

# SCOTT COUNTY KICKER

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## AS TO THE PLATFORMS.

### The Difference Between Meaningless Political Piffle and a Clear Statement of the Needs of the Masses.

The 8-hour law has served a good purpose. It has given the old parties an "isshoo." The Democrats say it proves their friendship for labor. The Republicans say that they are also "friends of labor," but that it is not good for labor to have an administration that yields to so small a fraction of their members.

It is the most pitiable bunk the politicians have had to chew the rag over. There is nothing in their platforms to quarrel over. Both are alike. The only live questions touched upon in these platforms are militarism and woman suffrage. Both parties declared for militarism and both straddled suffrage.

Two conventions that drafted these platforms were composed of politicians and corporation lawyers of which even the capitalist papers were ashamed. The mass of voters had no more to do with these conventions than they have with the war in Europe. They are only expected to swallow the mess that the corporation tools have cooked up.

There is but one party in which the voters had any choice of candidates and the draft of the platform. The capitalist papers don't tell you much about this. They fear that if the old party voters learned how the Socialists nominated candidates and adopted their platforms, the old party voters might get the habit.

The old parties spent between two million and three million dollars in nominating each of their national tickets—to say nothing of state and county tickets. Where do you suppose this money comes from? How much of it did you pay—directly. You pay it all indirectly. The trusts foot the bills and tack the cost onto the sale price of the products that you buy.

How different it is in the Socialist party. It has a dues-paying membership, and is governed by its membership. Capitalist parties are financed from the top. The Socialist party is financed from the bottom. Hence the top rules in capitalist parties, while the bottom rules in the Socialist party.

Benson and Kirepatrick were nominated the presidential candidates of the Socialists last May. There was no booze-soaked convention with brass bands, opened with hypocritical prayers.

As many locals as wanted to present candidates within a stated time. When the time was up all of these names were submitted to the membership by mail all over the nation, and you voted at your local or at home and mailed your choice back to the national office.

The platform was adopted in the same way. Any local could propose a measure and, if seconded, was submitted. The final draft of the platform was submitted to the membership for approval or disapproval. If there were conflicting measures, both were printed and the voter could take his choice.

The trouble of the workers who vote the old party tickets is that they have no confidence in themselves. "We can't do anything; we won't stick together." The reason for this is that they have never discovered their common interests—their class interests. And the press they read and the politicians they listen to see to it that they are kept blinded.

I am sure that very few, if any, workers read the old party platforms. They are just as well off if they didn't, for there is nothing in them but rot. But I want you to read the platform adopted by the votes of working men of this nation and see if you don't conclude that there are some workers in this country who know what they want.

Not many of you will vote for this platform for you don't want to lose your vote. If you are a producer you will like this platform, but you will prefer to vote for something you don't want—and then cuss because of getting it. Here are the Socialist party

**POLITICAL DEMANDS.**  
As general measures calculated to strengthen the working class in its fight for the realization of its ultimate aim, the Co-Operative Commonwealth, and to increase its power of resistance against capitalist oppression, we advocate and pledge ourselves and our elected officers to the following program:

1. Unrestricted and equal suffrage for men and women.  
2. The immediate adoption of the so-called "Susan B. Anthony amendment" to the constitution of the United States granting the suffrage to women on equal terms with men.

3. The adoption of the initiative, referendum and recall and of proportional representation, nationally as well as locally.  
4. The abolition of the senate and of the veto power of the President.  
5. The election of the President and the vice-president by direct

vote of the people.  
6. The abolition of the present restriction upon the amendment of the constitution so that instruments may be amendable by a majority of the voters in the country.

7. The calling of a convention for the revision of the constitution of the United States.  
8. 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 only by act of Congress or by a referendum vote of the whole people.

9. The immediate curbing of the power of the courts to issue injunctions.  
10. The election of all judges of the United States Courts for short terms.  
11. The free administration of the law.  
12. The granting of the right of suffrage in the District of Columbia with representation in Congress and a democratic form of municipal government for purely local affairs.

13. The extension of democratic government to all United States territory.  
14. The freedom of press, speech and assembly.

15. The increase of the rates of the present income tax and corporation tax and the extension of inheritance taxes, graduated in proportion to the value of the estate and to nearness of kin—the proceeds of these taxes to be employed in the socialization of industry.

16. The enactment of further measures for general education and particularly for vocational education in useful pursuits. The Bureau of Education to be made a department.

17. The enactment of further measures for the conservation of health and the creation of an independent department of health.

18. The abolition of the monopoly ownership of patents and the substitution of collective ownership, with direct rewards to inventors by premiums or royalties.

**COLLECTIVE OWNERSHIP.**

1. The collective ownership and democratic management of railroads, telegraphs and telephones, express service, steamboat lines and all other means of transportation and communication and of all large-scale industries.

2. The immediate acquirement by the municipalities, the states or the federal government of all grain elevators, stock yards, storage ware-houses and other distributing agencies, in order to relieve the farmer from the extortionate charges of the middlemen and to reduce the present high cost of living.

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

4. The further conservation and development of natural resources for the use and benefit of all the people:  
By scientific forestation and timber protection.  
By the reclamation of arid and swamp tracts.  
By the storage of flood waters and the utilization of water power.

5. The stoppage of the present extravagant waste of the soil and the products of mines and oil wells.  
By the development of highway and water systems.

6. The collective ownership of land wherever practicable, and in cases where such ownership is impracticable, the appropriation by taxation of the annual rental value of all land held for speculation or exploitation.

7. All currency shall be issued by the Government of the United States and shall be legal tender for the payment of taxes and impost duties and for the discharge of public and private debts. The Government shall lend money on bonds to counties and municipalities at a nominal rate of interest for the purpose of taking over or establishing public utilities and for building or maintaining public roads and highways, and public schools—up to 25 per cent of the assessed valuation of such counties or municipalities. Said bonds are to be repaid in twenty equal and annual installments, and the currency issued for that purpose by the Government is to be cancelled and destroyed serially as the debt is repaid. All banks and banking institutions shall be owned by the Government of the United States or by the States.

8. Government relief of the unemployed by the extension of all useful public works. All persons employed on such work to be engaged directly by the government under a work day of not more than eight hours and at not less than the prevailing union wages. The Government also to establish employment bureaus; to lend money to states and municipalities without interest for the purpose of carrying on public works, to contribute money to unemployment funds of labor unions and other organizations of

workers, and to take such other measures within its power as will lessen the wide-spread misery of the workers caused by the misrule of the capitalist class.

**INDUSTRIAL DEMANDS.**  
The conservation of human resources, particularly of the lives and well-being of the workers and their families.

1. By shortening the work day in keeping with the increased productivity of machinery.

2. By securing the freedom of political and economic organization and activities.

3. By securing to every worker a rest period of not less than a day and a half in each week.

4. By securing a more effective inspection of workshops, factories and mines.

5. By forbidding the employment of children under eighteen years of age.

6. By forbidding the interstate transportation of the products of child labor and of all uninspected factories and mines.

### WHAT EMPLOYERS FEAR.

Just now there is almost universal movement among the organized workers for an eight hour day. The experience at the Ford factories has clearly proved that workmen can and will do more work and better work in an 8-hour day than in a 10-hour day. At the Ford plants, three years ago, the hours were reduced to eight, but the force was not increased. At the end of the year it was found that the product had greatly increased. I do not remember the exact per cent of increase, but do remember that the figures astonished me.

Now, if men can and do turn out more product and better product in eight hours than in ten, all employers of labor know this. They keep an eye on such matters. They are not fools. Then why do they oppose the 8-hour day? I will tell you.

To keep a slavish contented worker must keep him at work, so that whatever mind he may have is centered on what he is doing.

"An idle brain is the devil's workshop," is an old saw of the ruling class.

An eight hour day gives the workers time to read, study and reason. The men who now have the 8-hour day and the highest pay are the skilled workers. They are intelligent. The unorganized laborers work long hours

for pay that barely keeps them alive. The steel trust destroyed organization among its employees with bullets. The stockholders drew 80 million dollars in profits during the last quarter, while the men who produced this wealth worked twelve hour shifts for a miserable existence.

In what condition is a man after he has worked hard for twelve hours or even ten? Can he read or think intelligently—especially when the wolf of want is at his door? Usually he has a large family in which one or more members are always sick because of poor housing and insufficient food. He cannot think. He can only worry.

The masters know this. They know they must keep their slaves at grinding toil and at the edge of want in order to keep them from discovering the leak through which the products of their labor flows into the pockets of idlers.

The masters also know that the workers are afflicted with that touch of human nature so conspicuous among the masters—the more they get the more they want. The 8-hour day gives the worker time to read and think and reason with his associates. And that is what the masters fear.

The solidarity of the laborers at the polls means the success of the cause of the workers.

### WHAT IS LABOR TO DO.

It is a crime, the way the capitalist news service keeps its readers in ignorance. In no other country are important facts so cautiously and systematically kept from the people.

The political struggle in this country is not whether Democrats or Republicans shall hold public jobs. The issue is between capital and labor, and by keeping quiet about it, the plates hope to imagine that it doesn't exist.

We are governed by courts and guns. The capitalists are in control of both. But the court decisions against labor are becoming so infamous that labor is becoming very restless.

Twenty years ago congress passed what is known as the Sherman anti-trust law. This was the plate remedy to prevent great combinations of wealth called trusts. Nobody ever suspected that this law would ever be twisted to apply effectively to labor—and labor alone. But it has been applied nowhere else.

A few years ago the haters of Danbury, Conn., struck against their employers. A boycott was inaugurated against hats made by Lowe & Co. Lowe & Co. sued for damages and got judgment for about half million dollars against the union haters. The bones of the haters were sold to pay the judgment.

However, Gompers is the head of the American Federation of Labor and supported the Democrats four years ago. When congress met he went there and asked for a law to prohibit labor organizations from being attacked by the Sherman law. Being "friends of labor," the Donks gave Gompers what he asked for—the Clayton law. Gompers was happy and is again supporting the banks. He benefits in rewarding his political friends—even if some men lose their homes and their liberty.

Never again would the courts attack labor under the Sherman law, said Gompers. But Gompers has not yet discovered that we are governed by courts and not congress.

Two decisions have been handed down within the past 30 days that knocked the Clayton Law into a cocked hat. The latest was a case in Arkansas against the Western Federation of Miners for over a million dollars damages. The Milwaukee Leader says that this latest decision is the worst ever, and that it stands it means the destruction of unionism.

This decision has thoroughly aroused organized labor. Frank J. Weber, secretary of the Milwaukee Federated Trades Council, is a pleasant, mild-mannered man. For some time he has been a member of the Wisconsin legislature. At a meeting of the Milwaukee Trades Council the court's decision in the Arkansas case was discussed and denounced as the most desperate assault on unions yet attempted, said the mid-managed Weber.

"I had a dream the other night, and I saw the streets running with the blood of working men who were being mowed down as the grain before the scythe by the machine guns of the capitalist class, and horror on horror multiplied before the workers turned on their economic enemies. Then I saw the skies light up and destruction reigned on all sides.

"Can such dreams be prophetic? Is the master class to go step by step to the point where peaceful co-existence can no longer be used? This coal case decision is the worst that was ever handed down from the bench. It means that the workers are slaves and by court decision are tied to the industries."

**THERE IS A REASON.**  
Mr. Citizen, if you will but think, you will have no trouble in discovering why the cost of living goes up, why taxes increase, and why government is corrupt.

The nation, the state, the county, the municipality, are all public corporations. For illustration, let us take a county. Every citizen is supposed to be a stockholder, and the total wealth mounts into the millions.

But it is a public corporation, and it is sometimes said that "what is everybody's business is nobody's business." The result is that the corporation is poorly managed, and the little management it has is in the interest of the few who make it their business.

The wealth of an average county is probably twenty million dollars. Suppose a private corporation with twenty million dollars would employ as officers men whose chief qualifications were to shake hands and talk any way to please the listener?

Suppose this corporation employed as attorney to look after its legal affairs the lawyer who knew the least, and whom no cautious individual would trust with a case beyond a justice court?

How far do you suppose a private corporation would get?  
"Is this land rich?" asked the prospective purchaser, cautiously.  
"It certainly ought to be," replied the gentlemanly-farmer. "I have put all the money I had into it."—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Stick to the unmuzzled Kicker

### CAN'T HIDE THE TRUTH.

Try as hard as they may, the supporters of the capitalist system cannot conceal the whole truth about its workings, and often let the cat out of the bag.

They do not intend to do this, but most of them are so dull, and so ignorant of the workings of the system they support, that they unconsciously admit its defects.

In this respect the banks and insurance people are the greatest cowards. In many of their advertisements the word "profit" is removed, and the colored gentleman mercilessly exposed. In a local paper appears this advertisement of an insurance agent:

"When hundred healthy men now 25 years of age reach the age of 65, thirty-six will be dead, one rich, four wealthy, five able to work, and 54 dependent on relatives, friends or charity."

Now, these are facts, gathered from many years of insurance experience. Is that not a fearful showing for a nation that lays claim to civilization and enlightenment—to say nothing about all that "humanity" President Wilson tells us about? No savings time can equal it in calamity in time of peace. Sixty-five years is no age for human beings under sane and humane conditions, who are healthy at 25. Yet 30 out of every hundred HEALTHY persons are ground into profits before the age of 65!

Then what of the remaining 64? Only ten are better off than the 36 who died. Five were able to grab enough to keep them in old age; five are still working; and 54 ARE PAUPERS—and either in the poor house or dependent on relatives or friends.

Could a Socialist paint the picture any blacker? Walker should change his name, in the Democrat. Too much "Socialism."

### ANYTHING BUT A UNION.

From the Milwaukee Leader.  
There is always something new in the class struggle, although it is always the same old fight. The New York street car owners found a new line thru which to crawl out of an arbitration settlement.

By the terms of the arbitration agreement the corporation was to deal with representatives of the organized employees. To a person with an ordinary understanding of the facts and the English language this meant that an agreement was to be made with the Amalgamated Street Car workers.

Not at all. The employers had another lexicon—with the "lex" left out and the "con" emphasized. By an "organization" they understood a union which they had in their minds, and nowhere else, but which quickly took form in a nice time union, belonging to the same breed as the one Rockefeller is raising on his Colorado mining territory.

But the New York traction magnates improved on the Rockefeller breed, which has shown some signs of intractability. By crossing the standard union with a baseball league they produced an individual contract such as the world has never known before.

While the peal Amalgamated union officials were waiting at the "union" or somewhere else, for fulfillment of the promised agreement, the traction officers signed up several thousand of their employees to this individual contract. It now appears that this contract is a fearful and wonderful document.

It is modeled on the baseball league contracts. These sign away all possible present and prospective and hoped for rights of the individual. In this case if an employee joined a real union or struck or did almost anything else the bosses did not like he could be sued for breach of contract.

When the union asked that the terms of the arbitration award be lived up to the street car magnates replied that there was "nothing to arbitrate." Up to date how are the papers that threw its on the sacred principle of arbitration as applied to railroads has denounced the attitude of the New York traction trust. Neither has Hughes mentioned the matter in his speeches.

The wages of the street car workers are too low for a decent existence. Their hours are so long that their lives are very short.

There is a public service commission to "regulate" the companies and guarantee them dividends on property that they swindle the municipality out of. This commission does not try to "regulate" wages or guarantee the employees a living.

The only hope the men have, while private ownership lasts, is in their union. The bosses know this. So the one thing they fight on the economic field is a union.

The only other way out, and the only permanent way out, is through the use of political power to take the street cars out of private ownership.

### STARTS NEW CROP.

WIFE—When I married you I thought you'd sown your wild oats.  
HUBBY—With all your money, my dear, it would have been a shame not to start another crop.—Chicago News.

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This Donkey Denies He is Hitched.

### THAT EIGHT-HOUR LAW.

Suppose a Labor official should declare, as President Ripley, of the Santa Fe railway has declared, that he will ignore the eight-hour law passed by congress, what a howl would go up in the kept newspapers about "anarchist," "lawless agitator," etc. who should be put behind prison bars until he learns to respect the law.

Not so with Ripley. He is a dignified gentleman. In my opinion, the pretended objection of railroad officials to the law is all in the play, and intended for public consumption. I think they got just what they wanted for the present, and will get the balance after the election. It is my opinion that the railway heads knew exactly what the president and congress would do when they refused to yield anything at their joint meeting in New York.

Last week some of the trainmen had copies of the Kicker at their union meetings, and my article on the 8-hour law was read and discussed. I was told that some saw it as the Kicker did, while others found no flaw with the Kicker's reasoning, but expressed confidence in President Wilson.

While I hope not, yet I fear that confidence will receive a severe shock—AFTER the election. If it was not a gold brick, why was it necessary to stave off the operation of the law until January 1? Everybody, even the president, now admits that the law is full of

blow-holes. The law-makers agree that it was only an "emergency measure" and will have to be fixed later.

Now I want to give these railway trainmen something to consider. You are given certain duties to perform. If you fail, you are called before the boss to explain. If you are able to show that it was not your fault, you may hold your job. But if there is suspicion that you were negligent or incompetent, you are laid off or fired. You are told that you get good pay and only competent men are wanted. In this case you are the servant.

Let me illustrate a case where you are supposedly the boss. Over in Washington you have several hundred employees who are supposedly your servants. We call them the administration. After a siege at poker the night before, they get up about 9 a.m., take a few "eye-openers" and then eat breakfast. No 8-hour day here.

At noon they assemble in the Capitol building in a body called congress. A well-paid "eminent divine" in each House saws off a hypocritical prayer of less than a minute in length.

After prayer meetin' congress proceeds to what it calls "work." Its work consists chiefly of asking "leave" to print campaign speeches in the Congressional Record, to be sent out postage free, to us "free born" babes. Often congress is in session less than an hour, when it adjourns for the day. For this they charge you

\$7,500 a year—and "trimmings." While you are the boss, yet they fix their own salaries and hours.

To be off on a drunk does not interfere with their pay. They may be at home or appearing to you for votes to keep them on the job, and their pay goes right on.

These men are supposed to be smart. They are supposed to be statesmen and law-makers. That is their job, and when they come among you for votes, they tell you they are capable.

These men have just handed you a "package" called the 8-hour law that they themselves admit is very faulty.

They say they did this work hurriedly, but will fix it after the election. Mr. Traillman, does your boss accept such excuses from you when you are caught sleeping at the switch?

The railroad day is based on miles—100 miles for a day. This law says nothing about miles. A passenger trainman often makes his "day" in five hours. The new law would require them to work eight hours, wouldn't it?

Do you know that the little nation of France, about the size of one of our states, has used up over ten billion dollars since the war began. How will the people of France who are left after this war is over, pay the interest on such a stupendous debt? They will probably not try. That will be the sensible thing to do—confiscate the debt and kick the rulers over-board.

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