

**Poet's Corner**

**A HOLY DISCONTENT.**

Tofful, simple, working man,  
Living on the good old plan,  
Striving with the calloused clan,  
Why not break your chains?

Were you not meant for a man?  
Have a purpose if you can;  
Take your place in freedom's van—  
Why not break your chains?

Life lasts but a little hour,  
Leave the stalk and take the flower;  
Have the best that's in your power—  
Why not break your chains?

For your little children's sake  
Look around you and awake,  
You their lives must help to make—  
Why not break your chains?

Oh, the power of discontent!  
To a life that is misspent,  
Bringing the fire of good intent—  
Why not break your chains?

Wake! ye workers, feel your power;  
This your chance, and this the hour!  
Industry should never cower—  
Why not break your chains?

To the dawn of social life,  
Forward now in holy strife,  
Fight with reason, not with knife;  
Up, and break your chains.

Socialism points the way,  
Socialism holds the sway,  
Socialism here today:  
That will break your chains.

Therefore, workers, courage take,  
Futures for yourselves to make;  
Mankind's future is at stake,  
Up, and break your chains.  
—ARTHUR W. BUDGE.

**PELLETS FOR THE PROLETALE.**

(By Clell G. Fowler.)  
Read books: feed your mind with  
the manna of books. Revolutions have  
never grown out of ignorance—but in  
spite of it.

Pity the plutes! The moral de-  
generation of the superfluously rich  
is as apparent as the pauperization  
of the producers. Capitalism is twice  
cursed. In one form or another it  
means death for both masters and  
slaves.

So long as the land and machinery  
used for industrial purposes are owned  
by a class of people are dependent  
upon the whim and caprice of an-  
other class poverty and degeneracy  
stalks abroad. Vast wealth on the  
one hand conduces to idleness and  
sensuousness while on the other hand  
poverty condemns the masses to con-  
tinuous drudgery and servility. "I'll  
fare the land to hastening ills a prey  
where wealth accumulates and men  
decay."

Basil Hall, an Englishman who  
traveled in this country in 1827 and  
1828, considered slavery a great  
wrong. He thought nations import-  
ing the product of slave labor were a  
party to the unjust system, and sug-  
gested that to discontinue the traffic  
might be the only way to abolish the  
institution. But his suggestion was  
not acted upon. It was impractical.  
His policy was one of restriction.  
Commerce must expand. There are  
many people today who think the in-  
tolerable conditions under which the  
wage-slaves live might be ameliorated  
by measures meant to restrict the de-  
velopment of capitalist production.  
They are mistaken. Restrictive mea-  
sures will fail. Wage-slavery will be  
abolished only when the paradox of  
social production and individual ap-  
propriation has left its impress upon  
the brains of the millions of the dis-  
possessed.

Every effect is fathered by a cause.  
Vice in its manifold forms—drunken-  
ness, prostitution, robbery, murder,  
all have their roots deep in the eco-  
nomic structure of society. Moralizing  
will not stem the tide. Moralists,  
gone, but great and small, have, come  
and gone, but evolution goes on for-  
ever. Those good people who would  
reconstruct the world by the force of  
their genius of words have a very  
superficial knowledge. It is sense-  
less to preach industry to the millions  
of unemployed who have been divorced  
from the opportunity to employ  
themselves. It is absurd to counsel  
those working people to save, whose  
wages will not provide the actual ne-  
cessities of a life superior to brute ex-  
istence. Let us save done with moral-  
izing. We have had enough of sweet  
sermons and pious platitudes. Let us  
begin now with renewed vigor and en-  
thusiasm the campaign of education  
and organization. Let us own, col-  
lectively and operate democratically  
the national, state and municipal ma-  
chinery of production. The consum-  
mation awaits the perfect solidarity  
of the workers.

**International**

At the recent state election in Lower  
Austria the socialism party cast 107,-  
986 votes and secured only five seats,  
while the Christian socialists' 168,941  
votes secured 43 seats. The socialist  
party is demanding a fair apportion-  
ing of the district. The Christian so-  
cialists are in high favor with certain  
capitalistic interests, which accounts  
for their success, and also accounts for  
the distrust held for them by the revo-  
lutionary element.

Bosnia, the little Balkan country  
grabbed by Austria, also a socialist  
movement. The socialists started an  
agitation against the war party when  
some of the politicians tried to start  
trouble and were quite successful in  
restoring normal conditions. The so-  
cialists of Bosnia will hold a national  
convention next July.

**SOCIALISTS IN MACEDONIA.**

A Bulgarian named Schurkoff has  
formed a socialist party at the town  
of Kenprull, in which some two thou-  
sand persons are already enrolled.  
The Constantinople papers, which  
publish this statement, say that Ser-  
vians and Mussulmans are also invited  
to join, as the new party has no sym-  
pathy with the revolutionist commit-  
tee, which it regards as only bands  
of assassins.

Italy's first woman lawyer, who has  
just begun to practice, is Signorina  
Lollini, daughter of a Roman social-  
ist and ex-Deputy.

Out of every 100 men who offered  
themselves for enlistment in the Brit-  
ish army in 1907, 63 were rejected as  
physically unfit, in spite of the fact  
that during the last forty years the  
standard of physique required has  
been reduced three times.

The government of Italy has fixed  
May 9 as the day when a new par-  
liament is to be elected. The social-  
ists are making active preparations to  
wage a vigorous contest.

**THE SHAH'S "JUSTICE."**

The revolutionary party in Persia  
is circulating on postcards and in  
larger form a picture descriptive of  
"Persian justice," which shows three  
city gate of Tauris. The men, almost  
bandits hanging by their feet from the  
naked, are shown suspended from an  
opening in the wall, the ropes binding  
their feet being fastened to a pillar,  
next to which a military guard stands  
at "attention." "For hours," runs  
the legend under the picture, "these  
wretches, the robber Ago and his com-  
panions, hung, in their badly wounded  
condition, before death relieved their  
agony. Thousands of people of all  
ages and classes looked mournfully  
upon these victims of 'Persian Jus-  
tice.'"

Chicago, Ill., Feb. 22, 1909.

To Locals and Members Socialist  
Party,

Comrades, Greeting:  
You have received a circular letter  
from the Women's National Commit-  
tee, mailed from this office January  
18th.

Said communication bespeaks your  
hearty co-operation and earnest ef-  
forts for the enrollment of women as  
party members, and points out the  
fact that the last Sunday in this  
month (Feb. 28) is especially set  
aside for meetings in the interest of  
woman's suffrage.

In furtherance of this movement,  
which commanded such marked at-  
tention in the last International Con-  
gress and was so strongly advocated  
by the last national convention of  
the Socialist Party, I direct your at-  
tention to the following action taken  
by the National Executive Committee.

Motion:—"That we recommend lo-  
cals of the Socialist Party to set aside  
the last Sunday in February, 1909, for  
the purpose of a Demonstration in  
favor of Woman's Suffrage."

Motion:—"Whereas, the first day of  
May has been set apart by the Inter-  
national Socialist and Labor Move-  
ments, and particularly as a day  
against restricted suffrage, therefore  
be it

**RESOLVED**, that we recommend  
that all locals of the Socialist Party  
make the subject of Woman's Suffrage  
and Restricted Suffrage a part of the  
program for the May Day celebra-  
tion."

In accordance with the above each  
local is urged to arrange a meeting  
and get all possible advertising in  
the public press for the same.

For the making of a live issue of  
any subject, no more effective method  
can be employed than thousands of  
meetings held simultaneously. The  
Socialists of all the world are agreed  
that this subject is of vital impor-  
tance.

Sunday, February 28, the day for  
Socialist women. Join in for Interna-  
tional solidarity.

Fraternally submitted,  
—J. MAHLON BARNES,  
National Secretary.

**National**

Good reports are coming in on  
the work of Clyde J. Wright, tem-  
porary State Secretary and State  
Organized of Nebraska. At his meet-  
ing in Stromsburg a Local was or-  
ganized with 18 charter members.  
At his meeting a Local was organized  
At a meeting in Lincoln six new  
members were secured for the Local.  
He is now making an organization  
tour of the eastern end of the state  
and soon after it is finished, he will go  
into the western end of the state.

**WISCONSIN NOTES.**

A resolution demanding the abro-  
gation of the extradition treaty with  
Russia has been introduced by the  
Social-Democrats in the Wisconsin  
state legislature. This resolution has  
been favorably reported by the state  
senate committee to which it was re-  
ferred. It will no doubt pass the  
state senate in a slightly modified  
form. So much for a few Socialists in  
the legislature. The old party poli-  
ticians never thought of introducing  
such a measure. But once introduced,  
they will not dare to combat public  
opinion by voting against it. A few  
Socialists in the legislature of all the  
states would put an end to this out-  
rageous treaty, and secure the com-  
plete safety of our Russian comrades  
in this country for all future time.

Mayor Rose of Milwaukee has vetoed  
the Social-Democratic ordinance for  
the establishment of a municipal ice  
plant. The health of the workmen's  
babies is a matter of small im-  
portance to our mayor compared with  
the support of the ice trust.

The Milwaukee Social-Democrats  
are now voting by referendum on can-  
didates for alderman-at-large and  
school board directors. The election  
of the school board next spring  
promises to be a very warm battle in  
view of the attack of the mayor upon  
our public schools, his fight against  
the school appropriations, and his  
partiality to the Roman Catholic pa-  
rochial schools.

The convention of socialist of Ohio  
will be held in the city of Columbus,  
March 20th and 21st.

The following is the votes received  
by the fourteen leading candidates for  
members of the National Executive  
Committee and the votes for candi-  
dates for National Secretary, result-  
ing from the National Party Referen-  
dum upon which the ballots were  
counted Feb. 10th. Also the result  
of Referendum C, 1908, which closed  
at the same time as the vote for Na-  
tional Officers. The National Execu-  
tive Committee candidates are listed  
in the order of their votes. The first  
seven were elected.

|                          |       |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Victor L. Berger.....    | 6,274 |
| Morris Hillquit.....     | 5,685 |
| Robert Hunter.....       | 4,435 |
| A. M. Simons.....        | 4,425 |
| ohn Spargo.....          | 4,053 |
| John M. Work.....        | 3,344 |
| A. H. Floaten.....       | 3,265 |
| Arthur M. Lewis.....     | 3,028 |
| J. G. Phelps Stokes..... | 2,945 |
| Ernest Untermeyer.....   | 2,464 |
| Carl D. Thompson.....    | 2,371 |
| Stanley J. Clark.....    | 2,009 |
| Stanley J. Clark.....    | 2,009 |
| F. H. Wentworth.....     | 1,523 |
| Lena M. Lewis.....       | 1,473 |

**VOTE FOR NATIONAL SECRETARY**  
J. Mahlon Barnes, elected..... 10,412  
O. F. Branstetter..... 2,059  
Seth McClellan..... 421  
J. Chant Lipps..... 407

A complete tabulation of the votes  
on both counts will appear in the  
February issue of the Official Monthly  
Bulletin.

By recent referendum Franklin H.  
Wentworth, Carpenter St., Salem, was  
elected a member of the National  
Committee for Massachusetts, and  
James F. Carey, 699 Washington St.,  
Boston, was re-elected State Secre-  
tary.

At the last meeting of the State  
Executive Committee of Massa-  
chusetts, 330 new members were ad-  
ded to the roll through charter ap-  
plications and members at large.

Charters have been granted by the  
national office since last reported to  
Locals in unorganized states as fol-  
lows:—Stromburg, Neb., eighteen  
members; Schuyler, Neb. (re-organiz-  
ed) eleven members; ering, Neb., five  
members; Columbus, Neb., six mem-  
bers; Ellisville, Miss., sixteen mem-  
bers.

**NATIONAL ORGANIZERS AND LECTURERS.**

Ralph Korngold—March 3 to 6, Mo.  
under direction of State Committee A.  
Litman (Jewish)—Feb. 28. Wheeling,  
W. Va.—March 1 to 2, Bellaire, Ohio  
3 to 4 Canton—5 to 6 Cleveland.

Lena Morrow Lewis—March 1,  
Boulder, Colo.—2, Fort Collins—3,  
Greely—4, Sterling—5, Sidney, Neb.—  
6, Alliance.

Clyde J. Wright—March 1 to 6, Ne-  
braska at large.

John M. Work—March 1 to 6, Iowa,  
under direction of State Committee.

**Women's Clubs**

**SUFFRAGE DAY.**

Chicago Daily Socialist.  
"Unrestricted and equal suffrage for  
men and women and we pledge our-  
selves to engage in an active cam-  
paign in that direction."

Such is the wording of the suffrage  
plank in the national platform of the  
Socialist party. Words are good, but  
deeds are better; and as the Socialist  
party lost no time in letting the deed  
follow the words, the Socialist women  
of this country, who are fighting a  
double battle for the economic libera-  
tion of their class and the political  
enfranchisement of their sex, having  
good cause for rejoicing.

Acting upon the recommendation of  
its national executive body the Social-  
ist party has set aside the last Sunday  
in February as Suffrage Day. From  
the Atlantic to the Pacific coast upon  
that day Socialists will make the  
cause of disfranchised women the sole  
topic of their discourses and discus-  
sions, of their written and spoken  
thought, the issue of the hour. In  
all large industrial centers, in all  
cities and towns where a Socialist lo-  
cal exists, mass meetings will be held,  
lectures and speeches will be delivered  
and all will deal with the women  
question; everywhere Socialists will  
proclaim the justice of woman's de-  
mand for political equality as an in-  
evitable, logical result of that eco-  
nomic development which has cast  
upon her sex the same burdens and  
responsibilities that are borne by  
men.

A national suffrage day, organized  
and successfully carried out by a po-  
litical party! Let the suffragists of  
the country take notice! Is their no  
other political party in the United  
States, eye in the whole world, which  
ever has done as much for women?

Naturally it will be above all the  
working woman's cause that shall  
find its full expression upon our suf-  
frage day. Too often this cause is  
neglected by able suffragists who mean  
well, but whose middle class or capi-  
list class environment and bringing up  
are such that they lack a proper un-  
derstanding of the working woman's  
needs. Too often the suffrage senti-  
ment of the propertied woman is ex-  
pressed in the old slogan "No taxation  
without representation," and we have  
cause to believe that many of the  
bourgeois suffragists would end their  
efforts at this point; that they would  
be contented with obtaining political  
equality for the taxpaying woman,  
and would not continue to battle for  
the emancipation of their working  
class sisters. But it is the work-  
ing woman above all who needs the ballot,  
far more than the woman of wealth  
and leisure. She needs it because she  
has more wrongs to right. She needs  
it as a powerful and effective weapon  
against overwork and under payment,  
against all the numerous forms of  
social oppression and economic exploi-  
tation. She needs it as the ultimate  
means whereby she may help to usher  
in the coming form of society, the co-  
operative commonwealth, wherein all  
men and women shall be socially and  
politically free and equal, and econo-  
mically secure.

Socialists seek to obtain the ballot  
for women, not as a final aim, but  
only as a means toward a higher goal.  
They fully recognize woman's share in  
modern industry, in professions, in art,  
in social welfare work, in all the  
numerous phases of modern social life,  
and they well know that Socialism  
cannot liberate one-half of humanity  
and leave the other half behind in its  
age long bondage. Ever since Social-  
ism became a definite movement in  
this country women have been among  
its ardent adherents. There are  
thousands of earnest, capable, loyal  
women in the United States today who  
make the Socialist cause their life's  
work; from grayhaired, venerable  
Mother Jones, our modern Louise  
Michel, to the young factory girl who  
talks Socialism to her fellow workers.  
In falking up the woman's cause, the  
Socialist party is only paying a debt to  
its women. It is only showing due  
recognition of past services, and at  
the same time paying the way to bet-  
ter and more effective services in the  
future, when women shall no longer  
be confined to "indirect influence,"  
but shall be able to use their direct  
influence at the ballot box.

Join hands, then, comrades, all of  
you, and strive otm ake suffrage bal-  
lot one of the red letter days in the  
history of Socialism in the United States!  
We place unbounded confidence in  
you, men of the working class, for  
when you stand united, you are  
stronger than all the other classes  
combined. It was you who preven-  
ted the judicial murder of Moyer,  
Haywood and Pettibone. It was you  
who opened the prison door for Rud-  
owitz, the Russian political fugitive;  
and you are destined to remove at  
last the fetters which still bind your  
sister woman.

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