

THE PRESENT SYSTEM MEANS STAGNANCY

Capitalistic Reign of Trusts and Monopolies Destroy Progress and Makes Social Outcasts and Wage Slaves of the Toiling Masses.

We frequently hear it said that Socialism will destroy all progress and end society in a stagnant pool.

Of course, the critics of Socialism who makes such prophecies know nothing whatever about it. They say such things to frighten people, just as some persons frighten children by telling them of hobgoblins and witches which never existed and never will exist.

Socialism, to one who knows Socialism, has no intention of taking the great stream of life and directing it into a vast, stagnant pool. That would be the end of the human order, while Socialism is the beginning of a human order.

For centuries upon centuries we have fought each other tooth and nail. As nomads, savages, cannibals and barbarians, we often depended for existence upon the destruction of our fellow human beings. We had to live, and to live we fought and destroyed each other.

We sometimes look back at those old days with horror. And yet are we very far from this old slavery?

Do we not today fight and destroy each other? Is not the merchant proud when he bankrupts and sends to ruin his fellow merchant? Is not that capitalist greatest who is most successful in bankrupting and destroying his fellow capitalist? Is not that magnate greatest who adds field to field, house to house, factory to factory, leaving multitudes landless, unemployed and starving?

Is not the workman today pitted against the capitalist and the capitalist against the workman. And do we not approve and adopt for our own use that organization which most successfully overpowers and destroys other organizations?

Are not those whom we emulate the most successful in impoverishing other men?

And what does all this competitive and combative effort mean? Are we not all of us fighting with might and main to reach a position in which we shall be independent and free, in which we shall have guaranteed to us and to our children the necessities of life, and in which we shall dominate the lives of other men instead of having them dominate our life?

And have you not observed that this competitive struggle has always ended in monopoly? In the civilizations of the past the victors in this struggle have invariably gotten into their own hands the land, the wealth and the government. Have they not taken the brooks

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE.

By virtue of the authority vested in me by a deed of trust, bearing date on the 21st day of September, 1908, executed by E. K. Brotherton, to the undersigned, E. E. Robertson, as trustee, to secure to George Fisher and A. Fruth, doing business as Fisher & Fruth, the payment of eight (\$8) certain negotiable promissory notes therein described, and recorded in the clerk's office of the County Court of Kanawha, West Virginia, in Trust Deed Book No. 33, at page 472, the undersigned will offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder at the east front door of Court House of Kanawha County, West Virginia, on the 1st day of September, 1910, at 11 o'clock a. m., the following described personal property: All the personal property contained in a certain West Virginia, consisting of groceries, butcher shop, machinery, etc., and wagon, together with all the fixtures, furniture, goods, etc., contained therein.

Said sale will be made upon the following terms: Cash in hand on the day of the sale, as provided for in said trust deed.

E. E. ROBERTSON, Trustee.

You Use SILVERWARE

and it is not bright and shining like the silverware you use now. You are not getting the most out of your silverware. It is not right with any amount of care, unless it is of the right kind—a reliable make. No other make can make and few can compare at all favorably with



Special Selling Agent
EISENSMITH,
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245 Capitol St., Opp. State House

and rivulets and united them into one stream that emptied itself into the great STAGNANT reservoir of their own personal monopoly?

It is monopoly that is stagnant, and whenever the world has come to a stage where a few have monopolized things essential to life, the socialists of the past have been destroyed. The reservoirs of wealth have been filled to overflowing while the people starved.

A lamp surcharged with oil will not burn, and the socialists of the past, like the lamp, have perished for want of proper distribution.

Our present panic and industrial crises—periods of stagnancy—will end only when things readjust themselves and the people begin again to get sustenance.

Today the reservoirs are full, and the people who have flooded the reservoirs are not allowed to produce any more until in some manner the reservoirs are emptied.

This is capitalism—and stagnancy.

How different the Socialist idea! The Socialist has no intention of drying up the little rivulets and of ending them in the reservoir of monopoly. He intends to retain and preserve the millions of little brooks and streamlets which refresh the earth, but he wants them all to have a destiny, a great, common destiny, co-operative in its purpose, unified in its aim.

Nature does not have dams or reservoirs. He's a circle of usefulness. Billions of little springs and brooks empty themselves into the larger streams and these into the great, uncrushing rivers.

As they move on their way to achieve their destiny they water and refresh the earth. AND EVERY DROP THAT COMES FROM THEM IS TAKEN UP AND SENT BACK TO THEM to feed and replenish them so that they may start their creative and productive work again.

This is precisely the end and aim of Socialism. It is as if the earth drank of the co-operative labors of all the millions of individual streamlets only for the purpose of rendering back to every unit the full product of its labor.

—Robert Hunter.

Railway Telegraphers Have Won Five Points.

Washington, D. C., Aug. 24.—The Order of Railway Telegraphers on the Southern Railway, win these five points, according to the final award of the arbitration board just filed in the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia.

Increase in wages amounting to 8 per cent.

Fifty-day vacation each year with pay for employees in service over two years.

A working day 10 hours where two telegraphers are employed.

A working day of 9 hours where three or more telegraphers are employed.

On Sundays and legal holidays telegraphers shall be excused from work "when practical."

Only one objection to the award is being expressed by the operators and that is in relation to the failure to recognize station agents as "telegraphers" who are hereby not entitled to be heard in disputed questions with the company.

The life of the average station agent is a round of mixed duties that lays him practically open to imposition by the company and that the commission failed to give him the benefit of any relief in the award is pointed out by railroad men as a certain source of future strife.

Since last March the Order of Railway Telegraphers has demanded of the Southern Railway an increase of 25 per cent in wages. Facing a strike the company finally agreed to arbitration, naming J. S. B. Thompson as their representative on a board of three commissioners, John J. Drmody being chosen by the telegraphers and W. R. Vance appearing for the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Appeal Danbury Hat Case.

A transcript of the famous suit known as that of D. F. Loewe & Co., of Danbury, against Martin Lawler and others in which the plaintiffs alleged that two hundred members of the Hatters Union conspired to injure their trade under the Sherman antitrust law, on appeal to the Supreme Court has been made. It makes five volumes of 2,760 pages.

Comrades!

The Executive Committee of the Socialist Party of Kanawha has just recently been organized and as we are entering into a campaign it is necessary to have funds to enable us to get speakers and place our propaganda in the

hany of the voters. The members of the party must finance the campaign by voluntary contribution and for that purpose I have had cards printed that I will send any local or comrade on request. The organization is a very important factor in our political life and I would advise that every Comrade make it a point to attend his local meetings regularly. I will further request that the local secretaries report promptly the last week in each month to the Secretary-Treasurer of the County Committee, 605 Virginia street, Charleston, W. Va.

Illinois Miners.

(Continued from page 1.)

against sustaining the chair. Though clearly beaten the Lewis adherents called for a roll of the house. The roll called consumed all afternoon, but did not materially affect the results, the final vote standing 1,201 to 927.

The overruling of the chair took the fight out of the Lewis faction. There was much filibustering during the prolonged night session, but the "insurgent" program was put through with but one modification.

The original substitute contained a clause requiring the international executive board to levy such assessment as might be needed to finance existing strikes—a requirement clearly designed to put the administration in a hole if, as was expected, the assessment should not be paid. Several attempts to have the convention vote a specific assessment were defeated by hugh majorities.

An amendment levying \$1 per week on working members was offered by District President Howatt of Kansas, and being seconded by Walker, was carried.

The bitterest pill for Lewis is that clause in the substitute which directs the withdrawal of the international organizers. The organizers are appointed by the president and have always been used as personal agents in election campaigns. The purpose of the resolutions referred to is, of course, to deprive Lewis of his machine in the coming election. Then with the district officers mostly against him he should be easily beaten.

Following is a summary of the convention's work:

Length of session, ten days.

Delegates, 1,147.

Cost, approximately, \$100,000.

Action, Upheld Walker, turned down Lewis, endorsed all strikes, and levied assessment to support same.

The predictions that the convention would restore harmony were not verified. President Lewis and his enemies are now farther apart than ever.

Illinois men say the convention's action will greatly aid them by convincing the operators that they have nothing to hope for from the international organization.

Both factions have already made their slates for the approaching election. The anti-Lewis men have picked John P. White, district president of Iowa and former international vice-president, for president; Vice-President Hayes of Illinois to succeed himself, and William Green of Ohio to be secretary-treasurer. Lewis supporters are willing to re-nominate Hayes, though a bitter personal enemy of Lewis, in order to conciliate Hayes. They will support E. S. McCulloch of Michigan, for secretary-treasurer.

OUR NEW WEAPON.

Comrades, the Socialist Party of West Virginia has entered upon a new era. Our armory is supplied with a new weapon. The day so earnestly longed for has arrived. We have a press of our own. Ours is a campaign of education, and this campaign is best fought with written word. With a press, the working class is no longer voiceless.

The people of this State shall hear our appeal to their common sense. We shall carry the gospel of economic liberty into the homes of the feeble and bulgeoned workers of the Little Mountain State. With this weapon we shall pillory the capitalist grafters and publish their heinous crimes against the wronged and outraged toilers. When through their bloody crimes and selfish greed they blow our comrades into fragments at the mines, we shall point to their blood-stained hands. Our fight in this State is for political supremacy. We propose to capture the powers of government, and to use those powers in the interest of the working class. We know that we shall win. Not this year, nor next year, but in the near future. No one can tell what moment we may be swept into control. But this is certain, the patience of the people is almost exhausted. We are tired of the tragedy of seeing the capitalist masters ride roughshod over the bodies of the workers who support them in purpled ease. Don't forget our press, comrades. The comrades who are back of the papers are making a heroic effort. I pray that every comrade will do his full duty in upholding their hands. We would be recreant to our duty and false to the greatest cause for which humanity ever battled if we failed to help and cheer on the boys who are on the firing line of social revolution. Comrades, I can't believe that you will fail to do your duty.

Yours for the revolution,

HAROLD W. HOUSTON.

Socialism and unionism go hand in hand and mean freedom for the workers.

THE LABOR ARGUS

What Do Socialists Stand For THIS TELLS YOU.

Human life depends upon food, clothing and shelter. Only when these are assured are freedom, culture and higher human development possible. To produce food, clothing and shelter, land and machinery are needed. Land by itself does not satisfy human needs. Human labor gets raw materials and food out of the soil by creating machinery and using it upon the land. Whoever has control of land and machinery has control of human labor, and with it of human life and liberty.

Today the machinery and the land used for industrial purposes are owned by a rapidly decreasing minority. So long as machinery is simply and easily handled by one man, it does not make its owners so powerful that they can dominate the sources of life of others. But when machinery becomes more and more complex and expensive, and requires for its effective operation the organized effort of many workers, its influence reaches over wider circles of life. The owners of such machinery become the dominant class.

THE MASSES IN SUBJECTION.

In proportion as the number of such machine owners compare to all other classes decreases, their power in the nation and in the world increases. They bring ever larger masses of working people under their control, reducing them to the point where muscle and brain are their only productive property. Millions of formerly self-employed workers thus become the helpless wage slaves of the industrial masters.

The more the economic power of the ruling class grows, the less useful does it become in the life of the nation. The overwhelming bulk of the useful work of the nation falls upon the shoulders of the classes that either have no other productive property but their manual and mental labor power the wage workers—or that have but little land and little machinery outside of their labor power—the small traders and small farmers. The ruling minority is steadily becoming useless and parasitic.

A bitter struggle over the division of the products of labor is waged between the exploiting propertied class on the one hand and the exploited, propertyless class on the other. In this struggle the wage workers cannot expect adequate relief from any reform of the present order from the dominant class of society.

The wage workers are therefore the most determined and irreconcilable antagonists of the ruling class. They are also the class which suffers most from the curse of class rule. The fact that a small number of capitalists is permitted to use all the country's resources and social tools for their individual profit, and to make the production of the necessities of our lives the object of their competitive private enterprise and speculations, is at the bottom of all the social evils of our time.

MODERN INDUSTRY PLANLESS.

In spite of the organization of trusts, pools and combinations, the capitalists are powerless to regulate production for social ends. Industries are largely conducted in a planless manner. Through periods of feverish activity the strength and health of the workers are mercilessly undermined, and during periods of enforced idleness the workers are frequently reduced to starvation.

The climax of this chaotic system of production are the regularly recurring industrial depressions and crises which paralyze the nation every fifteen or twenty years.

In its mad and reckless race for profits the capitalist class is bound to exploit the workers to the very limit of their physical and mental endurance. To its own moral and mental welfare is its own insatiable greed. Capitalism keeps the masses of workingmen in poverty, destitution, physical exhaustion and ignorance. It drags their wives from

their homes to the mill and factory. It snatches their children from the playgrounds and schools, and grinds their slender bodies and unformed minds into cold dollars. It wantonly disfigures, maims and kills hundreds of thousands of workingmen annually in mines, on railroads and in factories. It drives millions of workers into the ranks of the unemployed and forces large numbers of them into beggary, vagrancy and all forms of crime and vice.

PUBLIC INTELLIGENCE CORRUPTED.

To maintain their rule over their fellow men, the capitalists must keep in their pay all organs of the public powers, public mind and public conscience. They control the dominating parties and, through them, the elected public officials. They select our executives, bribe our legislatures and corrupt our courts of justice. They own and censor the press. They sway our government institutions. They own the nation politically and intellectually, just as they own it industrially.

The struggle between wage workers and capitalists grows ever fiercer, and has become the only vital issue before the American people. The wage working class, therefore, has the most vital and direct interest in abolishing the capitalist system. But in abolishing the present system, the workmen will free not only their own class, but also all other classes of modern society: The small farmer, who is today exploited by large capital more indirectly but not less effectively than is the wage laborer; the small manufacturer and trader, who is engaged in a desperate and losing struggle for economic independence in the face of the all-conquering power of concentrated capital; and even the capitalist himself, who is the slave of his wealth, rather than its master. The struggle of the working class against the capitalist class, while it is a class struggle, is thus at the same time a struggle for the abolition of all classes and class privileges.

MUST CONQUER THE POLITICAL POWER.

The private ownership of the land and means of production used for exploitation, is the rock upon which class rule is built; political government is its indispensable instrument. The wage workers cannot be freed from exploitation without conquering the political administration for private ownership of the land and the means of production used for exploitation.

The basis for such transformation is rapidly developing within the very bosom of present capitalist society. The factory system, with its immense machinery and minute division of labor, is rapidly destroying all vestiges of individual production in manufacture. Modern production is already very largely a collective and social process, while the great trusts and monopolies which have sprung up in recent years have had the effect of organizing the work and management of some of our main industries on a national scale, and fitting them for national use and operation.

AN END TO CLASS RULE.

In the struggle for freedom the interests of the workers of all nations are identical. The struggle is not only national, but international. It embraces the world and will be carried to ultimate victory by the united workers of the world.

To unite the workers of the nation and their allies and sympathizers of all other classes to this end, is the mission of the Socialist. In this battle for freedom the Socialist movement does not strive to substitute working class rule for capitalist rule, but by working class victory to free all humanity from class rule and to realize the international brotherhood of man.

THE WORKING PROGRAM Of the National Party Adopted in Nineteen Hundred and Eight.

The socialist party, in national convention assembled, again declares itself as the party of the working class, and appeals for the support of all workers of the United States and of all citizens who sympathize with the great and just cause of labor.

We are at this moment in the midst of one of those industrial breakdowns that periodically paralyze the life of the nation. The much-boasted era of our national prosperity has been followed by one of general misery. Factories, mills and mines are closed. Millions of men, women and children are without work, and are forced into idleness and starvation. Within recent times the trusts and monopolies have attained an enormous and menacing development. They have acquired the power to dictate the terms upon which we shall be allowed to live. The trusts fix the price of our bread, meat and sugar, of our coal, oil and clothing, of our raw material and machinery, of all the necessities of life.

The present desperate condition of the workers has been made the opportunity for a renewed onslaught on organized labor. The highest courts of the country have within the last year rendered decisions after decision depriving the workers of rights which they had won by generations of struggle.

The attempt to destroy the Western Federation of Miners, although defeated

by the solidarity of organized labor and the Socialist movement, revealed the existence of a far-reaching and unscrupulous conspiracy by the ruling class against the organizations of labor.

In their efforts to take the lives of the leaders of the miners the conspirators violated the state laws and the federal constitution in a manner undreamed of even in a country so completely dominated by the profit-seeking class as is the United States.

The congress of the United States has shown its contempt for the interests of labor as plainly and unmistakably as have the other branches of government. The laws for which the labor organizations have continually petitioned have failed to pass. Laws ostensibly enacted for the benefit of labor have been distorted against labor.

The working class of the United States cannot expect any remedy for its wrongs from the dominant parties. So long as a small number of individuals are permitted to control the sources of the nation's wealth for their private profit in competition with each other and for the exploration of the fellow-workers, industrial depressions are bound to occur at certain intervals. No currency reforms or other legislative measure proposed by capitalist reformers can avail against these fatal results of utter anarchy in production.

Individual competition leads inevitably to combinations and trusts. No

Don't Be An Enemy To Your Kind

A Union Man should support Unionism by wearing the best made Union Made Clothes.

Made to your measure.

All Suits \$15 No More
All Overcoats \$15 No Less



The United Woolen Mills Co.,

"West Virginia's Greatest Tailors,"
Parkersburg, Huntington, Charleston, Clarksburg,
Wheeling, W. Va.

amounts of government regulation, or of publicity, or of restrictive legislation, will arrest the natural course of modern industrial development.

While our courts, legislatures and executive offices remain in the hands of the ruling classes and their agents, the government will be used in the interests of these classes as against the toilers.

Political parties are but the expression of economic class interests. The Republican and Democratic and the so-called "independence" parties, and all parties other than the Socialist party, are financed, directed and controlled by the representatives of different groups of the ruling class.

In the maintenance of class government both the Democratic and Republican parties have been equally guilty. The Republican party has had control of the national government and has been directly and actively responsible for these wrongs. The Democratic party, while saved from direct responsibility by its political impotence, has shown itself equally subservient to the aims of the capitalist class whenever and wherever it has been in power. The old chattel slave owning aristocracy of the South, which was the backbone of the Democratic party, has been supplanted by a child slave plutocracy. In the great cities or our country the Democratic party is allied with the criminal element of the slums, as the Republican party is allied with the predatory criminals of the palace, in maintaining the interest of the possessing class.

The various "reform" movements and parties which have sprung up within recent years are but the clumsy expression of widespread popular discontent. They are not based on an intelligent understanding of the historical development of civilization and of the economic and political needs of our time. They are bound to perish as the numerous middle class reform movements of the past have perished.

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As measures calculated to strengthen the working class in its fight for the realization of this ultimate aim, and to increase its power of resistance against capitalist oppression, we advocate and pledge ourselves and our elected officers to the following program:

GENERAL DEMANDS.

1. The immediate government relief for the unemployed workers by building schools, by reforesting of cut-over and waste lands, by reclamation of arid tracts and the building of canals, and by extending all other useful public works. All persons employed on such works shall be employed directly by the government under an eight-hour work day and at the prevailing union wages. The government shall also loan money to the states and municipalities without interest for the purpose of carrying on public works. It shall contribute to the funds of labor organization for the purpose of assisting their unemployed members, and shall take such other measures within its power as will lessen the widespread misery of the workers caused by the misuse of the capitalist class.

2. The collective ownership of railroads, telegraphs, telephones, steamship lines and all other means of social transportation and communication of all land. There can be no absolute title to land, simple or otherwise, are and must be subordinate to the public title. The socialist party strives to prevent land from being used for the purpose of exploita-

tion and speculation. It demands the collective possession, control or management of land to whatever extent may be necessary to attain that end. It is not opposed to the occupation and possession of land by those using it in a useful and bona-fide manner without exploitation.

3. The collective ownership of all industries which are organized on a national scale and in which competition has virtually ceased to exist.

4. The extension of the public domain to include mines, quarries, oil wells, forests and water power.

5. The scientific reforestation of timber lands and the reclamation of swamp land. The land so reforested or reclaimed to be permanently retained as a part of the public domain.

6. The absolute freedom of press, speech and assemblage.

INDUSTRIAL DEMANDS.

7. The improvement of the industrial conditions of the workers:

(a) By shortening the workday in keeping with the increased productivity of machinery.

(b) By securing to every worker a rest period of not less than a day and a half each week.

(c) By securing a more effective inspection of workshops and factories.

(d) By forbidding the employment of children under sixteen years of age.

(e) By forbidding the interstate transportation of the products of child labor, of convict labor and of all unsanitary products.

(f) By abolishing official charity and substituting in its place compulsory insurance against unemployment, illness, accidents, invalidism, old age and death.

POLITICAL DEMANDS.

8. The extension of inheritance taxes, graduated in proportion to the amount of the bequest and to the nearness of kin.

9. A graduated income tax.

10. Unrestricted and equal suffrage for men and women, and we pledge ourselves to engage in an active campaign in that direction.

11. The initiative and referendum, proportional representation, and the right of recall.

12. The abolition of the senate.

13. The abolition of the power usurped by the supreme court of the United States to pass upon the constitutionality of legislation enacted by congress. National laws to be repealed or abrogated only by an act of congress or by referendum of the whole people.

14. The abolition of the veto power of the president.

15. That the constitution be made amendable by majority vote.

16. The enactment of further measures for general education and for the conservation of health. The bureau of education to be made a department, the creation of a department of public health.

17. The separation of the present bureau of labor from the department of commerce and labor, and the establishment of a department of labor.

18. That all judges be elected by the people for short terms, and that the power to issue injunctions should be surbed by immediate legislation.

19. The free administration of justice. 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 hereby lay hold of the whole system of industry, and thus come into their rightful inheritance.