

SOCIALIST COLUMN

EDITED BY LOUIS COHEN.

Through the courtesy of The Commercial this column, until further notice, will be edited by a member of the Socialist Party to present the news and views of Socialism. The Editor of The Commercial is not responsible for any views expressed in this column. Communications for this column should be addressed direct to its Editor. Questions regarding Socialism will be cheerfully answered.



THOUGHTS ON DECORATION DAY.

Not so long ago, Memorial Day was the occasion of jingo speeches, when the Eagles' tail was pulled the bloody shirt was waved and accentuated, there was the war policy in the interest of the warship builders and frearms manufacturers. Nowadays the sentiment is swinging to the peace policy. War is becoming burdensome, intolerable and unprofitable to a large section of the capitalist class, and the working class, more strongly united than ever are thundering against war in unmistakable terms. Their slogan is getting to be "We refuse to murder our fellow-workers because our masters have a quarrel."

If you want to find some ardent peace advocates, talk to some of the veterans. It is generally the fellow who had been in a hard fight, who exhaust every other means before resorting to bloodshed. With the passing of the years, man becomes more kindly and tolerant in his disposition and the veterans generally speak with regret that some other way than fighting could not have been found to settle the question of chattel slavery.

It is singular, too, that so long as the veterans were numerous, the great capitalists of the country exploited the G. A. R., through the medium of the Republican Party to advance their interests and that with the passing of the old soldiers, we see the passing of the Republican Party.

While the question of chattel slavery has been settled, the burning question of wage slavery has taken its place, and this battle is being fought out on the political and industrial fields with all the indications of a peaceful evolution toward the triumph of the working class.

Only occasionally, as in West Virginia, do we see conditions where the workers in self-defense are forced to take up arms. When the authorities of a sovereign state wink at murder of the workers in their tracks by a private army of coal company thugs, what can men do but take up arms as was done in the mountain districts of West Virginia.

News comes that two United Mine Workers organizers have "disappeared", with strong evidence pointing to murder by coal company thugs. This and much more of a startling nature will be brought out by the investigation to be carried on by the U. S. Senate Committee.

Meanwhile the Socialist Party is doing everything possible to agitate the question through its press and forum, and forcing the matter upon the attention of the President. The national Democracy is on trial before the labor body of the nation. The manner in which it handles this grave situation in West Virginia, will be an index in the minds of American Labor as to what sympathy or relief it can look for from a Democratic administration.

On this Memorial Day when we are celebrating the sufferings and glories of the past, let us not forget the brave women and children and men of the mines of West Virginia, encamped in tents for a year through the wintry wind and weather on the mountain sides of the Appalachian Range, suffering in rain and snow and famine and asking a great prosperous nation this question "How much longer must we remain in bondage?"

WEST VIRGINIA TYRANNY FORCED TO YIELD.

Word comes from West Virginia that as soon as it was announced the U. S. Senate had appointed a committee to investigate conditions in the miners strike, that Governor Hatfield immediately released, un-

conditionally, the Socialist editors, who had been arrested by the military and whose plants had been partially destroyed and the mailing list pied.

Again is shown that the "brave" Governor proves to be a craven coward, and that he had not the slightest legal grounds for holding these men for months in the box-car prison of the state militia.

That the laboring class will be embittered by these outrages when they are given publicity by the Senate Committee is a foregone conclusion and who can the operators blame but themselves when they add violence upon robbery, if the workers some day take reprisals?

THE CHURCH AND THE STRIKE AT PATERSON.

John Reed, a reputable journalist reports that in the strike at Paterson against conditions similar to those at Lawrence, the preachers conference with a few notable exceptions, have sided with the mill-owners and advised the workers to return to conditions of slavery. The workers wisely refused to do so, their slogan being "we might as well starve on the picket line as in the mills."

But the lesson the church must learn is this: that the time has gone by when the workers will be influenced by honeyed, sympathetic words. To pass beautiful resolutions at a General Church Conference and then go home and fight the workers in their struggle against starvation wages is not calculated to inspire much confidence in the minds of the working class in favor of "Social Service" talk. The workers demand that those who claim to sympathize with them must make their actions square with their sweet talk.

State of Ohio, City of Toledo, Lucas County, ss.

Frank J. Cheney makes oath that he is senior partner of the firm of F. J. Cheney & Co., doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of catarrh that cannot be cured by the use of Hall's Catarrh Cure.

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OUR DUTCH LETTER

Roata Barrick, Der 27 Moy.

Mister Drooker:—Ivverdem gaitis now nummer noeh Ellenstow, der oit Sim Shmolzgsicht emol buscha, un du mogst mers glawva oder net, es gebt eppas fun erra meeting. Ich hob en Sim shun long nummi gsaena, mit seine party, un ven mer emol oll zamma kumma, gebt eppas fun erra celebration. Ich daet die Cass garn mit nemma, over ich bin so about holter bong, den ich vor ols yohra zarrick ordlich gut bekonnit drunn in Lecha county, un vent ich en dael fun selle oite bekonnite aw dreffa sot, no kummts yusht druf aw vie mer zamma kaemta, die Cass kennt objekta, un grawd dot daets shreit gevva, un ich nem nem monkey bisnes dot drumma, det es iss eppas fun emma bisnes drip.

Vaesht olla yohr hen sie en gross awdridga fair drunna, un sie sawga des yohr gebts en sour grout fressa match, un do vill ich derbel see, un der Sim vaes goot vos fer en capacity ich hob fer sour grout, un ar vill hovva ich set en part drin nemma, un ar saegt ich daet engoota chance shatae fers aershta breis, un sel vaer shure der vaert, un ich gae naegshta voh nummer die arrangements mocha. Venns goot gaet vill ich dir fun drunna shreiva, un ven selle sports drunna aenig eppas fun erra recommendation vella, no vill ich hovva oss du noeh em porra gaesht un mer eppas holsht. Der bugger hot shun bleynt hinkel bei uns gressa, ar konn yusht so goot eppas du fer mich.

Dei Deitcheer Friend, HENNY HINKELFOSS.

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COMMITTEE MEETING.

Attorney Charles W. Walker, chairman, and Wilber F. Cleaver, Secretary, have called a meeting of the Democratic committee to be held in the Assembly Hall of the court House on Wednesday, June 11th, for the purpose of electing a county chairman.

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By E. O. SELLERS, Director of Evening Department, The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.

LESSON FOR JUNE 1.

JOSEPH TESTS HIS BRETHREN.

LESSON TEXT—Gen. 44:1-11. GOLDEN TEXT—"Confess therefore your sins one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed." James 5:16, R. V.

Last week we beheld Joseph gazing for the first time upon his brothers. While we witnessed his joy, at the same time we noted another strong trait of character, viz., that of self-restraint. In that lesson we studied briefly the fear and the suspicion of the guilty brothers and at the close we left them with feigned merriment (for their hearts were at unrest) seeking to put on a bold front, if perchance their fears were groundless. It was doubtless Joseph's plan to retain possession of his brother Benjamin and let the others go (v. 2). In his present joy and love for his brother Joseph seems to have forgotten for a moment the aged father.

Gladness Shattered.

"As soon as the morning was light," the very earliest possible moment, the brothers departed, and who can say but that it was with a sense of relief that they were once more well out of the city and on the road homeward?

I. The Plotting, vv. 4-13. However, all of their gladness and exultation was shattered swiftly and suddenly when Joseph's steward overtook them and charged them not only with ingratitude, but worse still of purloining the cup of Joseph, who was "even as Pharaoh" (v. 18). It is easy for us to picture the consternation that filled them when after their protested innocence the cup was discovered in Benjamin's sack, and with what shame and fear they must have retraced their steps. We cannot read into this story any idea that the brothers had any knowledge of the cup being in Benjamin's sack, and therefore they must have considered him, upon circumstantial evidence, as being guilty, and having made such a strong protestation (v. 9) that they were involved in his guilt. They were, therefore, in a place of great danger and difficulty.

Involved in Web.

Again, as last week, we do not blink at Joseph's deception and we need to remember that divination in the law, Deut. 18:10-12. It is probable, however, that Joseph did not practice that art. The profuse self-defense of these brothers (v. 8) in emphasizing their honesty may, in the light of their history, be questioned. The return of the money was more to avoid trouble than because of conscientious scruples. A proper regard for the events of their former visit ought to have cautioned them against undue protestations or any thoughtless promises in this instance. As it was, they involved themselves in a web from which they were unable to extricate themselves.

Of course the steward knew of their innocence, but notice how he prolongs their anxiety by beginning with the eldest and going through each sack till he reaches that of Benjamin (v. 12). Now it was their turn to rend their clothes (v. 13); deception has been practiced upon Jacob.

II. Pleading, vv. 14-17, and the balance of the chapter. Whether or not Joseph foresaw the result of his plan, a remarkable thing happened. Though in all probability these men judged Benjamin guilty yet they at once decided to stand by him, both for his own and for Jacob's sake. They there, by revealed the fact that a change had taken place or else was beginning to work itself out in their lives. Joseph was waiting for them as though in the main he had all the details worked out in his own mind. Yesterday feasting and making merry, today we subject, sorrow feeds their souls. Their faces before Joseph protesting their innocence and through the mouth of Judah pleading for Benjamin. We need to remember that it was Judah who saved the life of Joseph by advising his sale into slavery, and it was Judah who undertook to be responsible for Benjamin when they began this present journey. This is not the last time they were on their faces before Joseph (50:18), even so the day of confession before our Joseph is coming, Phil. 2:10, 11. They are called upon to give an account of their deeds, even so must we give an account of our stewardship and of our acts, 2 Cor. 5:10. Judah's plea is a fine bit of logic and an appeal to compassion. His words indicate that he knew that all of the difficulties were the outcome of their own sin, vv. 18, 29 and 42:21, 28. God always finds out our iniquities, but blessed is that man whose sin is covered by the "robe of his righteousness." This new attitude of these men as voiced by Judah is a remarkable illustration of what the grace of God can do in the character of a man. Judah's sin, chapter 38, is a type of that danger ever present to God's children.

One ought to study this entire chapter in order properly to teach this lesson. The story is one that is full of dramatic power, but do not let the telling of it be so vivid as to exclude the fundamental lesson.

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CHURCH SERVICES.

Methodist Episcopal church service, Rev. G. A. Neeld pastor—Services at 10:30 a. m. Sunday school 9:30 a. m. Epworth League at 6:45 p. m. Evening service at 7:30.

Church of the Brethren—Preaching 10:30 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Sunday School, 9:30 a. m. Christian Workers Meeting at 6:30 p. m. Bible Class, Saturday evening, 7:30 p. m. Teacher Training classes meet Monday evening 7 and 8 o'clock, respectively. Sunday School Workers' Meeting, Friday evening, 30th inst., at 7:30.

Evangelical church, Rev. L. B. Ritzenhouse pastor—Services will be held next Sunday as follows: Sunday school at 2:00 p. m. Preaching by the pastor at 7:30 p. m.

SS. Philip and James Catholic church, Rev. J. J. Brady, pastor.—Mass next Sunday 8:30 and 10:30 a. m. Vespers and Benediction at 7:30 p. m.

At the A. M. E. Zion church Sunday School at 3:00 p. m. Preaching at 11 a. m. Christian Endeavor, at 7:45 p. m.

St. Paul, Wilhelm Reformed charge E. S. Hassler pastor. Sunday school next Sunday at 9 a. m. At 10 a. m. services in observance of Memorial Day. A detail of Meyersdale G. A. R. Post will be present to take part in the service and to decorate the soldiers graves in the cemetery. Everybody invited.

Brethren Church:—H. L. Goughnour, pastor.—Services are being held each evening this week in the Salisbury church. Next Sunday, June 1st preaching in the morning at Summit Mills and in the afternoon at Salisbury. In the Meyersdale church on Sunday evening the S. S. C. E. will have charge of a special service of story and song. The evening services begin at 7:30. All are cordially invited to be present.

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State Spraying Demonstrations

The present spring campaign of spraying demonstrations in the Model Orchards under the direction of Prof. H. A. Surface, Economic Zoologist of the State Department of Agriculture, has created a widespread interest in the protection of fruit on the trees from the ravages of pests, such as the codling moth, curculio, and destructive fungus diseases. The attendance at the public meetings has been unusually large. Thousands of fruit growers have witnessed the operation of spraying trees by the State agents and are treating their orchards in accordance with the improved methods shown.

The series of demonstrations previously held each evening this week in the Salisbury church. Next Sunday, June 1st preaching in the morning at Summit Mills and in the afternoon at Salisbury. In the Meyersdale church on Sunday evening the S. S. C. E. will have charge of a special service of story and song. The evening services begin at 7:30. All are cordially invited to be present.

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OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR.

Somerset Classis of the Reformed church has elected the following officers for the ensuing year: President, Rev. D. N. Dittmar, of Hyndman; Vice President, Alexander B. Groff, of Somerset; Corresponding Secretary, Rev. A. J. Miller, of Jenner; Treasurer, Rev. E. S. Hassler, Meyersdale; Recording Secretary, Rev. E. P. Skyles, Cumberland, Md.

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