

GOOD BYE, OLD SOAP BOX!

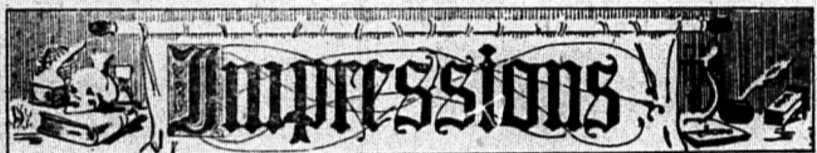


OLD Soap Box, you and I have been good friends for many years gone by. We have stood in the street together, in fair and cloudy weather, through good report and ill. But other friends, the comrades of a common cause, have decreed that you and I must separate; that I must consign you to the "younger men of the movement," as if I had grown old!

I must occupy the platform and the stage, so they say. I innocently inquired, "Why not both soap box and platform?" The only answer was, "Custom has determined that one man can play only one role." So I bow my head and submit. To the care of younger (?) men I tenderly commit you, dear old Soap Box. I shall beseech of them a gentle care of you, for you have been a comrade of the cause. No more shall we stand upon the highway together. No more "Soap Box Talks" from me. But when I give a platform lecture many a time it will be that same old talk you used to hear, dear Soap Box. Only the occasion will be changed.

Yes, I submit. But in my heart there is rebellion still. Custom has decreed! What custom? It is the servility of a snobbish age that decrees some parts ignoble and others noble. I submit, but I rebel. And when the red and glorious sun of the co-operative commonwealth has risen, and we are holding the grand jubilee of labor's deliverance, others may speak and sing and shout indoors if they like. My jubilee will not be within the narrow walls. I shall be with you, dear Soap Box, in the open air and under the canopy of heaven as of old.

Frank C. Strickland



OF THE STREET CAR STRIKE

As we go to press the street car strike is still unsettled, although negotiations are on which are expected to lead to an agreement. The strike is now over five weeks old, during which time not a wheel has turned except on the third day after the strike when an attempt was made by the company to operate the cars with imported strike breakers, which culminated in a small sized riot and a sweeping injunction. Although the injunction was so sweeping in character as to practically prohibit everybody from even looking at any of the company's property in an unfriendly tone of voice, and no effort was made by the strikers to have the injunction dissolved, yet the company never attempted to operate its cars, alleging that the mayor had refused it proper protection, although he had repeatedly assured the company that he would give its property all the protection at his command.

The fact of the matter was the company had no desire to operate its cars. It well knew that public sentiment was with the strikers and that consequently operation of its system with non-union men (?) would mean a greater loss to it than a complete standstill.

The city administration, having bound itself hand and foot in granting the company a charter dictated at its own sweet will, was as impotent as a new born babe, and as far as they were concerned the strike might last forever—or rather until about a week before the next municipal election, which would be sufficient time for the outraged public to forget its wrongs and re-elect the same bunch of incompetents.

Evolutionary Socialism has prepared the way for revolutionary Socialism. The evolutionary process is completed. The long stage of socialistic production through which the world has passed has reached its climax and socialistic distribution has become an absolute necessity. This will require a revolution at the ballot box. Revolution is the fruit of evolution. The bud grows slowly, but the blossom bursts in a day.

Mark Twain has donated his skull to Cornell University. He says he is growing old and will probably not need it after next Christmas, but if he should he will pay rent. Did it ever occur to you that every laboring man is actually doing that very thing, not only as to his skull, but as to his entire body. That his soul may inhabit his body the workingman is compelled, under the existing system, to pay to the capitalist four-fifths of the product of his labor.

The only effort made during the past two weeks looking toward a settlement of the strike was the action of the Trades and Labor Congress at a special meeting. A number of business firms were placed on the unfair list, including the Hotels Julien and the Merchants and the Nutwood and Johnson liveryies, these having succored the unfair Union Electric Co. A call to the unions of the city for an assessment to assist the strikers financially was also issued, and all business firms using light or power of the Union Electric Co. given a week's time in which to discontinue the use of same. This had the effect of arousing the business men of the city, who held a meeting and appointed a committee instructed to endeavor to bring about a settlement. This committee has had several conferences with the company and the strikers, but have refused to divulge any developments and whether they will be successful remains to be seen.

It might be well to again call the attention of the strikers to the fact that they are enjoined from re-entering the buildings, power houses and car barns of the Union Electric Co. "until the further order of our said district court in the premises." Czarism in "free" America looks ridiculous, but there are other things about this wonderful system that would be equally funny if they were not so tragic in their consequences.

Those guileless anti-trust individuals—we were going to say idiots—who hailed the Northern Securities decision as a death blow to the trusts, will be interested in knowing that the lawyer who assisted Attorney General Knox in this famous case has taken a position with the firm of New York lawyers which handles J. P. Morgan & Co.'s legal business. Et tu Brute!

In discussing strikes the Dubuque Times says: "Prosperity is the main grievance. It has made the job 'too steady' to suit certain dispositions and temperaments." Right you are brother. The prosperity that consists of a steady job is not the beautiful thing pictured in republican preachments from well-padded editorial chairs. It would tax the imagination of Dante to conjure up a worse inferno than that implied in the "steady job." Give us a rest. The working class has a right to be lazy.

In numbers there is strength.

That is to say, at the ballot box.

A dishonest man is the noblest work of capitalism.

Forging letters for themselves—workingsmen—who vote capitalist party tickets.

Thus far it has not been declared unconstitutional to demand the union label.

Protected industries—union wrecking and strike breaking with militia and Gatling gun.

Some men are born fools, but the majority become such through listening to republican and democratic campaign speeches.

At a special election for congressman in the Seventh Kansas district the Socialist vote increased almost 200 per cent over that of last fall.

A man who unwittingly walks into a trap is to be pitied, but a man who deliberately votes shackles on his own limbs deserves only contempt.

19,000 persons own all the real estate in New York city. Eight years ago it was in the hands of 27,000. Merely another instance of "benevolent assimilation."

The disfranchisement of the negro in the South and the property qualifications necessary to suffrage in some states are forerunners of the eventual disfranchisement of the entire working class—if they don't watch out.

Yes, Prof. Smalley, the blood of some capitalists is so red that their complexions assume the same hue—particularly the complexion of the proboscis. And some of them are officers of temperance societies at that.

Another thing that has not yet been declared unconstitutional is an amendment or change of the constitution. But then the judges may have been too busy killing labor laws. Give the poor over-worked devils a little more time.

The capitalist may have blood that is superior to that of the laborer, as Prof. Smalley says, but if true, the fact remains that its richness and deep, dark blue color was secured at the expense of the pale and anemic blood of the working class.

Those labor skates who would warn the trades unions against the Socialists with loud mouthings of the old adage, "Beware of Greeks bearing gifts," might do well to take their own advice to heart in their dealings with Mark Hanna and his Civic Federation colleagues.

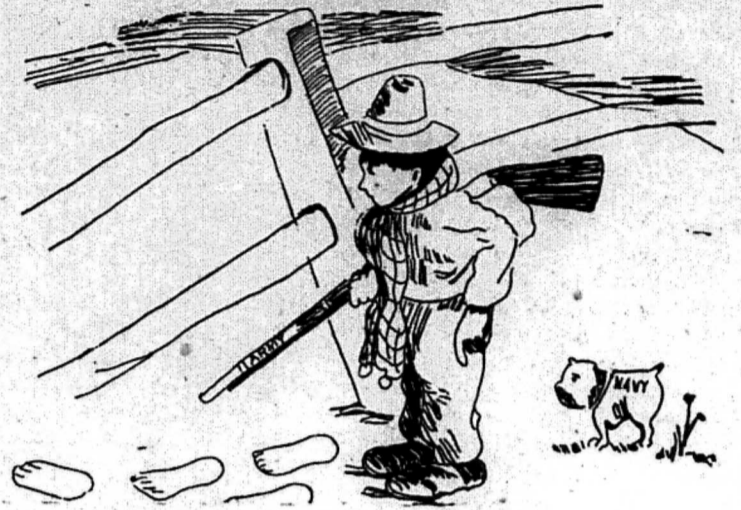
Production for profit means over-production at ever increasing intervals. Production for use means prosperity—in the full meaning of the word—for all and not merely for a few as at present. Under Socialism things will be produced for the use of the people, not for the profit of some bloated bondholder.

In what category, good or bad, should we place that "trust" of Missouri legislators who organized to sell their votes at "trust" prices? This may be the "greatest government on earth," but its greatness, like that of every other capitalist government in the world, consists largely in the infinite variety of its crimes.

Like Achilles, who was invulnerable in every part but his heel, so capitalism is invulnerable except at one point—at the ballot box. Possession of the political power is capitalism's greatest strength. The working class must deprive the monster of this power if they ever expect to free themselves from its tyranny.

In ancient times the slaves of Rome were not permitted to wear a distinctive dress lest they should discover their numbers and power. The capitalists of today do not find this precaution necessary in the case of their wage slaves, though heaven knows they all look alike enough in their cheap clothes. Are the slaves of ye olden time to be credited with more sense than the American workingman?

Capitalism Gunning for Socialism. Will He Need a Larger Army and Navy?



The Man with the Gun—"Hully Gee! Wonder if it's Bear or Rabbit!"

Propaganda

Mine eyes have seen the coming of the Spirit of the Age.
Whose sword is Education, whose victory is Peace;
Whose beneficent intention shall the curse of war assuage.

The truth is marching on.

Mine ears have heard the message which re-echoes from above—
The watchword is Fraternity, whose Plenty shall increase
When the force of jealous rivalry capitulates to love
As truth goes marching on.

My lips shall plead the promptings of the one unfailing voice—
My conscience shall not falter by reason of deafease;
For the strife of good and evil is determined by the choice
As truth goes marching on.

My heart is thrilled with fervor by the grandeur of the cause:
Whose goal is perfect knowledge; whose aim shall never cease
Till the race shall find a heaven in the Harmony of Laws
As truth goes marching on.

My soul shall stake its freedom on the universal truth:
That life is sempiternal, and death renews the lease—
That the Love of True Fraternity shall find eternal youth
As truth goes marching on.

—Robert Bielby.

In the freedom of all is the only possibility of freedom for each.

Scrap-iron in more than one sense of the word—the modern battleship.

A system that offers no other incentive to work than the necessity of escape from starvation can be abolished none too soon.

Comrade A. W. Ricker, associate editor of the Appeal to Reason, says: "I always read The Iowa Socialist the first of all the papers that come to my desk. It is a bright paper and well edited."

The admonition of the G. O. P. press to look about us and see our unparalleled prosperity always reminds us of the request Mark Twain made of the innkeeper who lighted his bedroom with a small sputtering candle "Now give me another candle to see the first one by."

It is remarkable how the press, which is so mum when the Socialists score a victory, draws on its imagination to manufacture news of the movement. The Clinton Daily Advertiser alleges the twenty-third ward branch of Milwaukee "has been stricken from the membership for holding anarchistic tendencies."

Without the ballot or any political rights to aid in the achievement of their purpose, the revolutionists of the past were compelled to resort to force. Possessed of the ballot, and numerically strongest, as ten to one, the working class can achieve its emancipation from wage slavery without appeal to violence, whenever they so desire. "Ye are many; they are few."

Nothing is sacred to capitalism. Another strike of the anthracite miners was threatened because some of the operators refused to live up to the award of the commission. Now comes a bunch of Denver employers who refuse to honor the general agreement under which the great strike in that city was settled. There is no honor among thieves. Whenever a labor union is suspected of having an inclination to break a contract or agreement there is a concerted howl by all the lickspittles in the country about the sacredness of contracts and the never ending doom that awaits those who break them. Go to, ye hypocrites.

This is the month of the college graduate. Alas, that the dreams and ideals of so many of these bright young men and women must be dispelled because of this damnable system of capitalism.

The state convention of the Socialist party of Iowa will be held at Des Moines on July 4. Under the amended constitution every branch in the state is entitled to as many votes as it has members in good standing and may send any number of delegates. The purpose of the amendment was to permit a larger attendance. It is to be hoped each branch will take advantage of the new section and be represented by a large delegation—the whole branch if possible. The enthusiasm of large numbers at the convention will be reflected in a largely increased vote at the election in the fall. Iowa is one of the few states which will elect governors this year. These states will be watched with interest by the whole party. Let Iowa give a good account of herself. Let us not lag in the rear, comrades, but push to the front. Everybody push.

Rev. Dr. Kellogg, one of the editorial writers and correspondents of the National Economic League challenged the Socialists of Seattle, Wash., to a debate on Socialism. The latter promptly accepted after having been assured by A. H. Mattox, manager of the National Economic League, that Mr. Kellogg was one of the league's authorized representatives. The debate will take place Sunday, June 14, at the Grand Opera House, Local Seattle having selected Comrade A. G. Seibert to represent the Socialists. The Seattle Socialist says of him:

"He is a workingman, a bricklayer working at his trade, and he will illustrate the proposition that workingmen have brains enough to understand and state scientific truth, while his clerical opponent will illustrate the kind of intelligence which capitalism has trained in theological schools to defend the present order of things. A typical workingman against a typical capitalist servant! Nothing could be better. A workingman who never had any schooling to speak of, who has earned his own living since he was 11 years old and a preacher who always writes after his name, 'D. D., Ph. D.' Good! Now let us see what we shall see!"

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Post Office Frauds

A. W. Ricker, Associate Editor Appeal to Reason

In the early days of Socialist agitation in this country it was the custom of speakers and writers to refer to the postal system as an example of government ownership and to build thereon a Socialist argument. When the press and speakers began to point out the difference between government ownership and Socialism, and to criticize the government ownership advocates for their attitudes it raised a storm of protest from those who did not understand the difference. The difference is this. Government is always directed in the interest of the dominant class. The capitalist class is now the dominant class in this nation and all laws are made for the benefit of this class, and all government functions are used for the benefit of this class. We find that the postoffice is of that number, and investigation now on show, that the capitalist class have been using the postoffice simply as a great "graft."

Vice Versa

One day, after awhile, the foreman of the Daily Times Printing Establishment of Blanktown sat in his office looking over some editorial proof sheets. The foreman was president of the Blanktown section of the Typographical Branch of the Federated Employes' Union of America. There was a timid knock on the door, and upon the foreman's saying "come in," General Otisky, the millionaire owner of the Times establishment, entered, respectfully removed his hat, and said: "I have been delegated by the Owners' Union of Blanktown to present to you some grievances—"

doing nothing, and that fictitious bills for travelling expenses were frequently presented and paid. He shows how the public has been defrauded in purchases of furniture, particularly for Cuba and Porto Rico. His charges also throw some light on the mail box frauds. Now while all this was going on the economical Madden has been moving mightily to reduce expenses by cutting off the mailing privileges of certain Socialist and new thought papers. He has tried to suspend all the radical papers in the country in the interest of economy. Great is capitalism. Great in its hypocrisy, its fraud, and its tyranny. Of course nothing of value will come of the investigation. An investigating committee is misnamed. It should be called "a committee to exonerate all who have defrauded the government." But why change officials. The capitalist government would still have the appointment of them, and would they be any better? And would democracy be better than republicanism? Capitalism is just as good as it will ever be. Business is, business, and a business administration exists for the sole purpose of fostering the interests of the capitalist class. Give us no more government ownership under capitalism. The capitalist government already owns too much, and it uses the things it owns for the purpose of tyrannizing the people. Government ownership of railroads would mean more government tyranny. We must take the government away from the capitalist class and put it in the hands of the working class before assuming control over any more government functions. The working class will make laws in the interest of their own class and the result of these laws can be nothing else than Socialism. Under Socialism, there will be no incentive to rob or steal, for the things that are produced will be fairly distributed. Public officials will be elected by vote of the people, and can be recalled at any time as the Socialist party can recall its present officials. Instead of shooting our surplus into the foreigner we will distribute it, and there will be neither the very rich or the very poor. Peace and plenty will flow as naturally from Socialism, as want, misery, theft and murder flow from capitalism.

placed the management of this establishment in the employes' hands, and by the Jumping John Rogers, we, the employes, as true Christian gentlemen, are always infallibly right and just, and, therefore, how can there be anything to arbitrate? If you are not satisfied you are perfectly free to sell out. There are plenty of needy non-union capitalists on the street corners who would gladly buy you out and own this establishment for a much less income than you are getting. You are much better off than the owners of other establishments in the city. The department store employes allow their owners only \$1.98 per day, and that is to be reduced to \$1.93 on the first of the month. "But the cost of living is so high," said the General, mournfully, "rump steak is fifty cents per pound now." "Steak!" cried the foreman, "oh! I see the cause of your discontent; you are living beyond your means and indulging in luxuries not justified by one in your station. Look over the back numbers of the Times and you will find many articles telling how nicely people with small incomes can live high on simple vegetable foods, without any meat. One article demonstrates that a man can work hard and retain perfect health on five cents worth of oatmeal per day. Why, General, if you will only acquire habits of thrift and economy, and forego all the enjoyments and pleasures of life, you can be putting money in the savings bank every week." Otisky disconsolately turned to go— "Stay a moment," said the foreman, picking up one of the editorial proof sheets, "I see that in this editorial you have covertly introduced some Socialistic nonsense advocating the idea of owners turning over their property to the employes and sharing more equally with them in the general income. I have pencilled out all that stuff, and must peremptorily request that you

cease endeavoring to stir up discontent among the owning classes. And you must stop all this agitation and strife against the non-union capitalists. You must remember that this is a free country, that the constitution guarantees that even the largest owners and greatest capitalists have the inalienable right to freely accept the very lowest income that a full and free competition enables their employes to cut them down to. And, if necessary, the full force of the army and navy of the United States will be called forth to enable every capitalist, be he millionaire or humble billionaire, to accept the lowest income he can get, and to physically, mentally and morally starve himself, his wife and his babies, without let or hindrance from any discontented and strife-breeding Owners' Unions. Well, General, it is after one o'clock. Besides neglecting your own work you have kept me here several minutes beyond my regular four hours' time today, and I shall have to credit myself with overtime and dock you accordingly. I must run down to the 'Elite' restaurant and get a nice little lunch, and then get out my automobile and take a little spin in the fresh air. I just want to add, General, that although your complaints are very annoying, I have none but the kindest of feelings towards you. Your interests are very dear to my heart. I am constantly trying to find out cheaper ways for you to live, so that you can adjust yourself to the cut in your income which we soon intend to make. Return to your duties, be faithful and diligent, consider your employes' interests rather than your own, and when you pass in your checks and go to the hot place, as, of course, you will, in consequence of your discontent and ingratitude, I assure you that you will have a much happier time than you are having in this world. Say, General," added the foreman, as he stepped forth from his dingy office into the outer sunshine, "isn't this a gloriously beautiful California day? When you get through your work here tonight write up a little poetry on the 'ineffable beauties of nature,' the 'unspeakable blessedness of living,' etc.: put a lot of religious fervor into it, and we will print it in 'the Sunday edition.'—Ginger in Wilshire's Magazine.

Long Hours and Hard Labor

"No man can work too hard or hours too long if his health will permit."—President Eliot. Said the miner deep down in the earth— And he laughed at the humor of it— "It's a joy and a revel to work like the devil As long as my health will permit; And, although it's a loss Of delight to the boss, He doesn't seem jealous a bit!" Said the girl in the thundering mill, With a smile that was grateful and sweet: "It's so pleasant—this spinning, I fear that I'm sinning In wanting to sleep and to eat; Oh, it would be so grand To be able to stand Another twelve hours on my feet!" Said the child in the tenement shop: "Don't send me to play if you please! I'd rather be sewing and stitching, you know, in This hotbed of filth and disease. For sweatshop, you see, Is far dearer to me Than the birds and the blossoming trees!" Said the college professor with glee: "They think I'm in earnest, but—pshaw! I'm boss of a college, and that's why my knowledge Impresses the rabble with awe. But I'm out for my health And honor and wealth. By working my graft—and my jaw." —Tom Selby.

A sample is an invitation to subscribe.

SOCIALIST PLATFORM

Adopted at Indianapolis, Ind., 1901.

The Socialist party in convention assembled, reaffirms its adherence to the principles of International Socialism, and declares its aim to be the organization of the working class, and those in sympathy with it, into a political party, 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 collective 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 developed tool of production, is owned by the capitalists and not by the workers. The ownership enables 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-increasing uncertainty of the livelihood and poverty and misery of the working class, and divides society 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 control 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, indiscriminate 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 ownership 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 capitalist 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 political 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 proletariat. We therefore, consider it of the utmost importance 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 transportation 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 capitalist class, but to be applied wholly to the increase of wages and shortening of the hours of labor of the employes, 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 decrease the share of the capitalist and increase the share of the worker in the product of labor. 3. State or national insurance of working 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 industries, credit to be used for that purpose in order that the 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 representatives by their constituents. But in advocating these measures in steps in the overthrow of capitalism and the establishment 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 industries and not for the amelioration of the conditions of the working class.

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H. Caylord Wilshire, 125 East 23rd St., New York

Books of Scientific Socialism.

Table listing various books and their authors, including 'Revolution and Counter-Revolution', 'The Communist Manifesto', 'The American Farmer', etc.

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