

L. accomplished in the sixteen years of its existence? Nothing. Less than that. It has held out promises which it could not fulfill, and has thus created distrust, indifference and bitterness, where confidence, hope and enthusiasm for the cause of labor formerly resided.

As a means of fusing together the scattered class-instincts of diverse sections of the working class, the trade union is still useful and necessary, but as a means for defending or asserting the rights of the working class it has almost wholly outlived its functions:—neither its powers of existence nor its powers of aggression are on a par with the increased powers of the enemy. No labor organization can survive unless it is based on the all absorbing principle of the whole working class, i. e. annihilation of the capitalist system through the establishment of the co-operative commonwealth. Abolition of the wage-system and the establishment of socialist system of production and distribution in the place of the planless and life-destroying system of today, must be engrafted in the platform, constitution or by-laws of every labor organization. Like the cross upon the breast of the Crusaders, so should the motto: "Down with wage slavery," become the watchword of every victim of capital. The doom of capitalism, and with it of all exploitation and misery, all oppression and ignorance, of all that besmirks the fair face of our civilization, will then become an assured fact. The working class will then march with open eyes towards the goal marked out for it by science. It will wrest the political powers from its enemy and turn them from an instrument of oppression into a means of emancipation. What has been the dream of ages will become reality, as the result of the consummation by the working class of its historical mission—the abolition of all class distinctions and from the womb of time will arise a New Civilization, which will fill hearts with joy and homes with plenty.

The name of Cleveland's private car is "The Coronet." Usually the coronet is worn on the head. Cleveland sits on his. He wants to get it as near his intellect as possible. He must have royalty at one end or the other.—Representative.

Debs a Socialist.

Eugene V. Debs, in a letter to the public, published in the official organ of the American Railway union, the Railway Times, has declared himself to be a socialist and a believer in the Co-operative Commonwealth, and urges upon the toilers of America to join hands with socialist workers. We have known for a long time that Mr. Debs and his colleagues were socialists, and that they have continually preached the doctrine of socialism. Mr. Debs' open avowal, in thus declaring himself a socialist, will do much to help on the movement. This man, who is beloved by thousands of men, women and children in all classes and conditions of life, has but added another bright star in his life's career and we gladly take this opportunity of extending our hand in congratulation.

Mr. Debs says:

Since the recent presidential election, I have received a large number of letters making urgent inquiries as to future efforts to emancipate wageworkers from their thraldoms, all couched in language which, properly interpreted, is the substance of the interrogatory, "What shall we do to be saved?"

As there is not time at my command to answer these numerous letters I take this method of replying to my friends who have asked for my views upon present conditions and the outlook for the future. During the late campaign I supported Mr. William J. Bryan and the platform upon which he stood, not because I regarded the free coinage of silver as a panacea for our national ills, for I neither affirmed nor advocated such a principle, but because I believed that the triumph of Mr. Bryan and free silver would blunt the fangs of the money power; that it would extract the teeth of syndicate sharks; that it would banish from the highways of human endeavor, on the sea and on the land, many a black flag under which more piracies have been perpetrated during the last twenty-five years than the sum total of all the robberies by buccaneers on the high seas since the

first corsair keel cleaved a wave. The free silver issue gave us, not only a rallying cry, but afforded common ground upon which the common people could unite against the trusts, syndicates, corporations, monopolies—in a word, the money power—under whose sway the country has been well-nigh ruined, labor reduced to famine and personal liberty banished—and once united could press forward in a solid phalanx in the crusade against social and industrial slavery, nor halt the advancing columns until the whole capitalistic system is abolished and the co-operative commonwealth has become an established fact. That in this conclusion I was correct, it is only required to point to the consternation everywhere manifested in the ranks of the shylocks and robbers which enabled Mark Hanna to collect from them a fund of more than \$16 000 000, to prevent the election of Bryan and the success of his supporters. In this election, as in no other, the oppressors and plunderers of the people were united. This, in itself, caused a mighty mustering of the intelligent and progressive industrial forces of the country. It is safe to assume that eighty per cent of the organized wage workers supported Bryan and free silver. That the result of the election was not different, was due largely, if not wholly to the fact that unorganized workers overwhelmingly outnumbered those who were organized and who had been educated and drilled in the tactics of the enemy and could not be coerced, intimidated or stampeded from voting their own convictions. But the election is over, and after mature deliberation I am persuaded that it may be regarded as both a defeat and a victory. This affirmation may appear paradoxical, but it is true, nevertheless. The result of the November election has convinced every intelligent wage worker that in politics, *per se*, there is no hope of emancipation from the degrading curse of wage slavery. In the late election they may read their doom as vividly outlined as if written in fire across the blue dome of the skies above them. The storm cloud of the campaign disappeared, bearing upon its frowning breast no bow of promise of better things. Cowering before the depositions of the money power, its injunctions, prisons and standing armies, they were driven to the polls to vote for a system of wage piracy that they