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## INTERNATIONAL LABOR DAY MAY THE FIRST

Socialism Enlightening the World



THE WORKINGMAN'S HOPE FOR THE 20TH CENTURY. HE SEES THE BEAUTIFUL FORM OF SOCIALISM RISING WITH THE TORCH OF REAL LIBERTY IN HER UPLIFTED HAND. WORKINGMEN, REJOICE, FOR DELIVERANCE FROM WAGE SLAVERY IS AT HAND!

### MAY DAY.

Past and Present Significance—Speech of G. B. Benham, Metropolitan Temple, San Francisco, California.

(Reported in advance for The Socialist.)

In the history of the progress of mankind, May Day is destined to have a bright and lasting page. It has a significance beyond the ordinary labor days of modern times. The celebration of the first of May as labor day is not simply an evidence of the class consciousness of the workers. It is a living testimony to the evolution of human society. Today's observance is an indication of the world's progress from slavish superstition to high ideals of political and economic freedom.

Rome—superstitious and pagan Rome—celebrated the first of May, and laid its tribute at the feet of mythical deities. The arms of the Caesars carried the May day observances to the European peoples. It found a prominent place among the festival days, and in time became a Christian holiday.

In England May day was long celebrated as the welcoming of Spring. With the assistance of the priest, the gaily decorated May pole was raised. The younger people plaited the garlands of the May flower, and it was a day of festal decoration, of dancing, and of innocent mirth. Feats of strength and skill occupied the attention of those ambitious for athletic honors. The Queen of the May was selected from among the fairest of the maids, and received her crown of May flowers amidst the acclamation of the joyous throng.

The shifting methods of industry changed the aspect of May Day. It came to be a day best known for its celebration of the chimney sweepers of the European cities. It lost its hitherto unmistakable rustic character. It lost both its Pagan and Christian significance, only in a later day to take on, throughout civilization, a broader and a grander meaning.

May 1 was selected first in the United States as a day to be remembered by the toilers. The American Federation of Labor in 1886 decided to attempt to gain for the workers the eight-hour work day. May 1, 1886, was selected as the date upon which the eight-hour day should be inaugurated. It was an endeavor to have the eight-hour laws of this country made operative. This attempt to support the legal right of the workers resulted in serious disorders throughout the country. These culminated in the Haymarket bomb throwing and the hanging of Spies and his associates in November, 1886.

## Why Wages are Low

### Labor Employed

Doing all the work.  
Producing all the wealth.  
Getting all the wages.  
Always in fear of losing their "job."  
Always getting fewer.

### The Two Wage Competitors

### Labor Unemployed

Nothing to do.  
Eager to work.  
Fighting for a chance for wages.  
Watching like a wolf for some  
worker to drop out over there on the  
other side.  
Always getting more numerous.

## HIGH WAGES IMPOSSIBLE

What is the result of such competition on the wages of the employed? How much can they get? With a man ready to take your place, how much, how little, rather, will you work for? What is the most you can possibly get under these conditions? Is it not just what will support you at your work? You must have enough to keep yourself alive. You cannot work for less than that. If you did, you would die.

And that is all you can get. If you work for more, some other fellow, already starving, will take your place for just enough to keep him alive. That is the iron law of wages. With the vast army of the unemployed there is no escape from that terrible law.

And now what makes the army of the unemployed? Why cannot all work? What is to prevent a man from working?

This is why: Because by means of the great modern discoveries and inventions, steam, electricity, railroads, factories and all the wonderful machinery of the 19th century, by means of these it takes only a few men to produce enough for all. Ten men with machines will create as much wealth now, as 50 men could do a century ago. So the other 40 men are not needed. We can be just as well off now with ten men's work as with fifty men's work one hundred years ago. So there you have your reason for the unemployed. They are not needed.

But you say, Why not keep them all at work with the machines and so have five times as much for all as we used to have? Then everybody would be well off. Let everybody work. Why not? With these new inventions for doing five times as much as we used to do—why can we not all work and have five times as much as formerly?

THIS IS WHY: A FEW MEN OWN THESE INVENTIONS AND MACHINES, AND NO MAN CAN USE THE MACHINES WITHOUT THEIR CONSENT.

But why should they not consent? BECAUSE THE OWNERS OF THE MACHINES WILL NOT LET THEM RUN UNLESS THEY CAN MAKE A PROFIT OUT OF THEM. They don't care how much people need clothes. They will not let clothes be made unless they can be sold for a profit. In a word, clothes and food and houses are not made for use, but for sale and profit.

We have lumber and bricks and mortar and glass and iron in plenty here on Puget Sound, and lots of people need good houses to live in, and there are plenty of mechanics to build them, but none will be built unless the owners of saw mills and brickyards and lime kilns and glass works and iron foundries can make money out of the building.

But why can't they make more money and get a higher profit by setting all the unemployed to work? Why not? The more workers the more pro-

duced, the more sold and the more profit.

This is why: Somebody has to buy, and that somebody must have something to buy with. And where shall he get it? employers and the employed. The unemployed have nothing to buy with, of Nobody has anything except the course.

And how much have the employed got to buy with?  
**JUST THEIR WAGES AND NOTHING MORE.**

And how much is their wages? Barely enough to live on, that is all—for that ARMY OF THE UNEMPLOYED stand ready to take their places if they ask for any more than a bare living.

So there you have the whole thing in a nutshell.

The machine owners will not make any more than they can sell. They cannot sell any more than men have to buy with. No one besides the capitalists has anything to buy with except the wages they earned. And no wages are paid beyond the bare necessities of life of the employed. Therefore no more is allowed to be produced than will support the workers and those who live off of the workers. It is an irrational and devilish system—is Capitalism.

FIRST—The modern inventions throw men out of work, create the army of the unemployed.

SECOND—This unemployed army forces wages down to the subsistence point.

THIRD—This small wage limits the power to purchase—and so limits the demand and the production.

FOURTH—The result is: All production ceases, there is little reserve power of purchase by the employed, and of course none by the unemployed, the crises and the panics ensue, poverty, misery, degradation, crime follow.

It is a horribly vicious circle. Lowest wages, limited market, crises, destitution. That is civilization, capitalism, idioy.

Socialism says it must be stopped. Socialism says employ all that army of the unemployed, keep the mighty machines going, produce abundance for all, abolish poverty, and crime its child, become really civilized and rational and decent.

It is wonderfully easy to do all this. You workers, vote to do it and it is done. Take these great modern tools of production for your own, dispossess these men who make slaves of you by owning your only means of a livelihood, loose the fetters of capital that make of modern industry a Samson shorn of strength, a Hercules doing no deeds of deliverance, a Prometheus bound and actually tearing out his own vitals.

Workers unite and rend asunder your chains, achieve the freedom that lies at your hand. Bring back liberty into the world. That is the mission of the working class.

### EMPLOYMENT IN SEATTLE

The two testimonies given below are from first-class men. They are both hustlers and can get work when most cannot. They are both sober, too, and married men. One is a skilled mechanic and the other an ordinary laborer. They are representatives of both classes of the manual worker.

For testimony of the intellectual proletariat, we could give dozens of letters from impetuous lawyers, physicians, insurance and real estate agents, saloon keepers, engineers, clergymen, small dealers and professional and semi-professional men without number.

The "woods is full" of men with keen wits trying to "make a living." All kinds of employment are overcrowded a hundredfold. Why? Read

### FROM A COMMON LABORER.

Editor Socialist.—In compliance with your request to give my experience as a common laborer in Seattle, I can say I have been very much disappointed in the condition of the labor market that I found here. When I was in the East I heard so much about all the work there was going on in this city, and not men enough to do it, that I concluded to come here to try my luck as a laborer with pick and shovel.

I came here from St. Paul, Minn., February 2nd, and as I hadn't much money left after paying my way here, I had to go to work as soon as I could secure it. February 3rd being a Sunday, I went with my wife to look for a furnished room to live in, and we happened to come up on Eighteenth avenue where the street was being graded at the time. Monday morning I was up there before 7 o'clock, but so were seven other laborers beside me, in quest of the same thing—work—but none of us was successful. It seemed to me that the boss didn't deem it necessary to look at us.

Two days after I got work, after much cross-examination by the contractor, on the sewers on Twenty-first avenue. It was a wet, dirty and disagreeable job. The only thing that was it was only eight hours work a day for \$2. It lasted five weeks, when it was finished and all hands laid off. I earned in that time \$41, because we lost much time on account of rain and for lack of material.

Next, after walking about for a week or more looking for work, I got work of a country man of mine, and for this very reason, on another sewer. It lasted about four days, when it was finished, too. Here I earned \$7.75.

Now, after another week's lay-off looking for work, I went to an employment office, paid one dollar for work in the city at 25 cents an hour on concrete work—so the card read that I received. I was to report for work on Monday morning, April 1, but as it was raining we didn't get out of it day morning the foreman put us to work, but fifteen minutes later the su-

(Continued on Page 2.)

# Thoughts by Your Uncle

It is to be noticed that the papers have been full the past few weeks of reports of flights or suicides of bank cashiers, presidents, etc. This "incentive" that might be destroyed by Socialism is a great thing. Almost invariably the downfall of the bank officials has been due to speculation in stocks, etc., a form of gambling legalized by the present system. How awful it would be to have a system that would move men to be honest, wouldn't it? And how nice it is to have our friends become thieves and suicides, isn't it, especially when it may next be ourselves or our children? Vote for it, you idiots.

In spite of the fact that Aguinaldo has been much scorned by the capitalist press and exceedingly disrated, it still remains a fact that with his capture came a recommendation that the army be reduced 35,000 men. What capitalists say is not exactly what they believe in the military field any more than it is in the economic pasture.

Saloons in Toronto, Canada, close at 7 p. m. on Saturdays, so that, as a prohibition paper proudly states, "the workingmen may not have an opportunity to squander their wages." For some reason or other best known to itself, the prohibition paper fails to call attention to the fact that the workingmen in Toronto, in spite of this great safeguard against the saloons, somehow or other remain just as miserably poor as the workingmen of other cities where the prohibitionist does not exist. Capitalistic papers hate to emphasize the fact that it is of no material difference to the workingmen whether a saloon skins him, an adulterated grocery store, or the highwayman who runs the drug store.

One Kansas farmer is figuring on a scheme to cross the yearly capitalist with the seventeen-year locust, in the hope of making the former's voracious appetite work intermittently instead of constantly, as at present. As it is, however, this particular farmer is not worried over the coming of the locust which are due this year. The capitalist, he says, have devoured everything in sight every year, and he thinks the locusts will have rather hard picking.

The fact that it costs but \$47.16 per year to feed an inmate of the poor houses in Pennsylvania, while \$198 per head is spent on prisoners, is strong inducement to many, who believe in good food and plenty of it, to abandon the "poor but honest" role and go to burglary. The capitalist incentive, somehow, seems to all point the wrong way.

A man back East swallowed his false teeth and he went crazy. It is too bad he died. We might have succeeded in raising a race so much desired by the capitalists—human beings with neither head nor brains to think with, composed only of muscles to work with and a stomach into which cheap food might be shoveled through a trap door.

I note that fireproofing material has made a rapid and great advance in the stock market. The reason for such fluctuation is not given, but in view of the rapid growth of Socialism and some of the teachings of the Bible that have not as yet become entirely obsolete, it is thought the capitalists are casting an anchor to the windward and preparing for a warm time either pretty soon or later on.

With a precedent once established, it becomes mighty easy to follow it. Hence it is no surprise to the people of this country, or at least it shouldn't be, to find out that officials sent to the Philippines to aid in seizing the lands and property of the people over there should, on finding it a somewhat difficult matter to carry out their instructions, pass away their idle moments absorbing the property of the people over here. It is all a part of the competitive grab game for which our country and its civilization stands, and the champagne, poker and fast women of which the dispatches deprecatingly speak are but the necessary trimmings that make the game momen-

tarily attractive to those who throng around the gaming table.

The authorities now claim that our dealings with our colonies are entirely political and that the judiciary has no authority whatever on the subject. Of course—why should it? Law implies justice, and as justice is an unknown factor in colonial government by the mother nation, it is only honest to admit the fact. King George roared every time an effort was made by parliament to interfere with his kingly prerogatives, and Emperor Willie shows wise in refusing to allow such a bothersome precedent to be established. An emperor has no use for legal interference. Ain't he it?

A suburb near Pittsburg, Pa., where many workmen and their families congregate, is known as Squirrel Hill. Whether so named because of the industry of the inhabitants is not stated. It is suspected, however, that the name was chosen by the promoters as token of the hope in their breasts to some time swipe the stored-up fruits the human squirrels might accumulate.

At a grand opera event in the East the lickspittle press printed columns of names of society's do-nothings whose "gownings eclipsed all previous effort." It is very evident that "effort," whatever the word may mean in this case, was about the only thing that was "eclipsed."

A pirate's buried treasure has been unearthed on a coral reef off the coast of Africa. There is something of poetic justice in the fact that the poor pirate risked his life and sold his soul for treasure only to have it, in after centuries, go into the hands of the secretary of the Wyandotte Trust and Mortgage Company of Ohio.

Steps are being taken in Madrid, Spain, to establish a commercial museum. It is well. There are a few freaks in that line in this country that ought to be donated as a starter. Here's Sammy Perkins of Tacoma, juggling a Democratic evening paper and a Republican morning paper at one and the same time; there's a commercial auroboros for you. Then there's several thousand nincompoops who believe that a country which ships out more goods than it imports is fast getting rich, there's commercial idiocy in its fulness. Then there's a whole gallery full of curiosities in both Tacoma and Seattle who believe they are getting prosperity when their wages go up 10 per cent and their rents 20 per cent. That's commercial paresis in its worst form. We also have the poor thickskinned day scrub who gazes in rapture and wonderment at the multi-millionaire and then starts in to emulate him on a dollar-and-a-half-a-day salary.

That some rich idlers are to build a million-dollar winter resort on a Bermuda island, while France finds it necessary to support her increasing army of paupers by a 10 per cent. tax on all theater tickets sold, is a seeming paradox of conditions under a so-called Christianity. The key to this greatest and most modern of puzzles may perhaps be found in the fact that Iceland has no pauper or no dependents, no poor-houses and practically no jails. This key would be somewhat incomplete and itself need explanation, but for the additional and most important fact that Iceland also has no millionaires. UNCLE SAM.

DeLeon's S. L. P. vote dropped in St. Louis as it did in Cleveland and other cities. Dan secured only 239, a loss of 570. In Chicago the "per-fessor" got 700 votes, while the two factions of the S. L. P. received 7,500. In scores of places where the DeLeonsites had tickets in the field before they had none up this spring. In all but a few places the old S. L. P. is defunct. —Cleveland Citizen.

From State Committeeman Culver. Success to you in your noble work. That your excellent paper is improving with every issue is the verdict of all your readers in Port Angeles. H. CULVER.

## EMPLOYMENT IN SEATTLE

(Continued from Page One)

perintendent took us off again, gave us our cards back, and told us to come at 10 o'clock. At 10 o'clock he told us to come at 11 p. m., and then he told us to come the next morning, Wednesday morning at 7 o'clock we were there (we were ten men from the employment office), when the superintendent came and said: "I want four of you now and the others after dinner time. I, with the others, went to work at half-past 12, but the superintendent told us before we went to work that we didn't get 25 cents an hour, as the card read. His remark was: "That is all rot." All he paid was \$2 for nine hours; if we didn't want to work for that, we could go and get our dollar back again. Now, what were we to do in this great land of liberty and equal opportunity? Why, we all went to work like sovereigns and men with a will and without a murmur. Now here are two things I would like to know: First—Why was this work advertised in the employment office by the superintendent; his name was on our cards, when there are lots of men standing at his toolshop every morning anxious to go to work. Was it to divide the spoils with the office? And why wasn't the truth told about the wages? Was it to make the workmen put up their dollar quicker?

The first week I worked two days and a couple of hours. Rain and the lack of material prevented us from working more. The second week I worked about five days. One day got lost for a cause that I don't know exactly. The third week on Monday morning there was no work. The ground was not prepared for concrete. Tuesday the same cause, and Wednesday the same. Wednesday night we got paid. I had to go in a saloon to get my check. After that I didn't go there any more, for I thought my services were not more needed.

As for the treatment of the men by the superintendent and the two foremen I have this to say: It was as good as could be; nobody hurried or in any way abused, and the contractor never even looked at any workmen. I have earned so far about \$15, and if I can earn about \$10 or \$12 more till the first of May, I have averaged \$1 a day in the three months that I have been here, and I think that is about all that common laborers can average in this city in these prosperous times. C. PETERSON.

## FROM LATE FOREMAN IN KERRY'S MILL.

To the Editor—In reference to the assertion that any man willing to work can obtain employment, I know it from personal experience to be false. One business man told me last week he wanted two men to do a small job for him, and offered the job to two who were unemployed, but they would not accept the splendid wages, namely, \$1.25 per day. He got off that old worn-out chestnut, "a man that won't work for what he can get does not deserve work." I asked him if I came in his store and wished to buy an article but would not pay his price, would I be justified in saying he did not want to sell. Our labor is our merchandise, and as labor creates all wealth, is it not just that we be entitled to put a price on that labor?

Facts in Seattle. The four months I was foreman in the planing department of the Kerry Mill there was hardly a day but what some men came to me begging work, and in one day I had fifteen applicants. One man in particular came around every Monday morning for four weeks in the hope that he might profit by another's misfortune; that is, in the hope that some of the men might be discharged or taken sick. The last morning he came to see me, when informed there was no show, he exclaimed: "My God! what am I to do?" On asking him how long he was out of work he told me three months. He had a wife and five children. Also that his wife and one child were sick for some time. Is not McKinley prosperity a daisy? Hurrah for the full dinner pail!

But is it not time for the working man to awake when his fellow workers are forced to the very doors of starvation in a land of plenty where Morgan and his class are amassing wealth by the millions monthly? You may be the next forced to beg or steal. At the Employment Office. Today I interviewed men who were seeking employment at the bureau, and

## INTERNATIONAL LABOR DAY

(Continued from Page One)

The Paris Socialist Congress of 1889 recommended that May Day be celebrated throughout the civilized world by Socialist and workingmen demonstrations in protest against the iniquities of capitalism. At this time the specific demands for economic justice were first vigorously politically advocated on American soil. Since that time celebrations of May Day have become part of the effort for the betterment of conditions and final emancipation of the working men throughout the world.

In the streets of the European cities the May Day demonstration takes place every year, regardless of the evidences of displeasure evinced by the capitalist class and the oft-repeated interference by capitalist government agents. The workers of the old world are with those of America in the May Day celebrations. They are with us in sentiment and in action. They are with us in needs and desires. They are with us in demands, and in organized efforts for economic emancipation. The workers' interests know no national bounds. The intelligent workers of the world today demand full product of their toil.

Our May Day speaks not for legends and myths. May Day has come to mean something more than the strewing of flowers on the altar of heathen goddess. It means something more than the weaving of garlands or springtime exhibitions of rustic vitality. The seasons of the year bring but little to the wage worker of today. What difference—springtime, winter—to the toiler condemned to the loom, or the slave chained by necessity in the mine? Our exhibitions of strength shall not now be made in contest with each other, but every effort directed against the capitalist class, against those who are holding shut the gates of opportunity. A protest and a demand now go with the celebration of May Day. The class-conscious workers of the United States fully recognize its meaning. We see our brothers and our sisters toil that others may enjoy; we see our masters overturn the force of free contract by the force of economic power. We see these men who own us, searching with telescopic eye to find new means for exploitation and oppression in this land. Not content with robbery and murder in mine and factory and sweatshop, our masters now bloody hands now beckon our young men to seek and to kill men who work in far-away countries. These capitalists want wage slaves in all lands to compete against those of this country. Our masters command the force of the workers. They desire to deal with the workers as individuals. They desire the interests of capital to be above the interests of man in all halls of legislation, and their wish is molded into law. The significance of this day and passing events awaken us. When our masters ask us if we will be still, we will answer them No! When they ask us to send their representatives to make laws for us, we will answer them No! When they ask us to conquer new fields for economic robbery, industrial murder, we will answer them No! If they ask us if we are afraid to fight, we will answer them No, but that our fighting, as well as voting, will be hereafter done in our own interests, and no longer to our masters. We will oppose the capitalist class on the economic field, we will fight them on the political field. The warfare for justice shall not cease until the victory is ours.

Our efforts in the future will be to bring to earth a better life, in which men and women are no longer victims of individual caprice or of corporate masters. The enemies of Socialism tell us that every ill would originate in city without the private capitalist. Ills there might be, but they then rest upon the broad shoulders of a real militant Democracy, when economic justice comes, the enlargement of humanity will rear a social order tall and grand. That its proportions may not be circumscribed, we demand as its foundation a base as broad as the will of the people freely expressed, unrestricted by color, by location, by sex or by property. We feel Democracy is the basis of society, opportunity will display the elements of freedom, and every industry will move more rapidly toward perfection. Every science will have a more complete demonstration. Art then be sought for the sake of its own development, no longer guided by the profits of the picture dealer or the whims of the rich. The true progress of enterprise, the advance of science, the grandeur of art, the perfection of literature will all be possible. The conception of the wise and the men of every age will be fulfilled. In the march of time, knowledge and liberty have pressed onward together. When Socialism comes, the opportunity will point the way to every truly great and glorious achievement. The assurance of ever-present justice will uplift mankind, and all will move onward and upward to heights not yet in view.

We who here celebrate, raise up no Queen of the day. We speak for the advance of man. We shout our honors to labor, the only and the right King of civilization. Today the world's proletariat proclaims the principle of freedom. Before the tribunal of mankind is laid the tribute of the workers. Our offering is all the wealth of earth, all the benefits of civilization. In return for these, the living, breathing, useful people of the world demand on this day, all that is good and great for man.

found at least fifteen men who were willing to work for anything like a fair rate of wage. Some offered their services for \$1.75 per day, and all the laboring class would be satisfied with \$2. One man told me that he got a job from one of the employment bureaus at a logging camp eighteen miles from Seattle. It cost him \$2 for the privilege of creating wealth and paid his car fare. After working two days, his wage was cut from \$2 per day to \$1.50. The men were compelled to sleep in shacks on the floor and the place was literally alive with vermin.

So much for the incentive to labor. In conclusion I would ask those intelligent people who are continually harping on our wonderful prosperity if they know that we were producing two billions a year more than can be consumed? We get that statement from Depew, who says that one-two-fifths of the able-bodied workmen are always out of employment. Now, if these unemployed were working, would not the over-production be just that much greater. N. B.—Since writing this I have found out that there are hundreds of men who will work for \$1.40 per day. J. M. CAMERON.

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## INTERNATIONAL LABOR DAY CELEBRATION.



GERMANIA HALL, NEXT WEDNESDAY EVENING.

EVERY WORKINGMAN SHOULD BE THERE.

THE REV. MR. SIMONDS DECLINES.

Seattle, Washington, April 23, 1901

Editor The Socialist:

My Dear Sir: I notice, with surprise, the terms of your invitation to a public debate...

I have no knowledge of having expressed any such desire to you, or to any one else. Indeed I could not have done so, for it is a settled rule with me never to seek debate with anyone...

As a matter of fact, I have already too much work under way, and promised, to permit of my accepting your invitation for several weeks at a distance...

Respectfully, yours, W. D. SIMONDS

The editor is sure Mr. Simonds used the word "debate" and that suggested publicity. All Socialists will regret that the Rev. Mr. Simonds deems any other matters of greater moment than a question which involves the rights (and wrongs) of the vast majority of mankind.

Statement by the Revolutionary Socialist League, of Seattle.

The following statement is published by special request. It is in the main an admirable outline of the Socialist program with reference to the class struggle.

"We say 'in the main,' for we cannot agree at all with such a sentence as 'The battles of the workers on the economic field are no more evidences of the class struggle than the spools of fishwomen.'"

The labor unions constitute a means by which workmen are trying to fight capitalists. If the unions fight other workmen it is because the "scab" will not join them in their fight against the employer.

It is a gross mistake to say that the unions fight other workmen with no more sense of class-struggle than fishwomen have in their quarrels with each other.

It is true that the labor union is a feeble and inefficient method of meeting capitalism, and labor union men of the most intelligent sort are coming to recognize the fact.

As capital becomes united in its present vast aggregations, like the U. S. Steel Trust, the labor unions become still more feeble.

It cannot be long before unionists everywhere will see that the political fight is the only one left to them—absolutely the only one.

But we commend the following to the careful reading of all: Statements.

The rapid concentration of the economic forces of human society into the hands of a few powerful capitalistic combinations, must be viewed with satisfaction by the clear-headed Socialist, who sees in such manifestations the preliminary steps leading up to the emancipation of the workers from the chains of wage-slavery.

He understands the growth and development of the capitalist system of wealth production to be but that phase in the evolutionary history of mankind upon which is recorded the transformation of the primitive individual tool of production, into the social tool in vogue today.

This transformation has practically been accomplished and the phenomena mentioned at the beginning of this article heralds the closing act in the drama of capitalism, the bringing of order out of the chaos of competition, and "making ready" the tool of production for the hand of a triumphant proletariat in the near future.

The proletariat, however, is not to enter into possession of its own without a struggle, and a struggle of no mean dimensions. The struggle between the proletariat and the capitalist class, so often gibberly spoken of as the "class struggle," should be thoroughly understood by every proletarian in order that he may act intelligently, and thus assist in shortening the struggle.

Under capitalism society is divided into two economic classes. The capitalist class is found on the one hand, which possesses title of ownership in all of the factories, mines, railroads, and all the economic forces of human society. Upon the other hand we find the propertyless wage earners, i. e., proletarians, who are forced to sell their labor power in order to live.

With complete control of the Economic forces of society in the hands of the capitalist class its economic domination over the workers is complete. Under such circumstances the workers are held in a condition of abject servitude to the capitalist class. They are wage slaves. The economic dictation of capitalism to the wage slave class is, sell your labor power or starve, and the average wage shall be the average cost of production of that labor power.

With all of the economic forces of society in control of the capitalist class, the working class cannot successfully resist. The workers are forced to surrender and accept the terms offered.

The question at issue between the capitalist class and the working class is merely a question of power, and that power is the power of the state, i. e., the reins of government. With this power in the hands of the capitalist class it can enforce its economic program, and maintain its economic domination over the workers; stripped of this power it can not.

With that power in its hands the working class can throw off the economic rule of the capitalist class by converting the tools of wealth production into their own.

Comrade Spring writes from Los Angeles, Cal.: "We are very busy here formulating a plan to raise a fund to send at least two delegates to the Unity Convention at Indianapolis."

"We consider it very important and will make a very desperate effort to have representation in that convention."

"I hope the convention in Washington will consider the importance of this matter and raise a fund to send at least one clean-cut representative to the convention."

We should do all we can to make this convention one that will harmonize the Socialist forces, so that the best results for Socialism may be obtained. Greetings to comrades.

Fraternally, F. J. SPRING

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Go to FRED J. KRUEGER, The Popular Tonsorialist, at 2417 1/2 First avenue, a CLEAN SHAVE and NEAT HAIR CUT, Satisfaction guaranteed. Laundry office in connection. Between Battery and Wall. 2nd No. 36

The class struggle between capitalists and proletarians is a struggle for possession of the powers of the state. The "class struggle" is therefore a political struggle.

How gibbly do economic babies and sucklings speak of the workers class in the "economic field," the "economic field," as they naively put it.

It was a stupid army indeed that would attempt to fight a powerful enemy upon a field where such enemy not only held all points of vantage, but all arms and ammunition as well.

The capitalist class stands supreme in the "economic field." In its control of all of the economic forces of society it is amply protected by the powers of the state. For a struggle in the economic field the workers are armed with empty stomachs, very poor weapons indeed with which to breach an enemy's walls.

The economic ignoramus loudly mouths the "class struggle." He can see it in all its petty details of the "class struggle" in the form of strikes and boycotts. The battles of the workers upon the "economic field" are no more evidence of the "class struggle" than the quarrels of fishwomen. The so called battles in the economic field are struggles between rival factions of the working class for points of vantage in the competitive labor market.

The bricks and other arguments of the striker are not hurled at the capitalists, but at other workmen. The choice name of "scab" and other verbal delicacies are not applied to capitalists, but to other workmen. Shops, mines or "pockets" to keep capitalists away, but to keep other workers from obtaining the coveted job. The most that can be said of such labor movement is that it is merely an evidence of ignorant rebellion against the inevitable. The inevitable is the growth and development of the capitalist system until, having completed its mission, it shall have been dethroned by victorious proletarians.

Let the "class struggle" be set forth clearly to the workers, to the end that all may become equipped with that intelligence and "unity of thought" that alone can hold up to the class lines of revolution and prevent our becoming stranded upon the factions of the "class struggle" or other reactionary folly.

E. T. KINGSLBY.

IN MEMORIAM. Lyman, Skagit Co. Wash. April 20, 1901.

Editor Socialist: Dear Comrade: It becomes my sad duty to inform the comrades at large that our esteemed co-worker, Comrade August Richter, is dead. He expired last Monday morning at Comrade Fred Herman's house, after an illness of five weeks. He was 50 years of age and had been a Socialist for ten years.

Comrade Richter was a tried and true Socialist. He had unflinching faith in humanity and it was his hope that he might live to see the downfall of the competitive system, and the ushering in of the co-operative commonwealth; but alas; it was not to be.

Local Lyman has received a severe blow by the death of Comrade Richter, for he was unwavering in his devotion to the cause of Socialism, and spent his time and money for the propagation of its principles! He was unmarried and leaves no relatives to my knowledge.

Fraternally, EMM. HERMAN.

Comrade Spring writes from Los Angeles, Cal.: "We are very busy here formulating a plan to raise a fund to send at least two delegates to the Unity Convention at Indianapolis."

"We consider it very important and will make a very desperate effort to have representation in that convention."

"I hope the convention in Washington will consider the importance of this matter and raise a fund to send at least one clean-cut representative to the convention."

We should do all we can to make this convention one that will harmonize the Socialist forces, so that the best results for Socialism may be obtained. Greetings to comrades.

Fraternally, F. J. SPRING

We are Sole Agents in Seattle for the CELEBRATED UNIVERSAL STEEL RANGE. The above Range is the highest type of excellence in any range on the market. The duplex grate is reversible for coal or wood without change.

It is far superior to so many cheap ranges now on the market, and costs but little more. We will take you old stove in exchange at market price. Will change new furniture for old.

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A large assortment of Boys' Suits at half price. Men's Black Clay Worsteds Suits, \$6 value, for \$3.75. Men's Black Cheviot, for \$2.25. A large assortment of

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At half price, to close out the lot. Be sure to examine them, as they are great bargains.

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Telephone us for anything you may need in the way of DRUGS or TOLLET ARTICLES, and we will see that your order receives prompt and careful attention.

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COUCHES BUILT TO LAST. These sofas and couches possess every feature and quality you want—and none of those you don't want. They last longer and give more comfort than other couches because they are built right, perfect, indestructible springs, bolsters you can't pull off, heavy disk linings, 60 different patterns and prices up to \$85. See them today.

This handsome couch is extra large, being 32 inches wide, is fringed all around and has heavy dark over the springs, eight rows of tufting, fitted with patent indestructible steel springs, covered with best quality figured velvet, for \$15.00

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DRUGS We cannot get well at cost, because the Sociolistic state has not been established yet, but we sell as low as we can at

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BEST OF TRIMMINGS We also make up MELTONS, TWEEDS, CLAY WORSTEDS, FRENCH PIQUE, and other assorted cloths of the finest kind. Suits from \$12.00 to \$20.00; pants from \$3.00 to \$5.00. Every suit we sell is carefully made by us. We will hold their shape, will last you longer than three factory made suits.

Wineberg & Kessler 110 SECOND AVE. SOUTH, SEATTLE. 1st No. 37.

# UNITY IS COMING

## OFFICIAL.

Springfield, Mass., April 13th, 1901.  
Dear Comrade Titus:  
Enclosed herewith please find copy of letter and resolutions sent to me by Theodore Debs and myself and resolutions, which I kindly publish in the Socialist, and oblige.  
Yours, fraternally,  
WM. BUTSCHER,  
National Secretary

Chicago, Ill., March 28, 1901.  
Mr. Wm. Butscher,  
National Secretary, S. D. P.,  
Springfield, Mass.  
Dear Sir and Comrade:

Pursuant to the action of the late national convention of the Social Democratic Party, with headquarters at Chicago, Ill., held in said city, beginning January 15th, it becomes my duty, as it is my pleasure, to advise you, and through you the party you represent, of the approval by referendum vote of the membership of our party of the enclosed resolutions adopted at said convention. It is respectfully requested that you refer this communication and resolution herein certified to your executive board, or other proper authority, or convention, as may be deemed necessary to meet the purpose stated in said resolutions, and that you advise me of the result of said action at the earliest practicable day so that arrangements can be made accordingly.

I have the honor to subscribe myself, yours fraternally,  
Signed: THEODORE DEBS,  
National Secretary.

Call Adopted by the Social Democratic Party in Convention at Chicago, January 18th, 1901.

Whereas, The Socialists of the United States are at present divided into several parties, whose essential principles are identical, and such division is productive of needless friction that tends to weaken and retard the progress of the Socialist movement; therefore, be it

Resolved, That a more thorough organization of Socialism is demanded, and that for the purpose of effecting the same a referendum convention be called to meet as hereinafter provided.

First. The call for the convention herein proposed shall be subject to a referendum vote of our party, the same to be submitted to the several branches and voted upon not later than February 15th, and if approved thereof made to the national executive board without delay, and if approved by a majority vote of the members, the same shall be certified by the national secretary, to the national secretary of the Socialist Labor Party, the national secretary of the Social Democratic Party, with headquarters at Springfield, Mass., and to the state secretary of each of the several unaffiliated or unaffiliated state or territorial parties.

Second. The convention herein called shall be held in the city of Indianapolis, Indiana, beginning the second Tuesday in September, 1901, and shall include the Socialist Labor Party with headquarters in the city of New York; the Social Democratic Party, with headquarters at Springfield, Mass.; the Social Democratic Party, with headquarters at Chicago, Ill.; and the several unaffiliated or unaffiliated state or territorial Socialist parties.

Third. The basis of representation shall be as follows:  
1. Each branch, local or section shall be entitled to as many representatives as the individual members thereof in good standing may select for that purpose; provided, that one representative shall be entitled to one vote for each member whose signature is attached to his credential.

2. Branches not sending their own representatives may select those of other branches of the same state to represent them; provided, that in such case the representative shall hold the proper credential with the signatures of members attached as herein provided.

3. No member shall be qualified to serve as representative or be entitled to representation who has not been a member of the party at least thirty days prior to the opening day of the convention.

4. All signatures of members attached to credentials shall be certified by the chairman or secretary of their respective branches.

5. The national secretary shall furnish each branch with a sufficient number of blank credentials for the purpose herein specified.

6. No branch shall be represented unless organized at least thirty days prior to the opening day of the convention.

Fourth. If the convention proposed is not approved by at least one other national party herein named or by at least three unaffiliated or unaffiliated state or territorial parties, on or before June 1st, then these resolutions shall be null and void and this call shall stand revoked.

Fifth. That a committee of five be chosen by this convention to make the necessary arrangements for the proposed convention if same be held.  
Sixth. That the results of said proposed convention shall be reported to our branches by the committee herein designated and a referendum convention taken upon the same, and if approved by a majority vote of the members

of our party, such shall be the verdict of the party, and the books, papers, moneys and all other property in possession of the national party shall be delivered up to such officers or boards as may be chosen at said convention to receive the same, if less than a majority of the members of our party vote in favor of said report, the same shall be rejected and the party shall proceed as heretofore.

## REPLY OF THE SPRINGFIELD N. E. C.

Theo. Debs, Esq., Nat. Secy. S. D. P., Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir and Comrade:  
I received a certified copy of the call for a unity convention of all organized Socialists of this country, adopted by the late national convention of your party, as well as your communication of March 28th, 1901, advising me of the fact that the said call had been approved by a referendum vote of your membership, and agreeably to your request, I submitted both documents to the national executive committee of our party.

Our party has always stood for organic unity of all true Socialists of the United States, and welcomes the stand taken by your convention as an important step towards the accomplishment of that great object. While your party was voting upon your call, our party, by practical unanimity, adopted a resolution, a copy of which I inclose, and which you will notice, calls for a general convention of the Socialists in terms similar to those in your call. It is with great pleasure that we exercise the authority conferred on us by the said resolution and accept your invitation for a joint unity convention.

We have appointed Comrades Greenbaum and Putnam, of St. Louis, Mahoney and Hamilton of Indianapolis, and Hayes of Cleveland, as a committee to co-operate with a similar committee of your party in all necessary preparations and arrangements for the convention, and we hope that they together with any additional committee that may be appointed for that purpose by other Socialist organizations will pave the way towards a successful and expeditious accomplishment of the task of the convention.

In conclusion we desire to urge upon you the advisability of modifying the terms of your call in some details in the common interest of the Socialist movement of this country.

We believe that the date set by you for the convention, the second Tuesday of September, is in our well chosen. It is too remote, and it will very materially interfere with the fall campaign by compelling us to open the same with our forces still undecided by taking from it all our available funds, and the time and energy of our party, and the same will be counterproductive in our view. We suggest that the convention be held in the early part of July.

We also believe that the actions and decisions of the various committees of each separate party or organization should be final, so that a Socialist party might at the conclusion of the convention become an accomplished fact, and not a debatable proposition, and in order to avoid unnecessary prolongation of the unfortunate division of our ranks with the inevitable friction engendered by it.

In advising that course, we follow the example of our comrades in all European countries on similar occasions, and do not in any way offend against the principles of democracy within our ranks, as the party members have the opportunity to manifest and enforce their desires in electing and instructing their delegates.

I believe we voice the sentiment of the overwhelming majority of our comrades in the ranks of both of our parties in advising these modifications, and hope your board will find it possible to accept the same, or to submit them to a referendum vote of your party if necessary.

With sincere wishes for a speedy union of all true Socialists for the benefit of the national Executive Committee, S. D. P.

WM. BUTSCHER,  
National Secretary.

## Resolutions.

Adopted by Referendum of Springfield, S. D. P.:  
Resolved—

1. That a national convention of the Socialists of the United States for the purpose of effecting a union of Socialist forces, and establishing a solid party organization be called for an early date.

2. That all Locals of the Social Democratic Party affiliated with the Springfield N. E. C. be invited to participate in such convention.

3. That all branches of the S. D. P. affiliated with the Chicago N. E. C. be invited to participate in such convention.

4. That all sections of the Socialist Labor Party be invited to participate in such convention.

5. That all Socialist state organizations affiliated with any National Committee be invited to participate in such convention.

6. That all other Socialist organizations recognizing the class struggle and the necessity of independent political action of the working class be

invited to participate in such convention.

7. That the only condition of participation in such convention be a pledge to abide by the decisions of the convention.

8. That the basis of representation for all such organizations be one delegate for each local organization and one additional delegate for each one hundred members or major fraction thereof.

9. That two or more organizations be permitted to co-operate for the purpose of sending delegates on the above basis as here provided.

10. That such convention be held in the city of Indianapolis, Ind.

11. That the N. E. C. be authorized to fix the date and change the place and basis of representation of the convention with the Chicago N. E. B. or any state organization if requested by such organization.

Many small places in various parts of the country show an increasing Socialist vote and interest in political elections is always much less than in national ones. Socialists are sawing wood.

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THE WORKERS' CALL.  
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Clear, Clean, Socialist Paper.  
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DORHAM, TEXAS.  
The only Socialist paper in Texas. Truly scientific and class-conscious. Edited by W. E. Farmer, one among the ablest writers and speakers in America. Only 50c a year.

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An informed modern scientific Socialist—the reason of it; the facts upon which it is based; the great historic epochs down back to its doctrine, scope, purpose, aim and object—you should read THE PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY.  
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A Beautiful Solid Gold Case Watch, Waltham movement, 15-jewel, value \$40.00, for the ladies.  
One \$2 1/2 repeating Winchester Rifle, .22-calibre, value \$25.00, for the gentlemen.  
Every purchaser of Goods to the value of 50 cents will receive one ticket—ladies' ticket for gold watch, gentlemen's ticket for rifle.  
Drawing will be on the evening of July 1st, and will be conducted by three ladies of North Seattle.

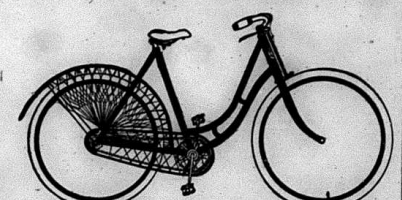
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The present proportion of The Bee Hive's increasing business was not attained by luck or any chance of circumstances. Every advance has grown from careful planning. Every advantage has been secured by close attention. Step by step the business is growing under an iron purpose to be worthy of North Seattle and useful to its citizens. Our aim has been to improve the quality of our goods and to give them the highest possible standard. As a proof of this our efforts have been rewarded and the superiority of our goods has been recognized by a constantly increasing trade, perfectly of our goods has been handled second qualities. The best is cheapest, because it is the best. Merely talking low prices and exceptional bargains does not satisfy buyers. The doing of it is the thing that brings and holds the trade.

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OUR VALUES DO THEIR OWN TALKING.  
10 pieces of 36-inch Silena Staple Shades only, none better elsewhere at 15c, our price 10c.  
10 pieces of 36-inch Silena Staple Shades only, none better elsewhere at 20c, our price 15c.  
12 pieces of 28-inch Silk Lucezette Taffeta, staple shades of fast black, our regular 20c quality, 15c.

DOMESTICS.  
50 pieces of Wm. Simpson's 8c Bonn Black and White Calicos and American Indigo Blue Prints, worth 45c and 75c, special 5c.  
2 cases of Fine Home-made, Hand-tied Comforters, covered with fine Silkoline and filled with fine Laminated Cotton, worth \$2.00, our price \$1.39.  
Two boxes of 10-4 Tan Cotton Blankets, wool finish, worth 75c at the mill, our price 69c.

SPRING WEIGHT UNDERWEAR FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN.  
At 25c—Women Egyptian, cream color and bleached white, long and short; Vests, medium spring weight.

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