

EUGENE V. DEBS' LECTURE

Delivered to a Good-Sized Audience at the Opera House.

HE DISCUSSES ECONOMIC QUESTIONS

And Tells of the Hardships Entailed Upon the Laboring Men by the Combination of Capital.

The opera house was well filled yesterday afternoon to hear the lecture of Eugene V. Debs, the great labor leader, and his utterances were cheered to the echo.



EUGENE V. DEBS.

The house was not in a very inviting condition for an audience, it having been badly drenched the night before during the fire and it was consequently damp and disagreeable and the falling walls from time to time across the alleyway where they were being pulled down as a matter of safety, caused two or three startling alarms that interrupted the lecture.

In his address, which lasted about an hour and thirty minutes, Mr. Debs commenced with primitive time and quoted Jefferson as saying that "no government should be either extremely rich or extremely poor." There should be social equality, but neither class nor caste. In those early days the working man received adequate compensation on exactly what he produced. Work was then done with primitive tools. They cost but a few dollars and every laborer could easily secure his own tools, implements of occupation, from the surplus from his labor.

In the early history of the Republic to which he referred there was not a single millionaire, nor a single tramp. The millionaire had come later and the work tramp had been coined to represent his antisocial—the most deplorable and misanthropic figure in the entire horoscope of human society—the victim of monopoly and the vaunted Christian civilization. As economic machinery increased, so the army of unemployed labor increased. As the machine, smothering human labor, became more perfect, competition increased and wages decreased.

He referred to the difficulties of securing employment under existing conditions. No man could appreciate these difficulties unless he had been a stranger in a strange land looking for work, going from door to door begging for permission to earn enough to keep his family from starvation. Under present conditions it was almost sacred as a crime to be poor and the man poorly dressed is discriminated against and labored by society, no matter how respectable he may be. He is a social outcast, a being to be avoided, a shabby. If you are not well dressed in these days society is against you, but many a man who is poor in money is rich in principle. A poor girl steals, a rich girl is simply the victim of kleptomania. The speaker told how Christ was the friend of the poor and recited the story of the Magdalen.

This country, he said, was a vast battlefield with weapons against the poor, the strong against the weak, and yet they refer to the present situation as the survival of the fittest. There is even a struggle of the laboring classes among themselves, despite the Biblical injunction that we should love our neighbor as we love ourselves. The present day rule of business is might against right, cunning against candor, the strong against the weak, continually seeking to deprive each other of employment.

He referred to John D. Rockefeller as a man who had it in his power to fix the price of products and to control the price of wages. He became labor in subjugation. He absolutely controls one of the chief necessities of life. Up to the time machines made their advent it was the victor's right to employ every man to earn a living. The child of the laboring man today feeds the machine and the machine feeds the child. The machine was first an enemy to the working man, by getting into the hands of capitalist corporations who used them to reduce the wages of laborers. The machine had even invaded the printing office and was now invading the printing press. The printing press was thought could only be done by hand. Mr. Edison said that within twenty years all the work of the world will be done by machinery.

There was a time when one man by hand made an entire pair shoes and he knew exactly what the profit of his labor would be. Now shoes are made in factories and a pair of shoes before it is completed passes through several hands and the profit that formerly went to one man must be divided up into seventy-two parts.

Under the present system our women and children are driven into factories and homes are broken up because it requires the combined labor of an entire family to support the household. Homes are now but adjuncts to factories. Men will insist that the action of the labor question is senseless. That all men are equal and the country is a free one for men to do as they please. This all sounds very pretty, but at the same time our children are becoming mere cogs in the wheels of industry. Our children get the meager wage of 9 cents per day in the cotton mills of the South and 8 cents per day in furniture factories of the North. They work for chairs, while men working in coal mines get 60 cents per day.

The speaker referred to the rapid growth of trusts, thirty-five having been formed during the past month and "not can't break up these trusts by any statutory enactments. They are the natural growth of the present competition system. But these trusts will eventually be absorbed by the people and we will pass from capitalism to socialism. The force of present economic conditions will bring about a condition of socialism. Rockefeller is doing more to advance the cause of socialism than all the socialist combined. Competition is being absolutely destroyed in the concentration of trusts. The middle classes once referred to as the great business of the country are being crushed and are passing away. Small business concerns are being absorbed by the trusts. The recent formation of the tobacco trust recently threw 2000 traveling men out of employment. That trust, like all others, fixes the price they pay for the raw material as well as the price at which they sell their finished product.

point. He said he had no sympathy with the man who is referred to as the millionaire. He was cheered heartily at this point as he referred sarcastically to the conquest of foreign territory as a market for the products of American industry. Among other things he said that in a short time Cuba would become a plutocratic plantation and that its people would be reduced to industrial servitude and have no liberty. He then went further into the subject of socialism, which he represented as the natural sequence of the present course of events. Socialism, he said, was spreading in exact proportion to the education of the people. Proceeding, he predicted a peaceful revolution by which the people would vote in the co-operative commonwealth.

Replying to the objection that socialism was not adapted to American soil in this country, where everybody has the chance to become president, he said there were too many men who would swap their chance for a good square meal. After other remarks, he described the condition of the coal miners as an illustration of the result of the present industrial system. Here he said he would swap his chance for a good square meal. After other remarks, he described the condition of the coal miners as an illustration of the result of the present industrial system. Here he said he would swap his chance for a good square meal.

Among other things he said change every labor assembly into a school—a college. He dwelt upon the necessity for the unification of the forces of labor. Continuing, he said he would swap his chance for a good square meal. After other remarks, he described the condition of the coal miners as an illustration of the result of the present industrial system. Here he said he would swap his chance for a good square meal.

He referred to the disastrous effects of the competitive system upon the lives of the men who grew rich under its operation. Referring to Pullman, he said no man no matter how great could transgress a moral law and avoid the consequences. He said that the organization made him the great multi-millionaire and the visions it might have brought with evident effect upon the audience.

He referred to another appeal for the co-operative commonwealth and industrial freedom, and was cheered heartily as he left the stage. For twenty-two years Eugene V. Debs has been a worker and a leader in the labor movement, but it is since he led the world's greatest strike and went to prison rather than obey the order of a court that he has been well known to the general public. Mr. Debs was born in Terre Haute, Ind., in the autumn of 1855 and at the age of 15 years began his work as a railway employe in the Vandavia car shops. Soon after he obtained a position as driver on a freight engine, in which capacity he served some years, and soon attracted attention in the councils of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen, of which he had become a member. He was 22 years old when that organization made him editor of its magazine, and from that day forward he has been a leader. He was afterwards made secretary and treasurer of the organization and saw it grow to national proportions.

In 1892 Mr. Debs founded the American Railway union, which was the first organization in the railway world to admit to membership every employe, from the section man and engine wiper to the conductor and engineer. Its central idea was complete and universal organization. Under his guiding hand it speedily reached colossal proportions. Its first great strike was called on the Great Northern railway. The road was successfully tied up from St. Paul to the Pacific ocean and the company forced to restore the wages of all employes, amounting in the aggregate to nearly thousands of dollars a month. Scarcely was the Great Northern Railway case out of the way than the Pullman strike claimed attention, the details and results of which are still fresh in the memory of the people. In the Pullman matter, Debs offered to submit the question to arbitration, and meeting with an emphatic refusal, ordered the members of the union to handle no Pullman cars. The battle was on and within two days scarcely a car of any description was moving between the Mississippi valley and the Pacific coast. Within a short time the commerce of the Nation was practically paralyzed. An appeal was finally taken to the courts. Debs refused to obey the courts' decree, preferring to go to jail for contempt.

Mr. Debs was the first leader in the labor movement in America to offer his liberty as a protest against the rule of corporations. His remarkable ability as an orator has made him the natural champion of the masses against the classes, and his unflinching movement marks him as the man destined to lead the struggling

THE DICK DOWLING CAMP.

MEETING YESTERDAY AFTERNOON A BRIEF ONE.

Adjourn to Attend the Burial of a Comrade Who Died at Seguin.

The attendance at the meeting of Dick Dowling camp yesterday afternoon was good. Commanders Drew and Adjutant Fall were the presiding officers. An application for membership by W. M. Sims was balloted upon and the applicant elected a member of the camp.

The following communication was read and the desired information ordered to be given: Commander Dick Dowling Camp, Houston, Texas. Dallas, Texas, May 17, 1899.—Dear Sir: I am writing for my comrades of Sterling Price camp here a monograph of the battle of Sabine Pass. I lack some information, which you will greatly favor me by furnishing. Did the Confederate congress vote a medal to Dowling? Was he ordered to retreat from the fort, and did he submit the order to a vote of his men and they voted to fight? Did Houston and Galveston give Dowling's daughter a diamond jewel in commemoration of her father's victory? Is there any survivor of this fight in Seguin, or can I get the address of one living anywhere? Does your camp possess any special documents upon the subject? Respectfully,

James B. Simpson, Of Camp Sterling Price. A motion was made and seconded, which carried, to adjourn and attend the funeral of Neumann Friedlander, who died at Seguin, Tex., on May 15th, and the remains shipped here for burial. The report of Adjutant Fall of his trip to the Union Confederate Veterans' reunion at Charleston was read and adopted. Our camp has reason to be proud of the honor shown its sponsor, Miss Marcette Delgado. Showeys were at a high price. The comrades Beavens and myself secured one at the last moment. I presume she was the only camp sponsor who had an invitation to ride in the procession with the State sponsors. General Gordon from the platform called out to her in the great audience of thousands to come forward with her maid of honor and be introduced, as was the State sponsors. Unfortunately she was not present. Comrade Garey and his mother, estimable wife showed her much attention, taking her on excursions with them. If Miss Delgado as sponsor of Dick Dowling camp didn't receive much honor and wasn't the recipient of much attention as such, then I fall to be a judge of such matters. The camp has reason to be proud of their little sponsor, as she reflected great credit upon the position.

The funeral of the remains of Neumann Friedlander, who died Saturday morning at Seguin, took place yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock from the residence of his brother, Philip Friedlander, 1207 Commerce avenue, this city. Tyler County Peaches. The Post received a dozen very large peaches by express yesterday, the following note accompanying them: "Navy Tyler County, Texas, May 19.—Very fine indeed. These are the best peaches to show how early fruit can be grown in Tyler county, where land is considered of almost no value, as we have an outlet for fruit and vegetables. These were grown on pine lands where the saw timber had been cut off. Very respectfully, J. D. Banks." Spiritualistic Meeting. The Houston Spiritual society held its regular Sunday afternoon meeting at Bryan hall yesterday. Mrs. F. E. B. Shafter gave a very entertaining discourse on the subject "Four Revelations of Delly: Mohammed of Arabia and Jesus of Nazareth." It was announced that all who felt so inclined were invited to attend the developing circle every Thursday night at 8 o'clock at Mrs. Phelps hall, corner Travis and Rusk. Next Sunday Mr. John W. Ring will occupy the rostrum.

AT LEAST ONE EXCURSION. Every week will leave the Texas-Colonia to Chautauque grounds for points of interest in the mountains. BUREAU RIDES. At the Texas-Colonia Chautauque will be organized and arrangements made so that a sufficient number of those patient, sure-footed animals will be available at any time. BIBLICAL LITERATURE. It is proposed this year to enlarge the scope of the Texas-Colonia Chautauque. Especial attention will be given to the department of Biblical literature, outdoor lectures on nature and the woman's department.

AROUND THE RUINS SUNDAY. Crowds of People Gathered to View the Debris. Yesterday great crowds of people lined the sidewalk opposite the ruins of the buildings which were destroyed by fire Saturday night on Main street. Some of them were spectators through curiosity, others because they could find nothing more entertaining than to stand for hours viewing a mass of debris, and a few because they were interested in the property which was destroyed. The fire department had a stream of water for several hours on the walls that were left standing to soften them so that they could be easily torn down. That portion of them

THE TEXAS PEACH CROP

It is Practically a Failure, as Shown by Many Reports.

THE SHORTAGE WILL BE VERY GREAT

The Cold Weather in the Spring Did the Damage—Many Orchards Will Produce Nothing. Bitton, Bell County, Texas, May 20.—The peach crop throughout the county is practically a failure, while some trees are quite full of fruit and others have none at all. There will be none for market. Pendletonville, Bell County, Texas, May 19.—The peach crop is a complete failure in this section. Holland, Bell County, Texas, May 18.—I have taken particular pains to find out the condition as it is at present. There is not an orchard in all this country that has any peaches, apricots or plums. All the peaches are on what is known as seedlings or natives; no grafted fruit at all.

Troy, Bell County, Texas, May 18.—The most carefully and close inquiry obtainable in regard to the peach crop is that there is only about a one-fourth crop. The late freeze in April did the damage. We have young orchards that have about all the crop there is; the old trees are dying out and those that are living have none on.

Salado, Bell County, Texas, May 19.—In high localities around Salado peaches will be about three-fourths of a crop, on prairie and low lands less than half a crop. Fine weather for clearing crops which are very promising at this time. Reaping will commence in some of the more forward wheat next week. Farmers are gathering up all the way from eight to twenty bushels; oats can be put down as a failure in this part of the county.

New Barton, Bowie County, Texas, May 20.—Peach crop very near a failure; light crop in some sections, others none. Apricots and plums about half crop. Alto, Cherokee County, Texas, May 18.—The peach crop in this part of Cherokee county is a total failure.

Rusk, Cherokee County, Texas, May 18.—Fruit crop is a total failure here; there will not be any fruit to ship at all, peach orchards of twenty-five to fifty acres will not have any more fruit than owners can consume. There will be a few plums, but the peaches, except a few of the earliest varieties, are failures. There is no fruit crop cultivated here except peaches. There are about 1000 acres of more in peaches within a few miles of this place.

Jacksonville, Cherokee County, Texas, May 18.—The peach crop is very light, probably one-eighth of a crop, principally in early varieties and seedlings; no other at all. There will be no carload shipments this season as all the shipments will be small and so by express, the entire crop here will not exceed 1000 bushels. With a full crop this place can ship 200 cars.

Elkhart, Anderson County, Texas, May 20.—The peach crop is a failure in this part of the county.

Lovelady, Houston County, Texas, May 19.—The peach crop of this section is almost a total failure, there being but very little fruit of any kind on account of continued cold weather. Plums have commenced ripening, though there are not a few their presence will scarcely be noticed.

Grapeland, Houston County, Texas, May 18.—The peach crop here is almost an entire failure owing to the freeze in February last. There will be comparative no shipments from this place this season. The mandarin crop at present is very large. Mr. St. Vrain of St. Louis has agreed to take thirty carloads from the Grapeland Fruit and Vegetable association. They are calculating on about 350 per acre should they turn out as prospects now promise.

Richmond, Fort Bend County, Texas, May 19.—The peach crop in Fort Bend county is considered to be better this season than for years; the late freeze didn't injure the orchards in this county. There are not many in number, but the yield will be good.

Henderson, Rusk County, Texas, May 19.—The peach crop is a failure in this part of the county. The very few varieties of peaches set any fruit this season and it seems now that there will be very few for shipment. This is a magnificent peach country and considerable quantities are shipped annually.

Troupe, Smith County, May 18.—The peach crop will be short in this section 75 per cent. There are a great many orchards that have no fruit at all.

Jefferson, Marion County, Texas, May 18.—The peach crop will be very short in this section; not over one-third of a crop if that.

IF THE BABY IS CUTTING TEETH. Be sure and use that old and well tried remedy, Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup, for children teething. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays all pain, cures diarrhoea, and is the best remedy for all these troubles.

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The merchants' free lunch served by the Merchants' Exchange, No. 216 Main, between 11:30 a. m. and 1:30 p. m., can not be excelled in giving full satisfaction.

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\$1000 REWARD. Dr. Brandon has deposited \$1000 in the hands of Japbet & Co., the well known wholesale drug dealers of this city, which he is willing to forfeit to any one who can prove that the Red Cross Compound can be surpassed as a tonic or cure for indigestion at a dyspepsia.

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PHONE 70. SERIES OF MEETINGS. Evangelist G. A. Leak Begins Revival Services.

The series of meetings which were announced to begin yesterday at the Central Christian church, by Evangelist G. A. Leak, were commenced under very favorable circumstances. The subject of the morning sermon was "The Mission of the Church."

It was a masterly discussion of the subject, and showed that the great mission of the church was to save souls.

A large audience assembled at the evening service to hear Mr. Leak on "Why I Am Not An Infidel." He handled his subject well, and treated the infidel and skeptic with kindness. He said there were no disbelievers, as a disbeliever was one who had examined all the evidence and then rejected the proposition. No man has ever examined all the evidence and rejected Christ. While there are many honest and intelligent skeptics, they are misguided. The bible goes hand and hand with true science and nowhere contradicts it. God has given us two books, the one of revelation, the other of nature. Both are true and truth can not be contradictory. Skepticism destroys the individual, society, the school, the church and even the government. It takes away, but gives nothing in return.

There will be services every night this week beginning at 8 o'clock, and the theme for the entire week will be "The Foundations of Our Faith," some phase of which will be taken up each night.

Colored Organization Notes. The colored citizens who are interested in the celebration of their emancipation day will hold a mass meeting tonight at Watt's chapel to receive reports of committees and select the goddess of liberty for the occasion.

A joint meeting of preachers and teachers will be held this p. m. at 3:30 with the Minister's union at Wesley chapel, African Methodist Episcopal church.

The colored Baptist Minister's conference of this city will meet tomorrow a. m. at 10 o'clock at the Mount Zion church, Second ward, and execute the following programme, after completion of routine business.

Sermon—Rev. C. H. Smith. Discussion—"Is foot washing an ordinance, if not, why?" "What Baptists believe and practice," opened by Rev. J. P. Parker.

Organization of Woman's union in connection with the Ministers conference.

Alvin Items. Alvin, Texas, May 21.—W. E. Davis, secretary of the Horticultural association, returned Wednesday from an extended trip through South Texas.

J. T. Pritchmore of Houston was in Alvin on business Wednesday.

Ex-Mayor H. L. Barker and family left this week for an extended trip to Kansas.

Mr. H. J. Brodson of Angleton was in the city Saturday on business.

Sid William's Meeting at McKinney. McKinney, Texas, May 20.—Deacon Dock Peppers of Dallas, general missionary of Texas Baptist Sunday school and colporteur, has been conducting a series of meetings at the Baptist church in this city this week. His meetings were preparatory of Woman's union in connection with the Ministers conference.

Navasota Choir at McKinney. Bryan, Texas, May 21.—The vestal choir of St. Paul's Episcopal church of Navasota came up to Bryan today and assisted in the music tonight at St. Andrew's church. Following are the members of the choir: Misses Maut Farborough, Fannie Yar-

Summer Tours on Lake Michigan

THE ELEGANT STEAMSHIP MANITOU for summer excursions, with trip to Chicago, Detroit, Milwaukee, St. Paul, Minneapolis, Mackinac Island, Mackinaw, Isle St. Ignace, Mich., and return to Chicago. LEAVES CHICAGO AS FOLLOWS: Tues. 9 a. m. Thurs. 11 a. m. Sat. 4 p. m. Lake Michigan and Lake Superior Transportation OFFICE & DOCKS, Rush and N. Water Sts., Chicago.

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