

### The Chicago Daily Socialist.

Readers of The Public know without being told that this is not a socialist paper—not of the school, at any rate, which the Chicago Daily Socialist editorially represents. Plutocratic bigots who denounce as “socialists” all who object to the existing industrial order, under which the privileged prosper at the expense of the workers, may ignorantly—or it may be maliciously—class us as a socialist, and we have no objection to their epithet. We take the trouble to differentiate here, only because we are about to say something of the Chicago Daily Socialist which we wish to be understood as saying not because but in spite of its socialism. We say it, too, because we think that every really good citizen of Chicago, whatever his political affiliations, his religious faith, or his social convictions or prejudices, ought to feel about the matter as we feel. Let him dislike or despise the socialism of the Daily Socialist all he pleases, he is either a very narrow-minded or a very empty-minded man if he does not nevertheless recognize and appreciate the value of the civic work which that paper has been doing under enormous difficulties.

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Chicago is under the domination—politically, socially, industrially—of a combine which reaches from criminal slum to criminal corporation through the ramifications of criminal politics. So powerful is this combine, that not a single daily paper in the city can be depended upon to fight it to a finish—the Daily Socialist alone excepted. Others may fight it spasmodically, or a little way below the surface; but even the most willing among them soon feel the sting of a forbidding spear point in front or the pull of a shackle behind, and at a critical moment may abandon the fight or divert it. But the Daily Socialist can be depended upon to keep up the fight to the death, and for these reasons. In the first place it has actually done so, under most menacing and disheartening circumstances, without wavering. In the second place, the personal courage of its staff is as dependable as that of any newspaper staff in the city. In the third place, its claims to confidence rest securely upon the one fact that raises a prejudice against it. It can be depended upon because it is a socialist paper. Not that socialism is peculiar in that respect, but that single minded devotion to a cause is a guarantee of fidelity and persistence in this fight. Since the Daily Socialist is in the field of journalism, not to make money, not to get advertisements, not to serve some personal interest, not to curry the favor or

avoid the vengeance of any man or group, but to serve its chosen cause,—for this reason it can be depended upon in a civic fight like the present one, when the equally willing and courageous staff of any other paper might, from no fault of their own, have to retire from the field.

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Yet the Daily Socialist—the only daily paper in Chicago that the dangerous classes (rich and poor, official and unofficial) cannot command if they set out unitedly to do it—is in desperate financial straits. This is not for lack of circulation, although wider and larger circulation would not be amiss. It is for lack of funds to meet past obligations. Without capital, it has had a menacing deficit to face every week for nearly three years; and now as it seems to be almost self-supporting, the accumulated remnants of deficits compel it to announce a financial crisis in its affairs. If the Chicago Daily Socialist should go down for want of financial backing, at this time when it is alone in making a middle-of-the-road crusade against the most powerful combine of grafters that ever cursed an honest community, the event would be nothing for anyone to gloat over but the crooks. With the Daily Socialist out of the way, the official crusade against graft which that paper forced and which is now begun, may be shunted off into blind-alley investigations; with that paper alive, any blind-alley investigation will be a difficult undertaking. There ought to be enough public spirit in Chicago, of the disinterested kind, to sink all hostility to socialism long enough at least to help the Daily Socialist survive while it carries to the end its courageous fight for civic purity.

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### Bryan's Mule, Taft's Cow.

Giving editorial attention to the report that “Major Minnemascot,” the trick mule presented to Mr. Bryan last year, is now drawing a beer wagon in Goldfield, Nevada, a Republican paper comments: “Fallen from his high estate, Mr. Bryan's accomplished mule, like his former owner, is compelled to work for a living, while Mr. Taft's mooley cow grazes peacefully on the White House lawn.” Such a contrast is unfortunate in a Republican paper. Bryan has been working for a living since he came to man's estate, while for the past thirteen or fourteen years Mr. Taft has been peacefully grazing on the public lawn. Where the Taft cow would be grazing now if the railroads, the tariff beggars, the privilege holders and others of the Interests had not pushed her owner into the White House is a matter of conjecture. Still,