

WORKMEN'S ADVOCATE

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THE SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY

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SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY.

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POLITICAL ACTION.

As will be seen by our report, in an-
other column, of the Socialist and Na-
tionalist Conferences held last week,
there is a prospect of united action this
fall by all the progressive elements of
this city. It may be added that the sen-
timent in this direction is rapidly grow-
ing.

If the campaign can be opened as early
as the middle of August and conducted
with vigor from that time to election
day, many who are still in doubt will
be carried by the current. A formidable
movement of labor on advanced lines is
at least and at last among the possibi-
lities.

VICTORY.

The cloakmakers have won a complete
victory. The most rabid organs of capi-
talism are ashamed of the conduct of
the manufacturers in this conflict. The
Times, for instance, admits that by now
granting the demands of their wage-
slaves the employers recognize that
"these demands were just and ought to
have been granted in the first place." We
trust that the cloakmakers, who can
now appreciate the value of economic
union in conflicts involving their daily
bread, will immediately turn their atten-
tion to the value of political union in
the greater conflict for total emancipa-
tion.

UNORGANIZED LABOR.

There were in this city, in 1880, 227,352
persons engaged as mechanics and
operatives in 11,329 manufacturing es-
tablishments. Of this total number
146,179 were males above 16 years of
age, 71,795 were females above 15, and
9,378 were children and youths. If we
suppose that the number of persons
engaged in this class of occupations has
increased in the same ratio as popula-
tion, the Census which has just been
taken will show an army of wage-
workers in the manufacturing and
mechanical employments of this city
numbering over 200,000 men and 100,000
women.

Nor is this all. The aggregate num-
ber of persons working for wages in
trade and transportation, and in personal
or domestic service, is nearly equal to
the number of those in manufacturing
and mechanical occupations.

Now if the question be asked—"How
many of those 300,000 people are actually
organized?"—it is safe to say in reply,
that 100,000 might prove a very large
estimate and that 8 in 10 of them belong
to the manufacturing and mechanical
group of employments.

Of course, the power and influence of
organized labor are considerably greater
in proportion than its numerical
strength. But, for this very reason,
any addition to its numbers is a still
greater addition to its power, and no
effort should be spared to extend or per-
petuate organization. The field, as we

know, is so vast that it cannot be cov-
ered unless every man and woman who
appreciate the value of union exert
themselves constantly and vigorously in
its favor among the unorganized. Yet,
if a system could be devised by which
such exertions would be made the par-
amount duty of every member of organ-
ized labor, the working class, irrespec-
tive of employments, would soon be
united as it never was before and as it
may not be for a long time otherwise.

We believe that such a system can be
devised. At any rate, the object in view
is so important, the possible benefits are
so great, the economic conditions are so
pressing, that this matter deserves the
most earnest consideration. In shame-
fully neglecting it the Central Labor
Union—under the lead of selfish, narrow
minded and corrupt men, more intent
upon the betterment of their own insigni-
ficant persons than upon the care of
the vast interests which they have per-
sistently misrepresented or betrayed—
committed against organized labor the
greatest crime of which it could be
guilty. But the Central Labor Federa-
tion is now in existence. It is composed
of progressive organizations, who with-
drew in disgust from C. L. U. not only
because the latter body had fallen under
the rule of political schemers, but chiefly
because of its incapacity and inaction;
and we may expect that at last steps
will be taken to give the economic move-
ment of labor a greater impetus and
higher efficiency.

The Federation will probably find it
advisable, in the first place, to elect
a committee from among its most ex-
perienced members, for the purpose of
studying and laying out a plan of action.
To such a committee the obvious fact
will first present itself that there is
hardly one block of houses, except in
aristocratic quarters, where one or more
members of the various organizations
represented in the C. L. F. may not be
found to reside or to work. It is, there-
fore quite practicable to appoint com-
mittees of agitation in every election
district of this city, composed of per-
sons who reside or work within its
boundaries, whose duty it will be to
personally visit every wage-worker in
their respective districts. Should one
committee fail to impress a non-union
worker with the necessity and value of
organization, another and still another
may be sent to him until his conversion
is effected. Evidently few people could
resist such a pressure, and the few that
would resist it would not at any rate be
a desirable acquisition.

The local committees could also readi-
ly enforce the boycotts and other meas-
ures of the Central Labor Federation
within their respective election districts;
so that in a short time the power of the
Federation and of the unions affiliated
with it would be felt in every part of
the city.

We throw out these suggestions, crude
as they are but eminently practicable, we
believe, if worked into a comprehensive
plan of action by practical men. Thus
stated, the problem is reduced to the
performance of his plainest and most
imperative duty by every member of
Organized Labor—a duty that none
should be allowed to shirk or neglect at
the present time.

SHORTER HOURS.

Previous to the passage of a ten-hour
law by the Legislature of New Hamp-
shire in 1887, the mills of that State were
generally running eleven hours per day.
The same contradictory arguments were
then advanced against a ten-hour work-
day as are now used in opposition to its
further shortening. Some said that
the cost of production would be in-
creased and others contended that the
earnings of the operatives would be de-
creased; while others still, blind to the
fact that either of the two predictions
excluded the other, made them both in
the same breath. From a recent inves-
tigation conducted by Bradstreet's it ap-
pears, however, that neither foreboding

has proved correct. There are, it is
true, some manufacturers who deplore
the ten-hour law, not because it has in-
flicted upon them any loss whatever,
but because it has conferred a benefit
upon their operatives and tends to make
"their hands" dissatisfied and anxious
for a further reduction of the hours of
labor. As a rule, however, it is recog-
nized that while the operatives get the
same pay now for ten hours as they
previously got for eleven hours' labor,
their greater efficiency and "faithful-
ness" make up in the amount of work
turned out for the reduction in time.
The speed of machinery has been in-
creased, and in a number of instances
machines of an improved kind have
been added to or substituted for the old
ones. Two conclusions may be drawn
from these facts: 1. That the shorten-
ing of the hours of labor does not neces-
sarily involve a decrease of production,
or a reduction of wages, or a loss of
profits; 2—that while it benefits the
laborer to the extent of the time gained,
it does not necessarily, in the end, en-
large the field of employment, but leaves
unsettled the problem of enforced idleness.
Of course, were it only for the
moral advantages which must result
from a shortening of the work-day, we
would stand in the front rank of its
advocates. But it is well to bear in
mind that the solution of the labor
problem will have to be effected by
means far more scientific and radical.

TWO HUNDRED MILLIONS.

We have the authority of Auditor
McNair, of the Inter-State Commerce
Railway Association, for the extraordi-
nary but well supported statement, that
the railroads of this country, through
mismanagement and useless competi-
tion, are annually wasting a sum of
\$200,000,000. Under this competitive
system, he says, the train service is
conducted with a reckless extravagance,
the equipments are superabundant, and
as the cost of operating the roads must
be considered in establishing the rates
of transportation, the public in the end
bear the burden of the waste and
rightly complain of high charges. In
other words he proves that competition,
to which is credited every reduction
made in the rates, is actually preventing
reduction to the full extent that im-
provement in machinery and judicious
management would otherwise render
possible. He argues, furthermore, that
by combination the roads could entirely
do away with such expenses as outside
agencies and miscellaneous advertising.
It costs the prominent roads in the West
over five million dollars yearly for these
purposes only. In the way of commis-
sions, especially, millions of dollars are
annually thrown away to useless agents,
who have no cause of existence as such
but the sharp competition between rail-
roads for passengers and freight.

Close upon this statement comes the
news of a movement among the bankers
and capitalists who control some of the
leading Western roads, not only for
combination, but for a curtailment of
the powers heretofore exercised by the
presidents and other railway officials.
Their object is evidently to reduce not
the rates but the expenditures, and to
pocket the savings which Mr. McNair
has plainly shown to be practicable.

Thus is another step taken—and a most
important one it is—in the development
of capitalism and, therefore, towards
the cataclysm out of which will emerge
the socialist state.

We have repeatedly observed in these
columns that the tendency of combina-
tion and trustification was to place the
banker at the head of industry. The
manufacturer, the professional man,
who heretofore had full control and di-
rection, will occupy under this new and
transitory order a subordinate position,
nearer to that of the wage-worker,
whose situation will remain practically
unchanged, except in so far as the con-
stantly increasing distance between him
and the plutocrat may further lessen

his individual importance and lower his
social standing. The point must come,
however, where a further increase of the
distance between the two extreme clas-
ses will bring about a disruption, and,
where the banking plutocrat, unless he
succeeds in reestablishing slavery in its
most complete form, will entirely dis-
appear; while the state—a regenerated
state, representing the free will of a
co-operative commonwealth—will take
his place for the benefit of all.

And thus we see how the plutocrat,
with his trusts, combinations and econo-
mies, is surely preparing the advent of
Socialism. It might be done less rudely,
less heartlessly, and without imposing
so much suffering upon successive gen-
erations of wage-workers; and the wage-
workers themselves might, by stronger
combination on their side, compel a
higher regard for the rights of human-
ity; but it is done nevertheless, and
nothing can prevent the natural outcome
of a natural movement.

BAMBOOZLING THE FARMERS.

The western farmers asked for silver
and a silver bill has been passed by Con-
gress. But when the *Financial Chronicle*
observes that the bill in question "is
a far better one than we (bankers of the
East) anticipated," we may safely say
that it will not answer the anticipation
of the farmers. It provides for the
purchase and coinage of 4,500,000 ounces
of silver per month, but we fail to see
how the coin will get into the farmers'
hands, or for that matter get into cir-
culation at all, unless another bill be
passed authorizing the government to
loan out on bond and mortgage, or on
farm products, or in some other way,
the increased volume of currency. This
increase, even then, would not be more
than \$1,400,000 per month as compared
with the monthly increase of last year,
which was disposed of by increasing the
expenditures of government, chiefly for
pensions and premiums paid to bond-
holders. Again, the silver to be coined
is made a legal tender for all debts "un-
less otherwise stipulated by contract." This
means that the capitalists who may
lend silver to the farmers will stipulate
that the loan shall be refunded in gold.

The bill, as finally amended and passed
by both houses of Congress, is essen-
tially the work of that great financial
bamboozler, John Sherman. Its only
purpose is to befool the farmers into be-
lieving that their complaints as to the
scarcity of cash in the rural districts
have been listened to and their wishes
complied with. Of course the Demo-
cratic politicians, who have not a ma-
jority of Congress and therefore are not
now responsible for legislation, falsely
claim that they would have been "still
more liberal;" but the fact is that the
Democratic plutocrats and money lend-
ers are well pleased with the bill and
would not have permitted their politi-
cal servants, if they were in power, to
enact one more favorable to the agri-
cultural interest. Both parties are ac-
tually congratulating themselves and
each other, through their capitalistic
organs, that a cheap means has been
found to keep the farmers from going
to any extent into an independent po-
litical movement this fall.

On the other hand, however, the
organs of the farmers repudiate the at-
tempted deception with characteristic
vigor and truly Western eloquence.
Says the *Farmers' Voice*, for instance:

If there is one thing dreadfully nauseous
above all others in the present political
situation, it is to see the greedy haste of
the machine politicians of both old par-
ties to get front seats on the band wagon
of the great farmer movement.

Their first and last shout is, "Now
dearly beloved 'Hayseeders,' whatever
you do, don't think of starting an in-
dependent Party, when we, your long-lost
brothers, with strawberry marks on our
left arms, are just fairly dying to serve
you within the ranks of the two old
parties without your putting up a cent
for election expenses."

"Don't be bashful in making your
wants known, the Earth is yours already,
and all you have to do is to say the
word and we will step up and get the
Moon for you."

HOW IT WORKS.

See capitalism at work on the Harlem
River. Vanderbilt on one side opposes
the improvement of that waterway. It
would compel him to remove his low
bridge and build a tunnel. In obedience
to the wishes of this railroad magnate
the United States Senate has discon-
tinued the appropriations annually
granted for the work in question. Now
come the great property owners on both
sides of the Harlem River begging the
Senate to restore the appropriation; not
because of the public advantage of the
improvement, but merely because it
will give their property immense value.
Among the beggars is Mr. Astor, whose
lands along the river will be benefited
to such an extent that he might be taxed
for the whole cost of the work and still
make a large profit. What will the
Senate do? It is plain enough that the
only equitable way of settling the diffi-
culty between Astor and Vanderbilt on
the one hand, and between those two
great men and the people of the United
States on the other hand, would be to
knock down Vanderbilt's bridge and
expropriate Astor. But what is so plain
is precisely what the Senate won't see.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Republican Bad Memory.

The idea of the Socialists and Nation-
alists going into the campaign has cre-
ated a good deal of comment. But while
the Democrats know what that means
and are now talking of uniting their
various factions in order to make head
against the oncoming powerful labor
movement this fall, the Republicans
affect to be merry and prophesy for the
labor ticket a vote smaller than that
of the Prohibitionists.

The Republican memory seems to be
very short. Four years ago they giggled
in the same way; they kept on giggling
through the whole campaign; and they
kept up blowing and promising a great
success for their ticket. Nevertheless,
the sickest men after election day were
just these lighthearted Republicans.

Nobody, it is true, outside of the La-
bor party felt happy. The victorious
Democrats themselves felt more like
trembling when they saw that big labor
vote of 68,110. But the hilarious Republi-
cans were especially down in the
mouth. They had come out at the bot-
tom of the polls. The labor vote licked
them. The same disappointment is this
year in store for our Republican friends.
The soaking they got in 1886 they will
get again in 1890. Labor will be united
at the polls. It is now better disciplined
than before; and it is organized on a
higher plane. Whatever there may be
in the future for the Republicans, victory
is not on the list. NATIONALIST.

Woman Suffrage.

The Fourth of July was celebrated
this year with wilder enthusiasm in
Wyoming than in any other portion of
the country. In Wyoming the State;
no longer Wyoming Territory, for the
bill admitting this new Star to our
galaxy has passed both houses of Con-
gress and its admission to the Union of
States is therefore assured.

This joyful news was known in all the
wide area of Wyoming before the anni-
versary of Independence and it was
celebrated with heartiest fervor. There
all the people are indeed free, and women
and men together united in enthusiasm
over the event which gives them the
right to vote for the next President of
the United States.

For twenty years the women of Wyom-
ing have enjoyed political equality with
men, and that broad State is the only
real republic on the face of the earth.
Lying high on the great plateau that is
crowned by the Rocky Mountains it
looks on the east towards the Atlantic,
on the west towards the Pacific, and
calls to the sister States to rise to the
heights of freedom that it enjoys.

Nor need any one say,—"Oh! well, they
can try the experiment of woman suf-
frage there, among the miners and the
cow-boys, what does it matter? Stop
friend, you would not say this had you
ever been in Wyoming. I have journeyed
across its beautiful plains and I know
that the people there are as intelligent,
as well educated, as refined as any of
the people of the East."

Cheyenne is a town of twenty-five
thousand inhabitants; the houses are all
comfortable, many of them elegant, the
women bright, alert and charming, well
dressed, possessing every feminine grace

and beauty. I met them at public meet-
ings, at social gatherings in official life,
and never have I seen more delightful
people. And these women all vote, go-
ing with husband, son or brother to the
polls at every election, thinking it as
natural and proper a duty as to go to
the market or to a lecture.

No one there ever says—"You would
not go to the polls, would you?" for the
best women all go to the polls.

No one there ever says, "No lady
would vote," for those who best deserve
the title of lady are those most interest-
ed in political questions and most intelli-
gent in voting.

Nor need any man be alarmed lest
household duties should be neglected.
Babies are taken care of and buttons are
sewed on just as faithfully as where
women do not cast their ballots.

And one other most significant fact.
In the State of Wyoming alone of all the
States in the Union women are eligible
to all offices and there are laws in the
statute books which secure equal pay
to men and women for equal work.
Could there be a more absolute proof of
the fact that only equality of political
rights will secure to women equality of
industrial rights?

LILLIE DEVEREUX BLAKE.

In Aid of the Russian Exiles.

Editor WORKMEN'S ADVOCATE:—Will
you kindly give space to the following:

In reply to the cablegram of P. Laruff
of Paris, the "Russian American Na-
tional League" have sent to day 253
francs, and are continuing to circulate
their subscription lists for the benefit
of the six imprisoned political exiles.

The ready response of the Russians
of New York and of other sympathizers
bespeak the success of the effort to
rescue the exiles from the impending
danger of sycophantic diplomatic con-
trivances.

Further contributions thanfully ac-
knowledgeed. Respectfully,

A. NICHOLSKI,
Fin. Sec'y, R. A. W. L.
NEW YORK, July 11.

The Profit-Sharing Fraud.

Editor WORKMEN'S ADVOCATE:—I en-
close clipping from to-day's *World*,
which states that President Fish of the
Illinois Central Railroad has sent to
all the employees of that Railroad a circular
urging them to invest their savings
in the stock of the corporation by pur-
chasing shares, the value of such
shares to be retained from their wages
in monthly installments.

It is a fact easy of comprehension to
every intelligent wage-worker that such
a proposition, coming as it does from
the highest official of a powerful corpo-
ration, is intended simply as a bait to
the hook with which its employees are
to be caught. So that, while being at-
tracted by the alluring prospect of be-
coming partners and stock-holders
though still remaining wage slaves of
the railroad system which employs
them, they may swallow the bait with-
out discovering the hook which it so
artfully endeavors to conceal, until the
object of the corporation, through its
Fish-erman President has been accom-
plished; and that is the more complete
subjection now, and absolute wage-
slavery in the future, of all employees
who allow themselves to be deluded by
such a cheap and transparent scheme.

That such a project, if successfully
carried out, must and will vastly in-
crease the profits of the corporation
proposing it, there can be no doubt. In
the first place it would eliminate the
element of loss occasioned by frequent
interruptions to and often the total
stoppage of, traffic, caused by strikes in
the past. No wage-worker will be in-
clined to inaugurate or uphold a strike
against himself through the corporation
of which he is a partner, as by so doing
he would place himself in the position
of a man who "cuts off his own nose
to spite his face." Again, it would also
benefit the corporation by a great
saving in material used in construction,
and by a reduction in operating ex-
penses, as it will be possible for it to re-
ceive an increase in the amount of labor
performed by its employees in the same
time as before without being obliged to
grant a corresponding increase in the
amount of wages paid them. That the
above proposition will in any degree,
however slight, benefit the wage-slaves
of the corporation, the most skillful
reasoning fails to demonstrate.

But it will result in depriving them of
independent action as wage-workers,
and, therefore, of the only weapons
which they possess (political and econo-
mical organization), and which can be
utilized with any prospect of success in
the warfare now continually waged be-
tween Labor and Capital.

A WAGE-WORKER.

BROOKLYN, E. D., July 4.

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