children die of starvation on account of it. Got to. It's a part of the system. Can't do otherwise until we have Socialism. And the Socialists of the two countries are the only citizens who understand the situation. They do not permit these difficulties to stand between them, but continue to work in harmony for the greatest object of the age, international Socialism and the tangible realization of Tennyson's dream of the federation of the world. When we have Socialism we will quit building walls to keep international intercourse at a minimum.

The republicans and democrats had better be a little careful about admitting new states in the southwest. "The best laid plans of mice and men oft gang a-glee." Maybe their little ruse of running in a few congressmen and senators will result in the election of Socialists instead. Then they will want to hire somebody to larrup them with a rawhide.

The Des Moines Register and Leader has a spasm, not to say a hemorrhage, every time it looks at the Socialist returns. It is now nervously engaged in attempting to punch holes in the Cleveland boom for president in 1904. It feels that if Cleveland should get the nomination all the conservatives would flock to him and Teddy wouldn't be in it, whereas all the radical democrats would go over to the Socialists in a body and cause the danger of a Socialist president and congress being elected to become imminent. It thinks, however, that if the Hearst wing of the democracy should be triumphant Teddy will be safe and Hearst will draw just enough Socialist votes to kill the Socialist movement and yet not elect himself. Oh, it has it all figured out to a nicety. And this accounts for the hysterical manner in which it is trying to claw Grover down from his pedestal.

President Roosevelt broke the record in his message this time. He mentioned the fact that there is a labor problem. No president ever discovered the fact before, and he didn't know it himself last year. He talks about it. But he doesn't say anything. He has no recommendations whatever to make to congress. He sees no solution except that

employers and employes must try to get along with each other. He does not even recommend the passage of the eight-hour bill and the anti-injunction bill now pending in congress. And the bitter class war goes on. Great president! Magnificent statesman!

The great question now agitating the public mind is, will congress strangle the trusts? Don't worry about the poor little trusts. Congress won't strangle them to hurt. On the contrary, the trusts will bind congress hand and foot. They won't gag it, however. Oh no, they will let it have free use of its mouth. The members will have an opportunity to make themselves solid with the dear people by getting off all sorts of political buncombe during the debates. But when it comes down to business they will not do the trusts any harm. Why should they? Will a duck swim? Will a man throw up his hand when he sees a blow coming? The congressmen are the hands and arms of the trusts. They are in congress for the purpose of protecting the trusts and seeing that no harm comes to them. Most of them are financially interested in trusts themselves, and they are not ready to commit suicide yet. Of course they may pass the Littlefield bill and perhaps some other bills on the subject. But what of it. The Littlefield bill provides for publicity of the affairs of the trusts and levies one per cent. tax on stock not paid in. It would be a good idea for the trusts to have their agents, the congressmen, pass that bill. They can easily live up to its terms, and it will make the people think congress is really doing something in the premises. If the people get too obstreperous, it would even be good policy for them to have their agents pass a law prohibiting trusts altogether. They can then dissolve their trust corporations and do the same things secretly which they are now doing openly. As the milkmaid said, "There's more than one hole in the skimmer."

Quite a little excitement has been created by the fact that the Iowa state auditor has been in the east examining insurance companies and charging them two hundred and fifty dollars a day for his services. The companies afterwards found that he had no authority to do so, and now they want their money back. It seems that although there was no necessity for his making the examinations, there is now no way of compelling him to disgorge. He has the cake and they want it, and there you are. It is exhilarating to see the skimmers skin each other sometimes.

It is funny how righteous Teddy gets when it is safe. He sternly lives up to principle in the matter of the negroes. The republicans have no hope of carrying any southern states anyway, but a strong declaration in favor of the negroes will bring back to the republican ranks thousands of colored men in the north where their votes may turn an election. In Maryland, however, the republicans are in the majority. Any insult to the dominant republican faction there would therefore imperil the vote of the state in the national election. Hence, Teddy hypnotizes his principles, says a tender good-bye to them and lays them away to sleep while he appoints the tool of the Addick's machine to the office of district attorney.

much as you can to the Assistant State Secretary, A. K. Gifford, 110 W. 18th street, Davenport, Iowa.

### STATE COMMITTEE SOCIALIST PARTY OF IOWA

**To Those Who Have Already Pledged**  
DEAR COMRADES: Through your devotion and generosity to the cause of Socialism, you last winter pledged an amount sufficient to maintain me as State Organizer during the period of one year. Or the eve of starting my work events occurred to render this course impossible. Money pledged and paid in remained in the treasury until July when Comrade W. A. Jacobs undertook the work I had planned. He has succeeded. He is eminently fitted for the work and will continue so long as you will supply the needed funds.  
A. W. RICKER.

Wanted—Canvassers for article used by farmers and others. Three to five dollars a day. Inexpensive; quick seller. Address XXX, Iowa Socialist.

### The Tyrant's Song

Tis not the man with match alight  
Behind the barricade,  
Nor he who sleeps in dynamite,  
That makes us feel afraid,  
For halter-and-prison-calls  
Soon quench these brief alarms;  
But where are found the means to quell  
The man with folded arms?  
We dread the man who folds his arms  
And tells the simple truth,  
Whose strong, impetuous protest charms  
The virgin ear of youth,  
Who scorches the vengeance that we wreak,  
And smiles to meet his doom,  
Who on the scaffold still can speak,  
And preaches from the tomb.  
We kill the man with dagger drawn—  
The man with loaded gun;  
They never see the morning dawn  
Nor hail the rising sun;  
But who shall slay the immortal man  
Whom nothing mortal harms,  
Who never fought and never ran—  
The man with folded arms  
—Ernest Crosby.

## Property in Land

Given a race of human beings having like claims to pursue the objects of their desires—given a world adapted to the gratification of these desires—a world into which such beings are similarly born, and it unavoidably follows that they have equal rights to the use of this world. For if each of them "has freedom to do all that he wills provided he infringes not the equal freedom of any other," then each of them is free to use the earth for the satisfaction of his wants, provided he allows all others the same liberty. And conversely, it is manifest that no one, or part of them, may use the earth in such a way as to prevent the rest from similarly using it; seeing that to do this is to assume greater freedom than the rest and consequently to break the law.

Equity, therefore, does not permit property in land. For if one portion of the earth's surface may justly become the possession of an individual, and may be held by him for his sole use and benefit, as a thing to which he has an exclusive right, then other portions of the earth's surface may be so held; and eventually the whole of the earth's surface may be so held; and our planet may thus lapse altogether into private hands. Observe now the dilemma to which this leads. Supposing the entire habitable globe to be so enclosed, it follows that if the land-owners have a valid right to its surface, all who are not land-owners have no right at all to its surface. Hence such can exist by sufferance only. They are all trespassers. Save by permission of the lords of the soil, they can have no room for the soles of their feet. Nay, should the others think fit to deny them a resting place, these landless men might equitably be expelled from the earth altogether. If, then, the assumption that land can be held as property, involves that the whole globe may become the private domain of a part of its inhabitants; and if, by consequence, the rest of the inhabitants can then exercise their faculties—can then exist even—only by consent of the land-owners; it is manifest, that an exclusive possession of the soil necessitates an infringement of the law of equal freedom. For, men who cannot "live and move and have their being" without the leave of others, cannot be equally free with those others.

Passing from the consideration of the possible to that of the actual, we find yet further reason to deny the rectitude of property in land. It can never be pretended that the existing titles to such property are legitimate. Should anyone think so, let him look in the chronicles. Violence, fraud, the prerogative of force, the claims of superior cunning—these are the sources to which those titles may be traced. The original deeds were written with the sword rather than the pen: not lawyers, but soldiers, were the conveyancers: blows were the current coin given in payment; and for seals, blood was used in preference to wax. Could valid claims be thus constituted? Hardly. And if not, what becomes of the pretensions of all subsequent holders of estates so obtained? Does sale or bequest generate a right where it did not previously exist? Would the original claimants be nonsuited at the bar of reason because the thing stolen from them had changed hands? Certainly not. And if one act of transfer can give no title, can many? No: though nothing be multiplied forever it will not produce one. Even the law recognizes this principle. An existing holder must, if called upon, substantiate the claims of those from whom he purchased or inherited his property; and any flaw in the origin-

al parchment, even though the property should have had a score intermediate owners, quashes his right.—Herbert Spencer's Social Statics.

This sad story is reported from Chicago: "John Ahrondt and wife labored faithfully for twenty years and purchased a home in South Chicago. There was a mortgage of \$1,000 on the property. It will be due January 1. Ahrondt asked for a renewal of the loan. This was refused. The old couple dressed themselves in their best and left a schedule of all debts except the mortgage. They put all their ready money beside the schedule and then lay down side by side, turned on the gas and died."

### NOTICE TO SECRETARIES!

Secretaries of Iowa branches will confer a favor by sending to this office all news in regard to the movement in their respective localities.

## BOOK LIST

The following books may be secured at the office of The Iowa Socialist. By mail postpaid:

- Socialism, by Wm. Libbknicht.....10c
- Passing of Capitalism, by Isador Ladoff.....25c
- Socialism and the Labor Problem, by Rev. T. McGrady.....10c
- The Socialist Movement, by Rev. C. H. Vail.....10c
- Manifesto of Communist Party, by Karl Marx and F. Engels.....10c
- Capital, by Karl Marx, cloth.....10c
- Capital, by Karl Marx, cloth.....10c
- Collectivism and Industrial Evolution, by Emil Vanderveide.....Cloth 50c, paper 25c
- The American Farmer, cloth.....50c
- The Last Days of the Ruskin Co-operative Association, by Prof. Isaac Broome, cloth.....50c
- The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State, by Frederick Engels, cloth.....50c
- American Communities, by William Alfred Hinds, cloth.....\$1.00
- The Causeway, by Evelyn Harvey Roberts, cloth.....50c
- Britain for the British.....Cloth 50c, paper 25c
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- Letters from New America; or, An Attempt at Practical Socialism, by Clark Edmund Persinger.....Cloth 50c, paper 25c
- The Impending Crisis; conditions resulting from the concentration of wealth in the United States.....35c
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- Career and Conversations of John Swinton, Journalist, Orator, Economist, by Robert Water.....25c
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- Socialist Songs with Music, compiled by Charles H. Kerr.....20c, per dozen \$1.50
- The Republic of Plato, translated by Alexander Kerr, professor of Greek in the University of Wisconsin.....15c
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- Frederick Engels.....10c
- Plutocracy's Statistics, by H. L. Bliss.....10c
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This is undoubtedly the greatest Money-Saving Opportunity of the Season, as such values in high grade suits have never been offered before, just at the time you need the garments.

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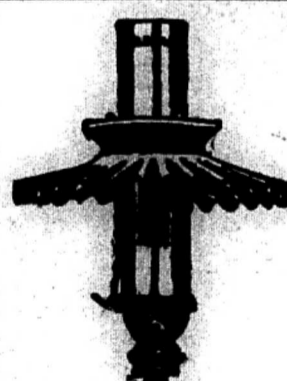
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A Welsbach Gas Light is a real light—it makes a brilliance for less money than any other medium except the sun. Its favor is shown by the number of places it is being used now where a short time ago it was unknown. Now you will find a Welsbach in almost every home. It is there because it gives so much more light for less or the same money.

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**\$12.50 and up to \$32.50**  
This is the Store of the Town.

Others at \$5, \$7, \$9 and \$10, but the ones we  
call your special attention to are the ones that  
compare with the

**Merchant Tailors' at \$25 and  
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We can only tell you of these advantages—you  
must come and see for yourself.

**Winter Wearables of All Kinds**

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In Fact Anything You Want For A  
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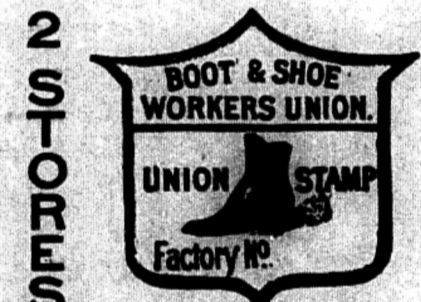
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A great book by a great author (Edw. Carpenter). Tells  
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Address, A. L. LEONARD, 31 Clark St., Dubuque, Iowa.

HAMILTON, IOWA, Dec. 15, 1903.  
Dear Comrades:  
I have been taking your paper for  
the past two or three months. I think that  
it is the best Socialist paper that I read,  
and I am well pleased with it.  
H. LANGSTRAAT.

P. C. Murray, the lawyer in the office  
building, makes a specialty of drawing  
wills and settling estates.

**A FINE PIPE**

**A Box of Fine Cigars**

Is an Ideal Present for a Gentleman.  
The Largest Line of either at  
**Lang's Cigar Store,**  
THE UNION THE GUY THE BRASS  
200 N. 2nd St. 279 Main St. 200 N. 2nd St.

**Correspondence**

From New City

St. Louis, Dec. 22, 1903.

"Krank" wishes The Iowa Socialist  
boys and all comrades a merry Xmas  
and a happy and prosperous New Year.

The woman's edition of the Coming  
Nation last week was a good one and  
we hope the comrades everywhere will  
see to it that their lady friends are sup-  
plied. Every woman worker in the  
ranks is worth her weight in gold.

The subject handled by the comrades  
in our local meeting Sunday last was  
"The Problem of Socialism." This is  
a subject that would require more than  
is usually allowed at one meeting for  
any speaker to cover the ground. How-  
ever, Comrades Bennett, Sockoloff,  
Bonni, Hansen and others gave the many  
strangers present many things to think  
about. Comrade Sockoloff showed by  
his talk that he has not allowed himself  
to become rusty by his absence, and  
Comrade Hansen, as he always does,  
dished up his part in a vigorous and  
convincing style.

Last Sunday's meeting of this local  
was the best in point of attendance we  
have had for some time. Many strangers  
were present and gave careful attention  
during the two hours session. Socialism  
is the kind of religion that people like  
to hear preached. Nobody ever goes to  
sleep in a propaganda meeting.

Those who are able to prepare in ad-  
vance for the Christmas feast have dis-  
covered a turkey trust. Keep the ball  
rolling and when all is gathered in the  
people will take charge and then you  
will not hear any more talk about bust-  
ing the trusts. The G. O. P. will then  
go out of business.

Comrade C. B. Kuhl who is employed  
in a hospital at Yankton, S. D., has re-  
turned home to visit with his family and  
friends during the holidays. He reports  
the crop of Socialists out in Dakota as  
immense. The harvest in this state next  
election will be great.

The question for consideration at the  
next Sunday afternoon meeting of the  
Sioux City local is "Christmas Under  
Socialism." This is a subject that  
should interest and attract a large num-  
ber of people to the meeting.

Sunday, Dec. 28, is the time for the  
regular quarterly business meeting and  
many things pertaining to the good of  
the organization will be considered. At  
this meeting will occur the election of  
officers. A chairman of the propaganda  
meeting, secretary-treasurer and an ex-  
ecutive board are to be elected. The  
past year has been the most prosperous  
of any since the organization of the club  
and we are all interested in making 1903  
a hummer, therefore it is important that  
a live set of officers should be chosen at  
the next election. It is also necessary  
that live members stand by their officers  
and then watch the wheels go round.

The very best move that has been  
made by our club for the benefit of the  
workers and to attract to our ranks is  
the establishment of a free employment  
agency. This step was taken last Thurs-  
day night at the board meeting and the  
next morning, before the office could be  
opened, ten men applied for work. At  
that time, of course, we did not have  
many jobs on the list, but some were  
helped and many others will be taken  
care of this week. We hope all locals  
in the state and everywhere will follow  
Sioux City's example in this line, as much  
good can be done by helping the unem-  
ployed. If this item falls into the hands  
of any who are looking for reliable help  
we hope they will write our agency for  
what they want.

The Cigarmakers union of this city is  
making a good fight against the Ameri-  
can Tobacco Trust and we hope they  
will gain their point. Every dealer  
should stand by the union in this fight  
and every other union should help the  
cigarmakers in the battle. Every battle  
won is a stroke for liberty.

Justice under the competitive system,  
thou art a jewel. Saturday last three  
women were arrested in one of the large  
department stores of this city and  
charged with purloining goods. Stolen  
articles were found on two of the women.  
Both were taken to police headquarters.  
After being interviewed by the chief  
one woman was turned loose and the  
chief stated that she was of a good fam-  
ily, all of whom were well-to-do and  
should not be disgraced by publicity.  
The other woman, the wife of a Dakota  
farmer, not so highly connected, was  
held to be made an example of, although  
the husband offered to pay for all goods

stolen. Many strange things can hap-  
pen along the lines of justice when the  
officials go it blind. Remember, if you  
want to be a successful thief you must  
stand in with the law that protects the  
rich and punishes the poor. There is a  
class struggle; get in with your class. If  
you are a thief; get into your class.

The New York Journal says the world  
is full of unconscious Socialists. The  
Appeal to Reason says the statement is  
true. "Krank" doesn't believe either  
writer is conscious of what he said. No  
doubt there are thousands of people who  
think municipal and government owner-  
ship of a few things, such as railroads,  
coal mines, etc., is Socialism and who  
expect to bring about such changes  
through the old party tactics. Such a  
class are usually termed unconscious  
Socialists. They are not Socialists at  
all. The fact is when a man becomes a  
Socialist he is at once fully conscious of  
the change and it is impossible to influ-  
ence him to look back.

A gentleman in the meeting Sunday  
made the statement that as yet the So-  
cialists had not done anything practical,  
and that we must show the people some-  
thing practical in order to convince them  
that Socialism is correct in theory. Bless  
your soul, brother, the Socialist party is  
the only party on earth that is practical.  
Was not the increase of votes from 86,  
000 in 1900 to over 400,000 in 1903  
something practical? Was not the in-  
crease in the old Bay State from 10,000  
in 1900 to over 32,000 in 1903 something  
practical? Was not the election of a  
full set of city officials in Brockton,  
Mass., a practical reality? Was not the  
increase in the Socialist vote in Iowa  
from 3,000 to over 6,000 in one year, a  
practical demonstration of the fact that  
we are on earth and are going to win out.  
Does it not look as though we were do-  
ing something practical when the Na-  
tional Manufacturers Association is urg-  
ing organization in order to offset our in-  
fluence with the people? Surely we are  
doing some practical things when the  
capitalistic press all over the country  
are trying to arouse the voters to action  
against us. You want something prac-  
tical, eh. Well, just keep your eye  
peeled for 1904, then you will probably  
see the practical side.

Seven workers and proprietors of scab  
barber shops were pulled Sunday for  
violating the Sunday closing law or  
agreement. The union workers are de-  
termined to see to it that the law is  
obeyed. "KRANK."

From Des Moines

DES MOINES, Dec. 21, 1903.

At the meeting of the Socialist branch  
today we were favored with an address  
by Hon. E. H. Gillette, ex-congressman  
from the Seventh district, and a promi-  
nent farmer, not only in this county,  
but in the west. His subject was "The  
Relation of the Farmer to Socialism,"  
and it was his expressed belief that the  
greater number of farmers were today  
as much in the grasp of the trusts and  
as dependent upon them as are the  
wage-earners of the cities. He con-  
cluded by subscribing to the principles  
of Socialism and joining branch No. 6.

We are at present perfecting a county  
committee, composed of one member  
from each voting precinct. The present  
aim of this committee is to solicit sub-  
scriptions for party papers and inaugu-  
rate a series of school house meetings,  
Des Moines being particularly endowed  
with speakers for such occasions. This  
committee will meet on the first Sunday  
in January and all branches in Polk  
county are requested to be represented  
by at least one member.

By a unanimous vote the fusion ef-  
fected in California at the recent elec-  
tion was condemned. OCCASIONAL.

BLOOMFIELD, IOWA, Dec. 16, 1903.

Well, comrades, I have just finished  
reading the Appeal to Reason and The  
Iowa Socialist. I take three other po-  
litical papers, one democrat and two re-  
publican; also two religious papers, one  
war paper and several monthlies. So

**The Iowa Socialist Publishing Co.**  
Sixth and Iowa Sts., Dubuque, Iowa.

COMRADES—Enclosed find \$\_\_\_\_\_ for which please send THE IOWA SOCIALIST  
to the address below.

Name	Street and No.	City	State

you see it keeps me just hopping and  
forgetting to see the deformed head of  
the devil crop out in what is called reli-  
gion. It gets us in a terrible fix to see  
praying people vote for the corruption  
in politics. Then to see the republicans  
put on a Carnegie and Morgan plaster  
to try to make the ignorant hypocrites  
pray faster. The good mothers pray  
"Where is my boy tonight." He is in  
the saloon all night. But the fathers go  
and vote to make the saloons all right;  
then go home or to church and pray.  
But with people of good sense these  
prayers would be and are as thin as  
skimmed milk. What is the use of such  
people to pray. But all those little  
items are worked in by the trust gods as  
feeders and work out as tyrannical  
breeders that would compass land and  
sea to get the hide and tallow of one  
flea, provided it would furnish grease to  
slide in poor men's labor and they get  
the fleec. Even the National Tribune  
goes around the box to keep laboring  
men from seeing the fox. Well, to our  
best interests we are as dead as  
snails. Now, if this is not so I am a  
liar. We ought to be like Sampson of  
old. Put 'em together, apply the fire  
and then make proper use of the box.  
Then we can see the burnt place on  
every fox. Now, Comrades, we who  
have learned these fraudulent tricks,  
must pity our ignorant laboring brother  
and send him the gospel of Socialism,  
for not long ago we were in the same  
fix and as we have received the light, let  
us act white and face the enemy and  
get every man to take The Iowa Social-  
ist and if they go to wheezing just give  
them a year's subscription to the Appeal  
to Reason. See! It will kill or cure.  
Co. K., THE FUNNY OLD SOLDIER.

**SOCIALIST PLATFORM**  
Adopted at Indianapolis, Ind., 1901.

The Socialist party in convention assembled,  
reaffirms its adherence to the principles of Inter-  
national Socialism, and declares its aim to be the  
organization of the working class, and those in  
sympathy with it, into a political party, with  
the object of conquering the powers of government  
and using them for the purpose of transforming  
the present system of private ownership of the  
means of production and distribution into collec-  
tive ownership by the entire people.

Formerly the tools of production were simple  
and owned by individual workers. Today, the  
machine, which is an improved and more devel-  
oped tool of production, is owned by the capital-  
ists and not by the workers. The ownership en-  
ables the capitalists to control the product and  
keep the workers dependent upon them.  
Private ownership of the means of production  
and distribution is responsible for the ever-in-  
creasing uncertainty of the livelihood and poverty  
and misery of the working class, and divides so-  
ciety into two hostile classes—the capitalists and  
wage workers. The once powerful middle class  
is rapidly disappearing in the mill of competition.  
The struggle is now between the capitalist class  
and the working class. The possession of the  
means of livelihood gives the capitalists the con-  
trol of the government, the press, the pulpit and  
the schools, and enables them to reduce the  
workingmen to a state of intellectual, physical  
and social inferiority, political subservience and  
virtual slavery.

The economic interests of the capitalist class  
dominate our entire social system; the lives of  
the working class are recklessly sacrificed for  
profit, wars are fomented between nations, indis-  
criminate slaughter is encouraged and the de-  
struction of whole races is sanctioned in order  
that the capitalists may extend their commercial  
dominion abroad and enhance their supremacy at  
home.

But the same economic causes which developed  
capitalism are leading to Socialism, which will  
abolish both the capitalist class and the class of  
wage workers. And the active force in bringing  
about this new and higher order of society is the  
working class. All other classes, despite their  
apparent or actual conflicts, are alike interested  
in the upholding of the system of private owner-  
ship of the instruments of wealth production.  
The democratic, republican, the bourgeois public  
ownership parties, and all other parties which do  
not stand for the complete overthrow of the cap-  
italist system of production, are alike political  
representatives of the capitalist class.

The workers can most effectively act as a class  
in their struggle against the collective powers of  
capitalism, by constituting themselves into a po-  
litical party, distinct from and opposed to all  
parties formed by the propertied classes. While  
we declare that the development of economic  
conditions tends to the overthrow of the capitalist  
system, we recognize that the time and manner  
of the transition to Socialism also depends upon  
the stage of development reached by the proletar-  
iat. We therefore, consider it of the utmost im-  
portance for the Socialist party to support all  
active efforts of the working class to better its  
condition and to elect Socialists to political offices  
in order to facilitate the attainment of this end.  
As such means we advocate:

1. The public ownership of all means of trans-  
portation and communication and all other public  
utilities, as well as of all industries controlled by  
monopolies, trusts and combines; no part of the  
revenue of such industries to be applied to the  
taxes of the capitalistic class, but to be applied  
wholly to the increase of wages and shortening  
of the hours of labor of the employees, and to the  
improvement of the service, and diminishing the  
rates to the consumers.
2. The progressive reduction of the hours of  
labor and the increase of wages in order to de-  
crease the share of the capitalist and increase the  
share of the worker in the product of labor.
3. State or national insurance of working

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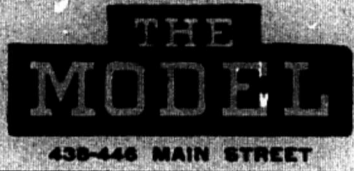
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Will buy a good long cut, Oxford gray Vicuna  
Overcoat, well made and trimmed, and its equal  
cannot be had for less than \$7.50 anywhere in  
the city.

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Will buy an all wool Cashmere or Cheviot Suit in  
all the latest styles and patterns, elegantly made  
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**\$8.75**  
Will buy your choice of a 44, 46 or 48 inch long  
Overcoat, made of Kersey, Beaver, Melton or  
Vicuna in Oxford gray, black or brown. Well  
worth \$10, \$12 and \$13.50.

**\$9.25**  
Will buy a fine business or dress suit, in worsted,  
serge, thibbet or fancy cheviot. You may pay  
\$12.50, \$13.50 or \$15.00 elsewhere for no better  
suits.

Largest Assortment of Fur Coats in the city at lowest Prices.



people in case of accidents, lack of employment,  
sickness and want in old age; the funds for this  
purpose to be collected from the revenue of the  
capitalist class, and to be administered under the  
control of the working class.

4. The inauguration of a system of public in-  
dustries, credit to be used for that purpose in  
order that this workers be secured the full product  
of their labor.
5. The education of all children up to the age  
of 18 years, and state and municipal aid for books,  
clothing and food.
6. Equal civil and political rights for men  
and women.
7. The initiative and referendum, proportional  
representation and the right of recall of repre-  
sentatives by their constituents.

But in advocating these measures in steps in  
the overthrow of capitalism and the establish-  
ment of the Co-operative Commonwealth, we  
warn the working class against the so-called public  
ownership movements as an attempt of the  
capitalist class to secure governmental control of  
public utilities for the purpose of obtaining  
greater security in the exploitation of other in-  
dustries and not for the amelioration of the con-  
ditions of the working class.

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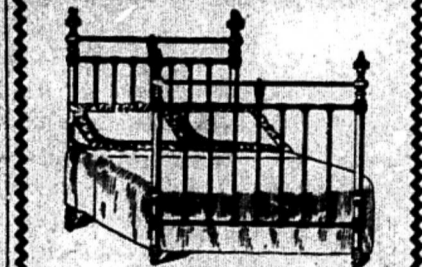
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**\$4.85**  
Buys a bed like cut, full brass trimmed  
with brass top rod on head and foot,  
brass spindles and fancy ends, all en-  
ameled parts of best material, heavy  
angle iron rails. A very good bed....  
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