

# INDUSTRIAL FREEDOM.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE BROTHERHOOD OF THE CO-OPERATIVE COMMONWEALTH

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EDISON, SATURDAY, AUG. 6, 1898.

**The First Question.**—As each one has a physical birthday, so each reformer has his moral birthday. My own awakening was closely connected with the sentiment expressed by Horace Greeley's famous saying, "Go west, young man." As the "west" then stood for wilderness, the saying really meant, "Young man, if you want a good chance go beyond the limits of civilization." Wild, untamed nature is more kindly than human society. Here only a few succeed, and your children are likely to grow up in drowsy want. If you wish to give your children the best chance go west. Go beyond the railroad, beyond the last school house, out of the sound of the church bell, far away from the postoffice, where neighbors give place to Indians, and wolves are more numerous than sheep. And the worst thing about the whole matter is that such advice was good: was the very best possible under the circumstance, that is under the present civilization. But what an arraignment of our civilization is the fact that the very best thing a poor young man can do with it is to leave it! One is first inclined to blame invention, machinery, but a very little insight shows him that it is not invention but SPECIAL PRIVILEGE that turns civilization to a curse. When we as a nation "go away from special privilege our young men will not need to "go west for a good chance to live," but on the contrary the higher our civilization the easier for any willing-hearted worker to provide for himself and his loved ones the comforts of life. "Will be hard on the idler, do you say?" Oh, yes, doubtless. But Industrial Freedom is not conducted in the interest of the idler.

**Freedom-Tyranny.**—Freedom is, not opportunity to do as one pleases, but rather opportunity to grow, to develop, to make the most of one's self. Perfect freedom is the best possible chance to become perfect. This implies abundant food, clothing, shelter, books, art, teachers, etc., etc. In a community where there is not enough food for all there cannot be perfect freedom for all; but where there is enough for all, if any suffer lack, except as punishment for personal wrong-doing, there is not freedom, but tyranny, for tyranny consists in denying to some human being his right to grow, to become noble. We will forever be confronted by the questions: What is noble? and What is necessary to enable us to develop nobly? If the answer is given by a single individual we call him variously father, master, king, priest. If he helps to develop those under him his rule is blessed; otherwise he is a tyrant. In a democracy the questions: What is noble? and What is necessary to develop nobility? are decided by the majority. As the youth attains his majority and passes out from his father's control, so the race has outgrown its primitive need of kingly and priestly governance and is adopting democracy in matters political. We Socialists hold that civilized peoples have also outgrown the need of capitalist government and are ready for democracy in matters economic. A democracy may become tyrannical, even as a young man may behave foolishly, but democracy is as inevitable for the race as is manhood for the youth.

**Do Any of These Fit You?**  
An ignoramus is a man who does not know anything about economic and industrial conditions that affect the working class; a faker is a man who tries to advance his personal interests at the expense of the working class; a skate is a workman willing to sell out his supposed influence to any politician that has boddle at his disposition; a class-conscious worker is a man who knows that the dispossessed wage slave is nothing to expect; at the hands of the capitalist, exploiting class, and consequently strives to wrest the political power from the possessing class which uses it to dominate over the wealth producers, and robs them of the fruit of their labor. Which do you approve of?—[Wire Trades Review.]

A nation whose wealth and social leadership are in the hands of people who fancy that day after day, like those of old, they can "sit down to eat and drink and rise up to play," careless of those who earn the dividends that they spend and pay the rents of the tenement houses that they own, but too often never visit nor inspect, has but one doom before it, and that the worst.—[Bishop Potter.]

**The Real Conflict.**—There is no conflict between labor and capital. Capital is mainly either machinery or raw material. Is there any conflict between Blacksmith Jones and his bellows? Is there a strife between Butcher Smith and his sausage machine? Is there a conflict between Farmer Brown and his meadow? The real conflict is not between the laborer and capital, but between the laborer and some greedy capitalist who, by some means having secured a legal right to monopolize certain capital (machinery or raw material) refuses the capitalless workers a chance to work, unless they will first agree to give him one-third to one-half of what they produce. As a man can cultivate only a very limited number of acres the workers' income is necessarily small; but as our present iniquitous capitalistic system does not limit the number of acres a landlord must own, there is no limit to the idlers' income. There is no conflict between the laborer and the capitalist. The conflict is on and will grow fiercer and bloodier till justice is done. Peace can never come till the laborers and not the idlers control the use of capital, that is, in the main, of machinery and raw material.

**The Dangers He Sees.**  
I have lived in a community two years of my life—the brightest, happiest two years, and I believe the most useful. I discovered in those two years some of the dangers that befall men and women who try to carry out social ideas.

Cultivate above all things the habit of self judgment and try not to form judgments of others. In plain English, "Mind your own business." If you are strong, do all the work you can. Work will not hurt you, but it develops mind and body. People do not wear out with work so often as they rust out with worry. Don't mind the weaker one who won't or can't do as much as you. Try and help him to work that will call out his interest and zeal. Don't gossip or tell the shortcomings of others. Sufficient are the evil minded to relate all the evil in the world; let your tongue be busy with good words and wise, hopeful sayings. Remember at all times that the success of your colony is greater than any individual success, for the news of your success will come over hot plains of wage slavery like a cool breeze from the ocean, and out of your struggles will come the way for all people to be free. Pay strict regard to the children; try and show them the beauties of communal brotherhood, so that they will grow up not thirsting to get away, but glad to remain and be worker bees. The future depends more on the children than all else. They will grow up with the ideals set in their mind which their elders have had to work out in toil and many sorrows. I have great faith in you because you are poor, and like a young couple who take a yoke of oxen and a plow and cook stove in a prairie schooner and start out into the wild west, so you have gone to first principles, and your trials and difficulties will bind you together, while the gold of a millionaire would put you all asunder. All good be yours.  
GUSTAVE P. WIESELL.

**BE KIND.**  
There's many a man with a heart kind and true,  
Who is plodding along a rough road;  
Who is patiently seeking something to do,  
Tho' he carries a burdensome load,  
The load that he carries is sorrow and woe;  
Do not add to its weight the least mite,  
With a smile and kind word from your house let him go—  
It will brighten his dreams for that night.

There's many a man with a heart full of grief,  
Who is sighing for loved ones at home,  
Do not hastily call him a beggar or thief,  
Tho' at present in rags he may roam,  
No matter what sort of a coat he may wear,  
No matter how ragged his vest;  
His heart may be aching—don't break it—take care;  
Better let him with kindness be blest.

Never judge a poor man by the clothes on his back;  
Of his character they are no test.  
If you do so your judgment will charity lack;  
It will cause your own conscience unrest.  
If you, thro' mistake, should e'er happen to smile  
On a man undeserving or mean,  
Would a frown then be better, would it be worth your while,  
To attempt your kind feelings to screen?

Be cheerful and kind; your sunshine may fall  
Upon some that in darkness now sit.  
Speak kindly to many, be pleasant to all;  
It will take of your time not a bit,  
Let kindness flow freely—it costs not a cent;  
It wins where oppression will fail,  
Let sympathy strong to the needy be lent;  
Let love among brothers prevail.

Write to treasurer concerning subscriptions. Address communications for publication to the editor.

## This is What You Are Willing to Continue.

During the last twenty-five years the number of owners of instruments of production and distribution have decreased one-half. This trend of capital into greater aggregations is not caused by exceptional greed or cunning of certain individuals, but by obedience to natural laws of economy. In trade centers, where room is necessarily an element of economy, a department store occupying but little more frontage and ground than an ordinary store, by means of its various departments, properly ordered and adjusted into a perfect system, and its skillfully planned apparatus, such as elevators, carriers, etc., serves as many buyers, and handles as large a quantity of goods as twenty ordinary ones.

Nor is this the only saving. The buyer finds at hand what he would otherwise have to visit different shops, some of them many blocks apart, to obtain. Thus we see that department stores are following natural laws of economy, and it is these laws which enable them to succeed. But that one such store may succeed it must invade half a dozen different lines of trade, and perhaps a dozen stores in each line have been displaced—at least twice that number have been crippled. This process of lessening the number of individual owners and controllers of wealth is going on, not only in the retail trade, but in every line of industry where co-operation of labor is employed.

Lumber syndicates are absorbing the entire industries of lumbering districts. Meat supply companies are now supplying the market which it formerly required a thousand independent shops to supply. The great sugar trust has absorbed the entire sugar refining industry of the country. Great syndicates and capitalists have obtained control of the numerous lines of railways, and consolidated them into a few great systems. This aggrandizement is not the result of exceptional greed or superior financial ability, but is the product of the law of natural economy.

The question with each one into whose hands great aggregations of wealth have passed has been, "Shall I succeed or allow someone else to do so?" Therefore instead of those men necessarily being endowed with rare greed or avarice, they would have to be less selfish than the average man in business life to adopt a course greatly differing from the usual one. They are but the obedient instruments of a law which must always be obeyed.

It was this law of economy which first produced labor-saving machinery and is bringing nearer to perfection, and thereby uniting the many isolated integral parts into a simple and harmonious system. And however selfish the motives, or regardless of public weal the means employed by those instruments in obeying this law, the real ends reached are the lessening of human toil, or increasing the fruits of toil, and preparing appliances by which these fruits can be placed in surer and easier reach of all. But here the function of these instruments ends. They cannot supply the means by which these fruits are reached. The means they supply is the money paid for labor, which it is their office to lessen in proportion to what it produces.

So while production is in the hands of those whose motives are individual gain, the benefit of this decrease of labor accrues to them and not to the laborer. Those who still work work as hard, and with little or no greater reward than before; and as production requires less and less labor in proportion to that produced, some are forced into idleness. It is this which has created and is constantly swelling the army of unemployed men, and I suppose it is generally conceded that with the present trend, this army will eventually become so great that it will one way or another destroy the existing order.

A government can exist with a certain number of its citizens annually becoming vagrants; but there is a limit beyond which if the percentage of vagrants pass, government will cease and anarchy will take its place. This army of unemployed is by far the most serious question that ever confronted us as a nation, and it is constantly becoming more serious. The evil caused by enforced idleness cannot be reckoned by the number actually suffering, or by the amount of such suffering.

So great a number of men, women and children are now suffering through the inability of the laborer to find employment cannot exist without its degrading effect on all. We are all alike moved to pity when we hear of suffering caused by a sudden catastrophe, but when it steals on us gradually and insidiously we become calloused to it as it increases. Thus the suffering of the whalers in the polar seas and the gold seekers in the Klondike has created the greatest solitude; yet it is safe to say that there is fifty times that amount of suffering in the cities of New York and Chicago which has created little or no anxiety. It was in this way that the Roman nobility became so calloused to human suffering that they were not at all shocked by it, but finally considered it a necessity to their amusement.—[Henry Carter.]

# WORDS OF CHEER

From Our Members and From Other Patriots.

**Looking for a Haven.**  
We have a number of men, besides myself, who are looking for such a haven as your colony offers, one of whom has advanced the money for subscription to your paper, and which I will forward.  
Nebraska. Geo. A. Miles.

**Approves of It.**  
The plan of mutual insurance to meet loss by fire is approved of by me, and I will assume a just proportion of any loss sustained from that cause on the property of the B C C to the extent of five dollars whenever called on.  
California. No. 2440.

**The Only Cause.**  
We are much interested in the only cause that seems to hold out any hopes for a fair deal for the producers of wealth as well as those on the upper shelf under the present one-sided system, and while I wanted to subscribe for the Industrial Freedom, was unable to do so at the time.  
Illinois. W. B. Brancher.

**Surely Growing.**  
You will please find enclosed 25 cents in stamps, for which you will send me your colony paper. I hope you all kinds of success, and I believe if you are made of the right kind of people you will have it. The war news are all people here care about, so I am unable to get up a club as I had intended. We have here a section of the Social Labor Party. Socialism is surely growing in Colorado.  
Colorado. Fred. E. Petteys.

**The Way to Convert Them.**  
Your paper came duly to hand, and so welcome. It is good. We want more of the same kind. My husband sends two six months subscriptions, one for himself and one for a friend. If he don't become converted in six months he is hopeless, for he is getting poorer every day. I hope we can be with you inside of six months, on a visit if nothing more. We feel all the time as if that was our home, and every bit of news from there is like a letter from dear ones at home. We are so glad that you are getting along so well.  
California. Sarah L. Scofield.

**Will Work Together.**  
Where ten men meet together, differences arise, and for a time apparently insurmountable obstacles come out to vex men's souls and create dissensions, but when the heat has worn off, I believe you will all work together with a single purpose and soon be able to show the world what co-operative socialism, as exemplified in industrial pursuits, means.  
Hope you will soon have more than enough to pay for saw mill. Only regret that I am unable to saw off part of that capitalistic head.  
Ohio. Willard Barringer.

**Yes; Promptness Is Necessary.**  
We feel that each colony should help to establish others, as they become able, hence their surplus productions should be in complete control of the National B C C.  
We hope the National B C C will establish folds or colonies as fast as possible for the "lost sheep of the house of Israel," for the wolves of competition are devouring them by the million yearly the world over. Oh! the lambs of all ages that are being slaughtered.  
In this sea of competitive strife, confusion and greed, I can see their little hands reaching to the B C C for help. Let the B C C work fast.  
California. J. W. Scofield.

**Makes Him Feel Good.**  
It does make me feel good to see how you are progressing. I wish every one who could would try and do a little more for the pioneers, as every day's work done now will be worth several days' work later on, as for instance the planting of fruit, etc. Like good deeds they will bear fruit later on. I hope by next year to pay more each month, and as soon as my fee is paid you can expect your humble servant to bid good bye to competition for the almighty dollar. It does seem strange to me that any man with a common school education cannot see where we are drifting to. But some people can't see a point until they are set upon it, and if they will only keep agoing for a few years more I am in hopes they will feel it, although it seems hard that women and children should have to suffer for their parents' ignorance. Enclosed is sub. for one year.  
Montana. A. B. Carleton.

**Hunting for Prosperity.**  
If you have a fire, call on me for \$2. I hope I shall have plenty of time in which to pay it. Plenty of McKinley prosperity hunters, carload after carload of them; lots in every town laying around and looking for work. Some of the poor deluded fools say they will vote for Mc. again, while others swear vengeance on the whole caboodle.  
South Dakota. H. R. Larson.

**A Good Plan of Insurance.**  
In answer to your call in Industrial Freedom for an insurance in case of fire in the colony. Well, I think it to be a good way to have it insured by members of the Brotherhood among themselves, so you can stand on me as such for two dollars. I am well pleased with the paper, Industrial Freedom, and I see with a great satisfaction the good work for the emancipation of the human race going on speedily.  
Oregon. Louis Huguenin.

**He Has a Good Plan.**  
I am very much interested in the enterprise, and should be glad to assist it in any way I might be able. I am carrying on an educational system of bulletins. I live on a second floor and a much traveled street. I hang a blackboard on the blind hooks between two windows, so that those who pass have a daily lesson, and they read it. It is cheap and effective. I am trying to get others to adopt it. I argue that if labor had 500 boards in the city they would have their own way.  
Anson A. Reed.  
Worcester, Mass.

**A Government of the Rabble.**  
The slaves in this system are either worked into stupidity or they are not allowed to work at all. They are either overworked or kept absolutely idle. And this horde, semi-starved in the city and overworked in the country is continually increasing in numbers and voting influence. It controls every close election, and revenges itself on misgovernment by worse misgovernment. It makes presidents and politicians as the Roman rabble made emperors and favorites. It is this element the statesman must make his terms with, and the terms are conditional to the dimensions of the barrel or the weight of the bundle sack. And this is the Palladium of our liberties, and the hope of those reformers who orate about the will of the people. These are the people—these heathens of the heath and bums of the beer-joint. These are the people you are making with your laws and your voting; and these are they with whom enthusiastic women wish to share the suffrage, aspiring to have their lovely noses counted in the same row with the rum-blossoms and their ballots mixed together in the same malodorous box where they are liable to be stolen, box and all. This is the kind of democracy that Lord Lytton long ago described under the name of Koom Poosh; now they call it Come Push, and it is here, as hideous a monster as he described it, when it reared its ruthless head and shook its shaggy mane, in the Reign of Terror. It is the spawn of monopoly and plutocracy and the slime in which both shall sink irretrievably and eternally, for such is the Beast and the Pit.—[New Dispensation.]

**CO-OPERATIVE INSURANCE.**  
We now have over \$5,000 worth of property liable to destruction by fire. Such loss would seriously cripple our work. In a few weeks we will have a system of waterworks affording much protection. At present we have no protection at all. Hence we call on each of our more than 3,000 members to subscribe for as many of the \$1 shares of insurance fund as he can pay on short notice. No money is to be paid in; but in case of fire each will be called on in proportion to the amount of his subscription. Send in your letters at once, stating how much you will take. We don't want to pay extortionate rates to the old-line companies, and so ask our own members to carry this risk on their own future homes. There will thus be no expense at all, except in case of loss, and then merely enough money to replace. N. W. LERMOND, Secy.  
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**B. C. C. Buttons.**  
Lapel buttons of beautiful design bearing the letters B. C. C. are worn by our members to advantage. Blue buttons, for the children, white for women, and red for men, at 20 cts. each, cuff buttons 35 cents per pair. Order today. National Secretary's office, Edison, Wash.

**Laundry Machinery Needed.**  
We very much need a 24 inch extractor, and would like any laundry machinery which is in good working order.

## THE ADVANCE OF UNIVERSAL BROTHERHOOD

Street railway employees of O., contemplate the establishment of a co-operative store.

In a by-election to the council at Lille, France, the Socialist candidate, Mayor Delory, defeated fusion opponent by a vote of 2,152.

The Berlin post office is placing penny-in-the-slot telephone all the city, in all public buildings, lic houses, tobacconists, etc. penny will allow you to speak minutes.

International Socialists of all tries are contributing financially the persecuted Socialists and ingmen of Italy. The German Democrats have contributed \$22 the Austrian Socialists \$100.

An enormous proportion of students are Socialists; moreover is the best, intellectually and morally who are Socialists—or sympathize with the Socialist cause. One of the most ominous signs of the present system is its incapacity to attract the support of the generation.

In Eastern Prussia the Socialist vote increased enormously in rural districts at the last election. And now it is reported that sale evictions of tenant farmers agricultural workers, whom the lords suspect of having voted Socialist ticket, are taking place. Cheap Russian labor is imported their stead.

The new charter proposed for city of Montreal, Canada, makes important recommendation in regard to exemption from taxation. It proposes that the buildings of religious and educational institutions and the land they actually occupy shall be exempt, but that vacant land shall be taxed the same as any other property.

The Socialist Labor Party of Hampshire have nominated the Whitehouse of Dover for governor. The S. L. P. of Colorado has also out a state ticket with Nixon E. of Pueblo at the head, and C. Scobbe is the gubernatorial candidate of the Kansas S. L. P. Altogether's going to be a hot time for plutocrats this fall.

According to the census of there were in the United States total of 4,777,689 real estate mortgages registered, representing loaned capital of \$6,019,679,958 on the sum the interest amounting \$397,442,692 annually. A few years of this kind of "prosperity" and the United States will have to accept Socialism or bust.

In New Zealand women have right to vote for members of the legislature, and if the facts are correctly reported they exercise the right. Out of a total female population of 140,000 nearly 10,000 qualified for recent election, and out of the total number 90,290 went to the polls. The politicians are much careful what they say of women there.

English co-operators are studying how to expend to the best advantage the vast educational funds that amount to nearly \$75,000 and are increasing annually. One party is like to devote the money to technical and higher education among workmen and women, others would confine their efforts spreading co-operative ideas teaching the working classes how to co-operate.

The May number of the Monthly, of Colonia Cosme, Paragon to hand, contains reports, statement of accounts, and balance sheet. The population of the colony has grown in the past year. More left than have arrived. Of 15 fishermen who arrived all but four not being able to adapt themselves life in Cosme. Nevertheless faithful ones are full of hope and courage. The present population exactly 100.

It looks now as though direct election would be engrafted on the constitution of South Dakota as a result of the election this fall. The people of the state have long been at the mercy of the railroads who maintain such a lobby at the state capital, such relief through representative election is impossible. If once adopted by any state it is safe to predict others will follow suit as rapidly as they did when the Australian law was introduced.

In the kingdom of Saxony the Social Democrats polled 270,654 votes in 1893, against 321,781 votes received all the capitalist and reactionary parties combined. Just recently June 16, 1898, the Socialist vote in Saxony was 299,000, while all capitalist and reactionary parties combined received but 281,000 votes. No wonder the American capitalist press occasionally reports that Socialism is dying out in Germany. The king of Saxony and Emperor William are now discussing ways and means to abolish universal suffrage in order to kill the Socialist movement.