

THE MEANING AND TENDENCY OF OUR POPULAR SONGS.

By Gladys Vera Lamb. In popular songs, as in all our political, social and juridical institutions, is reflected the spirit of the times, as determined by conditions of living.

There is a class of songs, sold by the many thousands, commonly referred to as "popular sheet music." The airs are catchy, tunes we sing and whistle over and over.

It is interesting to observe the proletarian character of these songs which sell. But it is the spirit of the un-awakened worker, who as yet does not perceive his relation to his employer.

There is much of the war sentiment in the songs of today. This is not strange—when Japan and Russia are killing off men in vast numbers, and policemen's clubs and guns busy in Chicago.

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class in this country. I heard a man say all men were equal.

The man who said it was a Socialist or an Anarchist or a Single Taxer or something, or maybe it was election time and he was trying to catch votes.

Say, pa, my Sunday-school teacher says we are all God's children. Is she a Socialist or an Anarchist or a Single Taxer, or is she trying to catch votes?

Oh, no, that's the proper thing to say in Sunday-schools and churches.

Well, pa, honest now; are these men God's children just as much as we are? Why, yes, my son; to be sure they are.

Say, pa, do you remember when you bought those marbles for Jim and me, and I grabbed them all and made Jim give me his top before I'd let him play with them, and you called me a greedy little hog and took me down cellar and whipped me?

Yes, my son, I remember. Well, do you think you did right? Certainly, my son; a parent has a right to correct his children, and keep them from acquiring bad principles.

Your brother Jim had as much right to them as you had. Well, pa, if these men are God's children just as much as you are, then you and they are brothers, aren't you?

Yes, my son. And didn't God make the clay for all his children? Yes, I suppose so. Then what right have you to all the clay any more than I had to have all the marbles?

Oh, bother! Don't ask such stupid questions. Say, pa, aren't you a greedy little hog, keeping all the clay, and making these men give you so much work for such a poor living? Aren't you afraid God will punish you?

Oh, don't talk so much! You make me tired!—Adapted from "The Inquisitive Boy" by Spokeshave.

"A QUESTION OF METHOD." To the Editor of The Worker:—I had hoped that the discussion on "a question of method" was for the time ended, and I was about ready to pronounce upon the immortal Dowie, "Peace be unto ye!"

But two or three recent letters, along with some private conversation, have raised points which it is necessary to consider.

One of the assertions which is often made by those who seek a sanction for their intolerance in personal attacks is that since the Socialist movement is a working-class movement, its manners are necessarily rough, rude and abusive.

It is of this kind of my several mentors to instruct me regarding the temperance, beliefs and manners of workmen.

I do not believe that I am desperately in need of the instruction. I think that I know something about workmen.

And a personal reference may be pardoned in this case, I may say that I am, or have been, something of a workman myself.

I was appointed to the printer's trade at the rather tender age of 13, and have spent most of my working life at the case.

I remained a member throughout the time of my connection with the printing trade.

A series of vicissitudes has shifted me about so that for the last few years, instead of setting type, I have been putting together words which other men have been setting in type.

And this, knowing the mental and moral influences of the discipline which men undergo in associated employment and in trade organizations, and of that further and higher discipline which they undergo in accepting the creed and faith of Socialism.

I repudiate with indignation the assertion which those who have rarely or never done hard work are so prone to make. It is, speaking broadly, untrue, and it is, in my working-class attitude, or has caused me to "forget the smell of the press-room."

As one ingenious controversialist suggests, I am blissfully unaware of it.

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The Evolution of Man. By Wilhelm Reich. Modern Socialism is based on the modern scientific theory of evolution, and it is impossible to understand it without some knowledge of this theory.

\$1.00 OFFER FOR 60 CENTS. Socialist Literature Co., 184 William St., New York. Largest Assortment of Literature on the Labor Question.

THE WISCONSIN MOVEMENT.

To the Editor of The Worker:—Speaking of the Wisconsin movement in an article in your paper of May 13, Comrade A. M. Simon says: "The whole organization is based on an unbreakable degree."

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PUBLICATIONS. IF THERE ARE ANY GERMAN in your neighborhood, be sure to send their names and addresses at once to "Vorwärts," 184 William Street, New York.

\$1.00 OFFER FOR 60 CENTS. Socialist Literature Co., 184 William St., New York. Largest Assortment of Literature on the Labor Question.

HISTORY OF SOCIALISM IN THE UNITED STATES. By Morris Hillquit. No one can thoroughly understand the Socialist movement in the United States if it exists to-day without knowing how it arose and developed.

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God and My Neighbor. BY ROBERT BLATCHFORD. AUTHOR OF "Merrie England," "Britain for the British."

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LABOR ORGANIZATIONS. Standing departments of Trade Unions and other societies will be held at the following rate of \$1 per line per annum.

THE CURATE'S DREAM.

By Robert Granville.

Scene: A fashionable Garden Party at Kensington. Lady Toppington, Lady Glitledge, Lady Violet Selvaige seated in garden chairs under an oak tree taking tea. The pale-faced curate passing. Lady Top: Oh, Mr. Sirpliss, do come here. You really ought to know what these wicked superstitious women have been talking about.

THE SECRET OF THE PRIEST.

Peter E. Burrows.

It is compulsory upon all human beings, during the individual era of hollow truth with others, to cover desperate wickedness with necessary deceit. It would not do for any of us to tell what we have done, what we are capable of and sometimes are desirous of doing. It would never do to reveal our whole painful bondage of good behavior; so we jog along in cowardly moral silence. Fortunately for us our cowardice and secretiveness were the first things we learned in our childhood, so that adult hypocrisy becomes easy to us all.

that the four can-be-undertaken. Comrade Feigenbaum is an excellent speaker, and has a record of many years service in the interest of the party. Locals desiring his services should write direct to the National Secretary and terms will be made known on application. It is the intention of the National Office to place him in as many cities as possible that have a large Jewish population. Locals in such cities should not fail to take advantage of this opportunity.

National Platform of the Socialist Party. The Socialist Party, in convention assembled, makes its appeal to the American people on the basis of the principles of the idea of liberty and self-government, in which the nation was born; as the only political movement standing for the program and principles by which the liberty of the individual may become a democratic and that has for its purpose the liberation of the masses of the people.

PARTY NEWS.

National. The vote for Secretary to the International Socialist Bureau, the totals of which were reported last week, stood: For Hilgitt-Helley, Reynolds, Towns, Fox, Gibbs-Holmes, Hoehn, Behrens, Hauser, Bandow, Marche, Zimmermann, Berger, Thompson, Hastings-15.

Washington. The general vote for a member of the State Committee to succeed J. J. Hawkins, resigned, resulted in the election of J. C. Robbins getting 155 votes, A. Wagenknecht 153, and A. E. White 50.

FEDERATING THE FARMERS. A new "granger" movement has been launched in Iowa and is reported to be gaining many adherents throughout the Northwest. The idea is to bring the farmers into a close organization for joint political and economic action for the advancement of their class interest.