

STATE SOCIALISM

Man a Mechanized Automaton, Doing the Everlasting Loop Step of Socialism.

Organized labor will have nothing to do with socialism. The war-worn leaders of the federation of labor have had their tussles with it and know what it is better than any other class of citizens. "No intelligent workman who has passed years of his life in the study of the labor problem," said president Gompers of the federation of labor, "expects to wake up any fine morning to find the hopes of these years realized over night and the world on the flood tide of the millennium. With the knowledge that the past tells us of the slow progress of ages, of trial and travail, mistakes and doubts yet unsoled; with the history of the working class bedewed with the tears of a thousand generations and tinged with life blood of numberless martyrs, the trade unionist is not likely to stake his future hopes on the fond chance of the many millions turning philosophers in the twinkling of an eye. Much of our misery as enforced wage-workers springs not so much from any power exerted by the 'upper' or ruling class, as it is the result of the ignorance of so many in our own class who accept conditions by their own violation. The more intelligent, realizing their inability to create a millennium, will not descend to trickery or juggling with terms. They seek to benefit themselves and their fellow-men through trade unions and trade union action, and, by bearing the brunt, be in the vanguard in the cause, and hasten on the process of education that will fit humanity even to recognize the millennium when it arrives. Each man has stood but as an unresistant and irresponsible dream of poor humanity groping blindly in the dark for its ideal; and it has caused many a heart-wrench to relate some idealism to movements which do not move, to the dead ashes of blasted hopes and promises. Throughout all these dreams and hopes and fears and attacks, vituperation and misrepresentation, the trade unionists have plodded along their weary way since the miner of Laurium, three thousand years ago, laid down his pick; and, though phantasmagorias and dreams have lived and died, the wage-earners, with pick and shovel, with hammer and saw and plane, with hands on the lever of the highest developed machine, kept, and keep, organizing and plodding along toward better conditions of life."

One of these items we have with us today is state socialism. Its principles, in the abstract, are as old as the seven hills of the Eternal City; but the modern creation of DeLeon et al., is very far from the private ideal. It stands now as the antithesis of trade unionism; it is antagonistic to individual liberty, and progresses along lines parallel with plutocracy.

Plutocracy, by favored legislation, and the conception of oligarchy of politicians by a bureaucratic form of government, are identical so far as the ultimate object may be. Nor would the world be better off with either; for now if those who will not, or cannot, accept the views of DeLeon must submit to misrepresentation and vilification, in lieu of honest government, what would be the effect if these men had power to enforce their dictums ex cathedra?

Between state socialism and trade unionism there lies a vast gulf that all the sophisms of the world can not bridge. The latter seeks through liberty of thought and action to ennoble self-confidence, through its educational work; it imposes individual responsibilities, and seeks the betterment of the mass by elevating the atoms.

Modern state socialism has its bosses, its paid things of lingual away; the cast-iron rigidity of its dogmas never relax; from its decrees there is no appeal; its votaries must yield blind obedience to a program that had its origin in the decrees of erratic individuals long since returned to unpardonable dust, but defied by antiquity, while those who dare doubt its immaculate conception must face the vilest abuse. Its bigoted intolerance is a noted symptom of the disease, and for this reason has ruined every trade union in which it has fastened its poisonous fangs.

The state socialist is never radical; he is simply unique. Individual liberty is his bete noir. His dream is of a bureaucratic oligarchy formed upon political machine methods, the most damnable system ever conceived in the puzzled brain of a fanatic.

It is to belie human nature to suppose that with one taste of power the machine operators would not seek to perpetuate that power; their merit system would soon fall into disrepute. Bellamy's ditch diggers would always remain ditch-diggers; a DeLeonite would always hold his hand on the throttle of the machine, for, yes, these many generations.

Every state socialist organization is today a fair example of this fact. In theory it is the dream of elysium; in reality it is the debasement of the intellectual to the brute nature; its votaries would exchange the blessings of liberty for the curse of slavery with a full stomach guaranteed—and the dedication of DeLeonism as a "chaser."

The present system is not one over which to fall in ecstasies of delight, but rather would I accept it today, with all its fulness of possibilities of a Caesar's Column, and break a crust with thee, O Liberty, than live off the fat of the land, well-fed and sleek, doing the everlasting loop step of state socialism.—A. S. Leitch in American Federationist.

FROM THE RAG BAG

The accumulation of dress goods, both new and old, should be disposed of twice a year, and this may be attended to just before or after the house cleaning is done. Make little rolls of old linen and soft muslin, and put them in a convenient place to use for tying up cut fingers, burns, or for bandages or position. Old flannel is valuable when hot compresses are needed. There will be a quantity of dress skirts, worn out underwear etc., which does not seem to be needed for any other purpose, and the time honored plan of using them for a rag carpet cannot be improved upon. Very little can be said against rag carpets, and much to their favor. They are easy to make, and very pretty if one is careful in putting the colors together. They will wear twice as long as an ingrain

FARMERS CLUB

The Lancaster county Farmers club met at the beautiful home of Mr. and Mrs. Bowman one mile north of Woodlawn, March 16th. Not only was this the day for our regular meeting but Mr. and Mrs. Bowman also celebrated the 30th anniversary of their landing in America from Holland. Notwithstanding the bad roads a large number were present to enjoy the day. The first object that met our gaze at quite a distance from the place was Old Glory floating in the breeze bidding us a glad welcome. The stars and stripes of our beloved country were beautifully festooned around the porch showing the patriotism of our host and hostess. Mr. and Mrs. Bowman received all with true cordiality. Inside the house the decorations were elaborate consisting of American flags and colors, also the flags of Holland, showing that while truly devoted to America, they have not forgotten their native country. First in order was dinner. The ladies seemed to have put forth their best effort as everything was of the best and was enjoyed by all. The meeting was called to order by the president, L. N. Leonard. Music by Professor Seamark. Mrs. Hahn recited "Papa Old Saying" in a pleasing manner. Select reading, Mrs. Dram, "Where is My Boy." The selection was appropriate and well read. Select reading Mrs. Leonard, "Personal Purity and Integrity." Mrs. Ed Paswater read a selection from Mary A. Livermore, "He Played on a Harp of a Thousand Strings," and Willie Hollenback recited, "A Picture of Mother and Me." This is the first appearance of the young men before our club, but we hope it will not be the last. They recited unusually well and all enjoyed their selections. Mrs. Converse read, "The Duty Which Confronts us." A communication was read from the southern club in regard to revising the premium list of the county fair. A committee consisting of Mrs. Drain, Mrs. Mann and Mrs. Converse was appointed to confer with a committee of the southern club concerning the list. Mr. Mann read a biography of General Garcia. A short time was given to speech making relating to the occasion. Speeches were made by the following gentlemen: Messrs. Paswater, Mann, Leonard, O'Connell and Mahan. Speeches forbidding giving the speeches verbatim. All paid beautiful tributes to Mr. and Mrs. Bowman in regard to their loyalty, their hospitality, their kindness and their noble lives. Their fine home and surroundings were commented upon and all agreed that they were citizens which America is proud to own.

At intervals during the program Prof. Seamark entertained the club with music of a very high order. It was appreciated by those present and Mr. Bowman was fortunate in securing the genuine pleasure for the occasion. The pleasant meeting will long be remembered. After singing "Auld Lang Syne" the club adjourned to meet with Mr. Mann one mile west of Woodlawn April 30th. Program: Select reading, Mrs. Joseph Quakenbush; recitation; O'Connell, select reading; Mrs. Weakley recitation; Mr. Syford; music; Volunteer speeches by H. S. Weakley, L. E. Mahan and Joseph Quakenbush and John O'Connell. The public is cordially invited. Mrs. H. WEAKLEY, L. N. LEONARD, Sec'y Pro Tem.

A PIG IN A POKE

Mr. Cornell won't suffer greatly in reputation by reason of the investigation by the legislative committee. The worst thing that can be said against him is that he didn't make Mr. Palm send him the presents so freely promised. In this he shows a lack of firmness and executive ability. Mr. Palm was always threatening to send him a pig in a crate or a suit of clothes, or a wedding cake, or something, to show that he was appreciated. Had Mr. Cornell been a man of action and of prompt judgment, he would have written to Mr. Palm inviting him to fish or cut bait. There are people so narrow minded as to argue that it would have been improper for Mr. Cornell to accept presents, but we can't see it that way. If the employee of the auditor's office had clucked together and bought him a gold-headed cane that he didn't need, and presented it to him with a long rigmorole of speech-making, no body would have objected at all; it is a good deal worse to give a man a gold-headed cane wrapped up in a speech than to send him a red hog in a crate by express. We must learn to look at such things in the light of reason, without prejudice.—Walt Mason.

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CORRUPT TO THE CORE.

Present Industrial System Bulwarked by Debauched Legislatures. Debauched legislatures—municipal, state and national—were declared the foundation and bulwark of the modern industrial system by Professor George D. Herron in his lecture on "Municipal Ideals" at Central Music hall. A crowd of the usual size and enthusiasm greeted the Iowa college educator's denunciation of the "impersonal tyranny" the beneficiaries of that system are able to exert. Professor Herron spoke in part as follows:

"The struggles now going on in our great American cities are struggles of the people for new, healthier, happier and more beautiful social and public life. Municipal ownership of public resources is the entrance of the camel's head. We shall trust the whole body will get in afterward. "There are deep reasons for thoroughly indicting and dismissing from the service of mankind the present system of private control. The chief reason lies in this—that the present industrial system can stand only through the debauchery of a large part of the citizenry of every city. It cannot stand on a basis of intelligence and virtue. It is just as necessary that the present commercial system shall have on hand a large element of debauched citizenry as it was necessary in the dark ages for the church to have on hand a large element of ignorant citizenry. Fear and ignorance are the handmaids of an arbitrary force. So, on the other hand, force and bribery of every sort, public and individual immorality, are the defenses, the handmaids, of this industrial system. That ought to settle at the outset a complete indictment of any system which can stand only by the debauchery or ignorance of the people. It is a system in the very nature of the case thoroughly destructive of human life."

"Let us be specific. The present industrial system depends on having a large purchasable vote. It cannot subsist without having in every city a large vote through which its agents, the bosses, the aldermen, the congressmen, the United States senators, are able directly and indirectly to control. The people are led as sheep to the economic altar by the politicians, who are the direct agents of this industrial system. It cannot exist except in every city there were a large vote which it could sway and officials it could elect who would conserve its interests."

"The system depends again on having a purchasable legislature, either city, state or national. It does not matter what the form may be. The system cannot maintain its giant hold on public resources unless it owns, body and soul, legislative assemblies that do its bidding."

"We have an illustration of what comes of private ownership of great public industries in the touching solicitude of the government to appoint a war investigating committee to protect the packing houses of Chicago. The forces through which that committee has gone in its chivalrous relation toward these interests here are so palpable that they are not even funny. They do not bring forth even a smile. The worst of it is that this sort of thing is so utterly a foregone conclusion that we smile at it instead of bowing our heads in everlasting shame at it. The shame of it all is the want of your shame and mine and the public want of it."—Chicago Record.

WANTED—Five subscription solicitors to travel for the Nebraska Independent.

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West Virginia's chief magistrate recommends Peru-na, the National Cataract Remedy and Nerve Tonic.

REPRESENTATIVE MEN

are slow to speak for publication. This is because their influence is so great. The endorsement of Governors, Senators and Congressmen guarantees merit. Public words of praise from such prominent officials must be based on positive knowledge. The recognition which the cataract remedy Peru-na is constantly receiving by men of national fame is very gratifying. Among recent letters from persons of eminence is the following from Governor Atkinson of West Virginia. The governor says:

CHARLESTON, West Va., March 9, 1898. The Peru-na Medicine Co., Columbus, O. GENTLEMEN:—"I can recommend your prescription Peru-na as a tonic. Its reputation as a cure for cataract is excellent, it having been used by a number of people known to me with the very best results."

Very truly,
Gov. G. W. ATKINSON.

Cataract is the national disease. Not an American family is free from it. The search for relief and cure is constant. Experiments of all kinds are continually made without result for good. Ignorance of the causes and nature of cataract is universal. Cataract is elusive, persistent, penetrating. It may exist in any organ of the body. For this national malady there exists the national scientific remedy Peru-na which for forty years has been doing a grand work.

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Old Principles and New Laws.

A great republic was one day founded on a continent far removed from the wrangles and jangles of the discordant family of covetous nations, and it was grounded on the undying principles which underlie all truth and justice. The right of men to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness was guaranteed. And the great republic flourished as no other.

Changes came in due time. Men who have known only liberty fail to realize the inestimable benefits of liberty. They yield to changes without knowing their meaning. Whereas there were for centuries a few simple and direct laws for the protection of the rights of men and a few others to safeguard property, there have been placed on the statute books of the great free republic and of the half a hundred several states, innumerable laws relating to property, protecting property as though it were something wholly helpless, magnifying the importance of wealth, providing against encroachments upon the assumed inviolable rights of artificial personages and clothing these new creations of law with powers hitherto withheld from individuals, bestowing upon fictitious persons portions of the original sovereignty of the whole people, and in this manner, and in many ways, minimizing the importance and standing of men in the state.

Do the old laws prevail or have they been repealed?—Sioux Falls (S. D.) Press.

Do You Like It?

If you send a package by express to a friend, you pay 1 cent over and above the company's charge for the war stamp—that is, the corporation acts as collector of the war tax for the government and the government furnishes the stamps and the corporation gets credit for paying the tax, and the prospect is that with a deficit of \$200,000,000 a year you will continue paying the tax while the capitalists scramble for franchises and the government at Washington is debauched and forced to create a great army to put you down if you whimper. And that's the kind of government some of you like. So does every enemy of the best interests of humanity.—Social Democratic Herald.

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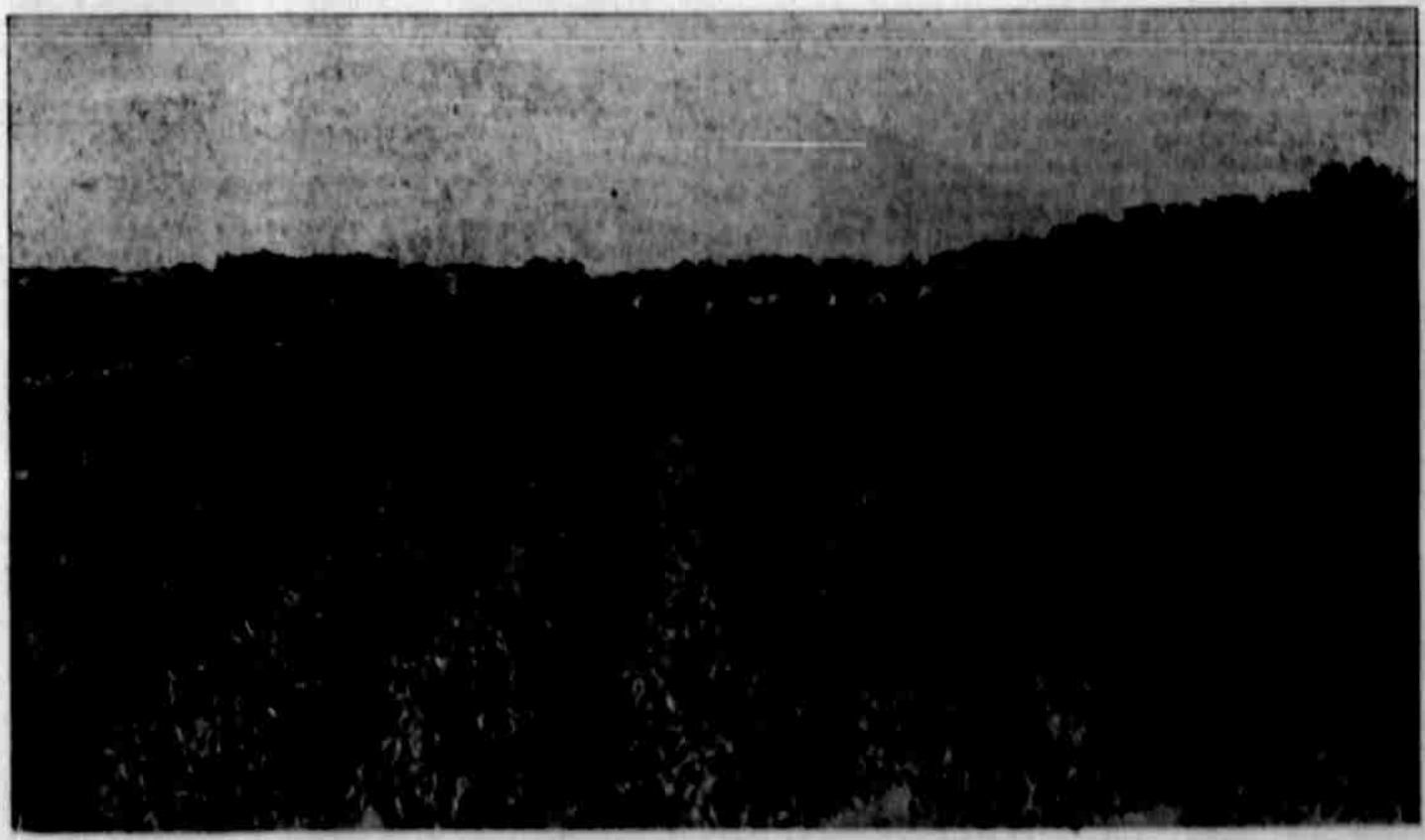
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