



SIGNS OF THE TIMES

A RESULT OF GOING INTO INDEPENDENT POLITICS.

Governor Hill, of New York, Substantially Recommends the Platform of Organized Labor. A Politician With A Big Head.

NEW YORK, January 6.—On Tuesday last, David B. Hill, Governor of New York State, issued his annual message to the legislative bodies of that State. In his document he makes sixteen recommendations which ought to be acted upon during the coming session, many of which bear directly upon the interests of Organized Labor, and the whole may be taken as a substantial endorsement of the views of the wage-workers.

Governor Hill has long possessed the reputation of a long-headed and far-sighted politician, moreover he is a man of pronounced executive ability, and essentially practical ideas.

In marked contrast to his thick-witted Presidential colleague, Grover Cleveland, the Governor has sounded the depths of the independent political movement of the workers, and has realized that this force must eventually sweep all before it. Accordingly he finds it necessary to recognize this growing power, and to take a stand upon the right side.

This article should not be mistaken as a guarantee of the sincerity of Governor Hill. Of this we know nothing. We simply place the recommendations before you and desire to casually remark that if all, or a part of them, should be realized during the coming session of the New York Legislature, it will be the greatest forward step that Labor has ever taken, and it will be attributable solely to the recent political movement of the workers in New York City.

Following are Governor Hill's recommendations bearing upon "Labor:"

PRISON LABOR.

(1). A permanent system for the employment of prison labor.

This recommendation is not, however, intended to include or favor the reinstatement of the contract system, or any other plan that is equivalent to it. The Legislature of 1883 permitted the people to vote upon the question of the abolition of the contract system, and they by a large majority having expressed themselves as opposed to its continuance, it becomes our duty to respect their verdict. Some other system must be devised which should be substantially free from the objections which were urged to the contract system. My views as to the general features which should characterize whatever plan may be proposed are so well known, and have been so frequently expressed to the Legislature, that any further suggestions upon this subject at this time seems unnecessary.

NATURALIZATION.

(2). An amendment to the election laws of the State so as to permit naturalized citizens to be registered without the production of their naturalization papers, in case of the loss or destruction of such papers, and making their oath or affidavit conclusive evidence of citizenship for the purposes of registration. The necessity for this amendment was fully explained in my annual message of 1885, to which the Legislature is respectfully referred. The propriety of placing naturalized citizens upon an equality with the native born, in the matter of affording equal facilities for honest registration and honest voting, cannot seriously be questioned by unprejudiced men. It is submitted that justice in this respect should no longer be delayed.

NO MORE WATERED STOCK.

(3). An act limiting, regulating and restricting the power of corporations in the issue of stock and bonds.

The manner in which corporations under existing laws are permitted to issue and place upon the market stock and

bonds representing little or no valuable consideration or equivalent actually paid in, and which, although not legally, yet in effect are a fraud upon the corporations as well as an imposition upon the purchasers and the public—presents a crying abuse and loudly calls for legislative interference.

AGAINST CAPITALISTIC FRAUDS.

(5). An amendment to the General Assignment act, for the purpose of preventing unjust favoritism, unfair discriminations and an inequitable distribution of the debtor's property.

These evils can be cured in a measure at least by limiting the preferences with a debtor has the right to make, to a certain portion of the assigned estate, or forbidding them altogether except in the single instance of wages of employes. The preferences (other than the exception mentioned) which are now by the policy of the law allowed to be made are a fruitful source of litigation and the occasion of much injustice. The power being subject to great abuse, it should either be properly restricted or entirely abrogated.

TRADE UNIONS.

(16). A general law providing specially for the incorporation of trades unions.

The foregoing are the suggestions of the Governor which bear directly upon the interests of organized labor; there are others which are indirectly favorable to the cause.

It must be borne in mind that the recommendation of the Governor is not equivalent to adoption by the Legislature. And it must be further considered that there may be a tacit understanding between the Governor and his legislature, by which he makes these recommendations as a political card for "1887," knowing, in advance, that the legislature will ignore them.

But at all events this message will be a great stimulus to independent political action.

HERBERT EATON.

CINCINNATI CONVENTION.

An Attempt To Be Made To Unite The Dissatisfied.

The Convention to be held at Cincinnati on February 22, was called by a conference held in Indianapolis, last September, composed of volunteer delegates from various labor organizations, Greenback clubs, farmers' alliances, etc. The basis of representation is to be, for each congressional district, one delegate for each of the following organizations: Knights of Labor, Trades Unions, Greenback Party, Farmers' Alliance, Grangers, Anti-monopoly League, People's Party, Farmers' and Laborers' Co-operative Union, Agricultural Wheels, and other organizations in sympathy with the objects of the movement.

It may be well imagined what the result of such a loose arrangement might lead to if designing politicians thought it worth while to attempt to capture or disturb the convention. Eastern States have not taken much part in the scheme; yet if the result of its progress is nothing more than the crippling of one or both of the corrupt parties, it were worth the trouble to "have a hand in." Trades Unions, and urban labor organizations, if well represented, both as to the number and ability of their delegates, might gain much for the political labor movement in thus taking part. It would tend to bring about an identity of interest between the agricultural classes and their fellow laborers in the cities. There certainly can be no harm in sending able men to the convention.

"Truth crushed to earth will rise again." You can't forever hide from the laborers the fact that Labor is exploited. And by the same token you can't prevent them from resenting the robbery.

CAUSE FOR MERCY.

Judge—"Have you anything further to say in your own behalf?"

Prisoner—"Nothing more than to beg of your honor to consider, in passing sentence, that I did not steal anything from you."

WOMEN IN POLITICS.

Their Interests Equal to Those of Men. Majority Rule—Representation.

In view of the fact that the State of New York is soon to have a constitutional convention, and the question of woman suffrage will come up for consideration, it may be well for workingmen to consider the advantages to Labor that woman suffrage would bring, as well as the principle of justice involved, remembering that workingmen were, and are to some extent to-day, excluded from the privilege of participating in elections. Rhode Island still holds to a property qualification. As a matter of fact women are in the majority in our Eastern States, and while they are subject to all the vicissitudes which fall to the lot of men, especially the working women, they have not so much as the right to attempt reforms through the ballot.

August Bebel, the German Socialist parliamentarian, in his book on Woman, says:

"Millions of women are engaged in a hundred different branches of industry. All these women have an interest in the social legislation relating to their respective callings. They are as much concerned as the men in all questions concerning the length of the working day, Sunday and night work, the employment of children, the form of payment, * * * protective measures in factories, the character of the workshops and similar important legislative subjects. Workingmen know little or nothing about the condition of many branches in which women are exclusively or almost exclusively engaged. * * * Finally, women who are engaged in trade are concerned in the legislation for the regulation of commerce and duties. There can be no doubt whatever that women are justified in claiming to exercise their influence on the direction of affairs by legislation."

The indifference of most women upon this subject, and the claim that they would not know how to use the ballot, has no force in view of the fact that this is only the case in States where they have not been called upon to exercise the functions of electors. Wyoming Territory, about to become a State in the Union, has furnished sufficient evidence of the benefits accruing to the community through the political influence of enfranchised women. How much more could we expect in our Eastern States where women are much more enslaved than they ever were in Wyoming! Bebel says truly that:

"Nothing is settled by the argument that women have hitherto taken but little interest in politics. The fact that women have not yet troubled themselves to follow the course of public events is no proof that they ought not to do so. Did not the same thing once apply to men? The same reasons that are advanced against women's suffrage were made to do service against the extension of suffrage to all male adults in Germany. After its introduction all such objections disappeared at one blow."

We know there are thousands of men who do not vote because they take no interest in politics. And it is an admitted fact that there are many who do vote are incompetent through lack of political education to vote intelligently. But questions are now before the people which have so close a relation to social economy, and men will be forced to take an interest in them to save themselves from the consequences of class rule, which is only possible in this country while the people at large remain careless or ignorant of the importance of the franchise.

Our friends in the Empire State will do well to consider carefully this question of woman suffrage. The influence of proletarian women enfranchised would be powerful in labor legislation and social reform. Workingmen at least cannot afford to ignore this, and when they are electing delegates to the constitutional convention, they should not neglect to make the demand for woman suffrage as prominent as any other plank in their platform.

Artist—"Bay rum?" Victim—"Waal, I'm from Maine, but it's a powerful cold day. Don't keef if I do. Jest a drop with a little mlasses won't hurt nobody."—*Tid Bits.*

HOLYOKE MATTERS.

Election of Officers—Scientific Agriculture—A New Section Coming.

HOLYOKE, Mass., Jan. 4.—At the meeting of the Holyoke Section, Socialistic Labor Party, held this week these officers were elected for the ensuing six months: Organizer, Herman Schlichting; treasurer, Herman Backofen; cashier, Frank Weiser; secretary, Frank Schlichting. Mr. Backofen, delegate to the district conference held at Meriden, made a satisfactory report which was received with approval.

The party here consists of intelligent, progressive workingmen, and believing as they do that there exists in this community a large amount of latent socialism, a sum of money has been appropriated for the purpose of disseminating the true principles and purposes of the Socialistic Labor Party by means of the distribution of literature and the promotion of the circulation of the WORKMEN'S ADVOCATE. The formation of another Section is among the probabilities of the near future.

The Connecticut Valley Economic Association was right—it was not safe for it to meet Dr. Aveling. Even as it is, the association is now the Capitalists' Visionary Evaporated Association, and should at once engage the services of that representative Bostonian, John L. Sullivan, inasmuch as he represents the only logic that can beat the Socialistic Labor Party. Even the men's trual capitalistic advertising sheet that is now being published here will fail to convince the workingmen that a system is right which gives a Vanderbilt on the one side an income equal to 50,000 farmers, and on the other murders a Tom Strang for stealing a few potatoes where-with to feed his starving wife and children. It is wrong, everlastingly wrong! Edward Atkinson and Professor Bemis to the contrary notwithstanding. ADAM RAMAGE.

SOCIAL POLITICAL NOTES.

The Irish National League has received \$25,000 from contributors in the United States within the last two weeks.

Governor Pattison, of Pennsylvania, in his message recommends the abolition of the poll-tax and declares it to be a means of corruption. This would require a constitutional amendment. He also recommends the enactment of laws that will insure secrecy of the ballot.

The new Connecticut legislature began business last Wednesday. It is said that there are twenty-six Knights of Labor in the House, most of whom are "democrats." Two are Labor Party men. One of the first acts of both houses was to placate the church element by the election of chaplains. The Register (capitalist) says the legislators are not handsome men.

The attention paid by the Governor of New York to labor questions shows him to be a far-sighted politician. Whether the legislature follows his advice or not the Labor Party may be congratulated upon the effectiveness of its agitation, and should be encouraged to continue the good work. After all, it will devolve upon the working people to carry out the work of Labor's emancipation.

The situation in Belgium is no better for the working people than before the demonstrations of a few months ago. The promised reforms by the government are not carried out. Organization among the workers is going on, both politically and industrially. Small tradesmen who show themselves opposed to the people's movement are practically boycotted, and it seems as if another crisis were near at hand.

They who have doubts that railroads can carry passengers for less than a cent a mile will now take note that the Boston & Albany is constantly carrying between Worcester and Boston, a distance of forty miles, for a trifle less than twenty cents the trip. At this rate a trip ticket across the American continent would cost \$15—which is, we suppose, about \$14 too much.—*Wasted Press.*

The Pioneer Co-operator, of Buffalo, is on the right track. The idea of co-operation is properly presented in its columns, and is progressive.

WHAT WE PRODUCE

AND WHAT WE GET FROM THE BOSSES.

To What Extent Labor is Robbed of Its Own—The Elastic Consciences of the Rubber Bosses Rubber Workers Robbed of \$1297 a Year.

The following table, compiled by R. H. Ferguson, in the Buffalo Pioneer Co-operator, from United States census reports, shows how little of the wealth created by Labor is returned to the laborers as wages under the present robber system of wage slavery:

Kind of Manufactory.	Establishments.	Number Hands.	Wages Paid.
LEATHER.	7,569	35,243	\$14,985,775
SILK.	53	4,176	1,328,869
TOBACCO and CIGARS.	4,631	25,049	9,098,709
STOVES and HEATERS.	326	37,980	30,079,793
RUBBER and ELASTIC GOODS.	76	97	40,600

All Manufactures and Mining in the United States except Gas, 1880.

Amount of wealth produced per year, Doll.	Amount of new wealth produced after wages, which amount, capital put into its pocket.	Amount each person would receive under a system of co-operation each year, Doll.	
LEATHER.	\$411 00	\$21,162,188	\$1,097 00
SILK.	318 00	1,611,277	708 00
TOBACCO and CIGARS.	349 00	11,227,606	780 00
STOVES and HEATERS.	544 50	16,565,279	981 50
RUBBER and ELASTIC GOODS.	418 50	115,485	1,815 00
All Manufactures and Mining in the U.S. except Gas.	345 00	1,027,468,063	720 00

[The first five items are from census of 1870; the last one is from that of 1880.]

The compiler makes the following observations regarding the source of information: The question may be asked why did you not take the census of 1880 for all your figures? The answer is that the census of 1880 cannot be obtained by any poor man or wage slave. They are only intended for politicians and men with a boodle. For years I have tried to obtain a copy. If I wrote a letter to some prominent official for a copy—a few days later I would receive an answer from some dealer in second hand books, who would inform me he had been at great trouble to procure a few copies, which could be obtained at so much per copy—another specimen of the boodle system inaugurated by a "republican" administration and successfully perpetuated by its "democratic" successors. The figures for 1880 are obtained from Spofford's American Almanac for 1886.

WHAT THE FIGURES PROVE.

The above tables convey their own suggestive lessons to all practical thinking persons. In first column of the second table we see what the wealth producers (the wage slaves) received as their proportion of the new wealth which they had created. By examining the last column in the same table it will be readily seen what the wage slaves would have received had they got a just share of their product, or to be plain: Had they been employed in a system of Integral Co-operation—in the case of the Leather industry—the wage slaves would have received \$1,097 per year, in place of \$411 which the slaves did receive.

In the Silk industry the wage slaves received \$318 per year, and under a co-operative system they would have received \$703. In tobacco and cigars they would have received \$780 per year in place of \$349. In the stoves and heaters they

would have received \$981 per year in place of \$544.

In Rubber and Elastic goods they would have received \$1,815 per year in place of \$418.

These special industries show that the wage slaves in no instance (except that of stoves and heaters) received one-half of the new wealth which they created, while the total average of all the Manufacturing and Mining industries as represented by the census report of 1880, shows that they received but \$345 per year while they produced \$720 per year or \$375 each per year more than they received.

When the working people are well acquainted with such hard facts it will not take much persuasion to induce them to take what is theirs by right of creation. Capital always stands indebted to Labor. When will Labor square accounts?

The socialistic propaganda is carried on to hasten the day of Labor's emancipation, and whether it be the activity of the trades unionist or the Knight of Labor, or the political economist that carries on the agitation, the end must be reached in the consummation of the socialistic ideal—the Co-operative Commonwealth.

THE YEAR OF JUBILEE.

How English Democrats Rejoice over Mrs. Victoria Rex.

The preparations for that great event, when, for the fiftieth time, Her Gracious Majesty will shear the national sheep, go merrily and briskly on. Drudge, the toiler, and Fudge and Smudge, the toiler's proprietors, have been given gracious leave to rejoice together. The Mayors of Grovelton cannot sleep o' nights for thinking that her husband is to be made Sir Lickspittle Little-brain. Oh, let us be joyful. Just to think that this stout, little, ancient dame has for half a century done us the honor of taking our money. Does not France envy us that glorious privilege of the great and free? Does not Uncle Sam sigh to have the proud distinction of paying to some family a few millions of yearly dollars. Here is the cry with which the poor should greet the splendid occasion: "God bless your Majesty, you and yours take the living of twenty thousand families, and we loves you for it, we does." Somebody has suggested that our noble Queen should celebrate her fiftieth pay day by giving a year's income to the unemployed. That is the gentleman, we fancy, who thought that the moon was lit with London gas.—*London Democrat.*

THE NATION'S HOPE.

The strike of the American District Telegraph boys of San Francisco (which, by the way they won) furnished ground for hope that the rising generation will not long submit to the tyranny which the wage-workers of the present submit to.

During the strike the boys had a procession, in which the following banners were carried:

"A fair day's pay for a fair day's work!" "A mechanic cannot work without tools, neither can the District Telegraph without boys!" "Our rights we will maintain!" "Give us liberty or give us death!" "Down with monopoly!" "Boys have a right to live as well as corporations!" One little fellow—uninformed, borealoff the promising device, "Brade or Blud!"

A writer in the Avant-Courier, of Portland, Oregon, attended one of their mass meetings, and took down verbatim the speech of one of the boys—age about 12. It concluded as follows: "We, the people, know and therefore demand our rights; and knowing, and demanding, stand pledged to the deathless record of our revolutionary sires, to—by the eternal Gods! maintain them." How is that for Young America?—*Labor Enquirer.*