

COMMUNICATIONS.

Sectarianism and the Schools.
To the Workmen's Advocate:

The present crippled condition of our public schools is due to the influence brought to bear on public officials by Roman Catholic "sky-pilots" and their satellites.

Their object is to destroy the efficiency of secular training in order to establish their own hot-beds of superstition on a public basis.

Orthodox protestants have no more love for secular schools than their catholic neighbors, they support them in a half-hearted way through fear of catholic domination.

An ex-catholic myself, living among and working with catholics, I am in a position to know what a stumbling block that form of superstition is in the path of social progress.

If I were as familiar with the pens as with the monkey-wrench, I could surprise some of those very advanced socialists who flatter themselves that the religious question is dead.

PETER GIBBONS.

New York February 14.

How to Reduce the Surplus.

This is a curious world! Diverse and contrary are the aims and objects of the people that live in it. One has too much appetite, another not enough. Both seek remedy in exercise. One wishes to dispose of his goods, another wishes he could get them. As it is with individuals so with governments. Russia, Austria, Turkey, Italy, vainly devise means to fill their empty treasuries. The United States can find none to get rid of their surplus. It is upon this last question that I intend to write.

A most remarkable thing it is, indeed, that, in the face of so much poverty crying for relief no other means can be found of reducing the surplus than the building of forts, arsenals, ships of war, etc. Does the country's safety lay in the hands of a few soldiers or in the millions of workmen upon whom the government must call in time of danger? Is it best for the country's safety to build fleets and forts or to endeavor itself to the workmen, who must defend it, by improving their condition?

As a workingman I ask the following questions: 1. What right has the country, when in danger, to call upon me to sacrifice my life when she in return deserts me when I am in danger of starvation? 2. Why should I give my life for a country that will imprison me for no other offense than that of being in enforced idleness? 3. Why should I be called upon to protect a country that leaves me without shelter, when through sickness or lack of employment I am unable to pay a few weeks' rent?

Are there not many ways in which the country might expediently and profitably spend or reduce her surplus? She can reduce it by giving all her employees eight hours work a day, thereby reducing the army of the unemployed. She can give free meals in the public schools to such children as are now compelled to earn their bread in workshops. She can take the vacant land around the cities, build cottages and sell them to workmen at cost price, on easy terms. She can purchase the street cars and run them at a fare less than the present and shorten the hours of the men. She can do many more good things that would be beneficial and profitable. Why, then, does she prefer to spend millions in barracks and earth works? Because this is a government of capitalists, by capitalists, for capitalists, whose existence in luxurious idleness depends upon the degradation and servility of the working people.

J. FINN.

Boston, February, 1890.

Factory Inspection.

At the present time there are two bills before the law makers and the vetoer at Albany. Organized labor had three bills prepared. One, known as the Van Etten bill, calls for eight female inspectors; another, presented by the State Workmen's Assembly, asks for ten female and ten male inspectors, one of the latter to be a mine inspector. The third bill, prepared by the Federation of Labor, has been wisely withdrawn, so as not to interfere with the Van Etten bill. As yet it is very doubtful if either of the bills will become law.

Under the present system of society factory inspection, like any other measure intended to benefit workmen, is doomed to be, upon the whole, a farce. All we can do is to make the best of it under the circumstances. Let us see what has been done so far in that direction.

We have now one chief and two assistant factory inspectors. According to their own last report, nothing of any amount has been done; no prosecutions have been attempted for obvious violations of law. At a hearing before a Senate Committee, Mr. Connolly, the chief inspector—the man appointed to guard the interest of labor—claimed that the law regarding factory inspection was unconstitutional. This is stupid, but it is true. Has any of the readers of the ADVOCATE ever seen an inspector in the factory where he hap-

pens to be employed? If so, has he ever seen that anything beneficial was the result? Let me describe a visit of a factory inspector in one instance. The firm is notified some days before the inspection that such will occur. (This is as good as to say that a five or a ten must be kept ready by the boss; so at least some of us thought). On that certain day the boss sends the very young children—a great joke for the poor little ones—to some remote loft; the water-closet is made to look like a stage ornament; the well guarded elevator can not be used till after the visit, and a new broom stands unobtrusively in the corner. The shop looks like Dickon's poor doctor's office, when the rich aunt is expected. The employees don't know what has struck the boss till they see him enter in the company of a gentleman, both engaged in pleasant conversation. The latter takes a hurried glance around. No questions are asked. "Who the d— can that be?" asks one of us after their departure. "Oh, the factory inspector," another remarks. A subdued laugh follows and away we work at our daily toil.

Factory inspection now is not an arrangement to prevent the boss from endangering the health or life of his "hand"; it is another chance to provide a sinecure for political heelers at the public crib. Why? because the inspectors are not appointed from the ranks of organized labor, who are experts in factory working, machinery etc., but from the office seeking mob of politicians. Should a workman be appointed to such an office, he must have at the same time a "big pull", which latter qualification counts the most. At present the issue is, shall the factory inspectors be appointed from the heelers of the republican Senate or from the democratic heelers of Mr. Hill.

When at a meeting of the Brooklyn Central Labor Union the above criticism was uttered, a delegate remarked: "I cannot stand the abuse of politicians; we are all politicians, either democratic or republican." And when a vigorous protest was entered from the other side he added with the usual ignorance or malice: "Or Anarchists." By the laugh that followed he could tell that he hit "alongside the nail". I leave it to you, readers, to mark the difference between a democratic or republican politician and a Socialist.

Criticism is but one-sided, when nothing better is offered. Well, here it is. I suggest that the central bodies elect the factory inspectors, who can be with drawn at any time if they fail to do their duty. I am aware that an inspector who would do real good work would soon be "broken" by the combined efforts of capitalists, but what else can you do, under the present rotten system of society, to make factory inspection effective?

GUSTAV SCHAEFER.

SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY.

Proceedings of the National Executive Committee.

The last regular meeting took place on Friday Feb. 14, at the Brooklyn Labor Lyceum. Max Forker was elected Chairman; absent and excused, Hy. Kuhn. The Treasurer received \$23.00 for dues and \$11.65 for agitation stamps; the expenses were \$15.25. The Treasurer also reported to have sent \$2,004 by telegraph to the German Comrades for the Reichstag election, which takes place on Thursday Feb. 20. The press-committee reported that both party organs will be published in double size as special agitation numbers, containing a large picture on the first page and also articles from the pen of prominent writers. These numbers will appear in the middle of March for the celebration of the anniversary of the Paris Commune and it is hoped that all Sections will send in extra orders. German communications from Holyoke, Evansville and Cleveland were ordered to be published in *Der Sozialist*. Section Evansville reported that it has joined the party-organization again. Section Cleveland reported a well attended meeting, where Mrs. Johanna Greie of New York delivered an address and 17 new members were enrolled. This Section already counts 45 members. Section Long Island City also reported steady progress. New members are enrolled at every meeting. Comrade G. Schaefer was delegated to address a meeting at that place on Feb. 22nd. Comrade Patberg was delegated as a speaker to Newark. Section Albany sent \$10 and the Central Labor Union of Chicago \$30 for the German Reichstag election. Sections Lawrence, Mass., and Troy, N. Y., reported concerning the action, which they have taken in regard to the proposed agitation trip. The Secretary was instructed to file all answers in regard to this question and publish a summary of them later on. As the New York Section has invited Paul Grottkau of Chicago to address several agitation meetings in that city and vicinity, the Secretary was instructed to request Comrade Grottkau to hold meetings in all the principal cities on his way from and to Chicago. The Executive will account for the expenses. However, the New York and all of their Sections are informed that it would be of more interest to the whole party to notify the Executive of similar steps in the future in order to organize these trips for the benefit of the whole party. Further communications from Albany, Hartford, St. Louis, Greenpoint, Meriden, Baltimore and Detroit were finally disposed of.

G. S.

The receipt of a sample copy of this paper is an invitation to subscribe.

English Capital in American Hats.

It is reported that a Mr. Huebner, who says that he represents an English syndicate, is arranging for the sale of all the hat factories in New Jersey. Mr. Huebner asserts that he has secured options from all of the manufacturers except the firm of E. V. Connett & Co. Mr. E. V. Connett, head of the firm mentioned, the largest hat manufacturers in the Oranges, New Jersey, when questioned in regard to the matter, said that he had not given an option to Geo. E. Huebner for the sale of his business, and that he did not propose to do so. Mr. Connett said he regarded the representations made up to this time as "all wind." There is, he claimed, little or no money in the hat trade now. Some of the firms would, no doubt, be glad to sell at the prices they had named, and would be foolish not to, if they could. Cummings, Matthews & Co., of Orange Valley, denied the report that they had given Mr. Huebner an option for the sale of their business. It is said, however, that Mr. Huebner has secured options as follows: McGall Brothers, \$475,000; Austin, Drew & Co., \$375,000, and McChesey & Fisher, \$125,000. These are considered very high prices by persons familiar with the trade.

PLATFORM OF THE S. L. P.

The Socialist Labor Party of the United States, in convention assembled, reasserts the inalienable right of all men to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

With the founders of the American republic we hold that the purpose of government is to secure every citizen in the enjoyment of this right; but in the light of our social conditions we hold, furthermore, that no such right can be exercised under a system of economic inequality, essentially destructive of life, of liberty, and of happiness.

With the founders of this republic we hold that the true theory of politics is that the machinery of government must be owned and controlled by the whole people; but in the light of our industrial development we hold, furthermore, that the true theory of economics is that the machinery of production must likewise belong to the people in common.

To the obvious fact that our despotic system of economics is the direct opposite of our democratic system of politics, can plainly be traced the existence of a privileged class, the corruption of government by that class, the alienation of public property, public franchises and public functions to that class, and the abject dependence of the mightiest of nations upon that class.

Again, through the perversion of democracy to the ends of plutocracy, labor is robbed of the wealth which it alone produces, is denied the means of self-employment, and, by compulsory idleness in wage-slavery, is even deprived of the necessities of life.

Human power and natural forces are thus wasted, that the plutocracy may rule.

Ignorance and misery with all their concomitant evils are perpetuated, that the people may be kept in bondage.

Science and invention are diverted from their humane purpose to the enslavement of women and children.

Against such a system the S. L. P. once more enters its protest. Once more it reiterates its fundamental declaration that private property in the natural sources of production and in the instruments of labor is the obvious cause of all economic servitude and political dependence; and

Whereas, the time is fast coming when, in the natural course of social evolution, this system, through the destructive action of its failures and crises on the one hand, and the constructive tendencies of its trusts and other capitalistic combinations on the other hand, shall have worked out its own downfall; therefore, be it

Resolved, that we call upon the people to organize with a view to the substitution of the co-operative commonwealth for the present state of planless production, industrial war and social disorder; a commonwealth in which every worker shall have the free exercise and full benefit of his faculties, multiplied by all the modern factors of civilization.

We call upon them to unite with us in a mighty effort to gain by all practicable means the political power.

In the meantime, and with a view to immediate improvement in the condition of labor, we present the following "Demands":

SOCIAL DEMANDS.

1. Reduction of the hours of labor in proportion to the progress of production.
2. The United States shall obtain possession of the railroads, canals, telegraphs, telephones, and all other means of public transportation and communication.
3. The municipalities to obtain possession of the local railroads, ferries, water works, gas works, electric plants, and all industries requiring municipal franchises.
4. The public lands to be declared inalienable. Revocation of all land grants to corporations or individuals, the conditions of which have not been complied with.
5. Legal incorporation by the States of local Trade Unions which have no national organization.
6. The United States to have the exclusive right to issue money.
7. Congressional legislation providing for the scientific management of forests

and waterways, and prohibiting the waste of the natural resources of the country.

8. Inventions to be free to all; the inventors to be remunerated by the nation.

9. Progressive income tax and tax on inheritances; the smaller incomes to be exempt.

10. School education of all children under 14 years of age to be compulsory, gratuitous, and accessible to all by public assistance in meals, clothing, books, etc., where necessary.

11. Repeal of all pauper, tramp, conspiracy, and summary laws. Unbridled right of combination.

12. Official statistics concerning the condition of labor. Prohibition of the employment of children of school age and of the employment of female labor in occupations detrimental to health or morality. Abolition of the convict labor contract system.

13. All wages to be paid in lawful money of the United States. Equalization of women's wages with those of men where equal service is performed.

14. Laws for the protection of life and limb in all occupations, and an efficient employers' liability law.

POLITICAL DEMANDS.

1. The people to have the right to propose laws and to vote upon all measures of importance, according to the Referendum principle.

2. Abolition of the Presidency, Vice-Presidency and Senate of the United States. An Executive Board to be established, whose members are to be elected, and may at any time be recalled, by the House of Representatives as the only legislative body. The States and Municipalities to adopt corresponding amendments to their constitutions and statutes.

3. Municipal self-government.

4. Direct vote and secret ballots in all elections. Universal and equal right of suffrage without regard to color, creed or sex. Election days to be legal holidays. The principle of minority representation to be introduced.

5. All public officers to be subject to recall by their respective constituencies.

6. Uniform civil and criminal law throughout the United States. Administration of justice to be free of charge. Abolition of capital punishment.

LOCAL NOTICES.

For all kinds of Job Printing, go to the Stafford Printing Co.

TRADES UNION CALENDAR.

Meetings Regularly Held at Trades Council Hall, 769 Chapel Street.

Delegates to the Trades Council received at the regular meetings, on the First and Third Sunday evenings in each month.

BREWERS, alternate Sunday mornings. BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS AND JOINERS, 2d Wednesday.

CIGARMAKERS (39), 4th Tuesday in month, 7:30 p. m. Executive Board every Saturday, 5 p. m. FURNITURE WORKERS, 2d and 4th Friday evgs. GRANITE CUTTERS, 3d Saturday evening.

HORSE SHOEERS, 2d Tuesday evening. IRON MOULDERS (60), 2d and 4th Friday evgs. JOURNEMEN BAKERS, 2d and 4th Sunday at 9:30 a. m.

MUSICAL PROTECTIVE UNION, 2d Sundays, 2 p. m. STONE MASONS, 1st and 3d Wednesday evenings. TAILORS, 2d and 4th Mondays, 8 p. m.

TRADES COUNCIL, 1st and 3d Sundays, 7:30 p. m. TYPOGRAPHICAL, 4th Wednesday, 8 p. m. WOOD CARVING, 1st and 3d Tuesday evenings.

WORKMEN'S CO-OPERATIVE FIRE INSURANCE CO., every Saturday, 7 p. m.

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For New Haven and Vicinity.

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The above Label was indorsed by the Federation of Organized Trade and Labor Unions of the United States and Canada; by the Workingmen's Assembly of the State of New York; by the State Trade Assemblies of Ohio, Illinois, Missouri and Jersey, and by a large number of Local Assemblies and Districts of the Knights of Labor.

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CONNECTICUT STATE COMMITTEE meets every second and fourth Thursday in the month at No. 1, Marsh Court. Jos. Haaser, Secretary, No. 1 Marsh Court.

SECTION NEW HAVEN, S. L. P.—The Regular Meetings of this Section are held at 781 Chapel street on the first Monday of each month at 8 o'clock p. m.

TRADES COUNCIL.—Regular Meetings on the First and Third Sundays in each month, at 7:30 o'clock in the evening. All Unions should be represented.

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SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY.—Public Meetings every Wednesday at Social Hall, 39 Fourth street, up stairs. Organizer, T. Ross Martin, 505 Minna st.

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