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THE STATE CONVENTION

What the Socialists Did at Jefferson City--Delegates Pleased with Growth--The State Platform.

The editor returned from Jefferson City Thursday of last week, where he had been sent to represent the Socialists of the 14th district at the state convention.

At the state capital I found the delegates of the five parties--the Republican, Democratic, Socialist, Prohibition and Populist. They had gathered to organize and formulate platforms.

The Republicans and Democrats were, of course, largely in the majority. From all over the state the men who live from other men's labor were there. They were well dressed and had the appearance of being well fed and housed.

The Socialist party is the third party in the state and nation and was so in representation at Jefferson City. But we looked small and rather "shabby" when compared with the representatives of the old graft parties. In earnestness of purpose, however, we had them all skinned. Every delegate had in mind, not what he wanted, but what the people at home wanted.

This was clearly shown when the matter of electing a permanent organization came up. Under Socialism the membership elect all officers by referendum vote, and all matters are submitted to the membership by referendum vote to approve or disapprove. The primary law says the state committee must elect a chairman, secretary, etc. This is in direct conflict with Socialist principles, for it takes from the membership the election of its officers by referendum. We had to find a way around it, for to destroy the referendum in our party would make it possible to establish "machines" such as they have in the old parties.

At the first of each year the membership elects a chairman, secretary and treasurer to serve for one year. The new law says the state committee must elect these officers for two years. Under the law the latter would be the legally elected officers, and the officers elected by the membership would have no legal standing. A committee composed of C. A. Berry, W. L. Garver, E. D. Wilcox and Phil. A. Hafner was selected to draft rules to overcome the difficulty. These rules were adopted:

"Section 1. The state committee shall accept the resignation of the then chairman, secretary or treasurer of the state committee at any such time as the action of the party shall be to elect anyone else for any of these offices.

"Sec. 2. In case of the recall of any members of the state committee, or of the chairman, secretary or treasurer of the committee, said members or officials are hereby required to hand in their resignations.

"Sec. 3. Proxies are not to be accepted by the state committee.

"Sec. 4. The business of the state committee may be conducted by meetings or by correspondence.

"Sec. 5. These rules may be amended at any time by a majority vote of the committee."

Subject to these rules the former chairman and secretary were elected (or, rather, indorsed) and Otto Kaemerer is the state treasurer.

Now I want to say a word to the women--especially to the W. C. T. U. members who are so active in the Prohibition movement. The Woman's Suffrage League, of St. Louis, presented to all five of the conventions in session at Jefferson City the following appeal:

"Resolved, that we pledge the delegates and candidates of this convention, to work for the immediate enactment of a law, giving women the same political rights as men; and that our candidates for the State Legislature, if elected, shall vote in favor of such law."

"GENTLEMEN:--We beg leave to submit the foregoing resolution for consideration and adoption by your honorable convention.

"Innumerable instances could be pointed out as to woman's ability to intelligently handle public questions and take an active part in public life.

"We mention but one instance in this respect, namely, that fully 90 per cent (if not more) of all the public school teachers in the state of Missouri are women. Yet, politically this army of intelligent women is still kept on the same basis as criminals, idiots or chattel slaves.

"It is generally conceded that industrially and socially woman has already become a great factor in modern civilization.

"It is distinctly set forth in the Declaration of Independence, that 'governments derive their just power from the consent of the governed.'

"The consent of our sex, constituting fully 50 per cent of this nation's governed, has never yet been asked, but simply implied, or taken

for granted. It logically follows that we, as a sex, are governed unjustly, that we are not living under a truly republican form of government, and, therefore, such government has no moral or ethical claims on our allegiance."

This appeal was personally presented to the different conventions by Mrs. Sarah Gilmore, of Pomona, and Miss Lucy Gantert, of Sedalia. And what do you think? Every capitalist group turned it down--including the Prohibitionists! But here is what the Socialists did:

"Resolved, That the Socialist Party of Missouri, in convention assembled, will do all in its power to bring about the enactment of a law by the General Assembly of Missouri granting woman's suffrage."

It was Eugene Debs, Socialist candidate for president, who recently said: "If I voted a capitalist ticket I would be ashamed to look my wife in the face."

THE STATE PLATFORM.

History demonstrates that political parties are not founded on mere theories, but on real conditions and material class interest. The history of this country shows conclusively that every industrial and commercial change was followed by a corresponding change on the political field. In other words, new economic conditions produced new material class interests and class privileges. To sanction, assure, protect and perpetuate these new class privileges, those profiting by the changed economic conditions required the control of the law-making machinery.

Political reorganization on new lines was necessary, a realignment of new political forces was the natural result, and new political parties were called into existence.

Today the American people are in the midst of the most radical and far-reaching political realignment in the history of our country.

During the last fifty years the greatest industrial revolution in the history of mankind has taken place. Capitalism has made possible the possession of the earth and the products of labor by the few. The means of production are today monopolized by the capitalist class, who was the owner of his tools, is no more. Capitalist production has transformed him into a wage worker. Steam power and electricity applied to the machinery of production and transportation, and the modern factory, the steam and electric railways, the telegraph and telephone systems have displaced the old system of production, transportation and communication.

Capitalist production results in dividing society into two classes, the capitalist class and the working class. These two forces of society, whose interests are diametrically opposed to each other, are naturally forced into a continuous class struggle, which can only end with the abolition of the wage and profit system. Under this system the wage workers own nothing but their labor power, which they must sell to the capitalist in the open market in order to live, while the lion's share of labor's product flows into the pockets of the capitalists who buy and sell labor power for the sake of profit.

The Socialist Party declares for the abolition of the wage and profit system, and for the introduction of the co-operative system of production and distribution, which will guarantee to the working people the full fruits of their labor. The Socialist Party stands unqualified for the interests of the working class and the improvement of the conditions of that class.

We reiterate our allegiance to the Socialist Party of the United States and indorse its national platform. We appeal to the working class and all those in sympathy with its historic mission and the principles of Socialism, to join the Socialist Party in its noble efforts for labor's freedom and a higher civilization.

For the ensuing campaign we advocate the following measures for enactment: Legislation authorizing the municipalities and counties to own and operate such public utilities as street cars, gas and electric light and power plants, etc.

Municipal home rule whereby the citizens of every municipality will be empowered to attend to the management of their own public affairs without interference on the part of any state official.

Abolition of the contract system on public works.

Extension of labor and factory legislation, especially in regard to abolishing child labor and sweat shops; public work to be done under union conditions at union wages; prohibition of child labor in the news paper distribution business; abolition of prison contract labor.

The establishment of a legal eight-hour workday.

Civil service or the merit system for all public employees.

An invalidity and old age insurance law.

Employers' liability law for the protection of all wage workers.

Compulsory education and free text books for the public school children throughout the state.

Abolition of capital punishment.

Election of the labor commissioner, election commissioners and police commissioners by direct vote of the people.



APPEALING TO LABOR.

The above cartoon I am able to reproduce by courtesy of the St. Louis Star and Chronicle. It represents Labor as Capitalism sees it just one day in every four years--on Labor Day just before a presidential election. Labor might appear this way every day in the year if it only knew its strength. But Labor is waking up, and there never was a time when capitalist politicians were so frantic in their appeals to Labor as today. All are "Labor's friend" now. The injunction is suspended until after election.

I was present at the Labor Day celebration in St. Louis last week--September 8. It was a monster gathering. Everywhere I discovered groups of men, closely huddled together. In the middle of each group were two men discussing politics. One was always a Socialist and the other either a Democrat or Republican. All were workmen and the discussions were good humored. They were not drinking as I have seen them on former occasions. They were serious. I was there to see things, and whenever I stopped at such groups I noticed that the Socialist always routed his opponent, and that the majority of the group were Socialists.

Cowherd, Hadley and Garver had been invited to speak. Hadley did not come. Cowherd, the Democratic nominee for governor, and Garver, the Socialist nominee, drew lots which should speak first. The opening fell to Cowherd, and when he stepped on the platform there was considerable applause but much of it appeared to have the mechanical ring to it. Cowherd made the same speech that I had heard Marshall Arnold make twenty years ago and have heard it over and over again ever since. The only variation was that Cowherd warned the workers against the doctrine that there were classes in this country.

When Garver stepped out there was an uproar that indicated real

interest. It was general and it was some time before he could proceed. He began: "Comrades and fellow workers." (Applause.) "By workers I include the women." Here bedlam broke loose again and the crowd went wild. A Cowherd roofer who sat in front of me and had put his hat on an umbrella to wave it as Cowherd appeared, took his wife and went out. I noticed a few others with their wives got out. As Gene Debs said, they were ashamed to look them in the face. It is the practice of old party politicians to flatter the women, but Cowherd made no mention of them. I reckon he feared that Garver would land on him too heavily if he did.

It was clear that Garver had the crowd with him. He made a great talk, parts of which were quoted in the capitalist papers, and closed with the quotation from Marx: "Workingmen of the world, unite! you have nothing to lose but your chains and a world to gain!"

THE PRIMARY LAW. The Kicker has said little about the new primary law, because it is about as good as any law we need to expect from capitalism. But since Gov. Folk is a reformer, and since this is one of his pet reform measures, I will waste a little space on it.

THE PRIMARY OBJECT OF THE PRIMARY LAW IS TO SHIFT THE COST FROM THE SHOULDERS OF THE POLITICIANS AND SADDLE IT ON THE WHOLE PEOPLE. Formerly the candidates were assessed to bear the expense. Now the tax payers are assessed. That is the difference. Can you see where it hits you? A state primary costs about \$200,000. That would build some road, wouldn't it?

Then let us take up the monkey-farce we held at Jefferson City last week. In the old days a candidate for nomination stood for something. His party organization formulated a platform that every candidate asking for the indorsement of that party was supposed to stand on.

But how different under the Folk-Democratic "reform" primary law! Today the candidate for nomination need not stand for anything, and after he has received his nomination he goes to Jefferson City and frames up any sort of a platform that he thinks will catch votes.

Great is capitalist reform!

SKILLFUL MANIPULATORS. The Cape Republican seems to think the election crooks in St. Louis are of a class that would give the boys who manipulated the celebrated "May 3rd" convention in this county in 1902 a hard tussle if it came to a test of skill.--Jackson Cashbook.

Well, the Kicker isn't boasting, but we have a little bunch down here that always gets away with "the goods." That convention last April which indorsed the "imperishable principles of Jefferson" was a fair sample. In a test of skill they would not be in it. But for brazen and clumsy operations they are hard to down.

Workingmen, vote together.

HOW HE WABBLES. I like to tickle a fellow like Frank McGuire in the shorts--especially when he insists on refusing to notice me. It took considerable punching and jolting to get him to "look up," but when I compared a Bryan argument of 1907 with the Bryan platform of 1908 he took notice.

Recently he congratulated "the party" on the fact that the St. Louis-Republic was coming around and, for the first time, Bryan editorials were appearing in the Dave Francis sheet.

The Kicker reproduced the Bryan denunciation of the emergency currency in 1907 and the endorsement of emergency currency by the Denver platform.

And Bro. Mc. took notice. Through nearly a column of stuff he squirmed and twisted and tried to explain that the kind of emergency currency the Democrats wanted was different from the Republican product. And even then he had to tell a big, white "fib" to get out of the hole he was in. He says that the Democratic idea is that "if an emergency currency has to be issued it should be issued by the government."

Now, Bro. Mc., if you will point out in your platform anything that will warrant you in such a statement I will send you a fresh jug of buttermilk. Is it possible that you have to resort to brazen misrepresentation in order to hold up your end of the argument? Here is what your platform says:

"We believe that insofar as the needs of commerce require an emergency currency, such currency should be issued, CONTROLLED by the federal government and loaned on adequate security to national and state banks."

There is your platform on emergency currency. Can you defend it? It does not say who is to issue the emergency currency. That part is carefully omitted. But the bankers know who will issue it, and that is why Bryan editorials appear in the Republic.

The fact that the issue is "controlled" by the government means nothing. All bank issues are now

"controlled" by the government, but the bankers take the profits.

We may now expect another prolonged silence on the part of the Cashbook, while Bro. Mc. enlightens us on "the time-honored principles of Jefferson and Jackson."

THE DIFFERENCE.

There is a marked difference between the press and orators of Socialism and capitalism. The former are honest with the masses and tell the situation as it is. The latter will tell you anything the press bureaus and campaign committees prepare.

Both the Democrats and Republicans are claiming everything--as they always do. Both are sure winners--as they always are. I don't believe that it would be hard to get some of our local politicians here to confess that, in past elections, while they were out urging the people to vote the Democratic ticket, and predicting sure victory, they secretly placed their money on the Republican candidate for president.

How about the Socialists? Well, no well-informed Socialist predicts the election of Debs unless the unexpected happens. The most we expect is 1,500,000 votes in the nation, possibly a few members of state legislatures and of city and town assemblies and county officers.

I believe we will elect some county officers in Scott county. I am sure we will if the people vote as they talk. But people act so funny. They will pass a thing until 5:59 o'clock p. m. on election day, and then rush in to vote for it. And then they cuss until the next election when, for fear they lose their vote, they vote for it again.

It is better to vote for what you want and not get it, than to vote for what you don't want and get it.

But one thing is sure. The Socialist party is growing miraculously in the United States, while the rank and file are deserting the old parties as rats desert a sinking ship. The Appeal to Reason, the leading Socialist weekly of the nation, gained 19,329 subscribers in excess of expectations for the last week of August and 7,722 for the first week in September.

In Missouri the Appeal has 18,281 subscribers. It has the largest circulation of any paper in the nation and, last week, issued an edition of 1,500,000 copies. Its circulation per capita is 44.76 and standing at the present 100,000 per week.

Socialism growing. Well, yes.

A REAL HOT SHOT.

From all over the country comes only good news for the Socialists. The latest is from St. Louis. A meeting of the representatives of the Central Trades and Labor Union, including 40,000 members of organized labor Sunday a resolution indorsing Bryan was defeated and a substitute offered by Otto Kaemerer, state treasurer of the Socialist party, was adopted. Here is the resolution adopted by organized labor of St. Louis:

"Whereas, There are numerous good reasons why organized labor can not indorse the candidacy of William H. Taft for president on the Republican ticket; and

"Whereas, The Democratic party, as represented by the Hayes-Kelley-Snake-Kinney-Burley-Wells-Francis elements in St. Louis, by the Gov. Comer Democracy in Alabama and by the Tammany Hall Democracy in New York, is not a particle better than Mr. Taft's party; therefore, be it

"Resolved, That this Central Trades and Labor Union emphatically refuses to indorse the Democratic and the Republican parties and the candidates of any of the capitalist party tickets."

Go, but that's tough on that "friend of labor" over in Nebraska. If the lead of the workmen of St. Louis is followed by the workers all over the nation, Debs will be your next president. You can't tell. There's a hen on. The workers are waking up.

HERE'S YER INJUNCTION.

St. Paul, Minn., Sept. 3--Judge Vandeventer, in the United States circuit court, today granted the injunction requested by the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern, and the other railroads operating in Arkansas, against the Arkansas state railroad commission. The injunction restrains the commission from enforcing the new 2-cent fare law, and from interfering with the railroads in raising the freight rates on interstate traffic.

Yep! This is a free country, where the people rule. We send three hundred men to the state legislature to make laws. If they happen to enact a law that, in the least, is objectionable to capital, down comes the injunction. We may expect the same fate in Missouri--after the election.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

It is becoming evident that something important is in the air. Just what it is, is not yet clear, but there are some recent movements that are at least suggestive. In all probability there will be a war within four years, because it will be impossible to raise the depression that has settled over industry by any other means. The money that would be spent in war, the demand that would be made for armaments and supplies would, no doubt, give temporary relief. It war could be made so successful as to provide a new frontier, with new territories to exploit, the relief might last a little longer, perhaps for eight or ten years. But there is no way to escape a revival from industrial depression without the opening of a new frontier. It seems that this war is beginning to percolate through the heads of politicians, and, if it does, it is quite likely that preparations for war may begin at once in order to somewhat relieve the depression before the election, leaving the actual war to carry on in behalf of the commercial parasites who man the ship of state.

There are two lines in which it will be possible to move for a new frontier. One is the far east, involving a war with Japan, with the trade of the Pacific as the prize. The other is Mexico and Central America, involving a much easier war, with a nearer frontier as the prize. There is evidence of a demonstrative nature showing that both have been considered. The movements of the last week look chiefly toward the Pacific. Let us see.

First comes the news that the big American fleet has arrived and been welcomed at Australia.

Next is a dispatch announcing that the navy-yards of Japan are working at full capacity building auxiliary cruisers. They are to be built of iron, which is a departure in naval craft, and are to be available for either war or as merchant marine.

Third, is a report that all European ships have abandoned the Pacific, leaving only Japanese and American battle ships in these waters. Twenty years ago the mastery of the Pacific belonged to England, and it is deeply significant that she should abandoned it and that the same time America should have three fleets in the Pacific and none in the Atlantic. Is there an understanding between the Anglo-Saxon people that one branch of the family of nations should monopolize the Atlantic and the other the Pacific? In line with this idea is the fact that a very speech made in London the day in Australia, the sentiment was expressed that the white race must control the Pacific and that an Anglo-American alliance must be formed.

But all these things pale before the news telegraphed from Washington under date of August 22, and yet they supplement it with a degree of plausibility that ought to awaken the country to the hazardous situation in which we find ourselves because of Republican misrule continuing in the Pacific. This dispatch says that the president has ordered that all the war vessels of the United States are to be painted all white and changed from white, which is the color they wear in times of peace, to purely blue, the war color, which renders them invisible at a distance of a few miles. Now, why should this be assumed the war color in times of peace?

It may not be that war will begin until after the election, but the evidence seems conclusive that preparations for war are already under way. Moreover, the money, belonging to the public, that may be spent in preparation between now and election will be in the nature of rebelling the stringency which Republican mismanagement brought about and will in effect the diversion of public money to the Republican campaign fund. Keep your eyes open for further developments.

Moze Wetmore, chief of the finance committee of the national Democratic organization, is opposed to trusts. He is vice-president of the Tobacco trust that has brought such blessings(?) to the growers of Kentucky and Tennessee. Moze is appealing to the farmers to help him elect Bryan and Tom Taggart's lawyer. And some suckers are really parting with the few pennies they have saved up. I don't blame an office-holder, a banker or a lawyer for aiding in prolonging existing conditions, but the workingman--well, he is in the habit of handing over his boot so that the other fellow can kick him plenty.

At the Socialist state convention last week there was not a lawyer in it. Who says there is danger of the Socialist party becoming corrupt?

W. L. Garver, Socialist nominee for governor, will make several speeches in the county about October 1. Discussion invited.