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The Socialist

THE WORKINGMAN'S PAPER

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No. 126

Our NEW Christmas Child, the World's Hope.



This is a reproduction of the finest painting produced in the Christian era, Raphael's "Sistine Madonna." It is the greatest of Christmas pictures.

The Holy Mother, lifting aloft her boy, stands upon the cloud-encircled earth. The Pope at the left and the Saint at the right do homage. The happy cherubs below join in greeting the child of destiny.

We reproduce it not only because it is a magnificent work of art and appropriate to the Christmas season, but because its splendid allegory of eternal childhood on the earth is especially fitting for the Socialist. It is more than a Christmas picture. It represents the advent of gladness to the world. The Socialist can claim it for his own. He alone in these modern days has a message of "peace on earth, good will among men."

Suppose you read the picture thus: The Mighty Mother standing there upon the circle of the earth represents MODERN PRODUCTIVE FORCES. This prolific mother bears in her arm her glorious offspring, Socialism, the hope of the future.

The Old Social Institutions, embracing both man and woman, stand uncovered before the advent of the New Era, while the children of the world, with all the future before them, cannot restrain their mirth and jollity. It that not a worthy and true interpretation!

Those who understand the meaning of the Socialist movement believe that all that Jesus once stood for, deliverance from poverty and misery, is to be accomplished through the Socialist Party.

A political party is a social institution. Capitalist political parties have become associated with everything that is corrupt. But a political party is rightfully a noble thing, an association of men and women to accomplish a social purpose. The original church of Jesus was such an association. The young Socialist Party of today has in it all the promise and far more of the assurance of triumph, that the primitive church possessed.

No one so much as the Socialist has the right to claim the joy and hope of the Christmas time as his own. These gifts, these mimic luxuries that the poorest try to assume, this show of kindness and cheerfulness that we all wear during the holidays, these are all finger posts pointing on to that good time coming when the Socialist Party shall have overthrown the Lords and Masters and all the poor shall inherit the earth.

How many good Christians and others waste their energies on individuals! Here is the Salvation Army about to furnish dinner to a thousand poor people in Seattle on Christmas. No one objects to the dinner. But that thousand men will be just as hungry next day and next week and next year. Why not learn that social effort is the only kind of effort that does good, that is permanent good? That is what Socialists are doing. They are organizing men to put their energies together and effect a change in society which

will provide the destitute with dinners every day in the year.

We gratefully acknowledge the kindness of many subscribers in sending us suggestions, clippings, news, etc., etc. We are thus provided with a thousand pair of eyes, always on the lookout for good things.

Prof. Mommsen, the great German historian, says the only party in Germany deserving of respect, is the Socialist Party. Of course. All the other

parties stand for private interests. The Socialist Party stands for the interests of humanity and for progress.

This week we are publishing communications, pro and con, on the subject of "The California Problem." We especially call attention to two articles, one by Jas. D. Curtis of Washington, and one by E. Val Putnam, of Missouri, taking opposite sides on this Union Labor Party question. It is a burning question and its discussion will be followed by every Socialist with keenest interest and great profit.

THE NAIL TO HIT.

This paper stands primarily for Working Class Socialism as a political movement. We do not aim to hit all the nails on the head that might be hit but confine ourselves to the chief nail, the one that needs most to be hit.

Just at the present time, when the crowds are rushing toward Socialism, it seems to us of the utmost consequence that the Socialist Party should take shape as a Working Class party. The Working Class is the exploited class. The great robbery occurs by means of the payment of wages and hence it is the wage class primarily which is interested in abolishing the capitalist system. A thousand minor indentments or attractions may be held up to win men to Socialism. But the main attraction for the great body of our supporters must be the fact, established by scientific analysis of industrial society, that the wage class will be relieved of its exploitation by the capitalist class and hence its material interests furthered, through the collective ownership of the means of production. What we are aiming at is self-emancipation of the great wage class, which alone holds the key of the future.

This sociological fact, this law of modern industry, the law of Surplus Value, the basis of the Class Struggle, first announced by Marx, as distinct a law of evolution as the law of Natural Selection in biology, is the one thing of which the populace is ignorant and on which it needs instruction. The knowledge of this law will save our movement from shipwreck such as the Populist movement had. Because we recognize this as fundamental to our propaganda we hammer away at it incessantly. We refuse to be diverted from this first of all practical essentials, to any side issue.

"It is immaterial who the author of this dialogue is. The people have had much authority for truth. Now let them have a little truth for authority."
 —"The Ox and The Fox." Omaha.

An improvement in "The Socialist" we have long contemplated is now accomplished. There are only a few comrades in this country who have both ability and time to read the European Socialist journals and to follow the International Socialist movement intelligently. One of the best equipped in this regard is Ernest Untermann, of Chicago. He agrees to furnish a column of original "Foreign Notes" for this paper every other week.

The Socialist really is like the Roman orator, who said: "Nothing human is foreign to me." Socialism, like its opponent, Capitalism, knows no national boundaries. The Socialist is a citizen of the world. So these "Foreign Notes" will really mean notes of the movement in other lands.

Whatever Prof. Untermann writes his readers can rely upon as accurate as well as interesting.

Our types made the vote for Comrade Burgess in Clarke County, Wash. 132 instead of 182. His total vote was 4532, not 4482.

The only weekly paper I ever advertised in, that I could see did me any good, said a big advertiser in "The Socialist."

BRAVO, B. C. BRAVO!
 Nainaimo, B. C., Nov. 12, 1902.

Editor of the Socialist:
 I like to let you know that we are in battle line against our enemy—the capitalist politician.

There is one of them, M. P. P., who accepted a portfolio and therefore must go back to his constituency for re-election. Our three locals—Northfield, Nainaimo and Ladysmith are together running Comrade Williams against him.

Already the shots and shells of the wage slave are flying with good results. Comrades Kingler, Hawthornwaite, Williams and others are doing good work to drive these so-called friends of labor to the range where they belong.

The above named comrades spoke before a big crowd of workers (600) in Ladysmith when the matter was up.

We have confidence in getting our comrades in. By doing this we are defeating one of the best capitalist politicians in British Columbia—W. W. B. McManis. Years for the workers' emancipation, the Social Revolution of the Proletariat.
 R. WINKELMANN.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all! The Socialist is the only one who can not only wish it but get it for you.

Comrade Geo. D. Herron writes from New York under date of Dec. 18: "Have just laded in New York from steamer and shall try to have the promised contribution ready in a few days."

This refers to his A. B. C. article in our series. Look out for it. The subject is "What we mean by Class-Consciousness."

Next week's issue of "The Socialist" will contain the official returns of the vote in the United States, giving the total vote cast for all parties in each state, the Socialist Party vote, the S. L. P. vote and percentages in each state. This table will contain the first authentic returns from the Secretaries of State.

There is no necessity for a single poor person in any civilized country. The Socialist program will abolish poverty.

We do not guarantee that everyone will like this paper. Put we do guarantee to make a Socialist of him, if he is a workingman, who will never vote any ticket but the Socialist ticket and will never fuss. That is, if he has any brains at all.

We want 5000 new subscribers in the month of January. We don't want the earth—not just now. Five thousand workers more to make Socialists of. Give us the chance.

Socialists converted through "The Socialist" never fail to know just what they want and just how to get it.

The man who works for wages must have work all the time or else he must soon starve. If he does good, faithful work he is speeding the time when he cannot get work, because he has produced so much that cannot be sold. If he is not a faithful worker he will be discharged, and yet many of these poor fellows vote to perpetuate a system that threatens them with ruin however they may serve their masters.

If you desire to know where hell is located, direct a communication to the miners of the anthracite regions for your answer.—Miners' Mag.

Less than one-half of the children of school age in the United States attend school for six months in the year. Millions of those who are denied access to the schools work in factories, mines, shops, mills, on the farm as domestics.

The press is aware of this and is silent. The schools and school-men are silent. Our churches and church people are silent. Why?

I met a comrade the other day who says the trouble with our people down in California is they are too class-conscious, and another comrade writes: "I now see the necessity for becoming class-conscious. California knocked it into my cranium." There you are!

The high school cadets wear the uniform that pleases the eye of the capitalist. The schoolroom is fast becoming the recruiting station to teach the "young idea how to shoot."—Miners' Mag.

I get any number of people to trade with me on account of that advertisement in "The Socialist," says a First Avenue merchant. Of course. Socialists propose to help those that help them.

TEN THOUSAND MORE ADDED TO THE GREAT ARMY OF THE UNEMPLOYED.
 By Associated Press.

CHICAGO, Saturday, Aug. 16.—The Inter Ocean this morning says: "Following the International Harvester Company's public declaration that economy in the manufacture and distribution of agricultural machinery was the motive for effecting the \$120,000,000 cut in the combine yesterday issued letters to their general agents throughout the country, ordering a reduction of about three-fourths of the total number of employees representing these companies in the field."

"The other companies in the combine are preparing to follow their example. Equally radical reductions in the office forces being planned by all, it is said, for the near future. Ten thousand men, in all, are expected to lose their positions."

WHAT ONE MINISTER DECIDES

University Station,
 Tuesday, December 16, 1902.

Dear Sir: Enclosed you will find my application for membership in the Socialist Party.

For eight years I have been in entire accord with the principles of Socialism, but during the larger part of that time have hoped that it might be possible to use one of the two dominant political parties in the establishment of these principles. I have long since given up that hope, but for various reasons which have seemed to me at the time to be adequate I have refrained from identifying myself with the one political party which is in exact accord with the principles of Economics and economic justice.

But after the most careful and deliberate consideration of every principle and question involved, I have determined to make this application, for two reasons: First, because I want every man to know exactly where I stand ethically and politically; and second, because I believe thoroughly in the principles of International Socialism, and recognizing that we are in the midst of a great class struggle between private capitalism and the commonwealth, I wish to identify myself once for all with the great working class in its struggle for emancipation from wage slavery.

I believe with all my soul that whatever shall ever be accomplished in the interest and for the good of the world's workers must be accomplished by those workers themselves, banded together in a class-conscious party organization. And I believe that not till this working-class party shall become the dominant party in this country will our present unequal class struggle cease, and the government of the many by the few be replaced by the administration of the affairs of all by all.

I have hoped that the Christian ministry in this country would come to a recognition of its own position in this struggle, and representatives of the churches and of their master, Jesus of Nazareth, and I still hope. But should they fail to declare themselves unequivocally for all that is true and just, then this wrong decision will be for a time a seeming advantage to them in surrounding them with added comfort and "social prestige" but will finally redound to their great injury and the injury of the congregations which they represent.

Whatever the consequences may be, if this application is favorably passed upon I shall be glad to be enrolled with those who attempt to stand squarely for what is just and what is true.

Faithfully yours,
 THOMAS C. WISWELL.

If you tried Christmas Day to get new subscribers to "The Socialist," try again on New Year's Day. If you missed Christmas begin the New Year right. This paper is guaranteed to make a Socialist out of every workingman who takes it for six months. No cure, no pay.

A number of Seattle comrades bring in a few subscriptions every Sunday evening. They never miss. If this number were increased to 100, we would soon reach every worker in this city. That would mean at least 2000 votes in this city at the next city election.

SURPRISED AT NEW ORLEANS.

Surprises are quite the thing for the capitalists these days. Everybody knows that the American Federation of Labor in its annual convention at New Orleans, with its President using all his influence against the resolution, still came within a few hundred votes of passing a Socialist resolution. The whole capitalist press was agast with astonishment.

What does this great Union Labor vote show? Why, that Organized Labor, even in its most conservative body, is almost ready to reverse the Socialist Party's Socialist resolution. The whole capitalist press was agast with astonishment.

I see strong, able men who are unable to get work, and at the same time see frail, weak and delicate children forced to toil.

