

WORKMEN'S ADVOCATE,



Third Year, No. 1

New Haven, Connecticut, Saturday, January 1, 1887

Price 3 Cents

ORGANIZED LABOR.

HOW CAPITAL REGARDS THE VARIOUS BODIES.

The Conservative Unions—Praise From Capitalists—The Changed Position of the Knights of Labor—Best Hated, The Socialists.

If intelligent workmen were to place confidence in the capitalist press, they would probably come to the conclusion, from reading the incendiary articles directed against labor organizations, that the labor movement was about to collapse for want of cohesion among the organized bodies.

There are one or two things that must strike the attentive observer as significant: The persistent attacks made by the organs of capital upon the Socialists, and the evident endeavor to foment discord between the Trades Unions and the Knights of Labor. "Divide and conquer," has ever been the motto of the capitalist class, which sees in the union of workmen imminent danger to the established order. And the venom of the reptile press is graded in respect to the various organizations according as their objects are favorable to the workers and relatively dangerous to the exploiters.

Thus it is not strange that these newspapers have unstinted praise for the most conservative organizations, such as Brotherhood of the Locomotive Engineers and the railway conductors' organization. These associations do not strike to better the condition of others, but confine themselves to their own affairs strictly; much less do they contemplate a change of system. They seem to be perfectly satisfied to perpetuate wage slavery as long as they can command tolerably decent wages for themselves. And the bosses, regarding them as the least dangerous, and needing proletarians to fill up the gaps in their ranks, are sagacious enough to keep them there by flattery and comparatively good wages.

Other conservative trades unions, though not quite so docile as the ones mentioned, are still not sufficiently advanced to demand and work for radical changes. As long as they simply contend for higher wages, or against reduction of wages, they can be borne with, for the capitalists who employ them can easily recover their relative position of superiority by raising the price of commodities, and the less fortunate class of workers are compelled to "foot the bill."

While the Knights of Labor occupied an aggressive position they came in for considerable adverse criticism, especially when it was generally believed by the capitalists that the Order contemplated active participation in politics. The assurance of "prominent" Knights that the Order would not be used for that purpose, and the active opposition to progress in that line by the General Master Workman, seems to have allayed their fears on that score. Strikes, and even riots may be put up with occasionally, political action, never. The result of this policy of inactivity is a decided loss of interest in the organization by its members, and the capitalistic press is now putting Powderly's back in a manner that is quite friendly. His opposition, or at least, neutrality, in regard to the eight-hour movement last Spring, was also a friendly turn which was highly appreciated by the bosses, and was thankfully accepted.

The advanced trades unions, such as form the major portion of the Central Labor Unions in New York, Chicago, Philadelphia and other large cities, are looked upon by the employing class with much distrust. These unions have a large sprinkling of active socialists among their memberships, and the result is that they

go deeper into the social questions, and have displayed a decided penchant for independent political action. How the capitalist press entreated them not to "throw their votes away;" not to meddle with politics, and according as they followed or rejected these entreaties they were praised or denounced.

The Socialist Party, which as a body never strikes, nor engineers strikes, nor engages in active politics, at least in this country, is nevertheless more hated by capitalists than all the other workmen's organizations combined, if we may judge from the expressions of the capitalist press. The reason is that while this organization is quietly prosecuting its work in a legitimate way, the results thereof must eventually produce a public sentiment that will arouse the people to a sense of their enslaved condition, and while the capitalist system is thus being undermined, the Socialistic Party is teaching the construction of a new order of society that will wrest special privileges from the hands of the few and vest the people with the control of all capital. There is good reason why the narrow-minded little class of capitalists hate the Socialists, but this same reason should stand for the respect, at least, of all who earn their living.

LABOR PARTY.

Town Committee Meeting To-Morrow Afternoon.

The members of the Town Committee are requested to meet at their new headquarters, Lamar Block, Crown street, at 2 o'clock to-morrow (Sunday) afternoon.

CHAS. STODEL, Chairman.

CINCINNATI IN LINE.

The Labor Party is augmented by the action of Cincinnati workmen of various organizations. Last week a massmeeting was held in which 1,500 workers participated, and resolved to call a convention for the definite organization of a Labor Party. Trades Unionists, Knights of Labor and Socialists go hand in hand here, according to the reports, and this will guarantee a political movement respectable both in principles and numbers.

OFF FOR ENGLAND.

Dr. and Aveling's Farewell—A Successful Tour.

By the time this reaches our readers the steamer bearing our late visitors, Dr. Aveling and his wife, will be nearing the English port. Our comrades sailed from New York last Saturday. On the Thursday evening previous to their departure, Dr. Aveling made a report of the tour before the New York Stion of the S. L. P. He had visited forty-five cities, and was well satisfied with the result of his work. In every city he had found enthusiastic and well educated socialists among the Americans. He was quite confident that the veil of ignorance would soon be removed from the eyes of the American workmen, and Socialism would be victorious in this country and others simultaneously. Thanking the members of the Socialistic Labor Party for their assistance in his work, he closed his remarks by expressing a hope that he might see them again.

PROVIDENCE SOCIALISTS.

An English-speaking branch, to be known as No. 3 of Section Providence, Socialistic Labor Party, was organized last Sunday afternoon, at Social Labor Hall, corner of Eiswald and Bell streets. Temporary officers were elected.

THE MERIDEN CONVENTION.

Owing to the failure of the chairman of the District Convention of New England Sections, S. L. P., to hand in a report of the proceedings, the matter must be deferred till next week.

LONDON'S UNEMPLOYED.

Socialists at Work—A New Social Democratic Club House.

Special to the WORKMEN'S ADVOCATE.

LONDON, Dec. 12. — Yesterday evening a meeting was held of the officials and speakers of the London branches of the Social Democratic Federation to consider the next step to be taken in the unemployed agitation. It was finally resolved that all the branches should, on Jan. 1st, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, lead a procession of unemployed men and women to the local authorities in their respective districts to demand that useful employment be found for those out of work at reasonable rates of wages. The unemployed canvass made by some of the members of the Social-Democratic Federation shows that about 49 per cent. of the population in the poorer districts are unemployed.

On Friday evening a Social-Democratic Club was opened under the auspices of the Paddington and Bayswater branch of the S. D. F. An address was delivered by H. M. Hyndman, which was enthusiastically received. A good concert and entertainment was given afterwards. The club contains a large lecture hall, refreshment bar, reading room, library, committee rooms, billiard room, gymnasium, etc.

H. W. LEE.

SOCIAL POLITICAL NOTES.

At the last election in Washington Territory, 15,000 of the 40,000 votes cast, were those of women. This doesn't show much lack of interest in public affairs on the part of the female citizens.

George H. Thobe, of Kentucky, the Labor candidate for Congress, who was "sounded out" by the "democratic" politicians in the interest of their candidate, Carlisle, will probably be the Labor nominee for mayor of Louisville.

The *Frankfurter Zeitung* announces that several Socialists, including Deputy Sabor, of the German Parliament, have been ordered to leave Frankfurt. The monarchists are making extraordinary efforts to "down" socialism, in vain.

Organized labor in Terre Haute, Ind., has scored a victory in the adoption by the city council of a resolution making eight hours a legal day's labor on municipal work. A committee was appointed to prepare an ordinance for its enforcement.

On Christmas day the Socialists of Brussels opened a co-operative market and refreshment hall. Enthusiastic speeches were listened to, and the singing of the Marseillaise was indulged in by a large concourse of people. Socialism is making a steady advance in Belgium.

The governmental persecution of Socialists is carried on more vigorously now than ever. At the election in Berlin December 6, the socialist candidate made a gain of about 700 votes. This was in an aristocratic quarter of the city, and the event has attracted much notice, as it was thought that the precautions of the government would preclude any considerable socialist vote—certainly a socialist gain was farthest from the thoughts of the aristocracy.

The mooted question of increasing the effectiveness of State Militia by the National Government has not failed to attract the attention of labor organizations both in New York and Chicago, as well as elsewhere. John McMaekin, one of the delegates to the New York Central Labor Union, and chairman of the recent Henry George campaign, said: "This is only part of the conspiracy which manifests itself in the recent stealthy consignments of Gatling guns to Chicago, and the secret midnight drilling of the military in many of our cities. The working people must be on the alert now, for their power has been established in many other places besides this city." Last Sunday at the Central Labor Union a visiting delegate from Oregon recommended the organization of trades unions and K. of L. assemblies on a military basis for defense against capitalist conspiracy of a warlike nature.

The capitalist papers are filled with rumors about dissensions among the Knights of Labor. New Haven Knights do not seem to be specially troubled about these rumors. There are Knights and there are Knights.

FOR WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

Lillie Devereux Blake Calls For Activity and Financial Aid.

The following circular has just been issued by Lillie Devereux Blake, president of the New York State Woman Suffrage Association, in view of the Constitutional Convention soon to take place. Organized Labor is interested in this movement, especially in New York, and Socialists will do well to assist in a movement such as this, keeping in view the importance of women's influence in human affairs:

FRIENDS—This year is of more importance to our cause than any other has been or can be in two decades.

A Constitutional Convention which assembles only once in twenty years, will sit next summer in Albany. Its function is to present to the people of the State a new Constitution. This new Constitution of 1887 ought to secure the right of suffrage to all the citizens of the State, without regard to sex.

The Legislature of this winter will designate who shall vote for members of this important body. It has the power to extend this privilege to the woman of the State on equal terms with men. It is evident that success this winter means victory next summer.

Will you not in view of these facts labor with renewed diligence for our cause? Arrange for Suffrage meetings and lectures in your vicinity, secure the publication of articles in our favor in your local papers, distribute leaflets, obtain signatures to our petition, and send letters to your State Senators and Members of Assembly, urging them to vote for a bill securing to us equal rights before the Constitutional Convention.

Money will be needed to prosecute our campaign. Aid us with your means as far as possible; remember that freedom once obtained there will be better opportunities for all women to earn their own support. In your holiday gifts forget not to aid those who are laboring for your enfranchisement.

Money may be sent and letters of inquiry addressed to the headquarters in this city (New York) 149 East 44th Street. Let us stand together in one grand effort that shall bring to us liberty.

LILLIE DEVEREUX BLAKE, President.

"W. H." DEMOLISHED.

I have just read No. 13 of the WORKMEN'S ADVOCATE. The article on Mrs. Landgraaf is a horrible want of tact. Of course we had to fight her as a capitalist, but whether she was brutal as a man or a woman was no business of ours. We had to do with an employer; and the closing paragraph is preposterous. Socialists are bound to fight for the enfranchisement of women, not to slur those women who, more revolutionary than Socialists of W. H.'s narrow-minded sort, are striving for liberty and equality for the majority of our citizens. As a matter of fact women do form the majority to-day; and there can be no true equality until they obtain, not the right of suffrage only, but social and economic equality as well. Then they will gladly "assume the drawbacks attached thereto." As to Mrs. Landgraaf's "characteristic female obstinacy," I might as well generalize W. H.'s tone into "characteristic male presumption." But that would be as false as his own generalization. His article is colored merely by W. H.'s own ignorance of the first principles of Socialism, and want of the spirit of liberty, equality, fraternity.

F. K. W.

A VICTORY.

The horse car employes of the city of Brooklyn scored a complete victory last week through a well organized and general strike, which was brought to a close in one day by the surrender of the bosses. The men got a raise in their pay as well as other advantages in the details of their work. Besides, and most important, the bosses recognize the jurisdiction of the organization, the Empire Protective Association. Future disagreements are to be submitted to arbitration—if the bosses are forced by circumstances to arbitrate.

The greatest reformer of the age was the inventor of the bustle, which has reformed nearly every woman. — *Phila. Herald*.

A SOCIALIST ABBE.

OLD TRUTHS FOR NEW ARCHBISHOPS.

"Enfranchised Labor Will Become Master of the World"—The Anger of Beasts and Complaints of Vultures. The Rabble.

While all the gossip in the capitalistic papers concerning the attitude of the Roman Catholic church toward the labor movement in general and the position of one of its divines anent Henry George's theory on Land, it is interesting to the student to examine what has been the teaching of some of the wisest of the church's officers in days gone by.

There have been men in the pulpit who stood out above their fellow priests to hold up the living truth when at times it seemed to be in danger.

Such a man was the Abbe de la Mennais, who, in France in the last century, braved the scorn of the rich and powerful. Let us quote a few of his sayings translated about a half-century ago by Nathaniel Greene in Boston, who by the way at the time said that it was then (1839) applicable to the people of Europe, who were at the time suffering from evils and oppression, "which we have happily escaped," little thinking how soon it might apply to our people.

"In passing through this world, as we all pass, poor travelers of a day, I have heard great lamentations: I have opened my eyes and beheld unheard-of sufferings, innumerable sorrows. Humanity has stood before me, pale, diseased, fainting, covered with mourning garments that were bespattered with blood, and I have asked myself, is this man? Is this he such as God created him? But I soon discovered that these sufferings and these sorrows came not from God; that they are the work of man himself, sunk in ignorance and corrupted in his passions. "Thou sayest, I am cold; and, to warm thy attenuated members, thy masters bind them with triple chains of iron. Thou sayest, I am hungry; and they reply to thee, eat the crumbs swept from our festal halls. Thou sayest, I am athirst; and they answer, drink thy tears. Thou faintest under the burden of thy toils, and thy masters rejoice; they call thy fatigues and thy exhaustion the necessary curb of labor."

The good Abbe depicted the action of those who oppose the efforts of the people to cast off the chains of oppression in a manner which applies to the politicians and high priests of the day. Of such he said:

The anger of these bad men, when the weak shake off the chains that bind them, is it not the anger of the ferocious beast with its struggling victim? And their complaints, are they not the complaints of the vulture at the escape of its prey?

On the division of interests caused by the inequalities of wealth, he said:

"No rivalry is possible where there is but one interest; neither can there be dissensions. That which originates dissension, envy, hatred, is the insatiable desire of possessing more and always more, when one posess for himself alone. Solitary possessions are accursed of heaven. Incessantly irritating, they never satisfy the desire of gain. That wealth only which is shared can be enjoyed."

He was equally clear in showing how the inequalities were fostered, as here:

"They have made laws for their own advantage, and have maintained them by force. On one side, power, wealth, luxurious indulgence; on the other, all the burthens of society."

"In other times, without absolutely depriving him of liberty, they have so managed that almost the entire fruit of his labor reverted to those who held him in dependence. Complete slavery had been better for him. For the master at least feeds, lodges, and clothes his slave, and nurses him in sickness, on account of the pecuniary interest he has in his preservation. But he who belongs to no one is used only so long as a profit can be drawn from him, after which he is left to suffer unaided. What is he good for when age and labor have consumed his strength? To die in the streets of cold and hunger. Yet his aspect shocks those who are enjoying all the pleasures of life. Perhaps he says to them as they pass—A morsel of bread for the love of

God! That is impertinent. He is therefore taken up and thrown into one of those unclean receptacles called almshouses, where his misery is less obtrusive.

And of the destruction accompanying:

"Elsewhere distinctions have been founded, not upon birth, but on wealth. "How much do you possess? So much. Take your seat at the social banquet: the table is spread for you. Thou who hast nothing, retire. Is there home or country for the poor?"

"The rabble, as the common people are contemptuously called, individually enfranchised, have generally been the property of those who regulate the relations between the members of society, the operations of industry, the conditions of labor, its price, and the division of its fruits. What it has pleased them to ordain, they have named law; and the laws have been for the most part only measures of private interest, means of augmenting and perpetuating the domination and the abuse of the domination of the few over the many."

On the elements of true democracy he said to the wage-workers:

"You are the people: Know then what is meant by this term, the people.

"There are men who, groaning under the burthens of the day, incessantly exposed to the sun, to the rain, to the wind, to all the vicissitudes of the seasons, cultivate the earth, deposit in its bosom a portion of their strength and their life with the seed that is to fructify, and thus with the sweat of their brows obtain the food necessary for all.

"These men are of the people. "Others explore the forest, the quarry, the mine, descending to immense depths into the bowels of the earth, that they may extract the materials indispensable to the trades, the arts. These, like the first, consume their life in hard labor for the procurement of those things which all need.

"These also are of the people. "Others cast metals, fashion them, and give them the forms that adapt them to a thousand varied uses; others work in silk; others, spinning wool, flax and wood, manufacture different stuffs; others provide in the same manner for the different wants arising directly from nature, or from social life.

"These are of the people. "Many, amid continual perils, cross the seas, to transport from one country to another those things peculiar to each; or struggle against waves and tempests, under the tropical fires as amid polar ices, either to augment the common mass of subsistence, or to draw from the ocean multitudes of productions useful to man.

"These also are of the people. "And who are they who take up arms for their country, defend her, give to her her best years, their labor, and their blood? Who devote themselves for the security of others, that they may rest in tranquil enjoyment of their firesides? Who are they, if not the children of the people?"

"Some of them also, through a thousand obstacles, impelled and sustained by genius, develop and perfect the arts, letters, and the sciences, softening manners and civilizing nations; surrounding them with that transcendent splendor which is called glory, and forming one of the most fruitful sources of the public prosperity."

His remedy, is decidedly socialistic. Summing up the evils of society, he searches for the causes.

"Whence comes evil in the material order? Is it from the easy circumstances of some? No, but rather from the destitution of others; from the fact that by virtue of laws made by the rich for the exclusive benefit of the rich, they almost exclusively profit by the labor of the poor, thus rendered poorer and poorer. What then is to be done? We must secure to labor an equitable portion of its products; not by despoiling him who already possesses, but by enabling the destitute to acquire and enjoy by the legitimate use of their physical and intellectual powers.

"Now, how shall this be accomplished? By two means: by the abolition of the laws of privilege and monopoly; and by the diffusion of capital, which renders the instruments of labor accessible to all. "Enfranchised labor, master of itself, will become master of the world; for labor is the action of Humanity, accomplishing the work which the Creator has given it in charge.

"Working men, take courage then; be not wanting to yourselves, and God will not be wanting to you. Each of your efforts will produce its fruit, will be attended by an amelioration of your condition, whence other and greater ameliorations will spring, and from these yet others, until the time when the earth, refreshed and regenerated, shall be like a field whose harvest is peacefully gathered and shared by a family of brothers."

The organized barbers of New York are contemplating the establishment of co-operative barber shops in various parts of the city.