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UNFAIR TAXATION

Balance as Between Property and Labor Should Be Adjusted When Occasion Offered

SOME PROPOSED REMEDIES

Taxation Should Aim at Securing for the Communal Benefit All Unearned Wealth

FOR the benefit of those who are interested in the question of taxation in its broadest sense, we give a few quotations from a comrade's speech delivered overseas:

Mr. Gladstone in an address to his electors told that the balance of taxation as between property and labor should be adjusted when occasion offered. Here are Mr. Chamberlain's estimates at that time of the balance of taxation.

Upper and middle classes: Taxable income, £639,000,000; present taxation, £38,000,000; **rate 6 per cent.**

Working classes: Taxable income. £203,000,000; present taxation, £27,000,000; **rate 13.5 per cent.**

The reason why the balance was not adjusted was because of the increasing expenditure due to acquiring colonial extension by peaceful and other methods, explained the politician.

So long as England or indeed any country is content to form a part of a political system such as that which now prevails in Europe, and which is little better than an armed camp, all hope of effectual social progress must be set aside. Resources will not suffice to sustain such armies as are kept up in countries like France and Italy and at the same time engage in competition with countries like England. It is really impossible to disarm without revolution or destructive war. Revolution was coming in Germany and the alternative was war to baulk the movement. As Mr. Atkinson said in 1884, America has prepared for work while the last generation of our people has so mismanaged the business of international diplomacy that we are involved in the Moloch. We would have been far better occupied in helping our German fellow-workmen to work out their own emancipation. And now the workers are paying for the war.

Just let us consider what taxation really is and what it exists for. A tax is a rate imposed on property or persons for the benefit of the state. In early times, we must take it, taxation would be in kind, and would be used by one community in exchange for work or produce which it received from another. Afterwards the coming of warlike races such as those of Assyria brought the beginning of trouble. The existence of the kings and nobility who ceased to be producers in their role of conquerors, made them drag on the rest who had to work for them. This was followed up by standing armies and all the rest of the functionaries, courtiers, servants, etc., who had to make up the fabric of conquering states. The people had to feed the drones. The tax on the producers varied according to the size of the army of non-producers, and now it had become a burden. The nobility found the new system all right, and they extended it. Subject races had to pay tribute to them and generally assist in the erection of the beautiful, soul-inspiring system, of which successive, blue-blooded financiers in this and every country are so proud.

Previous to the Napoleonic wars the method of taxation followed in England was indirect. This was most unfair in its arrangements as the working classes paid far more than their share of the tax. Taxes were levied on everyday necessities of life.

Now let us consider income tax. It is essentially unfair in the proportion the working classes pay. First consider the injustice of a tax which includes one of us workers with the Dukes of Sutherland, Bedford or Westminster. The income-tax, even with the heavy super-tax of to-day, is unjust, because it is a burden on one class of the community, but it does not affect those most able to pay. There has been a move on foot to tax the quarterly dividends of co-operative societies which are composed of working people. This is easily understood as an attempt by the big food magnates to smash a movement which promised great possibilites in the direction of emancipation from trusts and monopolies.

What is the remedy? First, every person over twenty-one should pay a proportionate sum per head according to earnings. There would be no additional tax on investments, leaving clear of taxation savings from earned incomes. It would be unfair to tax these latter. As far as possible, indirect taxation should be discontinued. But no taxation should be imposed which encroaches on the individual means to supply physical and primary needs or those of dependents. Taxation should also aim at securing for the communal benefit all unearned wealth. Specific taxation should be levied on unearned incomes, except such returns as come from the saving of workers' earnings up to $20 per week, and should aim deliberately at preventing the retention of great fortunes in private hands.

Being strongly of the opinion that the cost of social reforms should be borne by socially created wealth now appropriated by the rich in the form of rent, interest and profit, I would suggest the foregoing measures as palliatives to help us on our way to the realization of our ideals.

Fascism and Murder--- Salvation by Force

[By Wickham Steed, Editor Review of Reviews]

Fascism . . . a movement born of fear, nured on violence and sustained by intolerance. Mussolini now stands an embarrassed Cæsar in minaty . . . His tenure of power may be long or short; but he will prove himself to be a stronger man than he has yet shown himself if he can lay the evil spirits he has conjured up.—"Quintessence of Fascism," Review of Reviews, October, 1923.

POLITICAL murder, hardly to be dignified by the name of assination, has once more brought Italy to a turning point in her history. Everything is at stake—the achievements of her Risorgimento, that aroused the enthusiasm of England in the nineteenth century; her welfare and moral credit at home and abroad; her honor and her place among civilized communities. For everything her people held dear in the past, everything that gained them the sympathies of other nations, a few men, supported by the silent approval of millions of right-thinking, hard-working Italians, are now struggling at the risk of their lives. Their struggle is tragic. No phase of the Risorgimento surpassed it in grandeur. It is the fight of right against tyranny, of righteousness against interested or cynical expediency. The semblance of justification that has hitherto been used to veil the criminality of Fascist methods, the ignorant condonation of those methods by blind partisans of "order" in Great Britain and other countries, do but invest with higher virtue the civic courage of the handful of Italian public men, who despite threats of personal violence to themselves, denounce boldly Fascism and declare "This thing is evil; we will have none of it." They may, in their turn, be murdered. They know the risks they run. But they know also that they have already lit in Italy a light that cannot henceforth be put out.

On June 10th the Fascist system of terror culminated—for the present—in the kidnapping and the murder, at the instance of highly-placed Fascists in Rome, of the moderate socialist leader, Signor Matteotti. So atrocious were the circumstances of this crime that the public conscience of Italy has been profoundly stirred. It was by no means the first Fascist murder. A long list of bloody deeds, running into thousands, had preceded it with apparent impunity. But it is the last drop that causes the cup to overflow. A system relying on violence as its means of government has borne fruit so hideous in its truthfulness to type as to appal the Italian people. Now that people is confronted by a question which no people can long evade and still thrive—whether murder, authorized or undertaken by the ostensible custodians of the state and of the law, is or is not tolerable in a civilized land.

The Fascist doctrine is, in substance, that violence and murder are the inevitable and perhaps necessary accompaniments of a movement designed to crush the violence of communism; and that when opposition to Fascism shall have ceased, these unpleasant but, on the whole, natural phenomena will disappear also. In other words Fascism, which is inverted bolshevism, believes in salvation by force, including murder. The Italian people as a whole dissents from this view and is coming again to believe that political salvation is to be found only in representative government and in the supremacy of the law. The issue in Italy is which view shall prevail.

The story of Fascism was told in the October number of The Review of Reviews. Undeniably, it rendered some service to Italy. The majority of its adherents were honest, although misguided. It put an end to communist excesses. Technically, order was restored in the country. Strikes ceased. Trains were punctual. The public services worked regularly. But the problem of providing for the Fascist "National Militia" remained; and also the problem of dealing with parliament.

Far from destroying all opposition, the excess of Fascist violence tended to turn public feeling in some degree towards moderate socialism whose exponents the Fascists pitilessly attacked. The denial of freedom to the press likewise caused resntment. The wrecking of printing machinery and the throwing of bombs, even into the offices of moderate conservative newspapers which did not approve of Fascist methods, disquieted public feeling. Mussolini, therefore, determined to make a parliament after his own heart which should sanction all his deeds. Under intimidation, the chamber adopted an electoral reform so conceived that Fascism would be sure of a two-thirds majority. Yet, at the general election last April, despite general intimidation, an unexpectedly large proportion of the electorate showed its disapproval of Fascism. Obviously, a crisis was at hand.

Very few hints of this situation were given by the British press. The majority of English journals and of their correspondents at Rome continued to belaud Mussolini as the saviour of Italy. When all allowances are made for the influence of Fascist terrorism, it is hard to understand why leading British journals should have failed so signally to tell the truth There were some honorable exceptions, especially the Manchester Guardian, the New Statesman, and the Daily News; but most of their contemporaries wrote a chapter in the history of British journalism that was the reverse of creditable. A few protests were, indeed, made when a leading Italian liberal member of parliament, Signor Amendola, was assailed in the streets of Rome by a band of Fascist ruffians and was cudgelled into unconsciousness in the presence of many eye-witnesses, none of whom dared to go to his aid or to denounce his aggressors to the police. But nowhere was Signor Mussolini's handling of the opposition in the new chamber adequately explained—the system by which groups of Fascists surrounded opposition deputies, in the house itself, in readiness to shout down or belabor them with fists should they oppose the government.

In Italy this position was felt last May to be intolerable. In the new chamber, a young socialist leader of moderate views, named Matteotti—a man of blameless character, cultured, taciturn, and self-reliant—spoke courageously against the Fascist system, and, in a speech that was to bring upon him a Fascist sentence of death, or worse, exposed its iniquities. So little did Fascism care for the legality or for the constitution, said Matteotti, that Mussolini had made it clear that even should a majority hostile to him be returned at the general election, he would maintain himself in power by armed force. Mussolini nodded assent, while a boisterous "yes" came from the throats of his supporters. This outburst an Mussolini's nod meant that he was prepared to tolerate parliament so long as it should be subservient, but that should it not support him, his black-shirted "National Militia" paid by the state but under no oath of loyalty to the king, would uphold him with dagger and bullet.

Of the quality of Fascist rule some illustrations may be given. Before the election Senator Albertini, the chief editor and proprietor of the moderate conservative Corriere della Sera of Milan, the leading Italian journal, made a courageous, though temperate, speech in the senate against Fascist excesses. Signor Cesare Rossi, the head of the press bureau and Mussolini's intimate friend, exclaimed on hearing Senator Albertini's speech, "With such a fellow one can only talk the language of the revolver." The threat was not new or vain. Senator Albertini had again and again been threatened with violence, and it was currently believed that, if his life was spared and his offices and printing presses were not wrecked as those of other Italian newspapers had been, it was because Mussolini knew that arrangements had been made for the immediate publication of the Corriere della Sera in Switzerland in case Albertini should be murdered or his offices blown up. During the election campaign last

(Continued on page 3)

LAND OF OPPORTUNITY

Vernon Concern Employs Men at Twenty Cents an Hour—Women Work Piece Work

[From our own Correspondent]

Vernon, B. C., Aug. 27, 1924.—Verily Canada is a land of opportunity. Here we have in Vernon a large building owned by the city, and at present rented for a term of years to an evaporating concern. It is only operated for a few months at a time during the fall. Workers have always been paid the lowest wage, but this year receive the magnificent sum of 20 cents per hour to slave and sweat, evaporating apples. What a glorious opportunity! An opportunity to slave for 20 cents per hour to pile up hugh profits for an out-of-town concern. And notwithstanding the fact of a minimum wage law for women, a law by the way from which they derive no benefit as they are put at piece-work, they only receive about 4 or 5 cents per box of about 40 pounds of apples for peeling. One would think that as the city owned the property, the city council would see to it that the workers received a standard wage. Not so, howver, for like Brer Rabbit, they are laying low and saying nothing.

ANTI-WAR DAY 1924

Demonstration by Great Masses of All Peoples in Every Country This Year

ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Remembrance of World War and Need of Organization to Resist New War

THE executive committee of the Labor and Socialist International (London), meeting in Vienna during the International Trades Union congress, after joint discussion with the management committee of the I.F.T.U. came to the following decision:

"The executve resolved to bring before the great masses of all peoples in every country this year, by means of a powerful demonstration the remembrance of the world war and the need or organized resistance against any new war, against armaments and against those who institgate war.

"The demonstrations will begin on the date of the outbreak of war, which is also the date on which the dreadful murder took place which resulted in the death of the great and immortal pioneer of world-peace, Jean Jaures. On this date the L.S.I. together with the International Federation of Trade Unions and the Youths' International, will issue a joint manifesto.

The demonstrations for world peace on the 21st September will mark another important event. The 60th anniversary of the founding of the Labor international occurs also in September. The international organization of proletariats, which must be the chief instrument in our struggle for peace, will combine the celebration of its foundation with the demonstration for peace. The celebration of the foundation of the International in the various countries will culminate in a celebration in London, where the International was founded on the 28th September, 1864.

"So as to make this year's demonstrations as effective as possible it is necessary that there should be full agreement, in each respective country, between the organizations affiliated to the L.S.I. and those affiliated to the I.F.T.U., concerning the carrying out of the arrangements."

By this decision it is ensured that the political organizations affiliated with the L.S.I. will take part in the anti-war demonstrations on the 21st of September initiated by the I.F.T.U. whilst the trades unions give their support to the arrangements mentioned above.

INTERNATIONAL LABOR

Tabloid Issued by United States Department of Labor, at Washington, D. C.

Czechoslovakia

Unemployment.—Reports of the ministry of social welfare indicate an appreciable decrease in unemployment during the month of June, 1924, with a drop from 29,000 to 19,200 in the number of persons receiving unemployment doles from the government.

Cuba

Labor Troubles.—It is said that express company employees operating on trains of the Cuba railroad, longshoremen, stevedores, and other workmen employed in the harbor and on the docks of Habana have expressed discontent over local conditions of labor, and may consider declaring a strike.

Germany

Credit Stringency Affects Saxony.—Results of the credit stringency in Saxony are making themselves felt in the way of partial or complete shutdowns of plants and discharges of workmen, affecting practically all branches of industry.

Unemployment.—According to reports of government employment bureaus, there was a decline in the number of vacant positions during June, 1924, which, as compared with preceding months, was relatively greater than the decline in applicants therefor.

Paraguay

Labor Shortage.—In consequence of a probable shortage in the labor supply, it is reported that a further attempt will be made by the government to foster immigration. The cotton planters, it is said, seem to favor the immigration of Japanese, who can be placed on the plantations at a low wage.

If you have anything of interest to Labor give it to the Federationist. It will "gladly spread the news."

If you have an idea that you think will benefit Labor, let us have it. We'll spread it.

CROWDED OUT

NOTE.—The articles, under the caption "Pros and Antis—Debate Vaccination," for lack of space in this issue, will appear in next edition.—Editor.

As We See It--- Concerning Education

[By Angus MacInnis]

[Concluded]

IN a previous article on this subject, we tried to show the relation between our economic system and our system of education. We tried to show that our educational system is a reflex of our mode of production and exchange, arising out of it and arising from it.

The world war gave an added impetus to commercial industry. Nations previously backward in industrial pursuits were encouraged to increase their activities in that direction; all that they were able to produce being quickly absorbed by the belligerent nations, at a good profit to the producers. But with the ending of the war and the cessation of production necessary to war, and the release of a large number of men from destructive work for constructive work, it soon became apparent that if the mechanism of modern industry was to run at anything like capacity, that the product could not be absorbed. This in fact proved to be the case, with the result that nearly every country in the world has a large army of unemployed.

Parents see their children leave school; in many cases graduating from general high schools, technical schools and universities and yet being compelled to take any odd job that offers—work which hold out no hope for future advancement. But instead of looking for the cause, or seeing it where it really is, in the economic system, parents and others lay the blame on the educational system. State departments of education, governing boards of universities, local school board and educationist generally forced by the inexorable march of economic development are endeavoring to make the educational system accelerate economic progress and at the same time produce economic stability: under present conditions an absolute impossibility. As the economic forces being operated for private gain have reached the stage where if these private interests are to be safeguarded the productive forces must be slowed down to the turning out of the maximum product which can be sold at a profit. This curtailing of production reflects itself in our educational system.

It therefore appears that there is no hope of a change in our system of education that would put education on a basis where it could function in doing for the individual what education should do: develop personality, create a desire for investigation and creative work unless we have first a change in our economic mode of production and exchange

The prevailing idea of education is an intensive training that will give the individual the greatest advantage in earning a livlihood in competition with his fellows., to fit people for making, or acquiring, money or other tokens representing wealth; or if they already have wealth to prepare them for the spending of it in such ways as to mark them out from the rest of society who are less fortunate.

After the war the capitalist class had a slogan which was something to this effect to "produce more and consume less," meaning of course the working class.

What they wanted was not a larger volume of production for the benefit of the whole of society, but more production per person engaged in industry, consequently, more profit to the owners of the product. So in education, what is sought is not an increase in the store of human knowledge and culture but short-cuts to individual advantage.

However, millionaires do not add to the total wealth of the world; what happens when a millionaire is created is the transference of the power to draw upon the wealth produced from the many and investing it in the few. But it may be asked what has this to do with education? It has everything to do with education. Until such time as education ceases to be perverted to so base an end as the acquiring of wealth or for personal aggrandizement, education will fail to be a force for human betterment and human progress.

Human progress cannot be measured in terms of bank clearings, miles of railroads, size of warships or the deadliness of poison gas. Human progress can only be measured in terms of increased intelligence and the aplication of that intelligence for the betterment of universal social conditions. In a word human progress can only be measured by our humanity. The objective to have in mind in the conduct of our schools is to prepare a foundation on which the individual may build in after years. Education may begin in school but it is never, or should never be, finished. Therefore the foundation should be well and truly laid.

The subjects most necessary to the laying of the foundation during the school term are: literature, history, (political, industrial and geographical) and mathematics. When manual training and domestic science are taught the objection should be the stimulating of the mental faculties and for the purpose of explaining theoretical instruction by actual practice and not for the purpose of imparting knowledge or training in particular trades and crafts.

Machinery is displacing the skilled worker. It is also destroying the pleasure which arises from work well done, work in which the personality of the world is incorporated as it were.

There is, therefore, a great need to keep in touch with the boy or girl which must leave school before reaching the age of manhood or womanhood to go into employment. In fact, such employment should not until the eighteenth birthday, at least, is reached be more than half time, the other half should be compulsory school attendance. This is necessary in order that the habits of study started at school should be continued through life.

It is just as essential, more so in fact, that the laborer or artisan, when he has finished his day's work should find pleasure in taking down from its shelf his Keats, Byron or Shakespeare; his Macaulay, Scott Dickens and spending an evening with them as that the banker, lawyer, doctor or professor should have access to and be able to appreciate them

It was stated by the principal of the Vancouver technical school, in an address before the B. C. school trustees' association, at Duncan, B. C., last October, that twenty per cent. of the students graduating from that school had to enter "blind alley" occupations, that is, odd jobs around town; occupations which offer no scope for putting into use the training acquired.

When it is taken into consideration that twenty per cent. of the students passing through the technical school cannot get employment in the callings for which they received a certain amount of training; and when it is further remembered that only a small proportion of the total school population receive the advantage of technical training, what chance has the great majority of the children who receive no such education? This illustration should be sufficient for those who are crying for more practical education in the schools.

Education both in the schools and outside the schools is essential for the emancipation of the working class, let us to our task.

Commentary on the Unemployment Situation in Vancouver, B. C.

Civil Service Commission advertised for three **temporary** Customs-Excise examiners, salary of $80 and bonus provided by law (no bonus for single men). To-day, August 26th, there are 115 applicants for these positions sitting for examination.

Hon. members opposite are the political descendants of those who, in the early part of the last century, enclosed the common lands of the people and took from the agricultural laborer the right to a certain amount of land.—Miss Jewson, M.P.

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VERNON PUBLIC MEETING

Rose Henderson, of Montreal, Addresses B.C. Federated Labor on World Conditions

[From our ouw Correspondent]

Vernon, B. C., Aug. 27.—The first public meeting given by the Vernon local of the Federated Labor party, proved a huge success. Rose Henderson, of Montreal, spoke for one and a half hours on world conditions as seen by herself in Europe generally. The hall was crowded to the extent that a lot of people had to stand. The audience listened very attentively to the lecture, especially to that part of it dealing with Russia. Rose Henderson is certainly a speaker that one can listen to, with both pleasure and profit. She expects to pay us another visit in about a month's time. I sincerely hope she will, for the masses need waking up, and Rose is the one to do it. The lecture was entirely free as all expenses were paid by members of the local and their friends. Now watch us grow.

Malnutrialon or inadequate nutrition of children is a problem that cannot be left alone. Something must be done quickly.—Noel Buxton, M.P.

Your friends might be glad to subscribe for The Federationist if you asked them. Try.

As well ask a cat to explain the disappearance of cream as ask financiers to account for the present poverty and distress.—Professor Soddy.

Hunger ought to be considered a crime.—Anatole France.

RUSTLING FOR A JOB

Hardships and Rebuffs Met by Sojourner Looking for Work in B. C.

SHOOK OFF DULL SLOTH

"Joys of Life" for Out-of-Work Tourist with Destination Unknown

[By John Pickenshovel]

I LEFT the delightful city of Vancouver intending to take a "boxcar" to a destination unknown. I had not proceeded very far before I was accosted by a plain clothes gentleman called in labor parlance "the bull." He had the audicity to inquire about my plans for the very immediate future. The possession of a bundle of blankets on my part was a dangerous piece of evidence, and all side-stepping diplomacy was of no avail. It did not take him very long to tell me that my best plan was to retrace my steps and "pretty quick"—only he didn't say it like that.

Realizing that arguments would be of no avail, and that I had better "keep my breath to cool my parritch," I deemed it wisdom to follow his instructions. It was just simply tough luck that I had run into the gentleman in question. If I had planned to meet him, it oculd not have been arranged better. He was in fact, coming up the road to meet me.

Well, that evening I unrolled my blankets and slept under the open canopy, and the next evening I reluctantly parted with sixty cents in order to travel to a small place where "coppers" are conspicious by their absence. There I watched my opportunity to get on the back of the engine—it being about dark. By four o'clock next morning I was cold, and dirty with the soot of the engine. So after having a wash at the river, I retired to the nearby bush for a much needed snooze. At midday, I arose and shook off dull sloth and took a walk around the place, only to discover that chances of getting work were very scarce. So I decided that I had better continue my journey eastward. For days I repeated my first dodges, only with worse luck. For after a day or so it commenced to rain heaven's hardest. So what with the dust and soot and rain I bore a sharp resemblance to an Ethiopian.: I was moreover, soaked to the skin. At the next stopping place I availed myself of a treatment of soap and H20, a much needed chemical solution.

By this time I decided that I had had enough free rides for awhile, and therefore paid a sum which set me back eighty cents. I paid the fare without any moral compulsion whatever. On arrival at the next "dear little town in the west" I got a bed in an hotel, and the much-needed rest in a civilized manner was greatly appreciated. Before sinking to sleep I chuckled at the thought that a journey which usually cost $21, had cost me in the neighborhood of $1.45. So the railroads had not gained much on my travels in that instance! The next day, being Sunday, it was out of the question to look for work. So it was, therefore a day of rest, as intended. On Monday I inquired at the employment office of a certain big company. They have an extensive plant there. They call it a smelter plant. It might also be called a "smeller" plant, judging from the lead and sulphur fumes that are in evidence around the works. In fact, if anyone wants an idea of what hell is supposed to smell like, my advice is that he work around a smelter for a while. There are many hundreds of men employed at this particular place and they are unorganized, except for the purpose of producing profits for their masters. However, I shall have to work there for a while, worse luck. That is, until I accumulate enough capital to enable me to move elsewhere.

I would like some of the people who deal in theories only, to try to organize these men. They would find what we are up against. There is no end of education wanted and that will take time. However, some of us try to do our bit.

I might add I appreciate The Federationist when it is sent in a wrapper. I can't afford to lose my job, for the present, you know.

Pass The Federationist along to your friends. Help it in its fight for justice.

Unless thought be raised to a far higher plane than hitherto, some great set-back in civilization is inevitable.—Professor Robinson.

If it is in the best interests of the workers, The Federationist is for it. If not, it is against it.

It is not a question of how much we are able to do, but how much is done; it is not a question of doing more, but of doing better.—Ruskin.

The Federationist is out to help the workers. There is no nobler work. Join us in the fight. Get your friends to subscribe.

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FRIDAY.....August 29, 1924

OLIVER WINS!

WE CAN well imagine the joy that that bit of news brought to the minds of some of our liberal friends on Saturday evening. The fight was short—and we were, going to add, sweet. We should, we feel, have added, and bitter.

No doubt the attitude of the majority of the voters was that we should now try and settle down and let the government get on with the business of the province. They felt that the government was unstable enough as it was, and that to further handicap them was going to be detrimental to the welfare of ourselves. We do not quite agree with that attitude of mind. We feel that our welfare is not the concern of the men—and of the women—that we have already chosen to represent us at Victoria. If they were really honest, they would, in our opinion, have called for searching investigation into the absentee voting at North Vancouver. For them to sit in the house and support a government that has members elected to its ranks, in a manner that it would appear that the North Shore representative has been, damns all of them in the sight of every honest man and woman in our province.

Individuals cannot countenance evil on an occasion when it is to their apparent benefit to so do and then condemn it when it would appear to be detrimental to their interests, and expect us to believe that they are honest. No, they must at least be consistent in their attitude at all times. This inconsistency has been tolerated by the masses, on the part of politicians, far too long. We are inclined to view it far too lightly. It is this indifference on our part, towards the moral aspect of this problem that has made it possible for our average politician to conduct himself in the manner that he has, with impunity.

To the average worker, it makes but little difference which party is in power at the present time. They all, with one accord, deprive the workers of their just reward in life. These parties all represent the big interests. In the past, their conduct has, in our judgment, been governed by these unseen forces. The only purpose the workers serve, it to place the politicians in office. The big interests do the rest, it would seem. Not until the workers wake up to the fact that they must put men and women in the house that represent them, and not the financial interests, can they ever hope for any improvement in the unfortunate state in which they today are finding themselves—that of living in a land where abundance everywhere abounds, and although willing and anxious to do their duty, they are deprived of even the bare essentials of life.

If the forces of Labor took an active part in attempting to defeat Oliver in Nelson, then they have been led astray somewhat. Too often, some of the so-called leaders of the labor movement in this country fail to realize that there is only one course for them to pursue, and that is to abolish the capitalistic state under which we are living. Putting out Oliver, or Bowser, or McRae or any other of the adherents of this system, is no solution whatever. There are hundreds, yes, thousands, just as ready and anxious to carry on as these men have done and will continue to do. Labor, if she does not want to become a joke altogether, must adhere strictly to a definite socialist platform. To support one or other of the old line parties is merely holding themselves up to ridicule before these very people themselves, while at the same time they are forsaking the only course that will lead them to their ultimate goal. A few of our would-be Labor leaders at home cannot well afford to ignore this tip. Those who really understand what labor wants and how she is going to get it, are not being misled; they are simply being disgusted, that is all.

Whether the liberals or the conservatives win, means nothing to Labor. She must learn to look to herself alone for her own emancipation. There is no royal road, as our old time friends might lead us to believe.

UNEMPLOYMENT

THE capitalists of Eastern Canada have discovered a cure for unemployment. They are going to increase the police force. These plebians with Bolshevik tendencies are to be forced to spend their time doing something useful instead of idling away the golden hours in street corner loafing.

So at last we have found the cause of unemployment. It is idleness. Men actually prefer to do no work and to see their families starve. A likely story. The real cause of unemployment is capitalism. As long as we live under the capitalist system with its over-production and parasitism and its illogical immigration policy, we shall be faced with the question of unemployment.

Unemployment is one of the problems that we have to face right here in Vancouver. It is an acute problem now and it is going to be more acute this winter. Immigrants are sure to flock to the coast with its possibilities or work and its comparatively mild climate, once they realize the poor prospects that the prairies can offer. But to many citizens, the unemployment question will be, as it is now, a myth. They themselves are comfortable. They will never see or hear of the thousands living constantly on the borderline between starvation and mere existence. They will never come in contact with the miseries of the working mothers who have to leave their children to the tender mercies of the streets while they become the breadwinners, often the exploited drudges of those who live above their income and whose aim in life is social climbing.

Meanwhile the people who know of these things and realize just what is wrong—what are they to do? Carry on as usual and leave these affairs to take care of themselves; sufficient unto the day is the evil that afflicts us without troubling with other people's miseries, or rest secure in the firm conviction that the process of evolution will make everything turn out alright? But it is impossible for those who have lived under the appalling conditions themselves to take these attitudes. We cannot be inactive, even though our scope is limited by the acquiescence and apathy of the workers, to purely propaganda work, the aim of which is to change the system. We are not out for shorter hours and a rise in wages (with incidentally a rise in the cost of necessities). That is trade unionism, and anyone, of whatever political opinion, can be a trade unionist. Trade unionism in the long run only serves to keep the capitalist system alive. What we do aim at is the taking over of the means of production and working them for the benefit of the many rather than for the few. (This idea takes a long time to percolate).

We do not expect a peaceful change; it is unthinkable that the master class will quietly give up what they have come to regard as theirs and which they think will be theirs forever. But their position is not so secure as the general indolence and ignorance would seem to indicate. The workers can be driven too far, and if the unemployment question becomes a little more acute, it will be Heaven help those responsible for it. They would do well to take warning.

After all, the workers are asking nothing unreasonable. All over the world there are signs that the wealth producers are at last waking up to the fact that they live in misery and degradation and even the more fortunate ones are constantly haunted with the fear of unemployment. More or less, all spend their time in soul-destroying and deadly monotonous tasks. In a word they are wasted, and their unbounded possibilities and wonderful potentialities are unheeded. The modern trend of education is showing this more and more. And so the workers are merely demanding the right to their share of the wealth they produce; the right to live decently; the right to self-development and self-expression. All of which is possible, for in the words of a noted writer, "Science has solved the problem of poverty."

NOT ALLOWED TO WORK

AT THE commencement of the summer holidays, one young chap asked another what he was going to work at during the vacation. He replied, "Oh, my parents wont allow me to work." Of course, had the young lad been a physical wreck one could have understood such an attitude on the part of such parents, but he wasn't. Had the parents been of the type that honestly felt that they could more afford to stand the financial strain of keeping the young lad in idleness, rather than deprive a worker of a job who might have a wife and family dependent upon him, we could forgive them, but in our humble opinion they were not. They were of the type that had made some easy money, and were puffed up a little as a result. They had lost their balance, so to speak. We say that they perhaps, made their money easy. Now, in this regard, we may be quite wrong. From the amount of physical energy that they exerted one might judge that they had gotten it easy, but when we consider the moral qualities that they must have lost by getting it from the sources that they surely must have, and from the sources, that in our opinion, they did get it, then we think that the price that they paid was dear indeed.

Yet these are the people that go about our city and province—in fact they are to be found in every conceivable corner of this world—and treat the average man as nothing more than dust beneath their feet. And on top of all this they expect, yes, they will even demand, respect from their fellows. Once again we might repeat that well known phrase, "them days is gone forever."

Work is honorable. Any man or woman who lives on other than their own toil, should have no place on this earth. Unfortunately, however for the great masses, the people who today are controlling our very destinies, are men and women, too often, of that class. Their outlook on life is essentially selfish. They have become so accustomed to living like parasites that they think that it is perfectly right that they should continue so to live. If we oppose them then they make out that we are enemies of society and should be placed in some institution for safe keeping. We realize full well however, that many of our workers today only lack the opportunity, or they too, would be in a similar position to those they now condemn.

The social system under which we are living today has, as one of its most potent forces, the spirit of selfishness. If we were not selfish to some degree, at least, our lot would indeed be a hard one in this life. But that spirit of selfishness has, in the hearts of some, become the only force in their lives. Their every action is governed by that spirit and, as a result, other members of society are deprived of their just share of the essentials in this life—and we must not fail to add that they are deprived, not only of these essentials but, what is of more importance, they are deprived of the opportunity to earn or obtain these essentials in life.

We all must come to realize that the systetm under which we are living must be changed. No half-way measures will ever serve to relieve the distress that everywhere abounds. It must be made unprofitable for any man or woman to hoard up anything that should and actually does belong to their fellowmen, as their natural right. Our span of life is altogether too short, and the suffering that we bring to others as a result of our selfishness is too great, to justify the contiuance of this system of private gain. When the rule, that the greatest good to the greatest number, predominatets in our lives, this world will be happier by far, than we could ever have dreamed that it could be. Let us all make that our aim and objective in life. Further, let us see to it that the men we choose to govern us have some of that spirit within their hearts. Not until we get such men in the control of the reins of government will we make any great strides in such a direction. At least, let us do our share.

THE HARVEST WORKERS

SO GLARING are the injustices to which these workers are subjected from year to year that Sir William Ashley, of the University of Birmingham, and a noted economist, in one of his recent addresses in Canada took occasion to refer to these men.

He said: "This practice of turning away men and forgetting them, once they have served the farmer's purpose, is a shocking state of affairs." It is shocking, and so long as we have production for profit, rather than for use, this unhappy state of affairs is sure to be ever with us. The problem of caring for these 30,000 or so harvesters would be an easy task if society were organized and controlled in the interest of humanity as a whole, rather than in the interests of but a few, as it is today. The solution is obvious to all economists. It is, perhaps, as obvious to our monied interests, but, so bent are they upon making money for the purposes of enjoying the power and authority over their fellows which the control of wealth gives them, that they will sacrifice the rights of the masses to attain their own selfish ends.

The reign of capitalism is, we are firmly connvinced, rapidly coming to an end. Its demise will be hurried in direct proportion to the amount of enlightenment the minds of the masses absorb along these lines.

Economic necessity is undoubtedly helping to speed this process of education, but unfortunately, it is so cruel at times, that many feel duty bound to rise up in rebellion against the whole system, and by so doing, they ofttimes misdirect their energy or waste it needlessly, and as a result the reactionary elements gain a dominance over society, to which they have no right or claim, and progress is thus delayed in its course.

GLASGOW EVICTIONS

IT WAS recently reported in our daily press that plans have just been completed for the beginning of the greatest eviction Britain has ever experienced. Fearing serious riots they are keeping the exact date of the evictions secret. Over 13,000 tenants are expected to be involved if matters are pressed, as is being threatened.

Such it would seem, is the unfortunate state of affairs in Glasgow. We can now understand why the Glasgow representatives are so radical. It would require the efforts of super-men to withstand the appeals that must be coming to the ears of these men. After hearing these and seeing with their own eyes the horrors of it all, and then going down to London and seeing life as it is being lived there by thousands who never know what it is to work, to suffer, or to practice self-denial in any form. And knowing, as these men well know, that the luxuries that these people enjoy are enjoyed because those unfortunates in Glasgow are suffering as they are, is enough to make any man, who has the slightest spark of manhood in his make-up, rise up in rebellion against a system that creates and perpetuates such a vile state of affairs.

No form of society can ever hope to last when there exists within it such obviously unnecessary injustices. People would not be human who would not rebel against such a state of affairs. If those who take such pride in referring to the Glasgow radicals, in a spirit of derision, as is so often done, would only stop for one moment and place themselves in the position of these unfortunates who have to face eviction courts, we are inclined to believe that their attitude might be very materially altered. If not, then they are utterly hopeless and unworthy to associate with their fellowmen. They should be effaced from the face of the earth and their memories relegated to the limbo of the forgotten past.

FLIRTING WITH MARS

CONSIDERABLE interest has been aroused of late in the planet Mars. Certainly some very interesting discoveries are said to have been made in connection with this planet. It has been said to have climatic conditions similar to what we have on earth. Atmospheric conditions thereon have been described by some observers.

The most interesting feature of the whole thing is the assertion that life is possible upon that planet. To those of us who have been accustomed to think that we here on earth are the "only pebbles on the beach," this will come as a distinct shock. But why, after all, should we be inclined to doubt it. It seems hardly reasonable that the Almighty would create, as he apparently has, millions of planets and universes, which when compared with ours, causes it to fade into utter insignificance. Why should he not have caused life to exist thereon? It is hardly reasonable for us to believe that these planets are simply inert, lifeless masses of material. Behind the great scheme of things there must be some well-defined force or power, that is working out in a manner quite unknown to us, some great purpose in eternity.

It is exceedingly doubtful if we will ever get in touch with any form of life upon that distant planet. Some great, and as yet undiscovered force will have to come to light before such a feat will be possible. Our studies, however, along these lines may serve—and we sincerely hope that they may—to broaden our outlook upon life. We are far too prone to think that the Almighty has centred his whole attention upon us to the exclusion of others that may be living in the myriads of other worlds that are travelling in space. Such an idea is, after all, not in keeping with the universe that we are gradually learning more about each day.

The mysterious signals we have been hearing so much about have not, so far as Mars is concerned, any significance attached to them. If we were to be permitted to give any advice to our neighboring planet, however, it would be for her to keep her distance from us. No matter what may be her difficulties there, we can hardly imagine theirs being any worse than ours. And the chances are that if they are intelligent enough to be able to send such signals to us as we have been hearing about, we should judge that they are wise enough to have outgrown this selfish and disgusting social system which we have to tolerate here at present.

Unless they have something good to offer us, we would respectfully suggest that they get in touch with some others first, in the hopes that at some future date we may have become a little more presentable, a little more humane, and a little more worthy to be associatetd with than we are at present. When we cannot agree among ourselves on our own planet it should, at least, be our earnest endeavor not to contaminate other worlds of which we know, as yet, but very little. They cannot be any worse than we are, and the chances are they are a million times better.

Sidelights on a Great Industry

TOPS ALL PREVIOUS ESTIMATES

PAYROLL OF FOREST INDUSTRIES IN 1923 NOW SHOWN TO BE $60,000,000

Surprising Vastness of Amount Demonstrates All-Importance of Lumbering

RECENT official investigations show that the industrial payroll of the Forest Industries of British Columbia for 1923 was far greater than the original estimate.

It has now been ascertained that the sum actually paid out in wages last year to the workers in the woods, in lumber manufacturing and re-manufacturing plants and in pulp and paper mills exceeded the truly **incredible sum of $56,300,000.**

It must be remembered that this figure does not include wage payments to office and administrative staffs and to persons employed in the sale and distribution of the finished article, nor does it take into account the transportation forces exclusively engaged in handling the product on land and water.

$60,000,000 Disbursed

When all these are included it is safe to assert that in 1923 the amount of money disbursed in wages by the Forest Industries of B. C. approximated to $60,000,000.

Every day fresh evidence comes to hand demonstrating the extent to which British Columbia is dependent on the unhampered working of its great basic industry.

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This series of articles communicated by the Timber Industries Council of British Columbia.

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MAN VERSUS MULE

You noticed many scars on mules—they were inflicted in an endeavor to persuade them to pull a heavier load, travel faster, and stop kicking.

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You noticed when the day was done the mule was fed and sheltered—good fodder, warm stable, clean bedding.

You noticed when the storm raged the mule was fed and stabled just the same, but its driver was out of work and therefore out of food and searching for a "job" and the price of a shelter.

You noticed that the mule was persuaded by many lashings to yield obedient service in exchange for continubus food and shelter.

You noticed that a man is persuaded by poverty to yield obedient service in exchange for food and shelter while he is allowed to work.

You noticed when the mule was sick a vet was called, and when it died another mule was bought.

You noticed when a man was sick that he was "fired" and the "boss" took his pick of the "bunch" that clamored for the "job."

You noticed, therefore tell the world which you would be—the mule who does not know, or the man who knows iess?

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Any district in British Columbia desiring information re securing speakers or the formation of local branches, kindly communicate with Provincial Secretary J. Lyle Telford, 524 Birks Bldg., Vancouver, B. C. Telephone Seymour 1382, or Fairmont 4983.

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CIVIC EMPLOYEES UNION—Meets first and third Fridays in each month, at 445 Richards Street. President, David Cuthill, 2852 Albert Street; secretary-treasurer, Geo. Harrison, 1182 Parker Street.

ENGINEERS — INTERNATIONAL UNION of Steam and Operating, Local 882—Meets every Wednesday at 8 p.m., Room 806 Holden Bldg. President, Charles Price; business agent and financial secretary, F. L. Hunt; recording secretary, J. T. Venn.

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FEDERATED SEAFARERS' UNION OF B. C.—Meeting nights, first Tuesday and 3rd Friday of each month at headquarters, 318 Cordova Street West. President, D. Gillespie; vice-president, John Johnson; secretary-treasurer, Wm. Donaldson, address 318 Cordova Street West. Branch agent's address: George Faulkner, 576 Johnson Street, Victoria, B. C.

THE VANCOUVER THEATRICAL FEDERATION—Meets at 991 Nelson Street, at 11 a.m. on the Tuesday preceding the 1st Sunday of the month. President, E. A. Jamieson, 991 Nelson St.; Secretary, C. H. Williams, 991 Nelson St.; Business Agent, F. Fletcher, 991 Nelson St.

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Fascism and Murder—Salvation by Force

(Continued from page 1)

April, the Corriere della Sera refrained from editorial comment on the ground that there was no political freedom in Italy. But, on the eve of the election, Cesare Rossi, Mussolini's friend and press director, sent a messenger to inform Albertini that unless the Corriere della Sera should, on the morrow, exhort electors to support Fascist candidates "the irreparable would happen during the week after the election." Albertini replied: "Let the irreparable happen; but I refuse even to discuss such a proposal."

The "irreparable" was therefore organized. Mussolini was in Milan on polling day. He left for Rome full of wrath at the impudence of a large section of the Milanese electorate in voting against him. Lorries full of Fascists began at once to carry out destructive raids against their opponents in and around Milan. Their action was to have culminated in the burning of the Corriere della Sera and in the kidnapping of Senator Albertini—a moderate conservative, be it remembered—and of a Milanese socialist leader. As a beginning, packages of the Corriere della Sera awaiting distribution and a motor lorry belonging to the journal were burned. But the tidings of the impendng abduction of Albertini and of the socialist leader leaked out. The heads of the Milanese confederation of labor met and let it be known that, if Senator Albertini and the socialist leader were kidnapped, the Milanese trade unionists would, as a reprisal, kidnap and hold hostages two of the chief Milanese industrialists who support and subsidize Fascism. Feeling themselves menanced these industrialists telephoned to Rome. Orders were then given that the operations against the Corriere della Sera should be suspended. The situation had become so strained that an "incident" of some kind was felt to be inevitable. The sitting of parliament on June 12th was awaited with apprehension. The young socialist leader, Matteotti, was known to be ready to renew his denunciation of Fascism. He was thought to be a man capable of marshalling the anti-Fascist forces. Even the army, whose chiefs had originally encouraged the Fascist movement, was disquieted by a proposal to incorporate with the regular troops the Fascist "National Militia." Matteotti was suspected by prominent Fascists of possessing documents proving their complicity in corrupt practices, particularly in connection with the licensing of gaming houses; and of having compiled a list of the many thousand Fascist crimes. They had reason to fear both his leadership of the opposition and his revelations. On June 10th, Matteotti was kidnapped as he left his house in a well-known street not far from the most populous centres of Rome, thrown into a motor car, carried off into the country, mutilated, and murdered. The kidnapping was witnessed by bystanders, who feared to inform the police, lest they endanger their own lives. The motor car, which had been hired by the editor of a leading Fascist journal, the Corriere Italiano, was brought back to Rome blood-stained and bearing traces of having been driven across rough country by the assassins who used it.

The actual murder seems to have been committed by a man named Dumini—a recognized Fascist bravo, who, by his own confession, had eleven "killings" to his credit—and by other blood-stained accomplices; but it is uncertain whether the crime was chiefly organized by the editor of the Corriere Italiano, one Filipelli, by Cesare Rossi, the head of Mussolini's press bureau, or by other prominent Fascists. Some degree of responsibility seems also to be attributed to General De Bono—the Fascist chief of police who telegraphed to Mussolini last November, "400 officers or the national militia are ready to kill and die for the fatherland and for Fascism"—since he has now been removed from one of his official positions. Bowing before the storm of indignation which the murder of Matteoti aroused, Mussolini ordered the police to take action, with the result that the principal murderers and suspects were arrested; and after hiding for some days, even Cesare Rossi was persuaded to give himself up to the prison authorities. In all, 18 Fascists, big and small, are now in goal. Whether Fascism can afford to allow these men to be brought to justice is an open question. Another question is whether the preliminary enquiry into the crime can be completed until the corpse of Matteotti has been found.

What happened to the body of Matteotti is still unknown. According to some it was sunk in the depths of Lake Vico, near Rome, with a weight attached to it. According to others, it was brought back to Rome and cremated. In any case, it cannot be found. Partial confessions by some of the assassins indicate that it was terribly mutilated, and pierced with daggers and bullets in a dozen places. But on these points there is no certainty. The disappearance of the body assuredly saves the Fascist government from the embarrassment of a public funeral like that of the radical leader, Cavallotti, in 1898, which served to marshal the revolutionary forces of the country and brought on an insurrection.

The temper of the people of Rome is revealed by the bearing at the mass said in suffrage for the soul of the departed. When the widow and the children of the murdered man left the church, the crowd knelt reverently and bareheaded while they passed. A similar spirit was shown during the ten minutes' commemorative silence for Matteotti on June 27th, when the mounted police threatened, but feared to charge, the kneeling multitude. A rough cross has been placed at the spot where Matteotti was kidnapped. The people daily cover it with flowers which the police daily remove.

In the chamber on June 12th, two days after the murder, Mussolini mentioned the "disappearance" of Matteotti as "justifying the supposition of a crime calculated, if it had really been committed, to arouse the indignation and grief both of the government and of parliament." He added, that he himself had "given orders to the police" for a search, and that the police were already in a position to identify the culprits. Why it should have been necessary to "give orders" to the police to take action against criminals he did not explain. He had the audacity to express the hope "that Signor Matteotti will soon be able to return to parliament." The opposition remained absent from the sitting on the ground that it would be impossible to take part in the work of parliament until some light had been thrown on the sinister episode of which Signor Matteotti had been the victim. The chamber, therefore, adjourned sine die. On June 24th, in the senate, when the murder could no longer be questioned, Mussolini made a statement very different in tone from his former utterances. He professed horror at the crime, added that no one could doubt the sincerity of his feelings, and continued, with unconscious cynicism, "I might add the phrase of Talleyrand about the abduction and the killing of the Duc d'Enghien, 'It is not only a crime; it is a blunder.'"

To this speech, which was delivered in accents of unusual depression, Senator Albertini replied with one of the most courageous indictments ever heard in an Italian parliament. Not only had Senator Albertini himself narrowly escaped the fate of Matteotti but, even after the Matteotti crime, another Senator, Signor Frassati, the former ambassador to Berlin and editor-proprietor of the liberal Stampa of Turin, had been the object of an intended Fascist outrage. The Stampa had published a moderate article on the murder, declaring that the only cure for the Fascist system of violence would be a return to the rule of law. This, it added, is the desire of the whole Italian people; there must be an end to the rule of force. Next day, the Fascisti of Turin sacked Senator Frassati's house and, as he was not to be found, threatened his wife and son. Though the Turin police were ordered to take measures against the delinquents and the Prefect of Turin was dismissed, the Fascist minister of the interior, in telegraphing to inform Senator Frassati of these measures, added: "I must nevertheless tell you frankly that the attitude of the Stampa is not impartial enough, and is not in conformity with loyal opposition to the government and to Fascism."

Despite this episode, Senator Albertini boldly arraigned, in the senate Mussolini and the whole Fascist system. He recalled Mussolini's [illegible] violence, alluded to Matteotti's last speech in the chamber as "a sentence of death" and, with obvious reference to Mussolini's personal ambitions, warned Mussolini that "the Italian state is not and cannot be either Mussolini or the Fascist party. It is formed by all Italians, and must be directed by men whom the Italians lawfully and legally choose."

Disastrous is the political formula, continued Signor Albertini, that seeks to erect a party or a man into the position of saviour of the country and to give it or him power unlimited to deny all right of opposition. Such an attempt is an attempt to erect a prison for the public conscience and to stifle public life, for without freedom there is no true life. What fruit had Fascism borne apart from the establishment of apparent external order? Could justice be freely administered? Were infractions of the law punished? On the contrary. Violence of every kind was being done. Humble folk were cudgelled in such numbers that all account had been lost. At Turin, Sezia and Pisa there had been massacres; local life was poisoned by the domination of Fascist chieftains who usurped and transgressed the rights and duties of government. Worst of all, the government tolerated or inspired indirectly, the acts of violence committed by its party, and granted impunity to their authors. If Fascism admitted, in theory, the right of an opposition to exist, it was on the understanding that the opposition should behave as the government wished, and that it should never contest the official monopoly of patriotism. The claim that the Fascists alone were in the right, however sincere on the part of some of them, served others as a pretext for grasping and exploiting official positions, for seeking honors and wealth by every kind of illicit means, and for throttling criticism. In this atmosphere of compression and intolerance, an atmosphere favored by the highest Fascist dignitaries, the most criminal plans were matured. There had been a continual crescendo of violnece—from castor oil to bludgeoning, from bludgeoing to the suppression of men of second rank until, finally, a socialist leader had been abducted in full daylight in the centre of Rome and murdered, in complete carelssness of the effect the crime would produce, and with entire belief in the impunity of the criminals. "You, who express astonishment at this murder, you who have never stopped to consider, I do not say the physical risks but the mental torture of those who oppose your government, do not turn your eyes with horror from Matteotti's corpse, pierced by a dozen wounds, before you have measured how great a part was played in this crime by the setting of a general fashion in violence. And among the many anxieties of this hour, one especially afflicts me—the thought that men of democratic and liberal mind have adapted themselves to this fashion of violence, remembering only the antecedent socialist acts of violence and allowing their faith in liberty to be insulted and trodden underfoot without ever thinking of the enormous differecne between abuses or crimes committed by minorities, or by individuals outside the law, and the crimes perpetrated with impunity by the ruling party that administers the law—that party whose chiefs frequently threaten with 'execution' those who dare to dicer from them in thought and speech."

Did not 400 officers of the Fascist National Militia telegraph to Signor Mussolini their readiness "to kill and die" for Fascism, first among them General De Bono, the chief commissioner of police? Too often had it seeed that the Italian upper classes, in their gladness at the restoration of public order and of prosperity in business, were ready to sell light-heartily, in exchange for these material benefits, every ideal principle, every tradition of the Risorgimento which taught that no price is too high to pay for freedom. Nor did those classes remember that all systems of coercion, even though they create ephemeral outward order, also create disorder in the public mind and prepare terrible reactions. No system is eternal. Political changes are necessary and healthy. Even the Italian general election had shown premonitory symptoms of change, symptoms that had increased the anxieties of those who know how grave are the risks run by a system of government which, in attempting to suffocate all dissent, arouses rancour the more tenacious the more it is repressed.

It will be vain, concluded Signor Albertini, to talk of concord unless another path is trodden. The first step must be to assure the independence of the judiciary, as well as the independence of parliament and the responsibility of the executive. If citizens are to obey the government, the government itself must respect the law. Could the Fascist government attain these aims? Could it control the tempest it had let loose? The conduct of its militia, even since tht murder of Matteotti, made the answer doubtful, and the question remained whether Italians were to receive the rules of their political life from the crown, the parliament and a government supported by parliament, or from armed groups of Fascists and their officers?

Such a speech from a man who, last April, was himself under sentence of "execution" by the Fascists was an act of rare civic courage. Others followed, notably Count Sforza, the former minister for foreign affairs, who exclaimed, "In dying, Matteotti has conquered." But it was Albertini who stated in its true terms the question of Mussolini's responsibilitity. The apologists of Mussolini in the British press have hastened to scout the notion that he can be in any way held answerable for the murder. So to defend him is to belittle the issue, which is not whether Mussolini actually knew of or sanctioned one particular crime, but whether the whole system which he and his associates have established could yield other than criminal results.

To that question the answer is in the negative. Mussolini's responsibility is clear, even without citing his former speeches in which he called upon his followers to give their opponents "three minutes of quick-firing," "Fascist treatment," or "red-hot lead in the back," and to be "prepared to kill or die." The case against him is put unanswerably by his whole record, as well as by his failure to denounce previous killings of his political opponents. Far more than by the tribunals, which may or may not dare to convict the murderers of Matteotti, Fascism will be judged by the Italian people who, if they still cherish the ideals of their Risorgimento, will find means to overcome the bloody tyranny of Fascism as their fathers overthrew the less bloody tyranny of the Austrians and of the Neapolitan Bourbons.

Unless I misjudge the character of the Italian people there can be but one outcome to the present struggle. Sooner or later, probably sooner than later, Fascism will be defeated. It may fight hard and do many a fell deed before it is finally vanquished; before its evil spirit is exorcised it may grievously tear the Italian body-politic; but it is fighting a losing battle. The representative system of government is the only means yet discovered by free communities for the management of their affairs. It is the negation of tyranny, as tyranny is its mortal foe. At a moment when parliamentary institutions, in many European countries, are exposed to dangers formerly unforseen; when "the dictatorship of the proletariate," on the one hand, and regular or irregular military dictatorships, on the other, threaten individual liberty, when amalgamations of industries and banks tend to control economic life and to dominate the press, it is more than ever necessary that the essential doctrines of political freedom should be proclaimed and defended by those who hold them inseparable from the public weal. In redeeming herself from the stain with which Fascism has sullied her honor, Italy may redeem more than herself. She may set an example that will encourage and strengthen men and women of liberal thought everywhere. Her struggle, already tragic, may be long and perilous. It may cost many gallant lives. But since she has still sons who, undeterred by threats of murder, dare to speak their minds and vindicate their convictions, the final issue cannot be in doubt.

LETTERS TO THE FED.

[The opinions and ideas expressed by correspondents are not necessarily endorsed by The Federationist, and *no responsibility for the views expressed* is accepted by the management.]

Workmen's Compensation Board

Editor B. C. Federationist: Now that all the years of complaints about the Workmen's Compensation board have at last developed into newspaper comments, I woul like space for my own opinion and experience with the board.

When first I heard bitter complaints about the board by injured workmen, I could not believe it. But I was unfortunate enough to get injured and soon found out for myself. I am an old man now, and have knocked about quite a lot, but I have never seen or expected the like of the treatment I received at the hands of the Compensation board! I know there will not be space enough to go into detail, but I always thought that the board should, to start with, assist in one's recovery instead of hindering and retarding it; and that an injured workman was at liberty to employ doctors who did not happen to be particular friends of the board. I got the impression that there was no system nor enough discipline, but too much of bullheadedness, impertinence and overbearingness. And even a clerk would shout and act as if he was appointed direct by the government "for life" and owned the whole block! And I will point out that if a crippled workman can be insulted, and threatened with bodily harm when meekly enquiring about overdue compensation; and can be cut out of a whole month's compensation for merely pointing out some mistake of an employee—there must be something radically wrong or rotten in Denmark!

Compensation board, as now "run," is in my opinion not much more than a sad joke to workmen who do not happen to be friends of the board. But it's a mighty good thing for those professional politicians with "soft snaps" "running" it at salaries of several thousands of dollars per year. I do not say that the board is entirely devoid of sense of duty, fair play, and christianlike conduct. But I do know that practice of a whole lot more of these things would not disgrace the board itself, nor be out of place towards crippled workmen, forced to endure all kinds of humiliation. I understand that a government investigation of the board has been hinted at. But I for one am going to write my experience and demand one for myself.

AN IGNORANT FOREIGNER

North Bay, B.C., Aug. 25, 1924.

Haeckel and Evolution

Editor B.C. Federationst: Will F. L. H., Ilkeston, Derby, England, tell us "What is the title of, and where procurable" the statement that he attributes to Haeckel, that the doctrine of evolution, particularly Darwinism, is error, and cannot be maintained? I thought, Mr. Editor, that I had read practically all of Haeckel's writings on the subject, but so far have found no proof as to his having repudiated the principles of evolution. Thanking F. L. H. in anticipation. T. A. BARNARD.

Nanaimo, B. C., Aug. 28, 1924.

Re Workmen's Compensation Board

Editor B. C. Federationist: Many were pleased with your leader dealing with the Workmen's Compensation board and express the wish for a thorough enquiry into the matter. This is imperative not only in the interests of the injured workmen of the province but also in the interests of the board itself. It is the general opinion that the enquiry should be directed along the following lines:

1. Has any doctor or doctors been discriminated against in the interests of a few?

2. What system is adopted in the appointment of doctors?

3. Have workmen, who have refused operations or changed doctors been denied all benefits under the act?

4. Why workmen are not allowed to change doctors when dissatisfied?

5. Are workmen notified that they have a free choice of doctors and has any influence been used to prevent this free choice?

6. The exact fees which have been paid under the discretionary powers possessed by the board?

7. Are the autocratic powers wielded by the board in the best interests of the province at large and the injured workman in particular?

8. Should not a salaried, medical man, debarred during his membership from private practice, be at the head of the board?

It would be advisable for the medical association and the labor organizations to take this matter up as a public duty. NEMESIS.

Vancouver, B.C., Aug. 25, 1924.

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WANTED—Attendance Officer for the Vancouver Schools. Duties commence 2nd September, 1924. Applications addressed to J. S. Gordon, School Board Office, Vancouver, B. C.

CORPORATION OF POINT GREY

TENDERS FOR WATER METERS

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the undersigned, will be received by the Council up to 8 o'clock p.m. of Monday, September 8 next, for the supply of

300 5-8 inch Water Meters.
50 3-4 inch Water Meters.

The meters are to be all bronze, frost-proof, with coupling tails, circular dial, reading in cubic feet, and samples are required with tenders.

The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

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HENRY FLOYD, C.M.C.
Municipal Hall, 5851 West Boulevard, Vancouver, B.C., Aug. 25, 1924.

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Costs can be avoided by immediate payment of arrears. For list of properties to be offered send stamped addressed envelope.

W. A. SHEPPARD, Collector.

WAGES OF WOMEN

Wages mean more than the price of a certain number of hours of work. They mean life and a chance to enjoy and advance the civilization of the day. If you think that it is all right to pay a woman $9 a week, simply because you can get her to work for $9 a week, then you think that it is all right for you to take from that woman not only the hours of work you have bargained for, but also her health, her comfort, her chances for pleasure and education, and provision for her old age or sickness. You will take all these things, because a $9 a week wage can supply none of them. You will also be taking from the community a healthy, happy, interested citizen and leaving in her place a woman who will have neither time nor energy to make a contribution to any social progress, a woman whose standard of living must be too low for safety; in fact, a woman, who is a liability instead of an asset in the community life. This is too large a contribution for any one person to take from another, yet those who pay less than a living wage are taking such a toll from every person they employ, and from every community in which these persons live.—From "Radio Talks on Women in Industry," prepared and broadcast by the women's bureaus of the United States department of labor.

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APPLY BOX "A," FEDERATIONIST OFFICE, 1129 HOWE STREET, VANCOUVER, B. C.

TIMELY TOPICS

A CORRESPONDENT living in England takes exception to our attitude towards Christianity and the theory of evolution. The former matter was dealt with last week. With regard to the latter, we would quote the most respectable Daily Mail. The Bishop of Birmingham told the Evening News that the time had come when the doctrine of evolution must be accepted by all Churches.

* * *

The worthy Bishop went on to say that there was no special creation of Adam and Eve . . . probably a gradual evolution of a tribe of monkeys who slowly began to show a brain development characteristic of humanity. Such heresy.

* * *

Yes, the doctrine of evolution is becoming respectable at last. The day will come no doubt when socialism will be respectable. . . to the detriment of socialism.

* * *

Armstrong merchants are to give a crate of celery twice a week to the Prince of Wales during his visit to Canada. These merchants present a highly interesting study. It is not going too far to say that they are typical patriots, of which the lesser fry, wage slaves, etc., content themselves with flag-flapping and cheering and mild forms of hysteria.

* * *

As examples of patriotism we prefer such men as the premier of Egypt or Ghandi in India. Their patriotism means something to them and it costs them something—something more than a crate of celery twice a week. Which is merely a good advertisement.

* * *

Far better if those worthy merchants would begin at home with their charity and dip their hands into their pockets for the unemployed soldiers—or, better still (since the soldiers don't want charity)—if they would use their influence to mend matters.

* * *

The stage is all set for the bringing of more settlers to Canaad. Flow to start overseas by March of the coming year. This is all most interesting. To think that they can bring men and women in from another land and help them settle, and yet they cannot help the poor unfortunates who are here and who are up against it for a bare subsistence might be very bewildering to some. Our suggestion is that it is going to be profitable for some one to bring them here and that, perhaps it will be more profitable for those who bring them than for those who are brought. Well, anyway, it is worth thinking about, to say the least.

* * *

Defies mass meeting! Why not? He is elected and feels shat he is quite safe. The Hon. T. D. Pattullo, minister of lands, is reported as having taken this defiant attitude. He is selling that which belongs to us, to some private concern, too, it would seem, and yet he does not care what we think, or say, or do. If it were before elections he would be eating humble pie. They all do; he would be no exception. If all these timber interests are so valuable to private concerns and the latter are willing to pay for them, isn't it odd that they are not of equal value to the people themselves. Of course they are, but private interests rule; what they say is law.

* * *

All that stir about the mysterious signals out at Point Grey and elsewhere, was perhaps quite uncalled for. There were a lot of mysterious forces, no doubt, at work at Nelson about that time and these would no doubt account for much of these disturbances. There are very few things that they do not affect. We cannot see why our wireless should be immune from their influences, in fact, we cannot see how they could be, no matter how they tried. They have been trying to "tune them out" for many hundreds of years, but they are still "messing things up a bit."

* * *

The press has been informing us of late of the popularity of the Prince's ship—the one that is bringing him across the Atlantic to his ranch. All the young daughters of the various aristocrats across the water feel apparently, that now is the time to come to America. Well, all we can say is, that we do not envy the poor Prince. To have a bunch like that tagging about after him cannot help but serve to take some of the "joy out of life." We can quite imagine that he will really enjoy life when he gets among some of his herds of thoroughbreds. It will be such an agreeable change.

* * *

Mayor Owen is of the opinion, it would appear, that our police rorce is rather too small for our fair city—and he does not consider it a slam to so state publicly it would seem. We wonder if he is afraid that the conference is going to be a failure at Ottawa re unemployment, and that the situation in Vancouver is not going to be pleasant this winter. We might assure him that the conference will undoubtedly be a failure so far as accomplishing anything worth while along the lines of permanently abolishing of unemployment. Further, we might assure him that all the policemen in the world can never make any city safe and free from hold ups, etc., where men and women are compelled to go hungry, unless they choose to beg, borrow or steal.

* * *

Our reactionary friends are all the while looking for, what they can consider a safe remedy for this unemployment problem. By that they mean, something that will allow them to still retain all the rights and privileges that they now enjoy, while at the same time giving these unfortunate creatures enough of the essentials in this life to keep them quiet—and peaceful. We fear however, that those good old days are all but gone. The issue is a real live one and must be faced frankly and honestly.

* * *

It has been reported recently in our daily press that Canada's loans are coming home. "Last year $2,170,170 of outstanding debts due to Canada was collected through our London office, and this year we hope to collect more than $4,000,000." Such was the reported statement of the Hon. P. C. Larkin, Canadian High Commissioner in London. Now, that all sounds very interesting. It is, too, for the other fellow. Certainly we have not seen any of that two million collected last year, and we doubt if we will see a bit of the four million that they hope to collect next year. It would appear to us that we are simply running a collecting agency over in London, for the good of some of our financial interests, at our expense. It is the same old story. The big interests are simply manipulating our government in a manner beneficial to themselves. So far as the people's own interests are concerned, that is purely of secondary importance, it would appear to us.

* * *

A very serious condition would appear to be present in the conduct of police affairs when two men can be detained in prison as was Wm. McElroy and Wm. Brewster, according to reports. To think that two men have had to remain in jail since early in July under conditions such as these men are reported to have experienced is rather raw, to say the least, to occur in a so-called civilized country. Some of us are beginning to doubt the civilized part of it, when we learn of such conditions.

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BOOK REVIEWS

THE AMERICAN LABOR YEAR BOOK for 1923-1924, by the Labor Research Department of the Rand School of Social Science; Salon De Leon, director; Nathan Fine, associate; published by the Rand School of Social Science, of East Fifteenth street, New York, N.Y. Price net, $3 Postage, 15 cents.

THIS is the fifth issue of this worthy year book. The contents will convince you of the great importance of the work as a reliable record of American and foreign labor activity. No effort has been spared to make this book reliable and authentic. The outstanding features is the entire non-existence of partiality in the setting forth of facts and figures both domestic and foreign—a big undertaking in these times of industrial strife and turmoil. This year book is published for the use of those interested in prsent-day industrial affairs. Friends and foes of our economic system will find the work trustworthy in every detail, and they should get a copy, read it carefully and keep it as a standard book of reference. Every labor union, social uplift organization, business and public establishment should not be without it. The research department of the Rand school has accomplished something unique and very valuable in the cause of labor, and it is to be hoped will continue to publish this book in the years to come. The work has certainly justified the why and wherefore of its being printed. Its contents comprise chapters on (1) Industrial and Social Conditions, (2) Trade Union Organization, (3) Labor Disputes, (4) Labor Politics, (5) Labor Legislation, (6) Court Decisions Affecting Labor, (7) Civil Liberties, (8) Workers Education, (9) Labor Banking, (10) Co-operation, (11) International Relations of Labor, (12) Trade Unionism, (13) Co-operation Abroad, (14) International Labor Directory. In these articles will be found the very latest procurable data on the world of labor. This should satisfy everyone. We congratulate Editor De Leon upon his great work.

THE Annual Meeting of Federated Labor Party, Burnaby Branch, will be held Thursday, Sept. 4th, in Oddfellows' Hall, McKay, Burnaby, when officers for the coming year will be elected.

All members are urged to be present at this meeting. Labor today is having to assume its share of responsibility for the government of our land, as never before. Let us see a large turnout of our members.

SINGING JAILBIRDS—A DRAMA IN FOUR ACTS, BY UPTON SINCLAIR, 1555 Sunset avenue, Pasadena, California.

"RED: Think of it, old man—that night of horror! When a man has seen his wife go like that, can anyone blame him for turning rebel—for hating capitalism, and the world of grafters? Ned wanted her husband—she wanted her child—she wanted life; and she got the most horrible death! That's what poverty is! And I say, God damn a world that stands for poverty! God damn the whole filthy system, masters and henchmen—stool pigeons spying on wage-slaves, 'cutors throwing men into jail. . . ."—Scene 3, act iii.

This drama is indeed a classic, and, no doubt, it will live. Many of the scenes emulate the frightful acrimonious reality of life and are a fine example of the wonderful power of expression. The play has a wide majestic range of emotional greatness, you may say at once as deep and thrilling as a Shakespearian drama. "Singing Jailbirds" is a strictly down to date production, and should be read by everyone, particularly by students of economic reorganization and the new psychology.

SPIRIT OF ORGANIZATION

Make Union a Unit of Harmony and Purpose and Power and Progress

[From Labor Clarion]

We need to arouse the spirit of organization among wage earners everywhere.

On every hand conferences are being called for this purpose, that purpose and the other purpose.

Conferences are being called for advancing the ideal of partisan political action, and for all manner of political business.

Conferences are being called for the promotion of factional movements of one kind and another. Among others, the borers from within, disrupters with their suicidal policies, are busy organizing groups within the movement.

What we need is not a movement full of groups, but a movement united. What we need is not the organization of wings and factions, but one movement moving along solidly. What we need is not the promotion of isms and fancies, but the solidarity of labor. What we need is not the organization of conferences for this and that individual or group purpose, but the organization of the unorganized. What we need is not men and women looking out for their own chance to put something over, but men and women looking out for the labor movement.

We need officers and we need our various staffs trained to their work, but we need a host putting their heart and soul into the movement because it expresses their hopes and faith and ideals.

Our labor movement doesn't need anybody's patent nostrums. It doesn't need anybody's dope. It doesn't need anybody's pet salvation, and it doesn't need the ism of any little group. Neither does it need the leadership of the pink tea armchair highbrows. The labor movement has within itself that out of which it must find its soul, fire the idealism of men and women, and shape its policies.

The labor movement has within itself all that is needed. That is because faithful, loyal men and women have put those things into our movement. There will always be in any movement all that is put into it by those who are in the movement.

The moment any great number get the idea of getting something out of the movement, that moment will it begin to go down grade.

We need thousands and millions who will put everything into the movement.

The movement must represent the faith of men and women by the million. It must represent the sum of their hopes and of their devotion to the common idealism of the wage earners.

There must be service, which means work. No wage earning man or woman has a right to remain aloof from the labor movement. Each belong with the ranks, and being in, each owes it to the movement to make it the best movement, the most effective movement, the most expressive movement that it can possibly be.

Give service to our movement. Organize the unorganized. Make the union a unit of harmony and purpose. Make all unions one movement of power and progress, fired with the spirit of service to humanity, devoted to the ideals of freedom and justice, a grand army of service, an unconquerable foe of wrong and reaction!

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