

FARMERS! READ, THINK, VOTE!

There was a time when one acre of a forty-acre farm was as good as one acre of a 400-acre farm; the tools suitable for one were suitable for the other. The same sized plow was used on each farm. The same kind of a reaper cut the grain, and by the same process on each farm was the grain threshed. Each farmer hauled his grain to the mill and his other products to the point where they were consumed. There was then no gauge for the prices of farm products except supply and demand. There was no uncertainty to be considered except variations of the weather and their influence upon the quantity and quality of the crop. In those days the mortgaged farms were much scarcer than the unmortgaged farms are to-day. While excessive labor, small accumulations and frequent failures came to the farmers then, there was something of independence upon which to base his hopes for the future and urge him to strong and continued exertions.

The farmer now operates under changed conditions. The progress of economic advance in this country has not been made without effect upon those who produce the foodstuffs for the people. The big farm now has machinery too large to be used to advantage on the small farm, and the small farm owner has not the capital to buy the great machines if they could be used. The uncertainties of the market prices have been multiplied again and again and have largely taken the place of the fears and disasters of rain and drouth.

Competition and the Farmer.

Competition was once the hope and is now the chief delusion of the producers in the nation. It was believed that the incentive to exertion that sought primarily for the satisfaction of each individual would ultimately end in the best possible results for all. Whatever this arrangement has done in the past, its record is now conspicuous as one of poverty, crime and dissatisfaction. The promises of competition in industry were seldom kept, and its hopes even more rarely realized. Whoever wins in the present competitive game, the farmer is the loser. While the brokers are gambling on the grain produced by the farmer, the latter is toiling by day and planning by night in a vain effort to produce that which shall pay off the mortgage, pay the taxes and feed the army of commercial parasites that continues its existence at the expense of his toll. The ordinary farmer is a man of labor and acquainted with misfortune. His exertions begin before the light of day and end after the darkness comes. He can scarce spare time to look up from his labors in the field to see the carriage of his mortgage lord as it rolls by.

Co-operation and the Farmer.

The great combinations of capital

have proven of benefit to their promoters—the capitalists. It only remains now for the people to take the organized industries, and organize those not organized, that the whole people may be sharers in the reduction of labor and the increase in production consequent upon the use of co-operative wisdom and energy. Combination has proven the means of success for the grain-buyer, the railroads and the money-lender. Why should not the land be combined for operation, and its workers obtain the full fruits of their labor? No petty scheme of co-operation will suffice to offset the combinations of capital. The anti-monopoly and co-operative stores, the schemes of financial re-arrangement, are only specious and wholly ineffectual efforts to find a means of escape from the interest taker and profit-seeker. These schemes have been and will be in vain. To escape the evils of commercialism you must find Socialism. By no law except the law of widespread co-operation can success be obtained for the agriculturist. There is now but little hope for the success of the small farmer. By a publicly owned domain, every economy of the present day could be utilized. The saving in fencing and in waste of land caused by small holdings would in itself be of immense advantage. The splendid farming machinery of today, supplemented by all that the inventive genius of man could bring forth, would till the fields with but a modicum of the labor now exerted, and with a result which would insure justice to the producer. The powers of discovery and inventions harnessed to exploit the soil, could find no limit in their application. The soil could be turned to any depth desired. Giant machines could harvest untold acres in a day, and pile up the products for the people at a cost of but slight labor for all, to the benefit of each and to the injury of none.

Be A Social Democrat.

In view of these facts, indisputable and unquestioned, the Social Democratic party calls upon the farmers to rise up against their political masters who support the private ownership in the means by which the people live. The Social Democratic Party calls upon all those who till the soil to unite with the other producers of this country to immediately wrest from the capitalist class the powers of government—local, state and national—with the end in view that all the means of production and distribution may be placed under the ownership, control and operation of the people, that rent, interest and profit may be banished, that the true producers of wealth may have the full value of their product, and that all industrial effort and legislative action may be used to establish, in place of the cannibalism of combination and competition, a government of, by and for the people—the Co-operative Commonwealth.

G. B. BENHAM.

Every year that passes makes the problem of the factory worker and the farmer more nearly the same. The "labor problem" and the "agrarian question" fade into the one great question of how to secure the product to the producer. The trouble in both cases is the same at the bottom. The things which each must have in order to produce and to live are in the possession of another class, who are able through that ownership to deprive the producer of the fruits of his toil.

It makes no essential difference in the situation that in one case the exploitation is done through railway charges, elevator tolls, farm and machine mortgages, manipulation of markets, or any other of the hundred and one ways in which the produce of the farm is filched away from the farmer, instead of, as in the case of the wage-worker, by the simple factory process of buying the labor power of a man forced by hunger to a desperate bargain with a small portion of what he actually produces.

In either case the exploitation is by means of the private ownership of the instrument of production and distribution maintained by laws enacted and enforced in the interest of the ruling, owning class.

Unite.

Wage laborers and farmers must first unite in a political party of the producing class to gain possession of the powers of government now controlled by the capitalist class. So long as the government remains in the control of the owning class "government ownership" of any kind would simply increase the powers of the rulers. Not until the producers, agricultural, commercial and manufacturing, are sufficiently intelligent and sufficiently conscious of their class interests to unite in a political party having for its first and fundamental principle the common ownership of all instruments of production and distribution and to elect that party to power, is there any possibility of relieving the producing classes of the burdens under which they are suffering at present. When the toilers of the field, workshop and office shall unite upon this platform and work together to this end it will be the beginning of the end of all economic oppression, exploitation and class tyranny.

Farmers Awakening.

This is the program of the Socialist. This is what he means when he says "Laborers of the world unite; you have nothing to lose but your chains, you have a world to gain." Already in response to this cry and in obedience to the reasoning here set forth millions of workers in other lands have gathered in compact ranks beneath the flag of Socialism for the final battle against the common enemy. At first the laborers of the factories and the mines stood alone. Their toiling brothers in the field refused to unite with them. The farmers listened to the

stories told them by their masters and fought for the capitalist against the workers. But in the last few years the agricultural workers of Germany and Belgium have been rallying by thousands to the Socialist standard, and marching side by side with their fellow sufferers of the workshop and the mines in the struggle for a common freedom, and are striking terror to the hearts of the common masters who see at last their slaves refusing to quarrel among themselves that their slavery may be perpetuated.

Will You Vote Together?

What will the farmers and wage-workers in America do under these same circumstances? Will they show an equal wisdom? They must or remain in slavery. Neither class can possibly free itself unaided by the other. In a land where majorities must rule this fact must be beyond dispute. They are natural allies. This is more especially true of the farmer of the great West. His situation is more nearly like that of the wage-worker than of any other class in our present society.

They have been driven West by pressure of economic conditions arising from this same capitalistic system. They have been followed into their new homes by an aggravating form of this same oppression, and have finally at all essential points been reduced to the same economic class as the city wage-worker. They have attempted to free themselves through the independent political action of the farmer class alone and found themselves helpless. They have been forced to recognize that the problems they sought to solve and the evils they aimed to abolish had their roots in the economic conditions that go to make up the great world-wide industrial system of to-day.

Socialism the Solution.

Most important of all since it is a problem that affects all producers it is useless for any one division to attempt its solution unaided. The farmers cannot do it. The wage-workers are equally helpless. Neither have the requisite majority to abolish present conditions, and neither alone has within itself all the essential elements for the organization of the new society.

Now the only party and the only philosophy that embraces at the same time the world-wide development of industry and allies itself with all producers is the Socialist party and the philosophy of Socialism. Therefore it is around that party and in accordance with that philosophy that the farmer must seek relief. The length of time that his present sufferings will continue depends wholly on the length of time it will take him to learn this lesson.

A. M. SIMONS.

From Socialism and Farmers, a 5-ct. book published by Chas. H. Kerr & Co., 56 5th Ave., Chicago. Send for it and read it all.

The Socialist

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LESSONS IN SOCIALISM.

About Dec. 1st **The Socialist** will begin a series of **Lessons in Socialism**, to be continued week by week for the use of Locals in their weekly meetings. They will constitute, in fact, a program for the Sunday meeting, which each Local should hold and never omit.

These Lessons will be simple in form, mostly questions, but teaching clearly the profoundest doctrines of Socialism.

We call the Comrades' attention thus early to these proposed Lessons, that they may be encouraged to subscribe for six months or a year, and to get new subscribers on the Ten Weeks Ten Cents basis.

We need 5,000 subscribers to put **The Socialist** on a self-paying basis. The comrades who have been contributing each week to pay for this publication cannot be expected to continue indefinitely. They pledged themselves only "till election."

But we cannot stop at election. The paper has succeeded beyond all anticipations. In two months time, without any old subscription-list to depend upon, **The Socialist** has sprung up to a bona fide paid-up list of 1,500 subscribers and a circulation of 2,000.

No weekly in Seattle has ever done anything like this. No political weekly in the state can show any such record.

In face of such success—proving that there is a demand for such a paper, we cannot stop.

But the critical time will come in the next six months. If the Comrades stay with us as they have done heretofore, sending in subscriptions and pushing the paper everywhere, we cannot fail.

We have a distinctly educational mission. Organization is for education. Education will be followed by an intelligent ballot inevitably. Votes, Socialist votes, must come from thoughts and convictions.

Therefore the **Lessons in Socialism**, or **Weekly Program for Locals**, will form a central feature in the paper as soon after election as possible.

Skagit County convention proved a failure, writes Comrade Emil Herman, only Clear Lake and Lyman Locals being represented. What's the matter with Equality and Bay View? No Socialist should ever have the temptation even to vote for a capitalist. Particularly should every Socialist in Skagit County refuse to vote for such a pretended Socialist as Schafer, democratic candidate for auditor in Skagit county, whose "Socialism" could not withstand the offer of a nomination by the Democrats.

As Comrade Herman writes: "We are all pretty well on to the Me-too Socialist office-seekers of the Democratic party."

Remember, boys, **The Socialist** wants the election returns at once, immediately right away without delay on Nov. 7th, from every county and city and precinct in this state.

Applications for charters for new Locals should be accompanied with twenty cents for each member—ten cents for the first month's dues and ten cents to pay for one of the following papers for three months: (Specify which paper you wish): "The People," "The Social Democratic Herald," "The Advance," "The Workers' Call," "Haverhill Social Democrat," "Public Ownership."

Some of the new Locals have overlooked the item of dues. They are quite essential to keep things going.

Look on last page, at top.

Capt. May had a fine meeting at Buckley, Oct. 3. "About a hundred ladies, 200 men and 30 children," the gallant veteran writes.

At Fairhaven and Whatcom last Sunday the State Organizer addressed good campaign audiences. No torches, no "Philippine Quartette," no brass band, no five minutes of uninterrupted cheering, just an hour of straight common sense for serious, thoughtful people. Among other things, in response to a question, the Social Democrats of Whatcom county were advised to vote for the S. L. P. candidate for prosecuting attorney, inasmuch as the former had no candidate in the field.

John Cloak, who may be the next mayor of Whatcom, presided at one meeting and D. Burgess—an indefatigable worker—at the other.

Whatcom county bids fair to be the banner county for Socialism in this state.

One real estate firm in Seattle took possession of 27 mortgaged farms between Seattle and Tacoma in 1893. And that's why some farmers are becoming Socialists.

Do you know there are a good many farmers who find it hard to get 10 cents a month to pay dues of the Social Democratic Local?

And do you know several Locals have not been organized for just that reason—in farming communities?

And that's why some other farmers are becoming Socialists.

Did you ever hear that Iowa eggs can be sold in this state so as to make it unprofitable for our own ranchers to raise hens?

And did you read that it costs \$400 a car to send fruit from Yakima to Chicago?

And these are other things that set the farmers to thinking.

And how can an irrigated farm ever be independent of the irrigating company? An irrigating plant is an immense machine like a railroad, and a like master it will become—unless Socialism prevents.

What a desolate, unsocial existence to live on an isolated ranch the year 'round! No wonder more suicides occur on lonely New England farms than in crowded cities.

The tendency to city life is normal and human. Why should not farmers be massed in towns with all social advantages, going out by rapid transit to their daily work and returning at night to the attractions of society?

No reason, except the stupid old-fogy notion that we must raise farm products by hand like peasants of a hundred years ago—like the man with the Hoe, in fact.

Individual, petty, primitive production on farms is doomed, like all other primitive, inadequate methods.

You farmers, are you waking up, are you thinking?

HERRON TOO.

Prof. Herron came from Europe and Palestine to take part in the Social Democratic campaign. That's the stuff he is made of.

His "Message of Jesus to Men of Wealth" he is now preaching in practical form. A year ago this month he resigned from the chair in Iowa College endowed for him, because capitalists would not support the college with him in it. They were class-conscious and intolerant of him in their class. It seems that they were right, too. He now says he voted the Socialist ticket for the last six years.

About all there is left of the religion of Jesus in America is coming into Socialism of the scientific order. It is clearly perceived that religion or ethics of any real kind, is impracticable "in this present world."

It is now fifteen years since the editor of **The Socialist** delivered the alumni oration at Colgate University on the theme, "Is the Ethics of Jesus Practicable?" giving a negative answer, but insisting that individuals should practice that ethics all the same—expecting the same result as in Jesus' case—martyrdom.

He now sees that, to give scope to men's moral possibilities, the present competitive conditions must and can be removed. This political action called Socialism is a means to the noblest ends. **The Socialist** extends to Prof. Herron the warmest hand of fellowship.

ELECTION NUMBER

No. 12, Oct. 28, will be Election Number, to contain pictures and biographies of all our candidates, the platforms, directions for voting, a sample ticket, reasons for voting the S. D. P. ticket, etc., etc.

We ought to issue at least 10,000 copies to distribute among the voters everywhere.

Send in orders at once. Remember, 20 or more copies are only 1/2 cent a copy.

Many people don't know even yet that we have a ticket. The capitalist papers never mention us or our ticket, if they can help it.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE SOCIALIST.

Receipts.

Amt reported last week	\$229.08
H. Holtkamp 8-9 (10 subs)	1.00
J. D. Curtis, 7-9 (60 subs)	6.00
Class War in Idaho	.55
Subscriptions	14.16
H. H. House, 7- (10 subs)	1.00
E. F. Rotscheck, 6- (5 subs)	.50
Total	\$252.29

Expenses.

Amt. reported last week	\$209.57
Wrappers	.75
Paper for Sub lists	.15
Postal cards	.25
Stamped envelopes	.50
Envelopes	.10
Pigott & French, 2,200 No. 9	21.00
Postage	.12

Bal. on Hand 19.85

Total \$252.29

Owing to sickness in Mrs. Mudgett's family and the absence of Dr. Titus, who was speaking in Whatcom and adjacent places, there was no quorum and hence no meeting of the State Committee on Sunday, Oct. 14. The Treasurer's report will accordingly appear in the next issue. Next meeting of the State Committee will be held Oct. 28, at 1 P. M., 220 Union St.

THE SOCIALIST EDUCATIONAL UNION.

On Sunday, Oct. 14, The Socialist Educational Union met at 220 Union St., Seattle, and perfected their organization. The objects of the organization as stated in the articles of incorporation are "To diffuse information in economics and especially to promote the practical application of Socialist economics in government and society." It is further stated that "as a means to this end, the Union proposes to publish a newspaper and also books, to promote lectures, institute reading rooms and libraries, etc." It is expressly provided in these articles, in the by-laws, and by special resolution that no member shall in any way make any profit out of the concern, but that all money received shall be devoted to the extension of the activities of the Union in building up the cause of Socialism.

The by-laws provide that the affairs of the Union shall be managed by a Board of Trustees consisting of five members elected for the term of six months. The Editor is elected by the Union for the same term, all other officers such as Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, members of the staff, etc., are selected by the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees, together with the Editor, decide the policy of the paper, but this as well as everything else that they may do is subject directly to the Union. The Union meets regularly the first Sunday in November, January, March, May, July and September. Special meetings may be called at any time. In addition to other requirements every member must sign the following statement:

I, _____, believing that the working class are exploited by the capitalist class and fully recognizing the class struggle arising from the opposing interests of the two classes, agree to the utmost of my ability to support the Socialist Educational Union in its efforts to educate the people in economics to the end that rent, interest and profit as exemplified by the wage system may be abolished and the co-operative commonwealth be established.

Lack of space prevents anything further being said in regard to the plan of organization, but the entire matter will be published later.

The following trustees were elected: Mrs. Ida W. Mudgett, Dr. H. F. Titus, H. H. Holtkamp, W. C. B. Randolph and J. D. Curtis. Dr. H. F. Titus was elected editor for the next six months.

Immediately after the meeting the Board of Trustees met and elected the following officers: President, W. C. B. Randolph; treasurer, H. H. Holtkamp; secretary, J. D. Curtis. The following members of the staff of **The Socialist** were also selected, as follows: Assistant Editor Geo. E. Boomer; Chief of Subscription Department D. W. Phipps; Chief of Mailing Department Geo. Peters; and Financial Secretary J. D. Curtis.

The affairs of **The Socialist** have at last been put on a solid business basis, and if its friends rally to its support in the future as they have in the past, its success will be assured. Comrades, this is your paper. Send in suggestions, send in names for samples and send in subscriptions. Be patient with the mistakes that are made. All of the work is done in addition to that of regular occupations, and most of us are new at it.

J. D. CURTIS, Secretary S. E. U.

Capitalism and militarism—"the world for idlers and for kings," will not long survive in civilized lands. Socialism, which means Industrialism, cometh and will set the seat of honor for "those who plow for bread."

THE MACHINE VS. HAND LABOR.

Congress directed the Commissioner of Labor to investigate the comparative productive power of hand and machine labor.

He notes that in plowing for wheat, one comparative example required 6 hours and 40 minutes to plow one acre with an ordinary steel plow and only one hour with a 10-disk gang plow.

The time required for harrowing one acre with the latest improved harrow was 12 minutes, as against two hours and 30 minutes with the more primitive implement.

Fertilizing one acre for tomatoes, by use of wagon and shovel, required 50 hours. Under the later method, by the use of the drill, one hour was required.

In marking the rows to set out 10,000 apple trees—one acre—it required 6 hours and 40 minutes to mark them with line and sticks. This work was done in one fourth the time by the use of tree markers drawn by horses.

In sowing one acre of wheat, one hour and 15 minutes was required by the hand method. The broadcast seeder did the work in 15 minutes.

The harrowing to cover the seed occupied 50 minutes by the old method, but only 12 minutes by the new.

The greatest advance is to be seen where, under the machine method, a combined gang plow, seeder and harrow broke the ground, sowed and covered the seed, and pulverized the top soil at one operation—one acre in 15 minutes. Another similar machine performed the same operation in 10.9 minutes. The engine required the attention of two men—engineer and fireman, making the aggregate time of the two 21.8 minutes, in thus plowing, sowing and covering the seed of one acre. Under the primitive methods the same work required 10 hours and 55 minutes.

Adding the time of the water hauler and the time for the three men, would make a total of 32.7 minutes, on one-twentieth the time required under the hand method. That is, under the machine method it required a total of 32 minutes and 42 seconds of labor to plow, sow and cover one acre by the machine method, as against 10 hours and 55 minutes by the hand method.

In harvesting, it required two hours labor to cut, bind and shock one acre of oats by the use of the self-binder, as against 16 hours and 40 minutes with a sickle.

Marking the rows and dropping and covering one acre of corn by the earlier method required an aggregate of six hours and 15 minutes work. By the later method it required 37 minutes and 30 seconds of work.

Husking an acre of corn by hand required 13 hours and 20 minutes. Cutting up the stalks for fodder by hand power consumed 60 hours, or a total of 73 hours and 20 minutes for the two operations. This work was done at one operation by steam power in three hours and 20 minutes, or in one twenty-second of the time required under the hand method.

To shell the corn by hand required 66 hours and 40 minutes; while but 36 minutes were required by the machine.

In performing these above-mentioned operations the laborers and teamsters received \$1.50 per day. The men with the steam machine (the engineer, fireman, etc.) received higher wages; but we are now more especially concerned with the farmer and farm laborer.

How many days' work at \$1.50 per day does the farm laborer get in a year?

How much more does the small farmer get in a year than the farm laborer? Each one can answer for himself.

Mr. Wright does not attempt to answer these questions in the work we are considering.

Mr. John B. Conner, a Republican, and chief of the Indiana Bureau of Statistics, published a bulletin reviewing the condition of organized labor in Indiana for the year ending May 31, 1900. Therein it is shown that the average number of days' work of 24,421 union workers was 78 days in the year, giving an average annual income of \$145.08. Compare this with Carnegie's income from his share in the Carnegie Steel Works, as alleged by his partner, Frick—\$20,000,000. Divide this \$20,000,000 among working-men, giving \$145.08 to each, and it would require the annual income of 137,855 men to absorb the \$20,000,000.

Suppose these men represented an average family of four each (husband, wife and two children), then this Carnegie income would represent the income of a population of 551,420 people. The census of 1890 shows that the population of the state of Washington was not half that number. The combined population of the three states of Maine, New Hampshire and Nevada did not equal it. The population of San Francisco and Pittsburg, Pa., combined (519,156) did not equal it. Is there any need of further illustration of the point? Compare and think for yourselves.

Farmers, do you propose to continue to uphold the competitive, capitalistic system, which is pouring the products of the millions of workers into the hands of the few?

Please note that the \$20,000,000 represents only a part of Carnegie's income—that from his partnership business with Frick. And if Carnegie's income is great, Rockefeller's is greater. And there are others.

DAVID W. PHIPPS.

WHY SHOULD FARMERS BE SOCIALISTS?

I have been asked to write something on the above question. Three good reasons occur to me.

Farmers should be Socialists because while theoretically they belong to the capitalist class they are practically wage slaves and very poorly paid at that. The farmer may be said to own his land in the same sense that a city laborer owns his body. It is his—with which to produce surplus value for some one else. The farmers have thought in the past that if the means of transportation were socialized, the question would be solved for them, but they are now beginning to see that as long as exploitation is allowed to exist, an increase in one place only means a corresponding decrease in another.

Farmers should be Socialists because Socialism brings men together. Even that rarity, a prosperous farmer, is cut off from most of the comforts of civilization. His children have inferior schools and he and his wife are remote from elevating influences of art, music, libraries, lectures, art galleries, etc., that are to be found when men are congregated together. His sons and daughters depart for the city in quest of these necessities for greater growth and their places are taken by strangers.

Lastly, farmers should be Socialists because they are usually thinkers.

The fact of the class struggle once brought to their minds will generally but irresistibly find lodgment. The class that formed the bulk of the Populist party should logically be ready for the truths of Socialism. That this is so is evident from the success which the Social Democratic party is having among the farmers of this and other states.

J. D. CURTIS.

THE FARMER POP-SOCIALIST.

I am asked, "What type of man is the farmer that you have met on your canvass through the eastern part of the state—he who is a Socialist?"

Well, generally, he is the type of man, I would say, who became a Populist in the early days of that agitation, caught the infant idea and has outgrown his swaddling clothes. The fellow was in this fix: his farm was mortgaged; a slave to the banker to commence with; then, living a great distance from the eastern markets, the railroad companies could charge him "all the traffic would bear." This man reasoned: "This is my opportunity; the banker is satisfied to accommodate me, with my farm as security; will not the same security be ample for the government as well? And if the government accepts it and loans me money at 2 per cent, this action will establish a uniformly low rate of interest and I can get money anywhere at a rate slightly in excess of that. But if these modern robber barons, the railroad magnates, are destroyed by the government ownership of the roads, and I can get my produce to market at labor cost of conveying it there, why, then these profits will come into my own pockets, see? I'll raise that mortgage and the farmers will bask awhile in the genial sunshine of prosperity."

He was a would-be plute. But as a shrewd old fellow in Pomeroy put it: "It wasn't political economy; it was romance. The thing, after all, isn't to get the produce to market, but to sell it after you get it there, and so long as the machinery of production in other lines is in the hands of the capitalist, of course I would have to exchange my labor power with the wage-slave he employs; and as he can purchase generally only what he can barely subsist on, I could obtain no more than he."

"We farmers catch it coming and going," he continued, "when we take our produce to market we are told the price that will be paid for it and we are told the price we must pay for whatever we buy. Yes, sir, I'm a proletaire, and therefore the collective ownership of the means of production and distribution will benefit me. When I can exchange the results of my time for what another man will produce with a highly improved machine in an equal length of time, farming will be worth while. Why, I was just reading where it requires only 39 hours and five minutes to manufacture a piano box buggy that sells for \$100 to \$125. Costs me now about 300 bushels of wheat. My neighbor over there actually believes that because there was a famine in India and a short wheat crop in Australia and the Argentine, and none exported from Russia in 1897, the year of McKinley's inauguration, that God is with the Republican party, and it is a matter of religion for him to go with his God. They say he prays that the Lord may again chasten the heathen. But anyway, I'm an infidel in those things. I don't believe in speculating in God's political preferences. These famines don't come more often than one or two years in ten, so the science and certainty of Socialism suits me better. It took me a long while to become class-conscious, but I have got there at last, old man. No more capitalist parties or politics for me. I'm of the working class and Debs gets my vote. I don't care if it's the only one he gets in Pomeroy."

But it will not be the only one, as several of his neighbors standing by, shouted, "me, too!"

WM. HOGAN.

SOCIALIST SNAP SHOTS.

It is safe to bet, 16 to 1, that there is one class of "farmers" who will not respond to the editor's question why the farmer should be a Socialist, for it will be a cold day for them when all classes of wealth producers shall unite, under the banner of Socialism, for their emancipation. I allude to the class which fattens on other men's toil—reaps where others sow, and gleans a golden harvest from the credulity and ignorance of the workers in every field of human effort.

"Oh, I am able to work yet, I am only sixty, and my arms are strong. Sometimes the rheumatism gets a little the better of me, that's all. But they say I'm too old, they'd rather hire a young man. You see I've farmed all my life and it's the only work I know how to do, but maybe I can catch on to some lighter job; I'll try." The old man had seated himself on a stone by the roadside—his attitude expressive of weariness and dejection. A few kindly questions elicited the same old story. A long life of unremitting toil, crowned at the end with failure. An old age of hopeless poverty, beggary. Just such a case as you meet with any day and which goes to prove the Socialists' argument beyond all cavil to the mind that is willing to be convinced. That there is no safety, no security for the future possible under a system of legalized exploitation. Here was a man who had owned one of the best farms in the middle west—had employed labor—had looked forward to a prosperous and peaceful old age. But all the while he was up against the exploitive system himself, and he went down as thousands of others have done and are doing every day.

That Socialism would remove forever the curse of unsleeping anxiety for one's children and his own old age seemed to be the main point to him, but he, like many others, seemed to be the victim of that strange, inconsistent idea that "it won't come about in our day." That a people possessing freedom of speech, a free press and manhood suffrage can not at any moment rise and say, "We, the majority, the producers of all wealth, do from this time forth determine that we will no longer submit to a system which robs us of four-fifths of the product of our toil!" It is coming about in our day because we are working for it! Brother toiler of the field, lend a hand. This is your fight!

As for the agricultural laborer, the question could be put more reasonably this way: "What can he be but a Socialist?" It's a dog's life they lead, especially here on this coast, where in most sections a man must carry on his back a roll of blankets as he goes, getting here and there a few days' work—always on the eternal search for a master. Nothing but Socialism offers him the slightest hope. If he seeks the city it is but to swell the ranks of unskilled labor, to drag out a still wretched and precarious existence. That such men are becoming, in great numbers, thoroughly class conscious Socialists, is not at all surprising.

"Oh, there was something tracked us all the way, We felt its breath upon us night and day— Its brain was crafty and its fingers deft, Our bread was taken, but the plow was left." ELEANOR SHELL.

SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM

THE NATIONAL PLATFORM.

The Social Democratic Party of the United States, in convention assembled, reaffirms its allegiance to the revolutionary principles of International Socialism and declares the supreme political issue in America today to be the contest between the working class and the capitalist class for the possession of the powers of government. The party affirms steadfast purpose to use those powers, once achieved, to destroy wage slavery, abolish the institution of private property in the means of production, and establish the Co-operative Commonwealth.

In the United States, as in all other civilized countries, the natural order of economic development has separated society into two antagonistic classes—the capitalists, a comparatively small class, the possessors of all the modern means of production and distribution (land, mines, machinery and means of transportation and communication), and the large and ever increasing class of wage-workers possessing no means of production. This economic supremacy has secured to the dominant class the full control of the government, the pulpit, the schools and the public press, thereby making them the arbiters of the fate of the working class, while it is reducing it to a condition of dependence, economically exploited and suppressed, intellectually and physically crippled and degraded and its political equality rendered a bitter mockery; and the contest between these two classes grows ever sharper. Hand in hand with the growth of monopolies goes the annihilation of small industries, and the middle class depending upon them; ever larger grows the multitude of destitute wage workers and of the unemployed, and ever fiercer the struggle between the class of the exploiter and the exploited, the capitalists and the wage workers.

The evil effects of capitalist production are intensified by the recurring industrial crises continually rendering the existence of the greater part of the population more precarious and uncertain, which amply prove that the modern means of production have outgrown the existing social order based on production for profit.

Human energy and natural resources are wasted for individual gain.

Ignorance is fostered that wage slavery may be perpetuated. Science and invention are perverted to the exploitation of men, women and children.

The lives and liberty of the working class are recklessly sacrificed for profit.

Wars are fomented between nations; indiscriminate slaughter is encouraged; the destruction of whole races is sanctioned in order that the capitalist class may extend its commercial dominion abroad and enhance its supremacy at home.

The introduction of a new and higher order of society is the historic mission of the working class. All other classes despite their apparent or actual conflicts are interested in the upholding of the system of private ownership of the means of production. We therefore charge that in this country the Democratic, Republican and all other parties which do not stand for the complete overthrow of the capitalist system of production are alike the tools of the capitalist class.

The working class, cannot, however, act as a class in its struggle against the collective power of the capitalist class except by constituting itself into a political party, distinct and opposed to all parties formed by the propertied class.

We, therefore, call upon the wage workers of the United States, without distinction of race, color or sex, and upon all citizens in sympathy with the historic mission of the working class to organize under the banner of the Social Democratic party, as a party truly representing the interests of the toiling masses and uncompromisingly waging war upon the exploiting class, until the system of wage slavery shall be abol-

ished and the Co-operative Commonwealth shall be established.

Pending the accomplishment of this our ultimate purpose, we pledge the effort of the Social Democratic party for the immediate improvement of the condition of labor, and also for the securing of its progressive demands.

"Workingmen of all countries, unite! You have nothing to lose but your chains, and a world to gain!"

As steps in that direction, we make the following demands:

First—Revision of our federal constitution, in order to remove the obstacles to complete control of government by the people irrespective of sex.

Second—The public ownership of all industries controlled by monopolies, trusts and combines.

Social Democratic Ticket.

FOR PRESIDENT,

EUGENE V. DEBS, of Indiana.

FOR VICE-PRESIDENT,

JOB HARRIMAN, of California.

FOR GOVERNOR,

W. C. B. RANDOLPH, ... Carpenter, Seattle.

FOR LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR,

E. S. REINERT, Section Laborer,
..... Loon Lake, Stevens County.

FOR JUDGES OF SUPREME COURT

D. M. ANGUS, Prosser, Yakima Co.

J. H. MAY, Orting, Pierce Co.

FOR SECRETARY OF STATE,

JAMES H. ROSS, Blacksmith, Tacoma, Wn.

FOR TREASURER,

J. J. FRASER, Machinist, Tacoma.

FOR AUDITOR,

CHAS. S. WALLACE, Purchasing Agent,
..... Fairhaven, Wash.

FOR ATTORNEY-GENERAL,

DAVID W. PHIPPS, Lawyer, Seattle.

FOR SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION,

JOHN A. KINGSBURY, Teacher
..... Prosser, Yakima County.

FOR COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

JEROME S. AUSTIN, Carpenter
..... Lynden, Whatcom County.

FOR REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS

WILLIAM HOGAN, Laborer
..... Equality, Skagit County.

HERMON F. TITUS, Physician Seattle.

FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS,

HENRY WIECK, Laborer Spokane.
LEWIS THOMPSON, Laborer
..... Geneva, Whatcom County.

WALTER GRIGGS, Teacher Equality.

ALONZO G. SEIBERT, Bricklayer, Seattle.

Third—The public ownership of all railroads, telegraphs and telephones; all means of transportation, and communication; all water works, gas and electric plants, and other public utilities.

Fourth—The public ownership of all gold, silver, copper, lead, iron, coal and other mines, and all oil and gas wells.

Fifth—The reduction of the hours of labor in proportion to the increasing facilities for production.

Sixth—The inauguration of a system of public works and improvements for the employment of the unemployed, the public credit to be utilized for that purpose.

Seventh—Useful inventions to be free, the inventor to be remunerated by the public.

Eighth—Labor legislation to be national, instead of local, and international when possible.

Ninth—National insurance of working people against accidents, lack of employment and want in old age.

Tenth—Equal civic and political rights for men and women, and the abolition of all laws discriminating against women.

Eleventh—The adoption of the initiative

and referendum, proportional representation, and the right of recall of representatives by the voters.

Twelfth—Abolition of war and the introduction of international arbitration.

THE STATE PLATFORM.

The Social Democratic party of the state of Washington in convention assembled, lays down the following platform:

First—We reaffirm our belief in the principles of International Socialism, endorse the nomination of Debs and Harriman, and the platform as adopted by the Unity Committee of the S. D. P. and S. L. P.

Second—The principles of International Socialism, based on the irrepressible struggle of wage-labor against modern capitalism, are fundamental to our existence as a party. We arraign capitalism as a system incompatible with freedom and justice. We assert that capitalism and wage-slavery are inseparable twins. We demand the abolition of human slavery, the emancipation of the wage-working class, the destruction of capitalism.

Third—We affirm this irrepressible class-struggle to be a historic fact, a process of social evolution. Our demands are therefore in the line of progress. We are as sure to succeed as the laws of nature are inevitable.

Private property based on personal labor is honorable and just. But that has been superseded by private capitalistic property, based on the exploitation of labor by others—which is robbery.

The Social Democratic party aims to unite the exploited and robbed laborers into a political unit, fully instructed and conscious of its historic mission and power.

We, therefore, call upon all wage workers to vote for their own class interests, to forsake all parties and measures that do not recognize and advocate the supreme issue of modern times, namely, wage-slaves against capitalist tyrants.

We are fighting for no half-way measures. We will not be content till every workingman understands how he is exploited and robbed by the capitalist and understands also that he has an immediate weapon in the ballot whereby to achieve his own emancipation.

We propose to show every worker with hand or head that he is being expropriated by his capitalist masters, and that the time has come when the expropriators must be expropriated.

Ours is no sentimental fight for human brotherhood though we believe that also will ensue upon our victory. We demand justice. We fight for justice. We will obtain justice.

Fourth—While aiming at the ultimate collective ownership of all the means of production and distribution, we demand as intermediate steps direct legislation, public ownership of public utilities, abolition of the contract system in all public improvements, use of the taxing power to establish a system of public improvements, upon which the unemployed shall be employed.

Fifth—While we recognize the Labor Union movement is a necessity under the capitalist system, we wish to point out the fact that it is impotent to bring any permanent relief to the working class. We feel it our duty to stand by the unions in all their struggles and in turn call upon them to complete their emancipation by united political action.

Sixth—We denounce all wars of aggression and we call upon all workers everywhere to cease to bear arms in the interest of capitalists who seek to make cannon-food out of those who create all wealth in order to perpetuate their mastery over the workers.

Resolved, That we chose a State Executive Committee of five members who shall also act as a State Campaign Committee and instruct it to abide by the result of the referendum now being taken by the Unity Committee.