

Strikes About The Right Idea

Following is the city platform of the Socialists as adopted recently at Fitchburg, Massachusetts and is a good sample and guide for Socialists to follow when drafting municipal platforms. While it is not perfect, it is probably the best municipal Socialist platform yet published. It is as follows:

We, the Socialist voters of Fitchburg in caucus assembled, renew our allegiance to the principles of international Socialism, and confirming the nation and state platforms of our party adopted in 1904, present the voters of Fitchburg these same principles worked out in detail, to be applied to municipal rather than to national issues, as our platform in this campaign.

We believe that a working man should get the equivalent of all that he produces, and we demand that he should get it. As the only means of realizing this demand, we declare that the people who get only a small share of what they produce (the working class) should peacefully, at the ballot box, take possession of the government and convert this land of trusts, capitalists, oppression, tyranny, "bull-pens," child murder, graft, starvation for the poor and extravagant luxury for the rich, into a Co-operative Commonwealth, "of the people, for the people and by the people."

In the campaign just closed the two old parties stood for the same principles; there was practically no difference in their platforms; they were both pledged to the monied interests, or as we say, the capitalist class.

In this campaign the two old parties stand on no platform; the last alleged difference that existed between them has been removed the past year; they both stand for the capitalist class in this city (the manufacturers, merchants, etc.) and are pledged to their interests, as opposed to the working class.

As a majority party we would put our principles as a whole into operation; but as a minority party we favor all measures of benefit to the working class as a whole, and such as will lead to the establishment of the Co-operative Commonwealth.

We, therefore favor the following measures:

MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP.

Municipal ownership of street railways, lighting plant, ice-houses, coal and wood yards, and such other industries as are necessary to the life of our citizens.

These may be operated in three different ways, circumstances to determine.

1. All service absolutely free of cost to the public, to be paid for out of general fund. (Instances, roads, streets, police and fire departments.)

2. Service at cost of production. (Instances, water department, post-office department.)

3. Service to be run at a profit to the city, and used for the benefit of the whole community; none of the profits, however, to be used toward the reduction of taxes.

A particular instance, peculiarly adapted to local conditions is our lighting plant.

Many cities in our country as well as in England and other countries, now own their lighting plants, and Fitchburg should not be too far behind. There is no reason why this city should own its water supply which does not equally apply to the gas and electric lighting plant. Why should we pay \$100 per year for each arc light when other cities similarly situated provide it at 65 dollars or less with their own plants? The saving on this one item would go far toward providing for other

much needed improvements.

LABOR.

Abolition of contract labor on city work.

The pensioning of all city employees

tendency of the present time to make them merely preparatory for the higher education that is available only to the rich. Our schools should make their strongest effort for those who are fitting for every-day life rather than for those who are fitting for high school or colleges. No pupil should graduate from a grammar school without a thorough knowledge of arithmetic and other common studies of earlier days. Too many have done so. The great majority never attend a high school; therefore they are the ones entitled to the most careful consideration.

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Triumph of Labor, By Walter

Legislators Are Still "Working"

On January 25 the first battle over the initiative and referendum took place in the house. It came up over a substitute bill introduced for the bills Nos. 1 and 2.

munication was read from the State Federation of Labor for direct legislation, and urging that the Oregon form of initiative be adopted. The petition said that the passage of any other bill than house bill No. 1 would be a subterfuge.

Every utterance and move shows conclusively that the republicans have no intention of passing a law similar to the Oregon law.

On the 26th little was done in either branch of the legislature except the routine work, such as to convene and adjourn.

On the 27th Representative Sanden's joint memorial No. 1 relating to the election of United States senators by direct vote of the people, passed the senate.

Maddox's bill prohibiting the employment of children under 16 years of age in underground mines was passed.

Of course the 28th being Saturday the capitalist law makers for the people (?) with pockets stuffed with transportation, in some instances for the whole family, went home to rest over Sunday after their hard week's work.

On Monday the 30th slaughtering began when Senator Whipple's bill providing for the semi-annual payment of taxes was killed in the house, notwithstanding that certain business associations were petitioning for the same.

A petition was read urging that the meat and milk inspection law be not repealed, and a communication from the Montana branch of the Fraternal Congress was received protesting against placing fraternal societies under the operation of the insurance law.

House bill No. 32 was signed by the governor, authorizing school trustees to issue bonds for the purpose of raising funds to carry on the school.

The report of the judiciary committee making it illegal for women to be notaries public was adopted.

Dempster's measure providing a whipping post for wife beaters was reported adversely and the report was adopted.

On the 31st, the last day in the month, the woman suffrage measure came up, and had you heard some of the speeches, you would have imagined they were Socialists to hear them plead to have this measure submitted to vote of the people.

Clancy, Jan. 30, 1905.

Montana News:

Among the countless number of bills that have been introduced in the present legislature is a bill to establish a state board of health. This is very good, but see the secretary is to receive the sum of \$3,000 per year salary, and another bill has been introduced to cut the salaries of the sheriffs. That's right, take it from the men who do the work and give it to the parasite; thus it has been and always will be under the present grafting system of government. If there is any officer in the outfit who deserves any more than \$2.00 per day, which I doubt, it is the sheriff. He is on duty from the time that he takes hold of the job until his term runs out. 24 hours a day, and he certainly should get the big end of the swag. The next bill that comes up should be one to cut the hours of work of the senate and house. I'm afraid the members will be prostrated by over work or go to sleep on duty and let the initiative and referendum bill run into the bill for the taxation of old maids or else let the bill to prevent scab on sheep collide with the bill to take the final e off of Clarke.

JOHN BRACK.



—From The Crisis, Salt Lake, Utah.

(including school teachers) who have faithfully served the city for many years.

Rigid enforcement of all labor and factory inspection laws, and laws for the protection of women and minors.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

An efficient and economical hospital service, free to all.

The equal enforcement of health laws among rich as well as poor.

The establishment of a proper standard as to light, ventilation, over-crowding, and sanitary arrangements in tenements and other buildings, and the condemnation and destruction by the city of all buildings not conforming to the standard.

LIQUOR QUESTION.

The extension of our principle of national government control to the liquor traffic, thus doing away with the perennial local wrangles over the matter, the results of which, at their best, are transitory and devoid of satisfaction to the people as a whole.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The city now furnishes textbooks free to school children. It should also furnish free clothing and free meals. Proper nourishment and protection from the weather are as necessary to the education of our children as textbooks. We especially condemn the niggardly retrenchment that refuses to appropriate the usual \$200 for shoes for needy children. While our public schools are our finest institutions, yet we regret the

In history and economics the proletarian standpoint should receive equal consideration with the capitalist standpoint.

Instruction of children as to child labor legislation, and as to their rights before the law.

CITIZENSHIP.

Equal civil and political rights for men and women.

WARNING.

But in advocating these measures we warn the working class against the so-called public ownership parties, and of such planks in old party platforms, as an attempt of the capitalist class to get a stronger hold upon the reins of government, and thereby to increase their power to draw profits out of labor in other industry.

Workingmen: Socialism is your only hope; without it you are slaves; with it you may gain freedom, not only for yourselves but for the millions unborn.

THE COMRADE

An illustrated Socialist Review of Reviews. Contains a monthly digest of the whole Socialist press, American and foreign. Review of current events by Franklin H. Wentworth.—Quotes the utterances of several hundred papers on all questions that interest Socialists.—The ideal paper for the busy Socialist.—The best magazine for the Socialist who doesn't like to miss anything of

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Simple Questioning of a Child.

Little Edith: "Mother, does God rule the world?"
Mother: "Yes, my child."
"Mother, does God love dogs better than he loves children?"
"Why no, my dear, why do you ask?"
"Because I see many dogs that are well fed and many little children starving and being neglected."

On the second day of the session Lanstrum introduced house bill No. 1, being a bill for the initiative and referendum. Just following this Demster introduced practically the same bill. Ever since then these bills have been in the hands of the committee on privileges and elections.

On the same date that the above bills were being discussed a com-

"But my dear, the dogs that are well fed belong to the rich and it is only the children of the poor that you see starving and neglected."

"Well, mother, does God love the dogs of the rich better than he loves the children of the poor?"

"O, no, my dear! The poor who are good and go to church, will get their reward in the hereafter."

"But, mother, poor little children that are starving cannot go to church at all times and besides I read in the paper that 35,000 little children starved to death last year and many rich people hired a hotel to keep their dogs in nice warm rooms with plenty of food. Now mother, if God treats the dogs better than little children I do not love God and if the little children that starved to death that could not go to church will go to some bad place called hell, I want to go to hell too, for I could not love to go to heaven and see God if he wants little children to starve while dogs are well fed."
"Run on dear, you do not understand yet."—New Time.

THE MONTANA NEWS.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

J. H. WALSH Editor and Publisher

OFFICE 22 PARK AVE. P. O. BOX 908

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The place to strike is at the ballot box.

The next four years promises to be a boom for Socialism.

The Russian army officers regret that the strikers revolted at this time. Sad, indeed!

When the workers unite at the ballot box the trouble will all be settled peaceably.

As many as a dozen able bodied men pass through Helena daily looking for work. How about those two jobs for every man?

The moral wave from Havre has struck Red Lodge and as a result all the tin-horns, secretaries, etc., with their pug dogs must go.

The militant, class-conscious, revolutionary idea seems to be a hard proposition for many to understand. Can't grasp its true significance.

Read the municipal platform in another column by the Massachusetts comrades. Then try and improve it. Don't be satisfied with it for it is not perfect. However it is one of the best municipal platform yet put out by the Socialists.

The new editor on the Independent—a product of Parry's citizens alliance mill—must be looking for a fight, or at least is trying to stir up one by nagging at the unions. It is evident his knowledge of unionism is very limited.

Of course the present session of the legislature is to spend a little time over a bill to make gambling legal provided a license or fine is paid. Mr. O'Connor you and your bill will be put down and out; the state of Montana is rapidly advancing from a rendezvous for tin-horns and other outlaws to a thinking class of people. Just look at the Socialist vote for proof of the assertion.

Line-Up, the newly started Socialist paper at Kansas City, announces that it will be compelled to suspend if it does not get better support in the near future. It tells of several hundred letters received in a week at their office, and among them only three yearly subscriptions at 25 cents each. The comrades don't want the paper to get too extravagant. At the same time the Alliance of the Rockies is just about to quit; this Socialist newspaper business is a strenuous proposition in the cause of the working class.

Comrade W. L. Cragg of Fergus county spent last Wednesday evening at the News headquarters. He was on his return home from an extended pleasure and business trip in the east. While east he visited with his mother and relatives of Darlington, Wisconsin and called on his firm that he represents in this state—Geo. Meldrum & Co., of Chicago. It reminded ye scribe of old times when Comrade Cragg came strolling into our den with a story to tell that never ends and one that al-

ways makes you feel glad that you are living. He says that his Chicago house is doing a fine grocery business in this state, and this year he expects to do a much larger business than last.

COME TO HELENA, CRIMINALS

According to the dispatches from Havre the sporting fraternity has been run out of the town. A moral wave struck the officers in charge and the tin-horns, secretary, and women of easy virtue must hunt for other fields.

This move has been prompted by the Great Northern, and shows conclusively, that crime can be suppressed if the authorities so desire. The pressure from the railroad company of course is sufficient to make the two-by-four city officials dance to the right tune. This is an excellent move for the community, however, and the News would suggest to the criminals, who must leave Havre to come to Helena or go to Lewistown where the city officials permit all these kind of crimes for a small rake-off each month.

In fact the police force and the police court as well as the mayor and city council, stand before the public today with crimson hands stained by the criminal acts of wringing blood money from prostitutes and accepting monthly bribes from tin-horns that they may conduct hell-holes to rob people.

Come to Helena, criminals—the police who hold their positions under the present mayor and city council are all blind men; the city court performs the criminal act of collecting the illegal fines, and yours will be gladly received. The wine rooms do an excellent business here in ruining young girls and debauching the youth of the city, which must be continued for the profit there is in it. You need have no fear from the officers for they are all blind men from the sheriff down.

HALF VOTE FOR CAPITALISM.

Dr. Hirshfield of Minneapolis, the gentleman to whom we referred a few weeks ago as not being a Socialist, because he voted for an old party candidate and states frankly that he would do the same thing over again under similar circumstances, is out of the party.

The point in his case, and one that bothers a great many Socialists, is cannot a Socialist vote for an old party candidate provided the Socialists have no nominee in the field? No, you can't, not if you are a Socialist.

Now let us see the reason. The Socialist party is the party of the working class, and asserts that all other parties are parties of the capitalist class; now in order to fight the capitalist system and the capitalist class it is necessary to unite the workers at the ballot box to support their own platforms and their own nominees—ones from the ranks of the workers.

Capitalism keeps all these fake parties possible, in the field in order to divide up the laboring class vote. Instance, the national brewery association contributing liberally to the prohibition national campaign fund, and offered to contribute more. The capitalists who contributed to the democratic campaign fund also contributed a like sum to the republican campaign fund; this shows conclusively that both parties stand for the same controlling power—capitalism.

This being the case, if there is no Socialist nominee in the field, your vote for either party of the capitalist class is a half vote for capitalism. Better not vote at all than to give a half vote to capitalism; capitalism will live without any Socialist half vote assistance; or better still write in the name of a Socialist for said office and vote for it. Always vote for Socialism, not for men.

The Dr., of Minneapolis with his half vote for capitalism is down and out and such should be the case. The Socialist party is for Socialism, first, last and all the time, and can have no half votes to fool away on some "good" man or "friend of mine," if he is fool enough to be on any ticket that represents capitalism.

WOULD RAISE TROUBLE.

Judging from the tone of the editorials of the Independent of this

city for the past few weeks, one would be lead to believe that trouble would soon be brewing again in Helena between organized labor and the local capitalists.

Since the Independent, secured the services of a new editor, who, it appears from his writings, would be a good character to align with the Parry school of citizens alliance thugs and criminals of Colorado, the columns having teemed with editorials befitting the pen of a stripe of a degenerate as described above.

Helena had a smack of a labor trouble last year, which resulted in but little good to any one. Now why should this fight be brought on again? For only one reason: that labor may be ground to still finer meal and that more of the weaker firms will be crushed, while the larger local capitalist will profit by such proceedings.

Why a paper should proceed to bring on a state of affairs of this kind when it is uncalled for, is only answered by its own record—a boodling-proposition. The independent was born in the cradle of boodle and hold-up and its natural inclinations are to follow along the dark path of the footpad that some one may be sandbagged or blackmailed out of some of his wealth.

However, if the Independent with its wage slave editor, who has been shipped here from the east, is looking for trouble with organized labor—the row to originate in the Independent office—just run up your flag and you will be accommodated. Organized labor is always ready to arbitrate, but at the same time stands ready to fight.

Under the present condition of affairs the small merchant will do well to consider his future moves, as compared with the working class, before he takes a stand with a gang of organized capitalist ruffians, which means his complete nihilism.

The workers of Helena are fairly well organized and it would be well for them to make a move at this time toward the peaceable solution of any differences that may exist, and thereby avoid a costly conflict brought on through the efforts of some imported intellectual foreigner.

Socialist News From State Headquarters.

Things to remember by: M. W. WILKINS.

Remember, that a Socialist local is a company in the army of Socialism, charged with the work of holding the fort and advancing the cause in the locality where the local is organized.

2. Remember, that a local becomes strong and vigorous in proportion as it does vigorous and persistent work for Socialism.

3. Remember, that in building up a local's membership, it is quality, not quantity that counts. A local with five members, all of whom are well versed in the party's doctrine and tactics, and who are active and vigorous workers for Socialism, is a strong local and will become stronger, while a local with 50 members, 45 of whom are ignorant and indifferent to party affairs, is a weak local and pretty certain to die.

4. Remember, that the Socialist party stands for the economic emancipation of the wage working class. Hence it must have a program in harmony with that purpose. Therefore a platform mixed with the economic interests of any other element of society is not a Socialist platform. To thoroughly understand this, a Socialist must be class conscious from the standpoint of the interests of the wage working class.

5. Remember, that the affairs of the Socialist party at every point should be kept in the hands of real Socialists, and never trusted to patch work "reform" and sentimentalists who want a Socialism that suits every body.

6. Remember, that to be a good Socialist takes something more than to simply say "I am a Socialist." To be a good Socialist, you must thoroughly understand the principles and purposes of Socialism and square yourself therewith. The local should take pains to see that all its members are well educated in party doctrine and party tactics. Every member should read and study carefully the

"Communist Manifesto," by Marx and Engels. "Socialism Utopian and Scientific" by Engels. "Value, Price and Profit," and "Wage, Labor and Capital," two small books by Marx, and if you are equal to the task, read "Capital" by Marx. There are many other good books to read. Of course you must be familiar with the national platform.

7. Remember, that the fellows who are doing the dirty work in capitalist parties, if allowed to join a Socialist local, will be pretty likely to continue serving their old masters. "A word to the wise is sufficient."

8. Remember, that a member who can pay his dues, but will not, has no right in the councils of the Socialist movement. Let him lapse and keep out.

9. Remember, that a member of a local, who within or without the local, is constantly fighting the generally accepted purposes, doctrines and tactics of the Socialist movement, and advances ideas in sharp conflict therewith, is not entitled to membership in the party, stultified himself when he took the party pledge; and not only is the local justified in removing him, but it is the imperative duty of the local to remove him.

Academic discussions that tend to remove obstacles from the road that leads to the goal of the movement's purpose, are valuable; but no man has a right to claim membership in any movement, when his every act and word shows him to be out of sympathy with the spirit and purpose of that movement.

10. Remember, that the Socialist movement is not a machine to be used by would-be leaders and "great men" to boost themselves into fat political positions. When a member is found plotting and scheming, a la old party methods, to further his own selfish ends, lay him on the shelf until he learns that the Socialist party is a democratic movement which has the right to select its own servants and candidates.

11. Remember, that fusion and sidetracking schemes are the result of uncleanness in doctrine and tactics on the part of the rank and file, plus the scheming of the handful of unscrupulous selfseekers who prefer power to principle.

Local Butte reports that the ladies of the local gave a card party recently, which was a grand success. \$75 was cleared from the entertainment.

Local Bozeman has become very active and holds propaganda meetings every week and attendance increasing at every meeting; also increase of membership.

Local Havre is preparing to build up a good movement in Choteau county.

Remember comrades, when there are \$100 in the organizing fund an organizer is to be put in the field.

There is a large amount of literature at headquarters we want to dispense with; all profits from sale of literature goes to the organization fund.

A good pamphlet to circulate is "Class Struggles in America." Send 10 cents and get a copy.

JAS. D. GRAHAM, State Secretary.

What is the reason you comrades don't sell a few more press hares?

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1 pound30c
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CORNER MAIN AND 6TH

Great Clean-Up Sale OF GOOD SHOES



All remnant pairs and surplus lines must go. The few items below tell the story.

Women's shoes of various kinds \$3 to \$5 grades odd sizes \$1.95
Remnants from our "Hanan" stock reg. \$6 and \$6.50 kinds \$3.65
Women's felt Juliets \$1.00 quality for 75c
Infant's first shoes 50c kind sale price 25c
25c Combination shoe polish for 10c

SMITHER'S SHOE STORE

SEND FOR CATALOGUE SEND FOR CATALOGUE

MONSTER CLEARANCE SALE!

Values Swept Away Profits swept Away Surplus Stock Swept Away

Success and a great trade is well and satisfactory; at the same time we are not unmindful of the debt we owe our great army of friends and patrons. As a consequence we are making this colossal sale to show the public that we are prepared to sacrifice values for the next twenty days so that you can and may reap the harvest of the destructive prices as quoted in our January catalogue.

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Anderson Bros. Co.

CARRIES THE BEST LINE OF OVERCOATS AND SUITS

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It is the CROUSE & BRANDEE line; it is made by tailors and not by Children.

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DON'T DELAY IT MEN'S

GRAVENETTE COATS

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Bears the Union Label, a guarantee of excellence that the working man cannot afford to overlook.

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HELENA, MONT.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lothrop, Mont., Jan. 22, '05.
Dear Comrade: Please change my address from Nine Mile to Lothrop, Montana. I have only succeeded in selling one of the sub cards which you sent. Times are dull and it is pretty hard to get a dollar out of anybody in this part of the country. Will send you \$2 and will try to sell more of the cards if possible.
Fraternally,
C. F. CATON.

Clancy, January 23, 1905.
To the Montana News:
I have just been reading an article in the Anaconda Standard of the date of January 21st regarding vaccination. It would appear that we are about to have an epidemic of vaccination forced upon us and the grafters who compose the so-called

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boards of health have fixed the price at one dollar per head and by this means they expect to squeeze the hard earned nickles out of the poor suckers who voted them into office. Any kind of graft by which they can squeeze or bulldoze the dollars out of the poor working mule is law and order for these grafters.

But there is a remedy for the poor who are too poor to pay for vaccination. They can go before a notary public and swear that he, she or it, is a pauper; but the Standard does not say whether or not the notary is going to do the swearing act free of charge. In my experience with these gentlemen I have always had to pay \$1.50 for the privilege of taking an oath before one of them. Now the question comes up, which would be the cheaper plan? to pay \$1 to get vaccinated or \$1.50 to prove you are a pauper and get the vaccination free? But of course it makes very little difference to those fellows. What Esau loses Jacob gains. In my opinion this question of vaccination is a serious one and one that the entire population of the state should take into consideration.

From what I have seen of it, I am led to believe that it is more dangerous than the smallpox. I have seen both grown up people and children almost lose their arms by it. I have a family of seven children, all in good health and the board of health of Jefferson county has ordered me to have them all vaccinated. This would be a \$7 graft, see? Or, else I could go before some grafting notary public and swear I am a pauper. Ye everlasting Gods! How long are the people going to be bulldozed by a set of political paupers? Are we all deaf, dumb and blind, that we are going to let a set of parasites inject poison into our children in the name of law? If vaccination is such a good thing for the community why does not the state do it free of charge and not force poor people who have not the means to pay for it to the humiliation of producing a paupers certificate?

Surely this should be the last straw. It should open the eyes of the voting mule. Think of it you loud-mouth fools, who shout "My Country 'Tis of Thee" think of having to go and stand up and swear you are a pauper, and then as the Standard says, you will have a free scratch coming. Well, this is a free country, and the "Star Spangled Banner" in misery shall wave, o'er the land of the tramps and the home of the slave. Whoop'er up for prosperity! Whoop!
JOHN BRACK.

Stevensville, Mont., Jan. 20, '05.
Dear Comrade: I have been over

to Victor and have arranged with the local to look after the meeting that you will hold at that place; when you get your program arranged send 300 admission tickets, your advertising posters and music to J. E. Marion, Victor for that entertainment and send to me for Stevensville 300 tickets, your posters and music for our entertainment.
Fraternally,
JAMES ETTIEN.

Billings, Mont., Jan. 27, '05.
Dear Comrade: I have received the checks from the bank Nos. 31 and 33, endorsed by you. Check No. 31 for 1,000 cards, \$3.00, for Montana News \$1.00, total \$4.00, paid Oct. 20, '04. Check No. 33 for 1,000 leaflets \$3.50, paid Nov. 9, '04; that is the only receipts.

I have your acknowledgments in the Montana News, Oct. 19, '04, No. 5 and Oct. 26, '04 No. 6.

Please let me hear from you. We have no news here at this time; can't have any meetings; members all behind with dues and all is at a standstill. There are only a few of us that are true blue that are doing all the work and going down in our pockets and we have struck bed rock.

Fraternally Yours,
JOHN POWERS.
208 North 24th Street.

P. S. The city dads that promised one hour shorter work-day are working the carpenters on city work 10 hours, from 25 cents to 40 cents per hour. J. P.

[Glad to know that we have got straight on the accounts; I find in the issues you refer to acknowledgment of the checks, but one of them for some reason did not find its way into the day-book; I was out campaigning at the time these checks reached this office. Your local is probably no worse, so far as being at a standstill, than many others; however this must naturally be expected after a big campaign. Keep right on, however, for it is the constant dripping of the water that wears the rock away. Then too, the opposition is assisting you surely in the carpenter camp. If they can't awake the working mule with a ten hour day, they will follow it with a twelve hour day and so on until the wage slave will awake. There is a point at which the worker will rebel and the uncontrollable greed of capital is driving him fast to that point.—Editor.]

Stevensville, Mont., Jan. 26, '05.
Dear Comrade: Yours received today; we will be somewhat disappointed if you do not come over some time in the near future as we have everything arranged for the

lecture, hall, music and any time will do, only so it will be before cropping time commences. In case you should arrange to come inside of two or three weeks correspond with L. Slaght and send on your music and other matter to him as I am going to be away on a trip for about that length of time.
Fraternally,
JAMES ETTIEN.

[I trust that nothing will arise whereby I will be forced to disappoint you; I have already considered the necessity of making the farm districts before the spring begins as the mining camp towns can be made any time the year. So far I have received 15 dates and I expect to add a number to these in the Missoula country.—Editor.]

Butte, Mont., Jan. 20, 1905.
Editor Montana News, Helena, Montana.

Dear Mr. Walsh: I have been a reader of the Montana News for several months, and as a member of the Socialist labor party have noticed during that time a more or less pronounced sympathy with the uncompromising aims and tactics of our party. I have thought that eventually, if not very soon, your development along that line would place you in a compromising position—a position in which your private interests as editor and proprietor of a Socialist paper, would conflict with your understanding of the demands (upon you) of genuine class consciousness revolutionary Socialism as taught and practiced by the S. L. P.

From the News of January 18, I think you have reached the "parting of the ways." In that issue you publish without comment the Ford-DeLeon correspondence in which the former is shown his contradictory position in remaining a member of the S. P., while no longer in sympathy with its platforms, leaders and tactics, and is invited to follow the course of the S. L. P.

And in an editorial entitled "Will Go to S. L. P.," you declare it probable that your party will soon split in two, one part forming a middle class movement; the other, and revolutionary element going to the S. L. P. The conclusion in your editorial is certainly warranted by the facts. From all parts of the U. S., comes evidence that the "opportunist middle-class element" in the S. P., intend to complete its evolution into a reactionary middle class party; while paralleled with that we see individual members of the S. P., "pulling out" of that party and joining the uncompromising S. L. P. That process will continue, as you

(Continued on page 4)

OUR FASHION LETTER.

Handkerchiefs and Other Dainty Accessories.

CHANGE IN FIGURE DECREED.

Cresson is an effective new shade of green—a white cloth skirt incrustated with Irish lace—a new shade of mousseline.

Among the dainty swagger dress accessories are to be found handkerchiefs of hand spun linen. These mouchoirs are the very latest fad, and an expensive one at that, costing \$10 or more apiece, and my lady must own at least a dozen of them. The handkerchiefs are quite plain and simple looking, finished about the edge with full embroidery. In one corner the hand name is worked in embroidery cotton. If a little skill in art needlework is possessed these Parisian handkerchiefs may be made for a quarter of the price asked for them in the shops.

The little lace "tucker" is a novelty in the realm of evening attire. It is used to outline the décolletage and is



WAIST OF SPOTTED TULLE.

almost a sine qua non with the evening gown of today. It is among the accessories that may be bought ready made in a variety of styles. Some of these "tuckers" are made of rows of lace threaded with black velvet ribbon.

The Parisian dress authorities say that the figure must be worn higher and show more outline than has been thought necessary for several years. The new French corsets are built along these lines. They are made of the finest coutil, satin or silk and are quite devoid of trimming except for a binding of satin ribbon at the top and a chic bow at the top of the stays in front.

The theater blouse illustrated is of spotted black tulle. It is adorned with applications of white silk, lozenges of black velvet and motifs of cream embroidery. Bows of black velvet ribbon fasten the belt and nestle among the puffs on the sleeves.

COLORS AND FABRICS.

Of the many shades of green that are already being used which will probably not reach their zenith before next spring there is a tone called "cresson," which is very effective.

"Cosaque" is another new shade of green, which is deeper in tone than the "cresson," while an extremely dark color is "amazone." Hunter's green is still very popular.

Boleros of broadtail and ermine are much used for skating gowns this season. A very pretty example of an ermine bolero is bordered with black velvet crossed in front and finished with a row of white fur buttons with



FROCK OF SPOTTED NET.

Jet rims and a corresponding number of ermine tails. The sleeves, which are very short and wide, represent a combination of ermine and Irish lace. The bolero itself has also a square neck of the lace.

The ermine bolero is worn with a white cloth skirt incrustated with Irish lace. A large white hat trimmed with roses in different tones of white shading into a pale yellow is worn with the costume.

Very dainty is the evening frock of spotted white net herewith illustrated. The full skirt is shirred at the waist

and in three places down its length, the last shirring heading the deep hem founce. The full gathered waist has a puffing of the net outlining the corsage, which crosses at one side to the waist line. The puffed sleeves finish with a ruffle at the elbow.

NEW SKIRT STYLES.

A number of the new skirts are no longer gathered over the hips, but fit closely around them and are very full at the bottom. A certain type of corsélet skirt perfectly fitting treated in this way and gored to a great width at the bottom is a special favorite for house wear.

A dainty little demitoleet gown is fashioned of the new shade of mousseline.



COSTUME OF KAISER BLUE CLOTH.

Here known as aureole. The name speaks for itself as regards the coloring. The gown is made all in one, belted in at the waist with a ceinture of soft cream satin. It opens in a little point at the neck and is adorned with a curious mixture of passementerie and satin, which trimming partially covers the bodice and continues around the hips and down one side of the skirt. A chou of cream satin is introduced in the immediate center of the waist. The passementerie is repeated on the full puffed sleeves, while there is an entre-deux of lace heading the two ruffles on the skirt.

A beautiful gown of parsifal blue soft satin has a broad and almost invisible stripe which only reveals itself in certain lights. The skirt and bodice are bordered with mink and embroidered in a rose design in silver. There are clusters of pale pink and silver roses on the corsage.

The stunning street costume pictured is carried out in Kaiser blue broadcloth. The coat is of the redingote order, trimmed about the revers with bands of beaver fur and in deeper bands on the sleeves and at the hem of the skirt. Lace forms the vest and puffed lower sleeves.

OLD MODES REVIVED.

The fashionable woman is wearing all kinds of handsome bags depending from her waist belt. Not only in the street are these accessories in evidence,



HOOD OF BLUE PANNE.

but they are worn in the house, matching the indoor frock in color and often in material.

One of the newest bag fads is to cut off a piece of each shirt waist and send it to the bagmaker to fashion into a bag to hang from the belt.

My lady may pay as much as a thousand dollars for her elaborate bag, which will be exquisitely mounted in gold and studded with real gems.

Many of these expensive bags are made of velvet with silver heads set along the edge, the chatelaine and chain being also set with silver heads.

The picturesque hoods of our grandmothers' day are being revived for evening wear. They are made of satin or velvet with a loose puffy crown edged with marabou and the softening influence of tinted lace about the face.

Tweeds, homespuns, double cashmeres and serges are the favorite materials for children's dresses. Onion shades, browns, greens and bright blues are the colors usually selected.

The picture shows a stunning little hood of pale blue panne. Framing the face is a border of white fur and under this a frill of cream colored lace. At one side is an exquisite La France rose. The strings are of lace and fasten with another lovely pink rose.

JUDIC CHOLLET.

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L. H. YOUNG, Great Falls.

(Continued from page 3)

intimate, until the revolutionary elements are all lined up against the enemy—capitalism—in the only party whose organization is adequate for the emancipation of the working class—the S. L. P.

Now then, Friend Walsh, having arrived at the "parting of the ways" as it appears from your editorial, the question naturally follows: which road are you going to take? Will you allow private interests to keep you in a false position, or will you set yourself right at whatever cost to yourself? If you honestly believe that the S. L. P., is "as revolutionary, class-conscious proposition as it is able to get the same at the present time," you are either not such a Socialist yourself or you are in the wrong camp. You are in the same position that DeLeon showed Ford to be—a straddling posture. Same as the New York comrade, I invite you to change your course. Such a change may involve some difficulties at first. It may place you in a less prominent position in the eyes of the public. It may necessitate a more

NEWS WANT ADS

Three insertions in our want column Free of Charge for workers desiring positions, or those desiring help.

LOST—On or about February 1901 in Helena or vicinity One Thousand Shares of Headlight Mining Stock. Liberal reward for return of Stock to the News office, 22 Park Avenue, Helena.—Gunder E. Backen, Rimini, Montana. 5t

Wanted—All piano players to send 25 cents and get the "Brotherhood of Man," the first Socialist March for piano ever published. Address Montana News, Box 908, Helena, Mont.

For Sale—Few more copies at this office of "Socialism Made Plain," by Allen L. Benson. 135 pages for 15 cents. Address The News, Box 908, Helena, Mont.

For Sale—"Unionism and Socialism," by Eugene V. Debs. 10 cts. Order at once from the Montana News office.

thorough knowledge of the principles and tactics of scientific Socialism than you show at times in your editorial columns. It would certainly mean the end of the Montana News so far as your connection with it is concerned. But if you are out for Socialism first of all, you will, I am sure, be prepared to make the sacrifice.

I write this letter as a workingman whose sole inspiration in the past seven years has come from an increasing knowledge of and faith in the revolutionary program and tactics of the S. L. P. And since you, too, have come to acknowledge the superiority of our position, there is, to me no justification of you remaining longer in the "Socialist" party. Whatever you choose to do with this letter will be all right with me. My address is temporarily 368, Broadway, Butte. It is barely possible I may stop in Helena in a few days. If so I shall be pleased to discuss the situation with you. Meanwhile I am yours for the S. L. P. B. H. WILLIAMS. Member Section Butte S. L. P.

[I am thankful to receive the above letter and especially for the statement as regards "development" along certain lines; now I receive many letters of congratulatory structure, and hear of many kicks on the side, but if the paper is developing that is all that can be expected. Granting that the readers of the paper are also developing then there is hope for us in the future, although we may stand divided upon some issues at the present time.

As to publishing the letters of Ford-DeLeon without comment, I might say that I publish many things without comment. I thought that both letters were fully explanatory as written by their authors, and I further believe that the readers of the News are capable of forming an opinion for themselves after the reading of both letters.

I did say in an editorial that our party might split, but that time has not arrived as yet; when it does arrive however, I still contend that the

line-up will probably be about as I stated. But this does not put the News in any compromising position or bring it to the "parting of the way."

In a sentence you assert "the only party whose organization is adequate for the emancipation of the working class—the S. L. P." For my part I am not fully convinced that your organization is infallible when it is composed of fallible men. It will need many improvements before the ushering in of the co-operative commonwealth.

The particular point of your letter to me is the one where you say it would be "the end of the Montana News" so far as I am connected with it. Now, upon this point I would hitch with your organization, and balk at the pope rule in this line. If you have only one man who is omnipotent to publish your official organ, what will your party do when he dies? Why have I not the right to publish a paper, were I an S. L. P. man? If I have not the right to write editorials, you had not the right to write as much as you did to this paper on S. L. Pism., without the pope's censor having been exercised over your manuscript.

Judging from the great developments that are going on now and will for the next four years, many of the knotty problems will be solved at the proper time—that will be when we arrive at the "parting of the way." Instance, the active participants in the industrial union proposition which seems to be moving toward a welding of the workers whether S. P., or S. L. P., and there is no doubt but that the workers, just the workers, should stand together at the ballot box.

Livingston, Mont., Jan. 14, '05.

Comrade Walsh: Yes comrade, your scheme for a stereopticon machine is a very good way of getting the farmers together, for it seems that they cannot be aroused any other way, only through pictures or shows. Nevertheless we have got to

arouse them some way; it seems the capitalists cannot arouse them even if they are robbed of four-fifths of their product. Some will say "you Socialists want to divide up," just what we don't want, is the divide up system. The producing class has divided up till they have nothing more to divide, but their old clothes. Now what the Socialists propose to do is commence to divide our thoughts on this class struggle subject; the laboring element don't want to struggle all the time. We want to commence to enjoy some of the product of toil. Some say "how are you going to get some of the good things you speak of?" Why, does not labor produce the good things for consumption? So then, Mr. Laborer, I ask you the question, why should you not have what you produce? Don't ask the Socialists all these questions; we Socialists want you to answer some of the wrongs of the ruling class. Some one of the old hayseeds will say "I am free; I can sell where I please." Yes, and in a forced market. When you load your cattle, sheep or horses on the cars, what have you to say about the price? Free! then, are you? Do you set the price on the same, or does the Beef Trust set it? Likewise with what you take to your local town. The buyer sets the price on what you sell and what you buy; and then you call that freedom. Wake up! Bro. Farmer, from your Rip Van Winkle sleep and demand your rights. I get my rights says one. You do; do you call 1/4 of what you produce your just rights? If you do, I don't want any of what you call just. I want all I produce, minus what it costs to keep a co-operative system of production and distribution. Fraternally, M. L. BAKER.

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Socialist National Platform

I.

We, the Socialist party, in convention assembled, make our appeal to the American people as the defender and preserver of the idea of liberty and self-government, in which the nation was born; as the only political movement standing for the program and principles by which the liberty of the individual may become a fact; as the only political organization that is democratic, and that has for its purpose the democratizing of the whole of society.

To this idea of liberty the republican and democratic parties are utterly false. They alike struggle for power to maintain and profit by an industrial system which can be preserved only by the complete overthrow of such liberties as we already have, and by the still further enslavement and degradation of labor.

Our American institutions came into the world in the name of freedom. They have been seized upon by the capitalist class as the means of rooting out the idea of freedom from among the people. Our state and national legislatures have become the mere agencies of great propertied interests. These interests control the appointments and decisions of the judges of our courts. They have come into what is practically a private ownership of all the functions and forces of government. They are using these to betray and conquer foreign and weaker peoples, in order to establish new markets for the surplus goods which the people make, but are too poor to buy. They are gradually so invading and restricting the right of suffrage as to take unawares the right of the worker to a vote or voice in public affairs. By enacting new and misinterpreting old laws, they are preparing to attack the liberty of the individual even to speak or think for himself or for the common good.

By controlling all the sources of social revenue, the possessing class is able to silence what might be the voice of protest against the passing of liberty and the coming of tyranny. It completely controls the university and public schools, the pulpit and the press, arts and literatures. By making these economically dependent upon itself, it has brought all the forms of public teaching into servile submission to its own interests.

Our political institutions are also being used as the destroyers of that individual property upon which all liberty and opportunity depend. The promise of economic independence to each man was one of the faiths in which our institutions were founded. But under the guise of defending private property, capitalism is using our political institutions to make it impossible for the vast majority of human beings to ever become possessors of private property in the means of life.

Capitalism is the enemy and destroyer of essential private property. Its development is through the legalized confiscation of all that the labor of the working class produces, above its subsistence wage. The private ownership of the means of employment grounds society in an economic slavery which renders intellectual and political tyranny inevitable.

Socialism comes so to organize industry and society that every individual shall be secure in that private property in the means of life upon which his liberty of being, thought and action depend. It comes to rescue the people from the fast increasing and successful assault of capitalism upon the liberty of the individual.

II.

As an American Socialist party, we pledge our fidelity to the principles of international Socialism, as embodied in the united thought and action of the Socialists of all nations. In the industrial development already accomplished, the interests of the world's workers are separated by no national boundaries. The condition of the most exploited and oppressed workers in the most remote places of the earth inevitably tends to drag down all the workers of the world

to the same level. The tendency of the competitive wage system is to make labor's lowest condition the measure or rule of its universal condition. Industry and finance are no longer national, but international in both organization and results. The chief significance of national boundaries, and of so-called patriotisms which the ruling class of each nation is seeking to revive, is the power which these give to capitalism to keep the workers of the world from uniting, and to throw them against each other in the struggles of contending capitalist interests for the control of the yet unexploited markets of the world, or the remaining sources of profit.

The Socialist movement, therefore, is a world movement. It knows of no conflicts between the workers of one nation and the workers of another. It stands for the freedom of the workers of all nations; and, in so standing, it makes for the full freedom of all humanity.

III.

The Socialist movement owes its birth and growth to that economic development or world-process which is rapidly separating a working or producing class from a possessing or capitalist class. The class that produces nothing possesses labor's fruits, and the opportunities and enjoyments these fruits afford, while the class that does the world's real work has increasing economic uncertainty, and physical and intellectual misery as its portion.

The fact that these two classes have not yet become fully conscious of their distinction from each other, the fact that the lines of division and interest may not yet be clearly drawn, does not change the fact of the class conflict.

This class struggle is due to the private ownership of the means of employment, or the tools of production. Wherever and whenever man owned his own land and tools, and by them produced only the things which he used, economic independence was possible. But production, or the making of goods, has long ceased to be individual. The labors of scores or even thousands, enters into almost every article produced. Production is now social or collective. Practically everything is made or done by many men—sometimes separated by seas or continents—working together for the same end. But this co-operation in production is not for the direct use of the things made by the workers who make them, but for the profit of the owners; and to this is due the present division of society into two distinct classes; and from it has sprung all the miseries, inharmonies and contradictions of our civilization.

Between these two classes there can be no possible compromise or identity of interests, any more than there can be peace in the midst of war, or light in the midst of darkness. A society based upon this class division carries in itself the seeds of its own destruction. Such a society is founded in fundamental injustice. There can be no possible basis for social peace, for individual freedom, for mental and moral harmony, except in the conscious and complete triumph of the working class as the only class that has the right or power to be.

IV.

The Socialist program is not a theory imposed upon society for its acceptance or rejection. It is but the interpretation of what is, sooner or later, inevitable. Capitalism is already struggling to its destruction. It is no longer competent to organize or administer the work of the world, or even to preserve itself. The captains of industry are appalled at their own inability to control or direct the rapidly socializing forces of industry. The so-called trust is but a sign and form of this developing socialization of the world's work. The universal increase of the uncertainty of employment, the universal capitalist determination to break down the unity of labor in the trades unions, the widespread apprehensions of impending change, reveal that the institutions of capitalist society are passing under the power

of inhering forces that will soon destroy them.

Into the midst of the strain and crisis of civilization, the Socialist movement comes as the only saving or conservative force. If the world is to be saved from chaos, from universal disorder and misery, it must be by the union of the workers of all nations in the Socialist movement. The Socialist party comes with the only proposition or program for intelligently and deliberately organizing the nation for the common good of all its citizens. It is the first time that the mind of man has ever been directed toward the conscious organization of society.

Socialism means that all those things upon which the people in common depend shall be by the people in common be owned and administered. It means that the tools of employment shall be long to their creators and users; that all production shall be for the direct use of the producers; that the making of goods for profit shall come to an end; that we shall all be workers together, and that opportunities shall be open and equal to all men.

V.

To the end that the workers may seize every possible advantage that may strengthen them to gain complete control of the powers of government and thereby the sooner establish the co-operative commonwealth, the Socialist party pledges itself to watch and work in both the economic and the political struggle for each successive immediate interest of the working class; for shortened days of labor and increase of wages; for the insurance of the workers against accident, sickness and lack of employment; for pensions for aged and exhausted workers; for the public ownership of the means of transportation, communication and exchange; for the graduated taxation of incomes, inheritances, and of franchise and land values, the proceeds to be applied to public employment and bettering the condition of the workers; for the equal suffrage of men and women; for the prevention of the use of the military against labor in the settlement of strikes; for the free administration of justice; for popular government, including initiative, referendum, proportional representation, and the recall of officers by their constituents; and for every gain or advantage for the workers that may be wrested from the capitalist system, and that may relieve the suffering and strengthen the hands of labor. We lay upon every man elected to any executive or legislative office the first duty of striving to procure whatever is for the workers' most immediate interest, and for whatever will lessen the economic and political powers of the capitalist and increase the like powers of the worker.

But, in so doing, we are using these remedial measures as means to the one great end of the co-operative commonwealth. Such measures of relief as we may be able to force from capitalism are but a preparation of the workers to seize the whole powers of government, in order that they may thereby lay hold of the whole system of industry, and thus come into their rightful inheritance.

To this end we pledge ourselves, as the party of the working class, to use all political power, as fast as it shall be entrusted to us by our fellow workers, both for their immediate interests and for their ultimate and complete emancipation. To this end we appeal to all the workers of America, and to all who will lend their lives to the service of the workers in their struggle to gain their own, and to all who will nobly and disinterestedly give their days and energies unto the workers' cause to cast their lot and faith with the Socialist party. Our appeal for the trust and suffrages of our fellow workers is at once an appeal for their common good and freedom, and for the freedom and blossoming of our common humanity. In pledging ourselves, and those we represent, to be faithful to the appeal which we make, we believe that we are but preparing the soil of the economic freedom from which will spring the freedom of the whole man.