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THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SHIELD

The Morals and Ethics of the Business World

It is only necessary to assert that odern business is utterly unscrupu- ous and unmoral. The proof may afely be left to the business world self, with the assurance that it will e forthcoming in volume amply su- cient to convince the most skeptic- l. While the larger concerns are ublishing to the world the shams, ypocricies and utter rottenness of he business world among its upper rust, the lesser establishments also rnish their quota of evidence to ow how utterly destructive of every fty and noble concept of hdman ature the entire business scheme is. A correspondent who resides in a wn not outside the boundaries of e Province of British Colombia, nds us some information going to ow that the business acumen and stinct is developed to about as low d nasty a level upon Canadian il as anywhere else. It seems there a concern calling itself the Inter- tional Mercantile Agency of Cana- , Limited, with head offices in To- nto. It purports to have a capi- l of $250,000. Among its officers find the name of Hon. Robert ackay, Senator, who officiates as ce-president.

The following matter sent out by is concern explains the nature of business in a manner that com- ands attention.

Exhibit A.

Dear Sir:—We desire to call your tention to a few facts, and if you ve accounts, notes or judgments, matter how old, on which you ve been unable to realize, we can erest you.

n the first place we wish to im- ss you with the fact that this ency is a strong financial corpora- n, organized under the strict Ca- dian law, charter granted by the nadian government under letters tent, and therefore under govern- nt supervision. The agency has its officers and directors some of nada's leading capitalists and busi- s men, and has a paid-up capital $250,000. So much for our re- onsibility.

We have demonstrated, as is evi- nced by the experience of thous- ds of clients in the United States d Canada, that we have the most ective collecting system ever de- sed. Having connections and re- presentatives in every part of the world where commerce exists, with an unexcelled tracing department, we are prepared to accept claims and make collections no matter where debter is located. When address is unknown we put the matter in trac- ing department and locate your debt- or.

Our agreement carries with it a guarantee based upon conditions of class of contract taken.

Kindly fill in the enclosed postal card, and we will furnish particulars or have our representative in your section call on you in the near fu- ture and explain our system, show you what we have done and are do- ing for others, and explain to you our contract.

In the meantime please look over your books and supposedly uncollec- tible accounts, notes and judgments, as well as your recent but slow and doubtful claims, so that our agent may be able to show you the class of contract that fits your case.

The sending us the card of inquiry does not in any way obligate you.

Thanking you in advance for con- sideration of our proposition, and hoping that we may have further business relations, proving long, pleasant and profitable, we are,

Very truly yours,

International Mercantile Agency of Canada, Limited.

per J. W. T.

Exhibit B.

Does It Ever Occur to You?

That it is impossible to make men honest by legal process—and, while we cannot dispense with law, it by no means fills every requirement, even of those who can afford to use it. Many men stretch their con- science to commit an injustice—be- cause they do so legally. To punish such people and prevent the continu- ance of such practices has been the successful endeavor of The Interna- tional Mercantile Agency.

That a debt may become barred by the Statute of Limitations, making it legally obsolete, but the moral ob- ligation remains, and by a judicious presentation of the claim and careful and persistent work, the Internation- al Agency has succeeded in recover- ing thousands of dollars regarded by their rightful owners as irremedi- ably lost.

That the success which has attend- ed the operations of the Internation- al Mercantile Agency since its incor- poration, is largely due to the able assistance received from the army of representatives, agents and confiden- tial correspondents and reporters, carefully selected for their special aptitude in the various branches. No single firm, however large, can com- mand such services, except as a mem- ber of this Agency.

That commerce today takes a wide range, and it frequently happens that only prompt action will prevent heavy loss. The representative of The International Mercantile Agency on the spot will give careful atten- tion to instructions received from them when he would pay perhaps little heed to the request from a firm whom he had never heard of. Why? The Agency's business is large and continuous, and is worth while. The only safe test. It is worth his while to work for The International Mer- cantile Agency, and the members reap the benefits.

That when a claim from any one of the numerous causes, has reached the point beyond which the merchant sees no prospect of relief, The Inter- national Mercantile Agency will be found the connecting link in the bro- ken chain of commercial credit.

From our confidential reports we gain a thorough knowledge of the debtor's standing, financially and so- cially, and intimately acquaint our- selves with his frailties, capabilities, morals and general status. When advisable we suggest improvement in the conduct of affairs, show him we are interested in his welfare, and by reason of that interest get into much closer touch than his creditor (whom he looks upon frequently as an ene- my) is possibly able to do. If un- employed we secure him a position, and secure a portion of his earnings.

Exhibit C.

This is a sample of the literature sent out to a debtor:

Your indebtedness of $——— for meat account has been standing quite a long time, and it seems that you are making no effort to settle same.

You were trusted because you were thought to be upright and honest, and that you would not incur a debt that you did not intend to pay promptly, but your delay in settling justifies the serious questioning of this good opinion of you.

Do you really think you have acted uprightly and honorably in this mat- ter? Don't you feel that if you had half tried or denied yourself some small luxury you could have paid this debt long ago?

What would you think of a person who would ignore a debt due you, as you have neglected and ignored this debt? Would you feel that your confidence and kindness had been abused?

Before taking other steps to make this collection, this last appeal is made to you; kindly pay the debt at once, or, at least, frankly state when you can do so; and in that way show that you are in reality as honest, upright and honorable as it was thought you were when this credit was given you.

Respectfully,

——— ——— — ———

Per T. G.

Address ——— ——— —

Presumably the Hon. Senator and his fellow worthies are good, Christ- ian gentlemen of standing in their respective neighborhoods. But to conceive of anything more low, vul- gar and contemptible than the ser- vice offered in the above would seri- ously impair the stretchable qualities of the most elastic imagina- tion. Among all the low types to be found in the purliens of the red-light district it would be difficult to find a specimen that would with such un- blushing abandon flaunt his degener- acy as does this respectable business concern in the above circulars, and more especially in the last paragraph of exhibit B. The staff of this agen- cy will worm its way into the con- fidence of the debtor, and by all the wily subtilities attributed to the snake tribe since the days when Eve became involved in scandal, learn of his "frailties, capabilities, morals, and general status," for the implied purpose of using such knowledge to blackmail him into satisfying the demands of his hungry creditor. If unemployed he is to be secured a po- sition so that a "portion of his earn- ings may be seized." We have al- ways been taught that it was unman- ly to betray the confidence or take advantage of the weakness or frail- ties of another. Judas has not as yet been held up as a particularly high type of human kind, but here we find a business concern composed of presumably Christian gentlemen and honorable senators, in the most unblushing manner offering to do all of these supposedly dishonorable acts for gain. Debts may "have become barred by the Statute of Limita- tions, . . but the moral obliga- tion remains." Moral obligation is good, coming as it does from such a source. It is quite as appropriate as for the devil to wash his hoofs in holy water.

At least some provinces of Canada have rent laws, small debts courts, and a few other iniquities that would not be tolerated among a tribe of half-decent African negroes. In some of the provinces it is alleged that small debts courts are maintained for the purpose of affording pin-head- ed magistrates and jack-legged law- yers the pleasure of badgering and browbeating petty debtors, and by so doing demonstrate just how low in the scale of being the human ani- mal can descend and still bear the outward semblance of man. The more thoroughly familiar we become with the methods of business as ex- emplified by the evidence furnished through International Mercantile Agencies, and other capitalist con- cerns, the more convinced we become that the "scarlet woman" is a much maligned person and one upon whom has been heaped contumely and in- sult entirely undeserved. Her busi- ness should have been duly incorpo- rated under the laws of Canada, and she should be trotting in the front rank along with honorable senators and other less moral worthies.

MORE VALUABLE EXPERIENCE

Being Gathered in the Streets by the Workers of Chicago

The situation in Chicago appears less favorable for an early end- of the strike than a week ago. The prospects are good that a large num- ber of men will be added to those already involved, by the building trades joining the strike. When once these affairs break out it is difficult to determine just where they will end. One thing absolutely certain is that when they are over, and mat- ters again assume their normal course, nothing has been settled. Human society rests upon the same old property basis, and the relation of master and slave still remains be- tween employer and employee. What- ever concessions the latter may have been able to secure as a result of the struggle, have come to him at terrible cost to himself and class, and he finds himself unable to hold on to what he has gained against the circumstances and conditions by which he is surrounded. If a gain in shorter hours, better wages, or in otherwise more favorable condi- tions, was a permanent one, the stake would be well worth fighting for, and although the victory might cost dearly, the resultant benefits would in time repay it. But the fact remains patent that the gains to labor by these struggles are at the best meagre ones, and cannot be held even for brief periods except at still further cost, and in the end are lost in spite of the heroic efforts of the workers to prevent it.

The loss to the working class re- sultinb from these unfortunate af- fairs is not measured in time, money and physical injusies alone. A far more serious loss is suffered in the tearing asunder of those ties of so- lidarity and comradeship that ought to bind all workers togetner, as the common victims of capitalist rule, into a solid phalanx against their brutal rulers. When a strike breaks out and men quit their employment it is inevitable that the surplus la- bor in the market should flow in to fill the places made vacant. All of the fierce animosities arising between sellers of commodities in their strug- gle for customers, spring into action. It becomes striker against scab or strike-breaker, and the ties of class solidarity give way to factional hat- red, vindictiveness and revenge be- tween different members of the same oppressed or exploited class. The moment the surplus labor of the market appears upon the scene, the struggle is transferred into the pite- ful spectacle of a battle among slaves to see which shall hold the coveted position of serving a master. That the interests of the master suffers is only incidental to the fight that is going on among the slaves in the market.

The business of the state is to sup- press the riotous slaves, that is, to maintain order, which means to the slaves that they must remain meek and docile under the pressure of the present slave system, which at least the most of them protect and defend by giving it their political support. And it is eminently fitting and pro- per that the autnorities should use all the powers of the state to culti- vate meekness and docility among the slaves. Both masters and slaves have at the polls ordered that it be done, and no government should dis- obey its mandate.

True it is that untold suffering will fall upon the heads of the workers so long as they persist in this par- ticular line of action. Knowledge can only come to them through ex- perience, and they must not expect the schooling without paying the price. "They who dance must pay the piper." So long as the workers approve of the rule of capital, and its resultant wage slavery, they must pay for it by enduring the misery it entails.

To whatever extent the Chicago af- fair may be prolonged, the outcome of it may be easily determined. Matters will eventually assume their normal course. Capitalist property will again continue its usual occu- pation of gorging itself with profits wrung from the hides of slaves, and the slaves will wriggle and twist, and gall and chafe under the merci- less exactions of a market that is continually full to overflowing of slaves in search of masters.

A VOICE FROM THE PULPIT

Prominent Boston Clergyman Denounces Wage Slavery

EMINENT BOSTONIANS GREATLY DISTURBED

The Rev, W. H. Van Allen, of the urch of the Advent, one of the althiest churches in Boston, raised good deal of a tempest in the Bos- n teapot by a sermon preached on ay 7, 10 which he said that the ge system is a slave system and dicted its abolition. Many emin- tly resuectable Bostonians have en deeply pained by this impious claration.

We quote some passages from Rec- r Van Allen's address:

"The hireling fleeth because he is hireling and careth not for the ep." I read here Christ's con- mnation of the wage system; not at the wage system is wholly bad, t that it never had its place in the olution of society, but that it is t a finality, that we cannot rest ntent with it, and that we must pire toward its eventual abolition an order of society which shall ow not hirelings and where men all work together for the common od of fellow-heirs of a common in- ritance.

Some of you are thinking, I know, I am getting to know you so well, th your sweet conservatism, min- ed with a passionate radicalism at outdoes anything in America— w can we get on without wage- rkers? How can any system be vised which will do away with the ring of other men and the taking us of the larger share of their rnings for our profit?

Labor, according to the wage the- y, is a commodity. The wage- rkers take it to the market and l it under economic conditions of ying and selling. The buyer of or is bound by what men prate of economic laws to buy that labor the lowest price possible. He has ney, they have not. He can dic- e terms, because he can afford to wait a little. They, having no mo- ney, cannot wait.

The employer has a second great advantage. There are more men needing work than there are places to be filled. Tnen again, it is found that, because it costs him less to live, the single man is a better man to employ than the man with a wife and the man with a wife and no children is a better man to employ than the man with a wife and child- ren. Then again, the Bulgarian or the Pole or the Armenian is a better man to employ than the single Am- erican, because he can live cheaper still, and consequently can afford to work cheaper.

The man who can live on least and dothe work sets the standard scale of wages in the work that he is com- petent to do, and the economist has adduced from this what he calls the iron law of wages, and they tend al- ways to the lowest point upon which the workman can maintain his life and strength to do the work.

Think of workingmen. Some of them support themselves by their la- bor. Others go out to work to earn pin money, and not being dependent on what they earn for a livlihood they can afford to work for much less than those who are working for a living. Therefore, they are cheaper for the employer, and they set the standard of wages in their particu- lar line of work. Do you wonder that every year sees, what every year does see, an enormous sacrifice by Mammon to Venus, a long procession of those who are unable to support themselves by the wages they can earn, and who therefore turn to that trade, the only one, I think, where novices are better paid than experts?

For every case of poverty caused by drunkeness there are ten cases of drunkeness caused by poverty. We are so afraid of paternalism that we have no old-age insurance. Employ- ers today don't want men forty or thirty-five years of age. White hairs are barriers to a man getting em- ployment as a wage-earner in these days. What has the future in store for a young man who is going to be an old man if he lives?

President Eliot talks of the "joy of work." It is a catch phrase, and one that is gloriously true of some of us. We do joy in our work, but the reason is because we are not hire- lings, and it is unreasonable to ex- pect a hireling to joy in his work, because he has no incentive, except fear of starvation, and no reward except a week's reprieve from starva- tion. Factory methods have destroy- ed the workman's joy in his work. He has become a "hand."

The fruits of his labor—what part has he in them? They go to another. Think of the thousands upon thous- ands who sweat in the mines and furnaces of Pennsylvania that Mr. Carnegie may build libraries and eat his bread in the sweat of other men's faces. For my own part, I'd rather not read books that are bought in that way. Not that I condemn Mr. Carnegie. He and his wealth are the products of a condition and not the responsible causes of that condition.

The above is taken from the New York Worker of May 20, and is of- fered as evidence that while the church as an institution is part and parcel of the present system of ex- ploitation, it cannot be relied upon to at all times successfully smother the convictions of its ministers. An occasional one will rise to the occa- sion and fearlessly proclaim the truth as it dawns upon him. Small won- der that this minister shocked his congregation by his "impious decla- ration," and impious they truly were from the standpoint of sacred capi- tal. If Parson Van Allen continues administering such doses to his smug Beacon Hill congregation, it is safe to assume that ere long he will be hitting the high places in search of "fresh fields and pastures new" Should such happen, however, the good man may console himself with the comforting assurance that he will not journey alone. Many a job-hunt- er may attribute his experience as such, to the fact of possessing too much manhood and courage to be forced into silence when his convic- tions prompted him to proclaim the truth. May strength be given Par- son Van Allen's tongue to lay it on good and plenty.

RALPH SMITH, OF NANAIMO

Cheap Liberal Politician Gets a Jolt From Hawthornthwaite

AN UNSAVORY AND ABOMINABLE RECORD

Editor Free Press:—In common with a number of people I wondered at Ralph Smith's hasty visit to Na- naimo in the midst of a busy season at Ottawa. We have not had long to wait for an explanation. He has come here to "settle" the "trouqle" qetween the operators, Dunsmuir- Stockett et al, and the miners over the eight-hour law. This is the first indication I have had that any trou- ble existed. The miners have not been notified, so far as I am aware, that the Island companies do not in- tend to operate under the law, nor that they require any settlement.

Mr. Smith assists the companies by breaking it to the public for them, that they do not intend to grant the men common justice, they must have their full pound of flesh, in other words they require a "settlement."

Let me inform him and the opera- tor behind him that there is no set- tlement to be made. The eight hour law is "clumsy and inconsistent" ac- cording to this great authority, who made himself the laughing stock of the House of Commons by his clum- sy and inconsistent efforts to have enacted a certain Union Label Bill, the solitary duckling of his eight- year political incubation.

The eight-hour law for coal miners is just so "clumsy and inconsistent" that neither labor skinners nor labor skates can find a legal way to beat it, hence the necessity of a "settle- ment" and Ralph Smith's presence here.

The coal miners of B. C., unlike Smith, do not require much time to consider the eight-hour question, and have no desire to straddle the fence upon it. They have for years de- manded an eight-hour day from bank to bank and they have secured it without any aid from the famous "miners' agent" who is so anxious to be in at the "settlement."

Some of the miners have a vivid recollection of his own eight-hour re- cord and the settlements therewith, and also other settlements. The last one he made between the men and the company lost them ten per cent. on their wages.

An eight-hour law for quartz min- ers was enacted a few years ago when Smith was in the local house. His straddle on that is historical, and also his Rossland "settlement" which forced the miners of Kootenay to work contract, which the com- pany desired, in lieu of day labor. What "settlement" does he propose now?

Go on, Ralph, you are not trying to bulldoze the Methodist conference this time. We are all anxiously watching you and your "settlement" in the "business interests" of the community.

Thanking you, Mr. Editor, for space. Yours truly,

J. H. Hawthornthwaite.

Nanaimo Free Press, May 23.

When Ralph Smith was in Vancou- ver recently he attended the Method- ist conference, then in session. The great man took advantage of the oc- casion to express himself quite frank- ly on some autonomy resolution the conference had been wrestling with. In the course of his remarks, which according to the Vancouver World were made in quite a "conversation- al style," he proceeded to "correct what he thought was a fallacious conclusion come to by the confer- ence." While correcting, he met with some interjections and interruptions from members of the conference who evidently found it difficult to stom- ach some of his statements. This finally lead the doughty warrior to declare that "he was ready to stay with them and argue the question until 4 a.m., if they were willing, but he was afraid he was getting worked up by the interruptions to his fighting parliamentary attitude, so he would stop, etc."

To those who have watched the career of this montebank, both in parliament and out, it is fully realiz- ed what a narrow escape that con- ference had. Had Smith not been gifted with sufficient restraint to control himself and close his remarks before getting fully worked up to his "fighting parliamentary attitude," the result to the conference would have been something terrible. Haw- thornthwaite should be careful how he stirs the lion up.

Whatever it may be that called Smith to Nanaimo while the Ottawa house is still in session, the miners may rest assured it was not in their interest. The influences that have been responsible for his political career will continue to dominate his actions, and use him to perform their dirty work so long as he can deliver the goods. When he can no longer deliver, the chances are he will be cast aside like a squeezed lemon. It is extremely doubtful if he will be able to secure as soft a haven of refuge as that other played-out po- litical hack, McInnes, who has been lucky enough to secure storage-room in the Yukon. Happily, the coarse work of these stool-pigeons of capi- tal is rapidly becoming ineffictive in misleading the workers. Their pow- er is on the wane, and the time is not far distant when they will no longer be tolerated in the presence of decent people. Their reputation has already become a stench in the nostrils of men.

ROSSLAND'S HOLIDAY RECORD.

Two men killed and three wounded in the Rossland mines is the record for May 24, which is supposed to be a holisay. Hugh Bennett, a young miner, was killed by falling from a ladder. Steve Welsh while picking behind a machine drove the point of his pick into a stick of dynamite that had failed to explode. An explosion ensued instantly killing Welsh, break- ing the leg of John Shimgneski, a machine man working nearby. Alex- ander McFarland, another machine man was severely cut about the head and face. Levi Handiback, a shovel- ler in the Le Roi mine, was caught by a cave-in, and his left leg so bad- ly battered that it had to be amputa- ted at the knee.

While Bigelow, who stole $3,000,- 000 from the Milwaukee bank, of which he was president, is denounced as a criminal, still he is far short of being as bad as he might be. He is not a Socialist.

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TATURDAY ... ... May 27, 1905

COCKROACHES EXTERMINATED.

Lawson has kept his word. For more than a year he has promised to tell how "Pious John" and his associates fleeced unsuspecting stockholders out of millions of dollars of the rich plunder taken from an exploited working class under the brigand rule of capital. And now he has blurted it out, he has told all about it, and in the telling of it has judiciously refrained from mentioning the toilers who produce all of this fabulous wealth, presumably because the humorous incidents which he recounts have no bearing one way or another upon the workers, and therefore, were in plain truth, none of their business. Whether Lawson has, intentionally or otherwise refrained from jabbing his facile pen sufficiently deep into the matter to show any possible connection betwixt the wage-slave class and the fabulous wealth represented in the "amalgamated" deal, matters but little. Others will follow the matter up and prove beyond the shadow of a doubt that the alleged crimes of the "Standard gang" are but the logical and ordinary courtesies of business life, and have been carried out in strict conformity with the only possible moral and ethical code under a system of property tnat is based upon the ruthless robbery of the class that makes all wealth. Every dollar of value held by capitalists big and little alike, is but the proceeds of the cunning, sneaking, contemptible and conscienceless robbery of the working people. The value of capitalist holdings and all of the profits tnat accrue to its beneficiaries, comes from this source alone. It is just as inevitable that capitalists and capitalist concerns, should manifest the same heartless cunning, lack of conscience and lack of scruple, in wrestling with each other over the division of the plunder, as they have manifested towards the workers in the seizing of it. The code of morals and ethics that fits the one case, fits the other.

And who asserts that the successful ones in this business scramble are criminals? Why, the unsuccessful ones, of course. They who entered into the game with the same zeal and eagerness to increase their share of the plunder as did the big fellows, and who were beaten at their own game. Like he who goes into a gambling house with the intention of beating the game, and after losing his money plays the baby act by complaining to the police that the cards were stacked or the dice loaded these smaller fry capitalists play the baby act by accusing the successful ones of being criminals and swindlers. And in very truth they are criminals and swindlers all, both big and little, but the crime and swindle of which they are equally guilty is perpetrated uuon the working class under the guise of the wage system. In the wake of this fundamental crime all of their other alleged criminal acts follow as a logical sequence.

Capital cannot justify its existence unless it be gathered into a mass of sufficient magnitude to protect itself against the onslaugnts of smaller masses. To the former, the larger mass of capital, the latter, the smaller act as veritable cockroaches, invading its domain and sapping its substance. In obedience to the instinct of self-preservation it must exterminate the cockroaches, by ousting the owners and absorbing their holdings, and to accomplish this the holders of big capital are justified in resorting to every trick, device and method that human ingenuity can devise. The owners of big capital like "Pious John's" crowd, for instance, may comfort themselves with the assurance that whatever means they may have used in exterminatibg the hungry horde of cockroach capitalists, whose mouths watered for large and juicy portions of the plunder, would have been used against them with the same reckless abandon and pious complaisance, by those beaten cockroaches themselves, had opportunity offered.

It is said "when thieves fall out honest men get their dues." As cockroach capitalists get put out of business by the big ones, their pitiful squeals need not be considered altogether in humorous vein. A useful lesson may be drawn from their baby squawks as well. By their exposures of that which has happened to them at the hands of their conquerors, they at they same time, though unwittingly perhaps, expose to the workingman the callous, cold and calculating nature of the beast ol capitalist property, of which he is the victim. The brutal infifference with which capitalists slaughter those of their own kind who stand in their way should point out to the worker the measure of consideration he may expect at the hands of this modern class of free-booters.

Let the workers remain undisturbed over this extermination of cockroach capitalists, by the big ones. The more rapidly the process of extermination be carried out, the sooner will the decks be cleared for action between the working class and the capitalist class; between the only useful and the only useless class in human society, and tne result of which will be the extermination of the present cockroach exterminators.

CAPITALIZATION.

The employee of a concern oftentimes takes great delight in referring to its immense and perhaps lucrative business, and points with pride to its huge capital. In doing so he does not realize that himself, and fellow employees, are the basis of the capitalization; that it is their power of wealth production that determines the worth of the concern in commercial rating, and that without them this value or worth would vanish into thin air. A concern may be legitimately rated as worth a million dollars, provided it stands in a position to command the services of workers whose capacity to produce wealth is sufficient to enable it to pay all the expenses incurred in operating its business, and leave a surplus large enough to pay the normal rate of profit upon that sum. Under such circumstances it may be readily seen that the capitalization of one million dollars would be quite within reason, as the stock or bonds of such a concern would be readily saleable in the market at that figure, as a sound, capitalist investment. Should events so shape themselves, as for instance, by the introduction of more highly perfected and powerful machinery into the process of wealth production, or the finding of more profitable markets, as to enable such a concern to increase its rate of profit above the normal, its property would take on an increased value, its stocks or bonds would be quoted above par in the markets. To just the extent of this increase of profit would such a concern be justified in increasing its capitalization. It might under such favorable circumstances become worth two millions as against the former one million, and that too without the addition of a single dollar to the original investment.

To become a capitalist merely requires the securing of a position enabling the holder to command the services of working people, under such circumstances as will enable him to realize a surplus out of the products of their labor, after all expense of his operations has been paid. That which measures the value of capitalist holdings then, is the volume of surplus value fleeced from the workers. If that volume be large, the worth or capitalization of the concern in question, will be large, and vice versa. A concern that could employ, say but a dozen, workingmen, would be worth but a trifling sum as a capitalist investment. The volume of surplus value that it would be possible to squeeze from such a limited number of employees would be necessarily small. Upon the other hand a concern like the United States Steel Corporation that commands the services of thousands of employees will reap a large volume of surplus value, and in consequence its capitalization will be expressed in millions of dollars.

Without the workmen, the value of capitalist property vanishes, and can only be replaced by their return. Stock, bonds and title deeds of capitalist property are only evidences of command over the services of working people. They are the modern evidence of mastery over slaves, and when one of them points with pride to the large capitalization and extensive holdings of the particular concern he serves, he is merely calling attention to the fact that it is an exploiter of wage slaves upon a large scale. Were he conscious of the fact, and that he was one of tne slaves himself, he would probably take less pride in mentioning it.

The right of capital is merely the right to exploit the workers. The transfer of capitalist holdings is but the transfer of this right from one capitalist, or set of capitalists, to another. When workers learn of tne sale of factory, railroad, etc., they merely learn of the sale of the right to exploit the particular workers involved in the operation of these industries. Virtually a transfer of human chattels has taken place.

So long as the workers give political support to the parties of capitalsm, they furnish the master class with the power to enforce their right of exploitation. Without control of the law-making and executive uowers of government, the master class could not establish and enforce their right. It is manifestly the duty of every workingman who understands the facts in the case, to point them out to his fellows, to the end that the workers may withdraw their political support from the master class, and use it to seize, in their own behalf, the powers of government, and use them to bring to an end that brutal exploitation under which the working class of the world is now suffering.

ILLOGICAL LOGIC.

The Wall Street Journal is not a Labor or a Populist paper. It is the chief financial journal of the nation, and the best edited. Summarizing the labor question this eminent business authority announces the following indisputable conclusion: "The American capitalist, as a rule, understands the value of well-paid, contented labor. He nas discovered that well-paid labor is more profitable than cheap labor, because well-paid labor will produce more per dollar of wages than poorly paid." The American trades union is largely responsible for well-paid labor, as well as the high standard of efficiency and productive capacity.—Winnipeg Voice.

There's logic for you. "Well-paid, contented labor is more profitable than cheap labor," because it "will produce more per dollar of wages paid." If this be true, then it logically follows that, measured by results, the so-called cheaper labor is the better paid of the two. If, as the Voice says, "the American trades union is largely responsible for well-paid labor, as well as the high standard of efficiency and productive capacity," then it again follows that all it has to its credit is the opening of a wider margin between tne price of labor-power and that of the products resulting from its expenditure. To say the very least it would be difficult to discover that any advantage had been gained to the working class by such a result. However it will require something other than mere assertion to establish the fact that the union has in any manner been responsible for the greater efficiency reffered to. This has undoubtedly fallen to the lot of the more efficient ones in the regular course of things, opportunity and capability cutting no small figure in the case. That labor-power of high efficiency should command a price in excess of that of less efficiency is as inevitable as that any goods of high quality should command a better price than those of poorer grade.

The logic of both the Wall Street Journal and the Wianipeg Voice appears to be somewhat illogical and out of joint. But then "logic is logic," and as all sorts and kinds are offered, the reader can pay his money and take his choice.

THE RISKS OF CAPITAL.

During 1903 there were 1,760 deaths in and about American coal mines (not including the unavailable returns of Kentucky and Maryland). The fatal accident rate was 3.19 per 1,000 employees, against an average of 2.94 for the ten-year period of 1894-1903, showing an actual as well as a material increase in the ratio of fatalities in mining operations. The actual number of deaths is probably from 5 to 10 per cent. larger, because casualties are not reported for the smaller mines, and deaths resulting from accidents after a long illness are not reported to the authorities. During the past twenty years over 50 per cent. of the accidents were caused by falls.

In the coal mines of Great Britain there were 1,049 fatalities in 1904, against 1,072 io 1903. Falls of ground accounted for 48.71 per cent. of the deaths, injuries by mine cars or trams, shaft accidents, explosives and fire-damp explosions were the other chief causes.—Engineering and Mining Journal.

All of which goes to show the terrible risks taken by capitalists.

And what about the missionaries? Somebody has got to pay their salaries. They are deserving men, and no laborer is more worthy of his hire than he who, at the risk of his life, teaches the wild, ferocious savage, dancing naked in his shameless land, to dress himself up and act like a Christian.

Why should not Rockefeller help pay the salaries of these good men if his conscience, or what is more likely, the mild good nature of a quiet old man, impels him to do so? —Evening Journal, N. Y.

And why not? As the savage learns to wear clothes it will help our trade in textile fabrics. Later on as he becomes more highly civilized and abandons his savage ways, a judicious purchase of Standard Oil will provide him a light so he can stay up and work nights This would stimulate our export oil trade. That's the only way our glorious civilization can be spread anyway. Pious John should be given every encouragement. We've a mind to turn missionary ourself, and are only deterred by the fact that there is an ample supply of those scalawags already available.

DEATH OF THE FACTORY GIRL.

Like a trampled flower she lay there,
In the cabin on the hill;
"Jennie's sick," said Tom, her brother,
To the foreman of the mill.

Tossing in her restless fever,
On a blanket soiled and torn,
Lay this work-worn child of sorrow,
Eight sad years since she was born.

Then her feverish fancy wakened,
And her eyes grew wide with fear,
"Mamma, hurry, there's the whistle;
I'll be late if I lie here.

"See that wheel above the window!
What a big one! See it whirl!
Mamma, I'm so tired of working;
And I'm such a little girl.

"Can't I have a dolly, mamma,
Like the one I saw one day?
Are there mills in heaven, too, mamma?
Won't God let me run and play?

"See how fast the spools are spinning!
Faster, faster! Oh, my head!
No, I couldn't help it; no sir!
Please, I didn't break the thread!

"Oh, my finger's caught! It's bleeding!
Stop the wheels and let me go!
Mamma, quick, tne wheels will kill me!
Stop it! Oh, it hurts me so!"

Then the angel paused no longer,
Fanned her with his cooling breath,
Touched her tiny heart and stopped it,
Soothed her with the peace of death.

—Herbert N. Casson in N.Y.Journal.

THE ETHICS OF "SLUGGING."

It is alleged with some details that in at least one instance the officers of labor unions have hired a professional "slugger" to "put out of business" an obnoxious "scab."

Assuming the statement to be true, what position should we as Socialists take?

It is easy to be hysterical on eithes side of the question; it is not quite so easy to be rational. Still, let us try.

First, to clear the ground, let us state that there is no moral difference in the act of slugging by policemen and Cossacks, by strike-breakers and deputies, or by union men and their hired agents.

All these cases are alike in that they are incidents of a war, waged after the methods current among our respected ancestors of a few hundred years ago.

The cause of such violence is simple in the extreme. Threaten to take away the food of any animal that has arrived at a certain complexity of nerve structure, and it will fight if it thinks it has a chance to win. It is a matter of acquired instinct, developed through natural selection, not at all a matter of rational decision.

So it is with the unionist. His food supply is threatened and he fights. Likewise the capitalist.

But is the action of the unionist to be praised or blamed? Now the moral quality of an action turns on whether it helps or hurts the general happiness. And it is for the general happiness that capitalist class rule be destroyed and equality be established by the working class, and if "slugging" tended to bring this about more speedily it should be praised.

But it doesn't.

Which side has more money to pay sluggers, the unions or the employers? Which side can call on the police, the courts, the militia, the regular army, to assist in this "educational work?"

The union officials who adopt this mode of warfare are playing directly into the hands of the capitalists. Nothing would suit the purposes of the associated employers so well as to have the issue fought out by physical force, because they know that all the available military power of the United States would be at their disposal.

Therefore we say that "slugging" is a bad thing for the laborers.

Yet if we accept the position of the "pure and simple" trade unionist, it is the logical thing to do.

Yet if we accept the position of the "philosophical anarchist" it is highly commendable.

If we accept the position of the "impossibilist" who holds that the ballot is of no further use tnan a means of counting noses, then "slugging" must be directly in the line of evolution.

But as International Socialists, we hold that in a country where the laborers have the ballot, the ballot is their logical weapon. Let them elect officers of their own class, and the next strike need not fail.—Charles H. Kerr, in Chicago Socialist.

In describing the mining camp of Mercur, Utah, a writer in the Miners' Magazine remarks that "the spiritual needs of the camp are attended to in a kind of a way by two churches, Mormon and Methodist, and four saloons, denomination unknown." These facilities should be ample to satisfy the spiritual needs of 1,200 people.

Socialist Directory

Every Local of the Socialist Party of Canada should run a card under this head. $1.00 per month. Secretaries please note.

SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA. Headquarters, Vancouver, B. C. Dominion Executive Committee, A. R. Stebbings, John E. Dubberley, Ernest Burns, C. Peters, Alf. Leah, A. J. Wilkinson, treasurer; J. G. Morgan, secretary, 551 Barnard St., Vancouver, B. C.

LOCAL VANCOUVER, No. 1, S. P. of B. C. Business meetings every Wednesday evening in the headquarters, Ingleside block (room 1, second floor), 313 Cambie street. Educational meetings every Sunday evening at 8 o'clock in the Sullivan Hall, Cordova street. D. P. Mills, secretary, Box 836, Vancouver, B. C.

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WHO WOULD WISH TO BE FREE?

"In Zanzibar and Pemba slaves are very slow to take advantage of the regulations that give them the right to claim their freedom," says a traveller: "They realize that so long as they are used well their position is superior to that of tne man whose freedom is his sole asset. I have found the same attitude in North Africa. From Morocco to Tripoli one sees most of the slaves content and flourishing. The famine, the locusts, the drought, and the tax-collector have no terror for them. Work keeps them healthy, they have enough to eat and drink, and the future has no meaning at all. There is promotion, there is confidential missions to governors and friends that elevate a slave, if only in the eyes of his fellows; and there is always a chance of manumission when the owner dies and wishes to have some good deeds recorded in the books of islam's recording angels." The white man with his glorious freedom, whom his masters turn onto the streets as soon as wage-slavery has enfeebled him, can look down with lofty scorn upon these poor, ignorant blacks, who prefer to be slaves and live, than be "free" and starve.—Justice.

The number of immigrants entering the United States during 1904 was 812,870, a record which promises to be broken during the present year. On May 7, ten liners arriving at New York brougnt in 12,039, chiefly Italians. Collier's refers to this as the "importation of human beings," and is rather inclined to question the advisability of carrying it on upon such a wholesale scale. It may be well to mention that the dominant class in the States is directly interested in providing a plentiful supply ol labor-power so that it may be able to purchase this needful commodity at a minimum price. So long as the motive prompting these wholesale importations remains, they will continue to be made, and besides, are not the steamship lines turning an honest penny out of the traffic?

Reports from local unions made to the convention of the United Mine Workers at Massillon, Ohio, recently, showed the average wage of the coal miners to be $2.36 per day, and that they got a chance to work an average of 191 days during the year. This gave them the stupenduous sum of $451 per year, or $8.65 per week. No wonder the Ohio coal miners indulge in automobiles, champagne and other extravagances.

Union Directory

When They Meet; Where They Meet.

Every Labor Union in the province is invited to place a card under this head. $1.00 per month. Secretaries please note.

Phoenix Trades and Labor Council. Meets every alternate Monday. John Riordan, president; Edward Brown, vice-president; P. H. Lacasse sergeant-at-arms; W. H. Bambury, secretary-treasurer, P. O. Box 198, Phoenix, B. C.

Phoenix Miners' Union, No. 6, W. F. M. Meets every Saturday evening at 7.30 o'clock in Miners' hall. Wm. Barnett, president; Archie F. Berry, secretary.

Nanaimo Miners' Union, No. 177, W. F. M. meets every third Saturday from July 2. Alfred Andrews, president; Jonathan Isherwood, P. O. Box 259, Nanaimo, B. C., recording secretary.

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.—Local No. 213. Meets second and fourth Thursdays at I. B. E. W. Hall, Room 1 Ingleside Block. President W. Blackstock; recording secretary, R. McDougall; financial secretary, H. Elsden. Address all communications to the hall. All sojourning brethren cordially invited.

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JOHN A. MOFFITT, President, Orange, N. J.
MARTIN LAWLOR, Secretary, 11 Waverly Place New York.

OUR UNABRIDGED DICTIONARY.

Cafe (n). From the Hindu caf (a robber's cave(; a place where 5 cents' wortn of tomato is sliced into a 30 cent order. A meeting place for couples putting up a big front. Hence, tne wedge between a fool and his money.

Cemetery (n). A rendezvous for mortals not otherwise engaged.

Christian (n). Any human being who can listen to a choir every Sunday; hence, a martyr.

Conscience (n). The only wine that becomes impaired with age.—Milwaukee Sentinal.

MARRYING ON CREDIT.

Rev. Mr. Williams was the congregational minister in the village of Winslow, Maine, several years ago. One evening four young people called at the parsonage. Two of them wished to be married.

The papers in the case were legal, so Mr. Williams performed the ceremony. The other couple acted as bridesmaid and best man. The groom was the son of a well-known man in town, and as tne happy couple were leaving the parsonage the young man whispered to Mr. Williams:

"Just charge it to father, parson. It will be all right."

n Lighter Vein

Humor, Wit and Satire from Paste, Scissors and Brush.

ANTHEM.

prano—Behold my new hat.
artette—Her new hat, her new hat, her new hat.
o—It is a fright, a fright, a fright!
prano—It's a joy unto the sight.
sso—You are a peach in your new hat.
nor—I've got my thoughts as to that
o—O thank you, thank you, thank you.
prano—It cost me more than any here.
o—That's very queer, that's very queer.
artette—O hear, O hear, O hear!
o—I priced it myself,
When it lay on the shelf,
And I know, and I know
That the price was quite low—
Much lower than mine, indeed.
prano—Indeed! INDEED!
o—Yes, yes, indeed!
prano—You hateful old thing.
o—It's the style of last spring.
so—Hush, hush!
or—Tush, tush!
prano—O, very well, then, I'll resign
If her hat is as nice as mine.
o—Alas! I grieve to see you go—
But my hat was highest, tho'.
rtette—Now all is joy, now all is peace!
Ring out ye bells and glad the air!
o—Such hats as yours are five a-piece!
rano—It's no such thing at all!
So there!
so—Hush, hush!
or—Tush, tush!
rtette—And now let stillness soothe the air,
While silver bells in gladness ring
Our hearts are free from hate or care.
rano and Alto—I think you are a hateful thing!
rtette—(Crescendo)
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be,
World without end!

SCHOOLROOM HUMOR.

Why did you stay away yester-Jimmy?,' said the teacher to a who replied, "Please, sir, muv-s ill." "Oh, that's bad," said teacher. "What does the doctor it is?" Jimmy—"Please, sir, it's rl." Thus opens "Schoolroom or." by Dr. Macnamara, M.P. st of the stories are of the pres-generation. A little girl volun-d the information that the snow swept out of heaven. "But how it get into heaven?" asked the er. "Please, sir, the angels ch it off their wings," said the

e train of a child's thought is very curious, as in the case of boy who, in answer to the ques-, "Why was Elisha sorry when Shunamite's son was dead?" re-, "Because he didn't like being alone with a widow."
me excellent mathematical an-s are also given in this book, example, "Things which are dou-each other are greater than any-g else"; "Two straight lines not enclose a space unless they crooked"; and as an example of xiom, "When you are in the mid-you are half-way over."
e parents of the children also ribute to school humor. At r a parent wrote: "Dear miss, se excuse mary being late as she been out on a herring."

A PERILOUS TOWN.

rney Olffield, the automobilist, talking about a trip that he made through Manitoba.
The most dangerous town in Min-ta," he said, "is Brandon. Har-e is near Brandon, and on the kirts of Hargrave, in front of a e inn, I dismounted.
found in the inn the landlord another man. They sat side by on a bench. They were both old.
'Excuse me, landlord,' I said, can you tell me how far it is Brandon?'
The old man jumped up and hob-behind the bar.
'Brandy?' he said in a thin qua-'Yes, indeed, sir, and very fine dy it is.'
He put up a bottle and glass be-me.
'I asked you,' I said, more loud-'how far it is to Brandon.'
'The best brandy, of course, sir,' answered. 'I don't keep nothing the best.'
In despair I turned from this deaf ran to the other old man on the h.
'Look here,' I said, 'can you tell how far it is to Brandon?'
The other man with a grateful , rose and limped hastily to the
'Thanks,' he said, 'I don't care if .'"

NO NEED OF THANKS.

n elderly clergyman who attended Baptist ministers' meeting in adelphia last week told of an oc-on during the past winter when joke was on him. It was a very day, and the sidewalks being pery the clergyman had some ble in walking. When he came the steps of his residence he tried climb them, but was unable to do because of the thick coating of
A little boy passing along the et lent his arm to the old man, isting him to the top step, and was about to run away, when was called back and thanked. , don't mention it," said the boy. am used to that. My father es home that way almost every t."

heiress who lived in Dubuque courted and won by a duque, ut the nobleman gay
ade her wealth fade away,
she had to go out as a cuque.

A REAL GOOD JOKE.

There is a lot of humor in the idea of getting things so arranged that one can annually share the harvest of a great army of diligent producers without being constrained to share their labors. Every one who lays up some money approaches a little nearer to the position that is essential to the enjoyment of that joke. When we get ten thousand dollars ahead, it entitles us to the proceeds of about one plain man's work. A hundred thousand dollars means perpetual command of about ten plain men's energies. A million means a hundred workers; a hundred million means ten thousand workers, more or less, whose product is credited ta us. There's nothing new about it. So the world has gone ever since time immemorial, but when the figures get very big they look very odd. Mr. Rockefeller, for instance, is sometimes said to be a billionaire. If so, all the wealth that about a hundred thousand workingmen produce is credited every year to his account. And Dr. Gladden insists that the product of the hundred thousand is all bad money, and can't be given to missions because it has once been set down to Mr. Rockefeller's account. Isn't that rather hard on the hundred thousand workers who have sweated liberally to produce the money?—Life.

NO CHANGE.

They had been engaged three years, but there seemed no indications that the good ship Matrimony was hovering in the offing. She was getting restless, but when she touched the subject he dexterously turned the conversation.

Recently he turned it off to physiology, a science of which he was a student.

"Yes," he said airily, "it is a strange but well-authenticated fact that the whole of the human body changes every seven years: You, my dear, are Miss Jones now. In seven years you will have changed completely. Not a particle of your present self will be left; but, all the same, you will still be Miss Jones."

"Oh, shall I?" said the angry damsel, tugging away at the third finger of her left hand. I assure you I won't, if I have to marry a dustman! Of all the cool impudence—— Here, take your ring, and I never, never want to see you again!"—The Week.

"MUDDER STILL WORKIN',"

"Me fadder struck, away last June,
an hasn't turned a lick—
He hasn't even cleaned the clay that
stuck onto his pick,
He didn't like the wages dat dey
chucked inter his mitt—
I guess dat's what de trouble wuz,
but anyhow, he quit;
But, say, I guess the fambly's in the
biggest kind of luck—
De ole man's in de walkout, but me
mudder hasn't struck.

Me sister she was woikin' in a place
dat sells quick lunch,
De boss he makes some kicks, and
den starts trouble wit de bunch.
Dey all goes out, an' won't go back
—you oughter talk ter Liz—
She's makin' speeches ever'wheres
about de strikin' biz.
Dat's all she does—just chews de fat
about de moneyed duck,
But still we're eatin' regular, 'cause
me mudder hasn't struck.

Me brudder Bill—he's strikin' too—
been out since May de first;
He says de slob dat takes his job is
lookin' for de worst.
Dey wants him back, but, no, be gee!
He says dat he won't stand
For woikin' dere, unless de boss will
fire some other man.
I'm strikin' too; I hops de bells, an'
wants anudder buck,
But here at home we's eatin' 'cause
me mudder hasn't struck,

Well, say! Now on de square, its fun
to hear me brudder Bill
An' sister Liz an' de ole man start
up a talkin' mill,
About how dey've stopped woikin'
just ter teach de udder dubs,
An' all de time me mudder keeps a-
hustlin' at de tubs.
I likes de ole man's backbone, but
likes me mudder's pluck—
I guess we'd all be hungry if me
mudder'd gone an' struck."
—Selected.

AMERICAN HUMOR.

Prof. H. G. Lord, of Columbia, was talking in Philadelphia about American Humor.

"Our typical humor," he said, "is not perhaps, subtle. It is too young to be subtle. But it is very much alive, and very rich and fertile.

"There is a story about absent-minded people that is, I think, a good example of American humor. It runs, in short passages like this:

"A woman put her baby's dirty clothes in the cradle and the baby in the wash tub. She didn't discover ner mistake till the child cried when she pinned its left leg to the line as she hung it out to dry.

"A man, about to go for a ride, clapped the saddle on his own back. He didn't discover his mistake till he became exhausted with trying to mount himself.

"Another man put his dog to bed and kicked himself downstairs. He didn't discover his mistake till he began to yelp and the dog began to snore.

"A doctor put a fee in a patient's hand and took the medicine himself. He didn't discover his mistake till the patient got well and he became ill."

THE VANDERBILT HORSES.

I.

The Vanherbilt horses have nighties,
The automobile dogs wear glasses,
And the millionaire's cats now wear
cute little hats
And travel on Pullman's in passes.
The lapdogs of Paris wear rubbers,
Pet monkeys have appendicitis,
But the pick of the lot is this latest
—Great Scott!
The Vanderbilt horses wear night-ies!

II.

The Vanderbilt horses wear nighties,
(The girl horses do, but the males,
To be told from their mammas, have
silken pyjamas
With cute little holes for their
tails).
In fact all the things that the 400
have
They give to their blue-ribbon
horses,
And I guess the next thing I shall
hear of, by Jing!
They will furnish them all with
divorces!

WOULD CHANGE HER MIND.

Two passengers traveling north, according to the London Globe, got into conversation, and one was most attentive to the other, pressing cigars, papers and refreshments upon him. Their destination was the same town, and No. 1 asked where his travelling companion intended to put up. The latter replied: "The George." He said: "Oh, don't bother about a hotel; come to my place for the night." This completed No. 2's astonishment at such extraordinary gushing kindness, and he felt impelled to ask the reason for such unlooked-for hospitality, but was uncomfortably enlightened by his would-be host replying' "My wife says I am the ugliest man in the world, and I just want her to have a look at you."

SATIATED.

First a woman gets in trouble, then
a man is in a fix.
Then divorces, fools and lawyers
have a lovely little mix;
Till your brain to follow details
doth emphatically refuse
And your mind is in a muddle o'er
the New
York
News.

For no sooner doth one scandal
'neath the calcium appear
Than the entrance of a worse one
sends the other to the rear;
Not content with coming singly, then
they come by threes and twos
Till the press is fairly glutted with
the New
York
News.

Of chorus girls and female crooks
I've had about enough,
Likewise of foolish millionaires and
all that sort of stuff;
I've no wish to mar your pleasure;
you can read it if you choose,
But I'm getting weary of the
New
York
News.

The term "a little behind hand" refers to the hand with which a lady holds up her dress skirt, but, of course, does not apply when the hand is a big one.

WHAT A SON!

Thomas W. Lawson said the other day of a stock manipulator whose methods he proposed to expose: "He is like a Paint Rock farmer, and I shall be like the farmer's son. Only I shall act deliberately, whereas the son was blundering.

"This lad in the wheat season drove up to the miller's and submitted a handful of wheat.

"The miller studied the wheat attentively, and then said to the boy: "'How much has your father got of this?'

"'He ain't got no more like it,' the boy answered. 'He's been all mornin' pickin' that out.'"

MOVING DAYS.

Cold was she and very proud;
Very proud and very fair.
She'd refused a duke or two,
Tossed aside a millionaire.
Lovers sought her hand in vain,
She in turn refused each plea,
As she said with icy lips,
"There is no man can move me."

But, alas! for her proud boast,
There came one in baggy clothes,
With red whiskers on his chin
And a big wart on his nose,
And he moved her right away.
Did this brave and homely man.
Not a millionaire was he,
But a driver of a van.

NOT TRUE TO NATURE.

Mark Twain was visiting H. H. Rogers, who led the humorist into his library.

"There," he said, as he pointed to a bust of white marble, "what do you think of that?"

It was a bust of a young woman coiling her hair.

Mr. Clemens looked at it a moment, and then he said:

"It isn't true to nature."

"Why not?" Mr. Rogers asked.

"She ought to have her mouth full of hairpins."

"The C. P. R. is perfectly willing to co-operate in any feasible immigration scheme, whether it be under government auspices or not," says Thomas Shaughnessy. Nothing strange about that. Never knew of a capitalist concern that was not "perfectly willing to ca-operate" in any skin game that promised returns. Feasible is good. It's quite suggestive.

So the employers declare for "no closed shop," eh? Well, so does the Socialist, and in order that the shop may always be open to the working people it will be necessary for them to take the key away from the useless and parasitical class that now holds it. There is easily a sufficient number of workers to attend to that little formality in the near future.

There are quite a number of Clarion subscribers whose subs expire within the next few weeks. If they wish to receive the paper without a break they should renew in time, as all papers are dropped at expiration of subscription. Examine number on address slip. When it corresponds with number of the paper your sub has expired.

A sub., accompanied by a most cheering letter comes down from Comrade Upton of Texada Island. Upton is buth zealous and earnest in pushing the propaganda along.

Wealth does not belong to the producer thereof, but by the rules of common decency it should.

A slave is one who is forced to surrender his labor-power to another in order to obtain sustenance for himself.

The German Emperor has sent a commission to say nice things to the Sultan of Morocco. The Sultan had better secrete his valuables.

30 subs in one bunch came in from the Comox district on May 25. This is some of Comrade Harry Sibble's work. He is a great sub. hustler.

While the United States government expends a considerable amount in bringiog the bones of Paul Jones from France, numerous "Potters' fields" are affording storage faciities for the bones of defunct working people who have been made paupers under the stars and stripes.

The United States Treasury promises to show a deficit for the fiscal year of at least $25,000,000. In these days of prosperity and high wages the American workingmen ought certainly to be able to loan Uncle Sam this trifling sum to tide him over the difficulty. And besides they ought to be patriotic enough to do it.

Comrade C. M. O'Brien has again been heard from, this time from Montreal. He reports that city as a fruitful place for propaganda, and many workers already interested. He is to remain there for several days and meetings have been arranged for, of which he will make report later on. He goes from there to his old home at Combermere, Ontario.

As the result af trouble existing between the Sailors' Union and the Longshoremen's Union, a fierce battle occured on the deck of the steamer Centennial, at Tacoma, Wash., on May 17. Twelve men are reported as badly beaten, and three are thought to be drowned. The slaves are indeed leadiog the strenuous life in their struggle for jobs. The row occurred over the handling of the ship's cargo.

It is rumored that that fossilized institution known as the House of Commons at Ottawa is liable to ahjourn next month. Whether it does or not is an inconsequental matter. A few Socialist members are neehed there to stir up the dry bones.

Owing to the pressure of work in this office the publication of "Wage-Labor and Capital," in pamphlet form as promised some time since, has been delayed. It is now ready for the press and will be out shortly. Those who have ordered copies will please take notice. Their orders will be filled at earliest possible moment.

PLATFORM OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA

We, the Socialist Party of Canada, in convention assembled, affirm our allegiance to and support of the principles and program of the international revolutionary working class.

Labor produces all wealth, and to labor it should justly belong.. To the owners of the means of wealth production belongs the product of labor. The present economic system is based upon capitalist ownership of the means of wealth production; therefore all the products of labor belong to the capitalist class. The capitalist is master; the worker is slave.

So long as the capitalists remain in possession of the reins of government all the powers of the state will be used to protect and defend their property rights in the means of wealth production and their control of the product of labor.

The capitalist system gives to the capitalist an ever-swelling stream of profits, and to the worker an ever-increasing measure of misery and degradation.

The interest of the working class lies in the direction of setting itself free from capitalist exploitation by the abolition of the wage system. To accomplish this necessitates the transformation of capitalist property in the means of wealth production into collective or working-class property.

The irrepressible conflict of interests between the capitalist and the worker is rapidly culminating in a struggle for possession of the power of government—the capitalist to hold the worker to secure it by political action. This is the class struggle.

Therefore, we call upon all workers to organize under the banner of the Socialist Party of Canada with the object of conquering the public powers for the purpose of setting up and enforcing the economic program of the working class, as follows:

1. The transformation, as rapidly as possible, of capitalist property in the means of wealth production (natural resources, factories, mills, railways, etc.,) into the collective property of the working class.

2. Thorough and democratic organization and management of industry by the workers.

3. The establishment, as speedily as possible, of production for use instead of production for profit.

The Socialist Party, when in office, shall always and everywhere until the present system is abolished, make the answer to this question its guiding rule of conduct:. Will this legislation advance the interests of the working class and aid the workers in their class struggle against capitalism? If it will the Socialist Party is for it; if it will not, the Socialist Party is absolutely opposed to it.

In accordance with this principle the Socialist Party pledges itself to conduct all the public affairs placed in its hands in such a manner as to promote the interests of the working class alone.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA

I, the undersigned, hereby apply for membership in ....
Local..... .....Socialist Party of Canada.

I recognize the class struggle between the capitalist class and the working class to be a struggle for political spremacy, i. e. possession of the reins of government, and which necessitates the organization of the workers into a political party, distinct from and opposed to all parties of the capitalist class.

If admitted to membership I hereby agree to maintain or enter into no relations with any other political party, and pledge myself to support by voice, vote and all other legitimate means the ticket and the program of the Socialist Party of Canada only.

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Occupation ....
Age..... Citizen.....
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A Chapter from "Capital"

The Buying and Selling of Labor-Power.

In order to modify the human organism, so that it may acquire skill and handiness in a given branch of industry, and become labor-power of a special kind, a special education or training is requisite, and this, on its part, costs an equivalent in commodities of a greater or less amount. This amount varies according to the more or less complicated character of the labor-power. The expenses of this (excessively small in the case of ordinary labor-power), enter pro tanto into the total value spent in its production.

The value of labor-power resolves itself into the value of a definite quantity af the means of subsistence. It therefore varies with the value of these means, or with the quantity of labor requisite for their production.

Some of the means af subsistence, such as food and fuel, are consumed daily. Others, such as clothes and furniture last for longer periods and require to be replaced only at longer intervals. One article must be bought or paid for daily, another weekly, another quarterly, and so on. But in whatever way the sum total of these outlays may be spread over the year, they must be covered by the average income, taking one day with another. If the total of the commodities required daily for the production of labor-power equal A, and those required weekly equal B, and those required quarterly equal C, and so on, the daily average of these commodities equals (265A plus 52B plus 4C) divided by 365. Suppose that in this mass of commodities requisite for the average day there are embodied 6 hours of social labor, then there is incorporated daily in labor-power half a day's average social labor, in other words, half a day's labor is requisite for the daily production of labor-power. This quantity of labor forms the value of a day's labor-power or the value of the labor-power daily reproduced. If half a day's average social labor is incorporated in three shillings, then three shillings is the price corresponding to the value of a day's labor-power. If its owner, therefore, offers it for sale at three shillings a day, its selling price is equal to its value, and according to our supposition, our friend Moneybags, who is intent upon converting his three shillings into capital, pays this value.

Tne minimum limit of the value of labor-power is determined by the value of commodities, without tne daily supply of which the laborer cannot renew his vital energy, consequently by the value of those means of subsistence that are physically indispensible. If the price of labor-power fall to this minimum, it falls below its value; since under such circumstances it can be maintained and developed only in a crippled state. But the value of every commodity is determined by the labor requisite to turn it out so as to be of normal quality.

It is a very cheap sort of sentimentality which declares this method of determining the value of labor power, a method prescribed by the very nature of the case, to be a brutal method, and which wails witn Rossi that, "to comprehend capacity for labor at the same time that we make abstraction from the means of subsistence of the laborers during the process of production, is to comprehend a phantom. When we speak of labor, or capacity for labor, we speak at the same time ol the laborer and his means of subsistence, of laborer and wages." Wnen we speak of capacity for labor, we do not speak of labor, any more than when we speak of capacity for digestion, we speak of digestion. The latter process requires nothing more than a good stomach. When we speak of capacity for labor, we do not abstract from the necessary means of subsistence. On the contrary, their value is expressed in its value. If his capacity for labor remains unsold, the laborer derives no benefit from it, but rather he will feel it to be a cruel nature-imposed necessity that this capacity has cost for its production a definite amount of the means of subsistence, and that it will continue to do so for its reproduction. He will then agree with Sesmondi: "that capacity for labor . . . is nothing unless it is sold."

One consequence of the peculiar nature of labor-power as a commodity is, that its use-value does not, on the conclusion of the contract between buyer and seller, immediately pass into the hands of the former. Its value, like that of every other commodity, is already fixed before it goes into circulation, since a definite quantity of social labor has been spent upon it, but its use-value consists in the subsequent exercise of its force. The alienation of labor-power and its actual appropriation by the buyer, its employment as a use-value, are separated by an interval of time. But in those cases in which the formal alienation by sale of the use-value of a commodity, is not simultaneous with the actual delivery to the buyer, the money of the latter usually functions as a means of payment. In every country in which the capitalist mode of production reigns, it is the custom not to pay for labor-power before it has been exercised for the period fixed by the contract, as for example, the end of each week. In all cases, therefore, the use-value of the labor-power is advanced to the capitalist: the laborer allows the buyer to consume it before he receives payment of the price; ne everywhere gives credit to the capitalist. That this credit is no mere fiction, is shown not only by the occasional loss of wages on the bankruptcy of the capitalist, but also by a series of more enduring consequences. Nevertheless, whetner money serves as a means of purchase or as a means of payment, this makes no alteration in the nature of the exchange of commodities. The price of the labor-power is fixed by the contract, although it is not realized till later, like the rent of a house. The labor-power is sold, although it is only paid for at a later period. It will, therefore, be useful, for a clear comprehension of the relation of the parties, to assume provisionally, that the possessor of labor-power, on the occasion of each sale, immediately receives the price stipulated to be paid for it.

We now know how the value paid by the purchaser to the possessor of this peculiar commodity, labor-power, is determined. The use-value which the former gets in exchange, manifests itself only in the actual usufruct, in the consumption of the labor-power. The money-owner buys everything necessary for this purpose, such as raw material, in the market, and pays for it at its full value. The consumption of labor-power is completed, as in the case of every other commodity, outside the limits of the market, or of the sphere of circulation. Accompanied by Mr. Moneybags and by the possessor of labor-power, we therefore take leave for a time of this noisy sphere, where everything takes place on the surface and in view of all men, and follow them both into the hidden abode of production, on whose threshold there stares us in the face: "No admittance except on business." Here we shall see, not only how capital produces, but how capital is produced. We shall at last force the secret of profit-making.

This sphere that we are deserting, within whose boundaries the sale and purchase of labor-power goes on, is in fact a very Eden of the innate rights of man. There alone rule Freedom, Equality, Property and Bentham. Freedom, because both buyer and seller of a commodity, say of labor-power, are constrained only by their own free will. They contract as free agents, and the agreement they come to, is but the form in which they give legal expression to their common will. Equality, because each enters into relation with the other, as with a simple owner of commodities, and they exchange equivalent for equivalent. Property, because each possesses only of what is his own. Bentham, because each looks only to himself. The only force that brings them together and puts them in relation with each other, is the selfishness, the gain and the private interests of each. Each looks to himself only, and no one troubles himself about the rest, and just because they do so, do they all in accordance with the pre-established harmony of things, or under the auspices of an all-shrewd providence, work together to their mutual advantage, for the common weal and in the interest of all.

On leaving this sphere of simple circulation or of exchange of commodities, which furnishes the "Freetrader Vulgaris" with his views and ideas and with the standard by which he judges a society based on capital and wages, we think we can preceive a change in the physiognomy of our dramatis personae. He, who before was tne money owner, now strides in front as capitalist; the possessor of labor-power follows as a laborer. The one with an air of importance, smirking, intent on business; the other timid and holding back, like one who is bringing his own hide to market and has nothing to expect but—a hiding.

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According to a recent investigation the number of factories in Japan at the end of September last year was 8,836. Compared with the preceding year, this shows a decrease of 14. The total number of laborers employed in these factories is 558,041; male laborers 225,048, female laborers 332,993. This is an increase of 1,350 male laborers, and 12,454 female laborers over the preceding year.

SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA
VANCOUVER LOCAL

MEETINGS

are held every Sunday Evening at 8 o'clock

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Headquarters: 313 Cambie Street, Room 1

AMERICAN-BUILT STEAMSHIP.

The steamship "Dakota," now loading at New York for her maiden voyage, is the second of the gigantic vessels constructed by the Eastern Shipbuilding Company, of New London, Conn., for the Great Northern Steamship Company. She is in practically every respect a duplicate of her sister ship the "Minnesota," which is now making her first homeward voyage from the Orient. The dimensions of the "Dakota are:

Length over all, 630 feet; extreme beam, 72½ feet; and depth from upper navigating bridge to bottom of the keel, 88 feet 4 inches, which is equal to the height of an ordinary eight-story building. When fully laden, the displacement of the "Dakota" is 33,000 tons, and with her full cargo (and she has a gross tonnage of 20,718 tons) she can make 15 knots even in heavy seas. In order to carry such an enormous cargo at the speed mentioned, and in all kinds of weather, the "Dakota" is built to withstand extraordinary strains, some of her double plates being as much as 2½ inches thick. The stem and stern post are of cast steel and of the greatest weight ever used in naval construction, the stern post alone weighing 55 tons. The total accomodations are for about tnree hundred first-cabin passengers, while below deck provision is made for carrying thirteen hundred troops or twenty-four hundred third-cabin passengers.

The ship is driven by twin-screw triple-expansion engines of about 10,000 horse-power furnished with steam at 250 pounds pressure by water-tube boilers of the Niclausse type. Each engine is located in a separate water-tight compartment, and the boilers are also divided into two similar compartments, accessible one to the other through small, water-tight doors. Thus in case one engine room should be flooded, the other could drive tne ship on her journey. A distinctly novel feature in these ships is that some of the boilers are fitted with mechanical stokers—an improvement which will we believe, in time become general in the merchant marine.

A wonderful windlass is placed at the bow for raising the anchors, each af 8½ tons, and the anchor chain, which weighs over 80 tons, is the heaviest ever built. The full equipment of life-saving appliances as prescribed by the United States government is carried on board, and for putting out flames a patent fire-extinguishing system is installed, by means of which any compartment of the ship may be immediately filled with gas in which a fire cannot possibly burn. For handling the cargo in and out of the numerous hatches no less than thirty-two electric winches are placed on the deck.—Scientific American.

The Minister of Inland Revenue has had a second analysis of pepper, sold throughout Canada, and finds the adulteratian is just as bad as last summer, when warning was given to the trade that the present scandalous practice must cease. He will accordingly take measures to rigidly enforce the provisions of the pure food law against offenders, including retailers, wholesalers and importers.—Daily Press.

It is not stated whether the offenders are liberals or conservatives, Cnristians or heathens. It is quite evident that they are not Socialists or their infamy would be blazoned to the world. By a thorough and effective enforcement of the pure food law, the minister will refute the assertions of thase would-be wise guys who are continually telling us that people cannot be made good by law. We hope the minister will pepper the adulterators good and plenty.

In referring to the Chicago teamsters' strike the Cincinnati Times-Star (Republican) says: "Chicago today stands as an object lesson of Socialism in action. One sees it as it stands stripped of its philosophy and its rhetoric. It is an object lesson to tne nation." And a lot of us have been thinking that the little pleasantries and festivities being indulged in by the denizens of Chicago was merely a result of the moral and ethical training the aforesaid denizens have received at the hands of capitalism. So that is Socialism. Well! well! How mistaken we have been all the time. After this we'll read nothing but the Times-Star and keep posted.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

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A MODERN SLAVE TRADE.

Time was, in our Childhood's days, when we were moved to pity and indignation by the stories of the pirates, slavers, and kidnappers, who in those dark times before slavery was abolished in the British dominions, used to ensnare or capture youths and children of any race or color, to sell into slavery—or "apprentice," as it was euphemistically termed—in his Brittanic Majesty's colonies oversea. Many are the briny tears that have been shed over the woes of these unhappy children, torn from their humble homes to toil in far-off lands, to whose capture infinate pains were devoted, and who formed a lucrative staple of trade to many a worthy, God-fearing British merchant, as well as many a bold buccaneer. These things are managed very much better nowadays, however. Everything now is open and above board. The youngsters are no longer kidnapped by bloodthirsty pirates, who get good gold in exchange for their human cargo; they are gently persuaded by kind Christian ladies and gentlemen that it is for their good that they should be transported for tneir natural life to a land of bondage thousands of miles away. It is so much nicer. The slavery is just the same; only it is not called slavery, although apprenticeship" still survives in many cases. But all the disagreeables have disappeared. Those engaged in the trade are not wicked men, but kindly philanthropists, who derive quite a halo of glory from wnat used to cast discredit and shame on their predecessors. And, above all, it is so much cheaper, too. In the old days a white boy would cost a Carolina planter from £20 to £40—a slave, therefore, was somewhat expensive, and it paid everybody concerned to tave some little care of so valuable a commodity. But the shipments we send out nowadays cost nothing but their keep, so if any of them die there is no financial loss to anyone. —Justice.

A lot of very silly, but no doubt righteous indignation, is being expressed because of a move on foot by certain capitalist concerns to extend their privileges in harnessing the power of Niagara Falls, and making it perform useful service. That the idea should be entertained in this utilitarian age, tnat the falls should be preserved merely to look at is quite incomprehensible, and is made even more so by the fact that water running down hill is by no means a rare phenomenon. But then come to think of it, were the beauty of the falls sacrificed to commercial purposes it would be a sad blow, indeed, to the millions of American workingmen and their families who have been in the habit of spending their summer vacation at this favored spot. Every factory, sweat-shop, mine, railway and plantation slave in the Republic should be up in arms against it.

The poor, old "Standard" is indeed having a hard time in Kansas. Although the state refinery has not yet been built, and there is no certainty that it ever will be, the price of oil nas fallen so low that the "Standard" finds itself compelled to pay a price that barely covers the cost of pumping it out of the ground. It has even felt constrained to purchase all it can and hold it at this price, and is storring millions of barrels for future use. Six private refineries are under construction, and as soon as they are completed the "Standard" will no doubt be put out of business completely. The impending fate of the poor, old friendless concern is sad to contemplate.

Subs are still coming in from the vicinity of Cumberland and Comox on Vancouver Island. This means that Comrade Harry Sibble is over tnere, and wherever he is he does things. While the Clarion does not run any "red-letter day" schemes or make "army" appeals, it nevertheless feels gratified to those who, like Sibble, push matters along, by the spread of Socialist literature.

B.C. Provincial Executive

Socialist Party of Canada.

Vancouver, B. C., May 23, 1905, (Room 10, Masonic block).—Present: Comrades Stebbings (chairman), Wilkinson, Leah, Organizer Kingsley and the secretary.

Minutes of previous meeting read and adopted.

The following correspondence was dealt with:

From Vancouver Local enclosing $2.50 for due stamps. Received and complied with.

From Victoria Local enclosing a letter from A. W. Raven concerning a lecturing tour in B. C. Received and filed.

Receipts.

Vancouver Local, due stamps ...$2.50

Adjournment.

SUSPENDED.

Editor Western Clarion:

The board of directors of the Comrade Co-operative Co., have decided to discontinue the publication of the Comrade with the April issue on account of insufficient support. The unexpired subscriptions will be filled by tne International Socialist Review. Chas. H. Kerr & Co. will exchange share certificates of their company for certificates of the Comrade Co-operative Co. upon payment of $5.00.

The Comrade Co-operative Co. will sell its stock of literature on hand at reduced rates during the next few weeks. Send for price list to 11 Cooper square, New York.

Please publish this notice in the next issue of your valued paper.

Fraternally yours,
COMRADE CO-OPERATIVE CO.
August F. Wegener.

A chap named Thomas Reddy, who claims to have served with the fifth Maryland Regiment of the United States army, while on his way from Ottawa, Canada, to the Washington home for old soldiers recently, was stopped at the United States line and denied permission to land on the soil he had fought for. Anyone so devoid of sense as to fignt for soil or anything else not his own, is too silly to be allowed to land anywhere this side of oblivion. No wonder the United States authorities refused to allow him to enter. There are enough such chumps and weak-minded persons there already to meet all reasonable requirements. It is, however, a hardship to Canada not to be able to get rid of this one. That is the worst feature of the case viewed from this side of the line.

The first Socialist elected to office in Kansas is M. R. Smith, who nas just been elected as Park Commissioner at Kansas City, in that state. Smith is a negro, born of fugitive slave parents in tne early sixties. By dint of persistent application, he acquired an educatian, graduating finally from Warsaw seminary, Warsaw, Illinois. He is spoken of as a thoroughly revolutionary Socialist, forceful and eloquent speaker, and zealous to a fault in the cause of awakening the workers, regardless of color, to a realization of the position they occupy in present-day society, and the task to be accomplished if they would qe free.

When Speare, cashier of the Ohio bank which Mrs. Chadwick swindled, was sent to the state penitentiary for complicity in the swindling, his friends requested that he be given a clerical position inside the walls. This could not be done, however, as there were so many bankers already there that all the easy jobs had long since been filled.

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Indiana, Nebraska and Wisconsin legislatures have enacted legislation against the smoking of cigarettes. This borders closely upon paternal legislation, which, by the way, is one of the iniquities that ill-informed back-woods people assert the Socialists purpose to indulge in once they attain power. However, the enterprising business man has risen to the occasion in a manner calculated to save the country from the evil effects of the meddling paternalism of these state legislatures. Cigarettes with tobacco wrappers are already appearing on the market labelled as cigars, thus verifying the old adage "there is more than one way to skin a cat."

Eight hundred pupils of one of the Chicago schools, it is reported, were on strike because a non-union teamster delivered a load of coal at the school building. The police being called in are alleged to have used their clubs on more than one pupil. The clubs should have been used upon the thick skulls of those who are responsible for instilling into the minds of children the doctrine of factional strife and hatred that is so terribly destructive of the class solidarity upon which the success of the labor movement depends.

It seems that the New York legislature has made some rather radical reductions in the price of gas and electricity the New York City corporations are to be allowed to charge the consumers. This will be of incalculable benefit to the wage slave as it will enable them to live cheaper or pay more rent.

Should any subscriber fail to receive a copy of the paper if they will kindly notify this office, the missing copies will be forwarded.

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