

INDUSTRIAL FREEDOM.

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SOCIALISTS AND CIVIL SERVICE.

The commonest objection to the public ownership and operation of the railways, is that it would add 800,000 offices to the civil service, increasing the amount of political "spoils" by so much.

To this objection socialists make two replies—public ownership would take the corporations out of politics and civil service reform would keep the 800,000 employes out of politics. Let us look at the replies in detail:

Public ownership would take the corporations out of politics. The corporations are now in politics. They furnish free transportation to their friends, thus "packing" conventions of all parties; they corrupt legislatures; they furnish passes to judges and other public officers, thus corrupting our courts; a large percentage of legislators, representatives and senators are ex-corporation attorneys like Thurston of Nebraska, who represents the Union Pacific rather than the people of Nebraska in the U. S. senate; they rob the people by having congress pass laws giving the railroads 16 times as much for carrying the mails as they charge for carrying express matter the same distance. Under public ownership there would be no railroad corporations. There would, therefore, be no railroad corporations to enter politics.

Civil service reform would keep the 800,000 places from becoming spoils. Each sort of position would have a different sort of examination. For a clerkship the examination would, of course, be clerical. For engineers the examination would be about the same as it now is for that trade. For section foremen there would be one kind of examination; for switchmen the examination would be altogether different. The examinations are all different, but all applicants are graded on a scale of 1 to 100. These gradings are kept on file, and when a vacancy occurs, the place is given to the man who stands highest on the list, and not to a ward-heeler or one with a "pull." While men may, at any time, be removed for cause, experience has proven that, as the superintendent knows he cannot put in his own son or other favorite, but must put in Smith, because he stands highest on the list, there will be no removals except for cause. Under the spoils system most removals are made simply to prepare places for favorites. When, therefore, the superintendent knows that his favorite will, in any event, not be appointed to the place, there is no object in removing good men, and so faithful workers are assured permanent position regardless of changes of the administration.

Up to 1853 British offices were used as spoils. Today, with all offices filled by competitive examinations, a change of party means a change of only 12 to 25 officials. In this country we now have about 80,000 out of 240,000 national offices out of politics. Let each socialist write to his congressman urging an extension of the reform, and so get the remaining 160,000 offices out of the "dirty pool of politics" and there will be little popular opposition to the nationalization of the telegraph, the express and the railroads. These won, the co-operative commonwealth will be at hand.

Whose Right is Best?—Minneapolis children are robbed of six weeks' school this year, because there is no money in the city treasury to pay the teachers; yet Tom Lowry is making a quarter of a million a year profit off Minneapolis street cars. Now whose right is best—Lowry's to the franchise which he has "grabbed" or the thousands of children to their schooling?

Toothpicks and Street Cars.—"What is the relation between toothpicks and street cars?" do you ask? There isn't a very close relationship, and therefore they should be treated differently. One is for private use, the other for public use, but our present laws treat them the same, making both private property. Socialists propose that what is for strictly private use shall be owned and operated by the ones using it, and that what is for public use shall be owned and operated by the ones using it. That's about all there is in socialism, and that seems reasonable, but the boot-lickers and their flunkies make a great outcry. A thief often cries "stop thief" very loudly, in order to turn attention away from himself.

MORAL AND LEGAL RIGHTS.

The public good is the supreme law. Whatever tends to ennoble one human life and injure no one else, is therefore moral, and its possession is a moral right. Whatever the law permits one to do is legally right. If all laws were wisely and honestly enacted for the public good, legal rights and moral rights would correspond; but when monopolists, trusts and the vast horde of private bootlickers are the "power behind the throne" in every legislative chamber, it is not surprising that "legal" and "moral" rights should be like the Jews and Samaritans, who have no dealings with one another. A man's highest right is his right to himself, his right to use his own body and mind as he sees fit, so long as he does not infringe on any other man's rights. But when we, by law, shut a man off from land, air and water, giving to a few men or even a single idler so much of God's free earth that millions of toilers must either starve or else be robbed of half the products of their labor by a loafer in the guise of an absentee landlord, it would seem to be time to begin to harmonize legal and moral rights.

The landlord's right is, like the king's, purely legal, not divine but very inhuman. It is physically easier to monopolize land than air, but morally my neighbor has as good right to rob me by setting a price on God's free air, as to set a robber's price on a drink from one of God's free springs or charge rent for an acre of God's virgin soil.

Unless voided by crime, every man has an inalienable right to air to breathe, water to drink, land to dig for food. No idler's right to rent can compare, in sacredness, to a man's right to food.

Down to no bower of roses led the path, But through the streets of towns where chattering Cold Hewed wood for fires whose glow was owned and fenced;

Or through the fields it led, Where Idleness reaped the unattainable grain, Where Idleness enforced, saw idle lands, Leagues of unpeopled soil, the common earth, Walled round with PAPER against God and man.

Down, down, down and down with idler, knave and tyrant! Why for sluggards, cark and moil? He that will not live by toil Has no right on English soil! God's word's our warrant!

—CHARLES KINGSLEY.

LET THE PEOPLE RULE.

The Only Way to Unite.

One plank of the recent Labor and Reform convention at St. Louis reads: "To impress upon the American people the pre-eminence of the system of direct legislation (including the Initiative, Referendum, Imperative Mandate and Proportional Representation) as the only means of restoring the liberties of the people, and as the only issue whereby all reform elements can be cemented into hearty political union without compromise of principles."

Elsewhere we give large space to the account of the magnificent Direct Legislation victory won last week in San Francisco. This victory proves that when the people get a chance to vote directly on direct legislation, the reform will win. Reformers are a queer lot!

They are independent thinkers or they would not be reformers. Many reformers are interested in the whole circle of reforms, political, economic, financial, social, theological, etc., etc.

On the other hand many, if not most, are specially interested in some reform. For instance, nearly all socialists regard bimetalism as more honest than monometalism, but they do not think the money question important enough to spend time on.

In short, to leave out any specific reform would alienate a body of voters; while to put all proposed reforms in the platform would scare away half the reformers and frighten every "orthodox" voter.

The only way to unite all groups of reformers is to make Direct Government (Initiative and Referendum, Direct Nominations, Imperative Mandate and Proportional Representation) the sole platform.

On this platform, and on this alone, all reformers can agree. Here the Jeffersonian democrat who believes that all political power comes from the people, can stand by the side of the socialist who believes in an economic democracy. Here the republican who favors the plan proposed by Abraham Lincoln, that of enlarging the supreme court, so that by adding new judges, in sympathy with the people, past unjust decisions may be reversed; can stand by the side of the radical reformer who would make every act affirmed by the people to be beyond review by any judge.

Direct government is the best, as it is the only platform on which all reformers can unite. Let us make no invidious comparisons by admitting any specific reform, but give the people direct government—the key that will unlock every reform door.

WORDS OF CHEER

From Our Members and From Other Patriots.

Pleased at the Progress.

It now affords me the most heartfelt pleasure to once more acquaint you with the joy that animates my being at the grand progress which the B.C.C. has made in such a short time. Washington. F. W. Lennon.

Glad to See It Progress.

We are glad to see that you are making such good progress. I have a suggestion to make. That we keep the day that the first pioneers settled on the colony site as a holiday, and each local union of the B.C.C. invite all their friends and neighbors and celebrate the day with a picnic and speeches on socialism. Enclosed find one subscription. Oklanoma. A. C. Pratt.

Socialists, and Don't Know It.

I herewith submit a few names of parties to whom you might profitably send, once or twice, specimen copies of the Industrial Freedom direct from your place. I know them to be kickers against the hardships of the present system, though they do not suspect for a moment that socialism cures all these social ills. So, I want their eyes opened, and you can do it. New Orleans, La. E. B. B.

Let Us All Go to Work.

No. 3, Industrial Freedom, just received, and note with pleasure that it gains in quality with every issue. Glad to see the call to members in regard to insurance. You may put me down for five shares and let us hope I will never have to pay it, but it is the only true system of insurance, and let us hope that our members will go to work to build up the Brotherhood so that a year hence we will be able to set aside a percentage of our products of our united labor for that very purpose. Montana. M. J. Elliott.

The Way It Grew.

I am for letting the next life take care of itself and want to work only for the betterment of conditions in this life. After death I may work for reforms in some other world. I am a believer in socialism, but think it will be brought about by working for public ownership. I will be a slow movement, but I will finally carry. Thirteen years ago I was the only person in this city to demand public ownership of the water plant. After being humbugged all these years by a corporation, a large majority now favor it. Kansas. Dr. J. G. Malcolm.

And It Will Not Fail.

I received a copy of the Industrial Freedom, and I don't think it can be improved. I pledge you my moral and financial support, and I want to thank you again for the B.C.C. tract you sent me. We expect to organize in a few days and then we will be ready to solicit subscribers for the best paper on earth. I have solicited over 200 subscribers for the Appeal in the last year. I fear I can not do so well for the Industrial Freedom owing to the price; but I shall do all I can, because I know it is worth more than \$1 per year. I have some good socialists who have pledged themselves to stand by me in organizing this local, and it must not fail. Nebraska. E. I. Morrow.

A Pledge Worth Taking.

If I may say a word in your columns let it be this: The good people of the colony at Edison and Equality are "encompassed about with a great cloud of witnesses" who are intensely sympathetic toward them, and who would be filled with pain at any failure on their part to realize the hopes of their friends and their own splendid expectations.

It will be a help to them in moments of depression. When the weather is bad, the stumps seem awful, or the conveniences and accommodations seem meagre, or somebody gets ill-tempered, or someone is homesick, or not well otherwise, or someone seems a trifle headstrong, or someone else a bit lazy, or a bit humpies, or someone arguing for socialism his ungraciously another arguing for anarchy, or someone explaining to them various beauties of no government, flings too pointed an argumentative missile at the advocate of a more perfect management, or some other occasion of inharmonious threats to diminish the sweetness and light, it will be a help to the colonists, in such moments, to remember that some thousands of men and women are looking on with all the eagerness of sportsmen at a race course, and with all the anxiety of dotting parents watching the boys at school contests for the yearly prizes; fairly "honing," as the southern word is, to see them succeed and create conditions of genuine prosperity and happiness about them.

If I were up there with them I should say to myself every morning just before I got out of bed: "Now today I am going to be a co-operator worthy of the entire confidence of every other one. I resolutely determine that nothing shall make me angry, or blue, or unkind; that I will do my full share and as much more as possible, to make it a good day for all of us. I will not speak to a soul in any way that I would not like to be spoken to. I will not use a tone or cast a look that is not pleasant. I will be and do in all things what I approve and admire in others, so help me God and all good beings."

If every colonist would start out every day with this purpose, definitely made, and whole-hearted, you would soon have a paradise to live in. In fact you would be in paradise at once.

If even a majority would do so and stick to it, your progress and prosperity would be irresistible and rapid. I enjoy the paper mightily. Willing you power, peace and every good, I am always yours. California. R. M. Webster.

May Brotherly Love Continue.

Enclosed find money order for \$2 for four subscriptions. Will try and send in more. We are all highly pleased with our paper. May that brotherly love, which fills its columns, continue to spread until it conquers the whole land. Kansas. C. F. Primm.

A Good Suggestion.

I would suggest that the Secretary do not send out receipts for small sums—say less than \$5, but give the name and sum in Industrial Freedom and that such publication be considered as a receipt. This would save a great deal of money and labor. It will cost nearly three cents for every receipt sent out, therefore on one hundred receipts we could save \$3, and on a thousand receipts \$30, and the labor of filling them out and mailing. I for one would be satisfied with such a system. California. T. T. Frickstad.

Thinks It Will Reach Them.

Enclosed find 25c for which please send Industrial Freedom for three months. Also send all necessary information in regard to organizing a branch. I have succeeded in organizing a branch of the Social Democracy here, and am heart and soul with every movement that is helping to bring in the co-operative commonwealth. I believe the B.C.C. can reach many people here that Social Democracy cannot. We have no time to quibble over tactics. We may need them all. Illinois. B. W. Collins.

Hope It Will Snap the Chains.

Your (our) splendid paper No. 1 Vol. 1 was received a few days ago, and I am more than pleased with it. The name is just right, and I hope it will snap our chains. This is the first news I have had from Equality for a long time, as my time is out on the Coming Nation, and have not been able to renew. I would like very much to be with you out there in person, so that I might assist in this grand move to better advantage. But it seems Providence does not smile on my efforts to join you. I am keeping the people here posted on the movement. I hope my efforts will bear fruit in time. Minnesota. R. N. Atkinson.

Finds It Very Readable.

I am just in receipt of the first issue of Industrial Freedom, and find it very readable. I hasten to send in my subscription for a year, also 50c, to be placed to my credit on my dues. I wish to try to organize a local union near here, so please send me necessary papers and instructions. It is my aim as soon as I can bring some material aid, to connect myself with the B.C.C. In the meantime I wish to educate a lot of good people I know, so they will be ready to join with me. I think all co-operators who fully endorse socialism should get their resources together and demonstrate to the skeptical that they are not dreamers, but men of the soundest judgment. Mississippi. W. W. McRae, M. D.

A Scheme to Awaken the Clergy.

I have a scheme by which to awaken the consciences and patriotism of our American clergy, theological and senior college students. It is to write up and have your printers print a strong, short letter to these people showing them the crime of usury and the injustice of living and getting rich off the unpaid earnings of toiling men and women through interest, rent and profit, and the absurdity of the church preaching the gospel to the poor with its mouth while it is stealing their earnings from them by "fraud." I want to send thousands of these letters inclosed with a batch of our B.C.C. literature. Among other documents a copy of the enclosed tract on usury, if your printers should see fit to reprint it. The first edition is about exhausted. Ohio. Geo. Candee.

Will Do Much for Our Cause.

I have received two copies of our paper, and am very much pleased with it. It will do much for our cause. We are still receiving large shipments of "McKanna" prosperity to this section, and it is the very finest food for developing socialists that Georgia has ever tried. We should all greatly reverence the Demo-Republicans for having adopted so excellent a method of liberation from economic slavery and salvation (?) of the country from socialism; and we should perpetually sing praises to the Star Spangled Banner. Oh, long may we wave over the land of the creditor, and home of the slave.

With kindest wishes for yourself and our colony comrades, I remain your comrade in the cause. Georgia. H. P. Blount.

Surprised at Its Excellence.

I have been reading the Coming Nation some, and have also seen the last two issues of your paper, and was surprised to see so much of a paper to start on. It will certainly help to let people see that the colony is there to stay, and that the highest success in life is not the Almighty Dollar. Since reading your paper I feel that if I can dispose of my business I would like to join you, and shall at least let you hear from me with what little assistance I can afford from time to time.

Can you tell me if cabbage, cucumbers, onions, cauliflower, tomatoes, etc., do well there? The cost of a vinegar plant would not be much in cash, as you have the lumber and labor, and the returns are quick, which is what is needed there now. If there is anything I can do in the meantime will be glad to do it. Enclosed find \$5 for subscription to paper and seven pictures. Utah. Ed. M. Foy.

How to Succeed in Business.

The time is near at hand when people will take their own private scales to market. The amount of cheating done is monstrous, the principal offenders being the butchers. Spring scales are in general use all over the country, with circular indexes and a revolving hand to point out the pounds. The "weapons of fraud" are invariably hung between the wall and the butcher, so that he can place himself between them and the customer, explains Tip in the New York Press.

Max sold a sirloin steak, threw it on the scales and asked me how much it weighed. I saw the hand fly to five and one-quarter pounds, and it was more than I wanted. "Look again," he begged. The scales indicated four pounds. "Look once more." Three and a-half. "How is it done?" I inquired.

"This steak weighs exactly three and a-half pounds," he explained. "Leave the scales at rest and you can't be cheated. But if we want to beat you out of a pound or two for the boss we throw the meat on the scales like this, turn our backs to you, press down the pan with the little finger, which you can't see, hold the indicator for a second where we want it, and then let it fly back, instantly taking off the meat and calling out the price. Ninety-nine people in 100 will never question the correctness of the weight, because they think they have seen the weighing with their own eyes, and feel sure the butcher ain't smart enough to cheat 'em.

A woman entered and ordered a steak. "How thick, madam?" She showed him. It was cut, the flank end dressed down and nestled up against the tenderloin. On the scales it was thrown, with a hasty, careless motion, and the little finger did its fine work, and Max called out, quickly reaching for the paper in which to wrap it. "Forty cents, ma'am." She paid without protest, took the bundle and departed. Max winked at me in high glee. "Couldn't cheat her," he chuckled.

In Max's shop were three pair of scales. "If I want to do a safe two or three pound job for the boss," he informed me, "I use this little pair. See how quick and active they are? Lightning! Now, you know all about the cheating, but I can fool you right now on this pair, even after what I've told you. Then, again, you see, the hand goes to the left instead of the right! That beat anything you ever saw. Not a man living can tell how much a steak weighs unless he is dead on. We had these made to order, but I think there's a firm sellin' 'em to the trade generally, carrying 'em in stock. They shouldn't do that. It looks like standing in with fraud, don't it? I wouldn't do it."

Can a Thief Give a Good Title?—If a man steals my house and the buyer again sells it, it is still my horse and I can recover it whenever and wherever I find it; though I may pay for the saddle on the horse's back. So when bootlickers steal our streets and public lands the people are still the owners. We are willing to pay a fair price for the rails, etc., (saddle) but simply take the franchise (horse) as our own property. Who objects?

In San Francisco, as noted elsewhere, the "horse," worth \$18,000,000, is to be taken (confiscated) Huntington wails) while the \$6,000,000 "saddle" will be paid for by the people.

Recommends Flax Culture.

Replying to an inquiry as to the practicability of beet syrup manufacture, Prof. W. J. Spillman, of the State Agricultural college, sends us the following very valuable letter: I refer your questions concerning sugar beets to our Prof. Elton Fulmer, who has had charge of the sugar beet investigations in this state.

Allow me to suggest that the cultivation of flax for fiber would be eminently suited to a community such as yours. You have the proper climate, and the machinery necessary for the work would be inexpensive, while the returns would bring a handsome profit if well managed.

I shall be in Tacoma about July 1st, and if I can find time will try to run out and see what kind of soil you have to deal with.

Yours most truly, W. J. SPILLMAN.

Pullman, Wash.

As long as our civilization is essentially one of property, of fences, of exclusiveness, it will be mocked by delusions. Our riches will leave us sick; there will be bitterness in our laughter; and our wine will burn our mouth. Only that good profits which we can serve with all doors open, and which serves all men.—Emerson.

The fellows who were, last election, so anxious to "preserve the honor of the nation" are not rushing to the front very fast to tote a musket.—Free Republic.

The city council of Detroit, Michigan, has adopted the referendum as a means of settling all matters relating to the granting of franchises.—Shelby (Neb.) Sun.

THE ADVANCE OF

UNIVERSAL BROTHERHOOD.

Voluntary contributions to the organization fund of the Social Democracy amount to \$2,334.27. Municipal gas works of Lucerne Switzerland yielded a profit of \$10,000 in the first year's operation.

At Wellington, New Zealand, a servant resigned his seat in parliament, and Mr. Kirk, a labor candidate, was elected in his place by majority. Nine Socialists were recently expelled from Budapest, Hungary, being Socialists. Handcuffed were they allowed to take leave of their families.

By more than two-thirds majority the Norwegian parliament has passed the bill granting universal suffrage. This will greatly enhance the cause of Socialism in that country. The western division of the Federation of Labor, recently organized Salt Lake City, elected as its president Daniel McDonald, a member of the Butte, Mont., local of the B.C.C.

May Day celebrations occurred over England, and as a rule they are conducted by joint committees of socialists and trade unionists and much greater than in any previous year. S. L. P. granted charters to sections at Herminie and Quaker Pa. An organization of college students has been perfected in New York. Organizer Keinard is now in Ohio and will remain for a month.

It is reported that the Social Trade Union Congress has ended the King-Blatchford plan of federation. The Belfast Trades Council so approves of the plan, which seems to be meeting with much favor Great Britain. Both Socialist party papers of the land—the Labor Leader of the Irish and Justice of the S. D. F.—issued perb May Day numbers on May 1st which are annually celebrated European Socialist workingmen's labor's holiday.

At Budapest, Hungary, over a hundred students in the national university have clubbed together and started a socialist paper, and they call on all students in Austria-Hungary to fall in line with the new revolt to abolish the wage system.

In the Rhode Island election socialists were credited with voting two thousand twenty-six votes but the official returns show that vote increased from six a year to three thousand nine hundred and twenty-one this year, and that they now the third party in that state.

Two editors of the Tacoma Sun reform paper, have been imprisoned for charging the Supreme Court judges with rascally dealings. The editors' wives now conduct the paper and they say they will expose all lying and despoiling of the masses "whether the robbers are of supreme judges or just ordinary thieves."

The Prussian government owns works seventeen collieries, eight nite mines, fourteen iron mines, metalliferous mines other than iron and three rock salt mines, together with five iron works and seven works for smelting the other metals, salt-works and five quarries, which together produced an output of a value during the financial year 1897 of more than \$30,000,000.

One of the causes that started rioting in Italy was the re-election of the notorious rascal, ex-President Crispi, to the National Parliament of Palermo. The people were so thoroughly disgusted with the old presumption and the ballot-jugglery, that they refused to go to the polls, and of the 3,840 voters books only 1,176 were cast for Crispi.

The Commonwealth, Ga., co-operative colony is something over a year old. Farming and saw-milling are principal industries. A peculiar feature is that members have to pay entrance fee. About 75 percent in the colony. A belief in God, the divinity of Christ are sufficient to gain an entrance to the colony. The paper, an attractive monthly, sends the truths of Socialism, especially from the religious point of view. They are a prosperous and contented people.

Austria-Hungary is also intent on increasing her naval power. She asks an extra appropriation of 900,000 for that purpose from the people—a people who, in the agricultural provinces of Hungary, Slavonia, Galicia, are on the verge of starvation, and every now and then have to be "quieted" by the police and military in their desperate attempts to shake off the unbearable burden imposed upon them by a government which is totally blind to their sufferings.

The international movement is gaining ground in Europe. The feature is the strike of the founders in the Austrian Lloyd steamship line, who have been on strike some time. Now the four of Vienna, London, Hamburg and Laibach have resolved to support their brethren, and to decline work for Trieste. Likewise the workers of Milan and Venice (Italy), declared they will go on strike if their employers should ask them work refused by the men at Trieste.

The Bloomfield (N. J.) Reform twenty-five years old, is about to be turned over to its subscribers to age. According to the plans of the owner, S. M. Halen, "the newspaper itself should be controlled, if not actually owned, by the people who support it, and thereby give it value multitude of counsel; there is no ty and protection against ring and corrupt bossism of every kind. The paying subscribers of the Reform should, through the principle of legislation, control its safe and aggressive method of running the paper should control the finances of pure business basis, and with people backing it up can make it as an investment, beyond a doubt.

The greatest liberty which this age can achieve is to free themselves from parasites—types of the purse.