

The District Ledger

Industrial Unity Is Strength

The Official Organ of District No. 18, U. M. W. of A.

Political Unity Is Victory

No. 32, Vol. VIII.

THE DISTRICT LEDGER, FERNIE, B. C., APRIL 3, 1915

AGREEMENT SIGNED FOR TWO YEARS

Slashing Attack Made By Vorwaerts

Article in Socialist Paper That Germans Were Not Allowed to Read

LAUSANNE, March 27.—In sharp contrast to the official and other declarations that Germany has but one mind one will, and one object, comes the authentic voice of four millions of German voters as expressed in a suppressed article of the Berlin Socialist paper Vorwaerts.

The article was written—and printed—but the issue was confiscated. It is difficult to believe that the directors of the Vorwaerts could have entertained any doubt as to its fate, but probably they wished to place on record that they had kept their heads in the storm.

The following is a translation of the suppressed article:

"Man does not display all his strength and all his weaknesses save in exceptional situations. On the day of battle certain giants fall, like rotten trees before the tempest. The peoples like individuals, reveal in times of crisis their hidden virtues or their unknown failings.

"The present crisis is terrible. . . . It shows us that the German people are stricken with a malady which, in the end, may prove fatal; and this malady is Jingoism. Thus, one names a diseased nationalism which sees neither virtue nor courage in any nation but its own, and which has only insults and suspicion for others.

"Unhappily this disease appears to have seized on the German people at a time when the empire was in a particularly flourishing condition, and it was in full blast even before this war broke out.

"When war was decided on there was an eruption of jingoism of the most feverish sort. Violent articles appeared in the press. In the great cities inflammatory speeches were made, warlike poems were declaimed and war songs were chanted. The configuration was regarded as a fête. The campaign was to be a simple promenade to Paris and to St. Petersburg.

"To argue the contrary was to risk being lynched. As soon as war was actually declared the people of other nations were subjected to every insult. We were honest Germans; our adversaries were brutal Russians, 'perfidious English,' 'insolent Serbs.' The mob tore down the signs of shops that bore a few words of English or French. As to who began the war—we were the innocent lambs, whilst the French, Russians, and British were the wolves of the fable. Those who formerly had imputed to the Jews all the faults of our social state now discovered in England the cause of everything.

"At the first victory the flags appeared, the bells rang, perfervid speeches were delivered in public places. In the restaurants nothing was sung but 'Deutschland ueber Alles.' The public, hypnotized, rocked nothing of the death-rattle of the wounded on the battlefield, of hundreds of villages in flames, of thousands of people robbed of all their belongings, of German families who awaited with anguish for news of their sons engaged in the combat.

"Then one heard the atrocious details of the war in Belgium. The inhabitants had fired on our soldiers. The Belgians were 'savages,' 'savage beasts,' unworthy of any consideration. They must expiate their crimes by sword and fire. No one troubled to explain the uprising of the Belgian people. Our perfervid patriots could not understand that a people must lose its calmness on seeing itself unexpectedly attacked, its fields laid waste, its towns and villages occupied, its men sacrificed in battle.

"Those who desire war ought to accept the evils that it brings. To be enthusiastic for war and then to descend to petty stories about dum-dum bullets is simply to grow bores. Our fingers have yelled a hundred thousand times since the war began. The duty of every citizen is to defend his country to his last breath. Those poor wretches of Belgium and France—have they done anything else? Have they not defended home and fatherland? If WE acted thus, OUR conduct would be heroic. On the part of our adversaries it is rebellion and murder.

"Ah! Don't let us throw stones at others, we who live in glass houses! Let us not look for the mote in our neighbor's eye, but take the beam out of our own. In this way we shall make the first step towards internationalism and towards peace.

"Let us understand, then, that we are not merely Germans, French or

Russians, but that we are all men, that all the peoples are of the same blood and that they have no right to kill one another, but that they ought to love and help one another. Such is Christian, humane conduct. Man does not belong to one nation only; he belongs to Humanity.—Victoria Times.

(Let the reader take the advice not to look for the mote in his neighbor's eye—and by his "neighbor" we mean his German brother—but rather to pluck the beam from out his own. For what purpose does he presume the daily papers are publishing this "story"? To prove the justness of the Socialists' contention? Not by a sight, but rather to prove the righteousness of the Allies cause! If WE wrote as the Vorwaerts our articles would be unpatriotic, treasonable, on the parts of our adversaries—Vorwaerts—it, is heroic! Do you get it?)

AMENDMENTS TO MECHANICS' LIEN ACT ARE SECURED

Several important amendments to the provincial mechanic lien act have just been secured by the Calgary Retail Merchants' Association, through its solicitors, Major Duncan Stuart, who has just returned from Edmonton after several days of work with the government in this connection, which resulted in a promise from the premier that the amendments would be put on the statute before the close of the present session.

The amendments for which the Retail Merchants' Association has asked for some time are as follows:

(a) That the time for filing liens be extended from 31 to 35 days.

(b) That a writ need not be issued except at the option of the lien holder, who will thus be able to grant indulgence to the owner of the property, and will not be compelled to issue a writ before the expiration of 90 days, as under the present law, he is compelled to do to hold his lien good.

It is thought by the association that these amendments should prove a great boon to owners of all kinds, particularly to farmers, since it will enable the lien holders to allow the liens to remain without suit until a crop is harvested or the owner of property better his financial position.

B North Explosion Inquiry Last Monday

An inquiry for the purpose of ascertaining the cause of the violent explosion which occurred at B. North Mine, Coal Creek, on January 2nd, last was opened here on Monday morning at 10 a.m. in the court room of the Provincial Government Building.

Mr. John Stewart, of Ladysmith, B. C., had been appointed commissioner for the inquiry, and opened the proceedings by having the notice of his appointment and his oath read.

The Crow's Nest Pass Coal Co. had several of their officials present, as well as their solicitor, Mr. Sherwood Herchmer; Mr. A. I. Fisher represented one of the firebosses working at the mine, while Mr. A. Macneil represented Mr. Thomas France, who was severely injured by the explosion. Mr. Thos. Graham, chief inspector of mines, together with inspectors Williams and G. O'Brien, represented the Mines Department of the province. Messrs. W. L. Phillips and D. Rees represented the United Mine Workers of America. The court room was crowded during the whole of the inquiry.

The evidence proved beyond any question of doubt that general discipline of the mine officials was very lax, to say the least. The point was fairly well established that prior to the explosion the fan had not worked for 48 hours. Evidently someone had gone up before the fireboss had reached the mine on the morning of January 2nd and is proceeding toward the fan house, either to sit down on a platform outside the fanhouse or to start the fan working, had accidentally ignited the gas which had accumulated whilst the fan had been stopped. A bucket was picked up after the explosion with the food staff and drink intact. This bucket was claimed by a certain party, and no doubt it belonged to him. But strange as it may appear, the owner of the bucket was not to be found as a witness at the inquiry. The fan forced the

FIFTY THOUSAND FOR SUFFERERS AT HILLCREST

OTTAWA, March 28.—Hon. W. T. White yesterday morning tabled in the Commons supplementary estimates totalling \$4,364,541. Of this \$50,000 is for the relief of sufferers in the Hillcrest, Alberta, mine disaster.

SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA

On Sunday evening next, at 8 p.m. Comrade Tom Connor will open the campaign for the Socialist party in the Socialist Hall on Pellatt Avenue. The annual May Day Dance will be held on Friday, April 30th. The committee decided to hold the dance on Friday as the 1st of May comes on Saturday.

METHODIST CHURCH, FERNIE

Easter Sunday, 11 a.m., "The Easter Certainty," special music, anthem, and solo; 7:30 p.m., there will be a full musical service at which the following programme will be rendered: anthem, "Christ Our Passover," solo, "My Loved One Rest," Miss F. Baker, anthem "Consider the Lilies," quartette "Lead Kindly Light," Miss Dicken, Miss Woodhouse, Messrs. Quinney and J. S. Dicken; solo and chour, "It is Jesus," Miss Munkwitz; anthem, "Sun of my Soul"; solo, by Mr. J. Quinney; anthem, "I will lift up mine eyes."

P.S. Sunday school and Bible class at 2:30 p.m. Monday evening, Epworth League, topic "Christain Endeavor." Thursday evening prayer meeting. Friday, choir practice.

The regular monthly meeting of the Ladies Guild of Christ Church will be held at the home of Mrs. Moffatt, on Wednesday, April 7th, at 3:30 p.m.

The Ladies Guild of Christ Church will hold a delicatessen and sale of children's clothing and aprons in the basement of the church on Saturday, April 3rd, at 3:30 p.m.

The next mothers meeting in connection with Knox Church will be held Wednesday afternoon, April 7th, at 3:30 o'clock. Let all be present who can and see the demonstration on making orange marmalade and the cooking of prunes, etc. Everybody welcome.

The monthly tea of the Ladies Aid of the Methodist Church will be held at the home of Mrs. J. Woodhouse, on Tuesday, April 6, from 3:30 to 6 p.m.

VOTE ON PROPOSED AGREEMENT

The citizen of Hillcrest met in the Union Hall on Monday evening, 29th inst., to give Mr. and Mrs. John Brown a royal send-off on the occasion of Mr. Brown's retirement from his position as general manager of Hillcrest Collieries, Ltd. The capacity of the hall was taxed to its utmost to accommodate the representatives gathered that assembled to show the respect and esteem in which the late general manager and his wife are held by the residents of Hillcrest and the neighborhood.

Mr. William Hutchison, assistant general manager to the Coal Company, presided over the assembly, and set things going by calling on Mr. George Spinks for a song. Mr. Spinks obliged with "Down by the Old Mill Stream," which was accepted with loud applause, and as an encore gave "If those lips could only speak." Mrs. Dodd, a favorite with Hillcrest audiences, was next called upon, and rendered the "Holy City," giving "The Children's Home" as an encore.

Mr. Hector McDonald furnished the next item on the program, and responded to an encore. After this the chairman, with a few well-chosen remarks, on behalf of the citizens of Hillcrest, presented to Mr. and Mrs. John Brown a handsome solid silver tea service.

Mr. Brown, in thanking the gathering for Mrs. Brown and himself, gave a concise resume of his aims and efforts to make Hillcrest the Pittsburgh of Western Canada, so far as coal was concerned. When he came to Hillcrest five years ago, Hillcrest as a town was practically unknown.

At the time of the disaster last June, Hillcrest, both as a town and a coal mine, was rapidly forging to the front. He trusted that it would continue to go ahead, and hoped that his successor would find as much pleasure and as many friends in Hillcrest as he and his wife had. Upon the conclusion of Mr. Brown's remarks Mr. Anderson favored the audience with "My Ain Folk," and responded to an encore.

Mrs. Smith followed with "Isle d'Amour," and for an encore gave "If I had a Thousand Lives to Live." The program was brought to a close by Mr. Shaw, who sang "The Admiral's Zircon," and gave as an encore "Up from Zoroast." After the concert the floor was cleared for a dance, the Hillcrest Orchestra supplying the music.

Dancing continued until 12:30, when the hall was again cleared for a smoking concert. Mr. Thomas Price presided, and opened the concert by calling on Mr. Brown for a few remarks. Mr. Brown took the floor for a few minutes and in the course of his address took the opportunity of thanking the employees of Hillcrest Collieries Ltd. for their loyalty to him during his stay among them. He trusted that Mr. Drinnan, who was to succeed him as general manager, would find them as loyal as he had.

Several musical items were rendered and the company broke up at an early hour with the usual expression of good wishes that such occasions call for.

On Tuesday the members of the Western Coal Operators' Association assembled at the Frank Sanatorium and presented Mr. and Mrs. J. Brown with a very handsome chest of silver. Mr. W. R. Wilson, General Manager of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Co. and Mr. Lewis Stockert were present and spoke in eulogistic terms of Mr. Brown as a mine manager and gentleman. He had been of considerable assistance to the operators on account of his extensive practical knowledge and it was with deep regret that they viewed his departure. Mr. Brown, who was very deeply moved by the sincere expressions of his colleagues, replied, thanking them on behalf of his wife and self.

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WAR TAX STAMP ON LETTERS

Becomes Effective on and from April 15th, 1915

One Cent War Tax on Letters and Post Cards Mailed in Canada for Delivery in Canada, United States or Mexico, and on letters mailed in Canada for Delivery in the United Kingdom and British Possessions Generally, and wherever the Two Cent Rate Applies.

This War Tax is to be prepaid by the sender by means of a War Tax stamp or by postmasters and other postage stamp vendors.

Wherever possible, stamps on which the words "War Tax" have been printed should be used for payment of the War Tax, but should ordinary postage stamps be used for this purpose they will be accepted.

This War Stamp or additional stamp for war purposes should be affixed to the upper right hand portion of the address side of the envelope or post card, close to the regular postage so that it may be readily cancelled at the same time as the postage.

In the event of failure on the part of the sender through oversight or negligence to prepay the war tax on each letter or postcard above specified, such a letter or post card will be sent immediately to the nearest branch Dead Letter Office.

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Prohibition And Low Wages

"Old John" (John Loughran) of Beaver Creek has an awkward knack of putting kinks into the "pipe cinches" of some people, and his latest is a refutation of the fallacy that prohibition means wealth for the worker. Let our position, however, be distinctly understood in the matter: Intoxicants are a necessity only when taken as such; when taken in excess it has the same effect that all other excesses have—"rots the marrow and consumes the brain." John, too, does not appear to hold a brief for intoxicants, but he evidently feels compelled to enter the arena of controversy when reformists or prohibitionists attempt to delude the worker with economic inexactitudes.

The following is his letter which appeared in the Pincher Creek Echo of March 26th:

Dear Sir,—In the editor's column of the Echo of the 12th inst., under the heading of "Agricultural Values in 1914," there appeared some very interesting statistics taken from a press bulletin, and being mixed up in the trade union movement for the best part of my life statistics bearing on the wages of the workers have a sort of fascination for me, hence I hope you will allow me space to briefly call attention to the following paragraph:

"In recent years the wages of farm help have increased considerably, and reached their highest point during the bumper harvest of 1913, but in 1914 the pendulum swung back. Average wages per month in 1914 were lowest at Prince Edward Island, viz., \$24.71 for males and \$14.48 for females; in Nova Scotia they were \$31.20 and \$14.80, and in New Brunswick \$31.93 and \$15. In Quebec the averages were \$33.56 and \$15.65, and in Ontario \$32.09 and \$16.67. In the western provinces they were for males, \$33.13 in Manitoba, \$40.51 in Saskatchewan and \$23.63 in Alberta. The highest wages were paid in B. C., viz., \$47.85 for males and \$31.18 for females, these wages being substantially less than in 1910 when males received \$57.40 and females \$38." It will be seen from these statistics that wages were much lower in all the prohibition provinces and that in every instance wages varied according to the "wetness" or "dryness" of the province. For instance, Prince Edward Island is the only province in Canada under absolute prohibition, and there we find

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The Union Is An Investment

The man who says the union is no good; that he gets no benefit from it might ask the advice of Isaac Johnson, of Roseland. Mr. Johnson did not belong to the union, and consequently the insurance company saw a "soft" thing. They knew he had no one to back him up if he refused to take what they offered, so they tried to just play a straight "bluff" game and refuse to pay compensation. Had it not been for the generosity of District No. 4, W. F. of M. Johnson would have been compelled to take what he was first offered or go without. When District No. 4 took the matter up they succeeded in getting nearly \$1000.

We print particulars of the case below, and if you have any doubts as to the advantages of belonging to a union they will be speedily dispelled after reading the particulars.

On January 10th, 1914, Isaac Johnson while working in the 1st No. 2 Mine at Roseland, ran a splinter into his hand. The accident unfortunately resulted in a bad case of blood poisoning, and Mr. Johnson's hand was in a very serious and critical condition for many months. In fact he is still unable to use it. He was of course entitled to compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act, and was actually paid \$10.00 a week for twenty-seven weeks. At the end of that time, payments ceased, and he sought the assistance of the Roseland Local Union, who took the matter up with the company on Mr. Johnson's behalf.

The company, through its representative, Mr. Falding, did not dispute Mr. Johnson's claim for a continuance of the payments, but informed Mr. Falding that the secretary of the union, that the company was insured under such contingencies in an Accident Insurance Company at the coast. The matter was then taken up by the union with

the agent of the insurance company, Mr. Arthur Wheeler, Jr., of Trail. It then appeared that Mr. Wheeler had been making the payments on his own responsibility, trusting, of course, that his company would recognize the claim in due course. Mr. Wheeler did everything in his power to assist the union in their endeavors to obtain the payments due, and resigned the agency of the company as a protest when they put forward the claim that the company was not liable.

The insurance company still proving recalcitrant, the union placed the matter in the hands of Messrs. Macneil & Maxwell, of Fernie, B. C., solicitors of that firm, is solicitor for the Western Federation of Mines, District No. 4, and after some correspondence, an order for arbitration was taken out, with the result that the insurance company abandoned a position which was legally untenable from the very first, namely, that the claim had become "outlawed," and paid a further sum of \$500, together with the cost of the

wages little better than half what they are in B. C., which is said to be the wettest or freest province in Canada. Yet P. E. I. is richer in natural resources than any other province in the dominion. For fertility of soil, scenery, prolific fisheries and luscious fruit-bearing orchards no place in Canada can compare with the "garden of the Gulf."

With the exception of the city of Halifax, Nova Scotia is a prohibition province, hence wages are almost as low as in P. E. I. St. John being wet gives New Brunswick more freedom than the two last named provinces, hence wages are a little higher and so on.

The reason why wages should vary according to the wetness or dryness of a province or country is easily explained. The value of products in all provinces will be largely governed by the law of supply and demand, hence whether a province is wet or dry will not effect the value of the products of the province, and as all marketable goods are produced for profits only, employers will not continue to produce commodities at a loss.

Now, let us take the case of Alberta which is at present a free province and where more than half the revenue required to meet the public expenditure of the province is collected from licenses and other taxes paid by brewers and others engaged in the manufacture or distribution of malt liquors. But let us suppose that this province adopts prohibition and what will happen. The expenses of the province will still have to be met, hence the revenue at present derived from the manufacture and sale of malt liquors, will become an extra charge upon the manufacturer and producing industries of the province, and if this extra taxation be equal to say 20 or 30 per cent of the wages at present paid, then the workmen will have but two choices, either to submit to a reduction of wages equal to the amount of revenue at present paid by the license victualing trade, or witness the closing down of the industries in which they are at present engaged. This statement is easily proven by facts and figures, but want of space prevents me dealing further with the matter at present.

Yours truly,
JOHN LOUGHRAN

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CLOSER TAB ON ELECTION METHODS

OTTAWA, Ont., March 30.—Hon. J. C. Doherty introduced two bills which apart from the soldiers vote bill represent the findings of the special committee of the house appointed last session to consider the question of electoral reform.

The first act provides for the doing away with the practice in Alberta and Saskatchewan of allowing a man whose name is not on the voters list to deposit a ballot after swearing that he is entitled to a vote. The next act tends the hour for balloting for 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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THE WAR AND THE SOCIALIST THEORY

Socialists Say "Economic Determinism" Might Frequently When They Discuss the War—This Article Tells What the Phrase Means.

Along with the outbreak of the present European war, there broke out a sort of epidemic in the form of explanations. In magazines, newspapers, weekly and bi-weekly journals, explanations appeared. Articles, essays, letters, editorials and pamphlets were written toward explaining the causes of this world-wide catastrophe. Bankers, university professors, sociologists, statesmen, diplomats, editors—all added their individual bit of wisdom or humor to the current tide of explanation. In other words, the physical forces of destruction on the other side wrought into existence the mental forces of destruction on this side. Explanations here came with the rapidity of bullets and cannon balls there.

Taking the whole mass of explanations that have been aired, they present a very heterogeneous appearance. Almost every individual who had even only the remotest bearing to the precipitation of the war was held responsible. Czar Nicholas of Russia, Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria-Hungary, King George of England were blamed in turn. Kaiser Wilhelm had to bear, perhaps, the greatest amount of vituperation hurled in the skirmish. From individuals, acts were held accountable. The murder of the archduke and his wife, the mobilization of the Russian forces before war was officially declared, the breaking up of diplomatic relations without sufficient allowance of time toward arriving at an amicable settlement, the violation of Belgium's neutrality, were all advanced as acts sufficiently provoking to justify a recourse to arms. Finally, more general conditions were offered as causes of the war, such as the taking of the two provinces of Alsace-Lorraine by the French a number of years ago, and the spirit of German militarism.

Recognizing the true importance of these explanations in relation to the present war, the scientific Socialist alone recognizes them to be of nothing more than of tributary importance. To him and in accordance with his social doctrine, the causes of the war, like the causes of any other war in the world's history, like the causes of all social phenomena, cannot be sought for in the caprice of czars, kings or emperors, the good in some or the bad in others. True, the scientific Socialist is fully aware of the influence that such rulers wield in determining social history, and to that extent recognizes and admits their part in formulating the history of society. But the extent to which individual rulers do regulate history is very minute when compared to the real and actual cause of social phenomena.

Social phenomena, according to scientific Socialism, and expressed broadly, is determined by the means and methods by which a society derives a living. This law of social phenomena is termed "The Materialistic Conception of History," or "Economic Determinism."

With this law acting as a criterion, the Marxist Socialists can turn the pages of history, recording phenomena as they appear in succession, tracing epoch to epoch, explaining the cause of being and the cause of disappearing of each, and thereby eliminating the theological method of explaining history. History is then and thereby, once and for all time, rescued from the mysteries of the past, and brought out into the broad daylight, to be scientifically analyzed, organized, and understood.

The theory of "Economic Determinism" is held forth by Marx and Engels, contains, when analyzed, four distinct propositions, which are as follows:

1. The means of production and exchange are the prime determining factors in the course of social evolution, wrought by these means of production and exchange in the social consciousness and social institutions.

2. The corresponding effects wrought by these means of production and exchange in the social consciousness and social institutions.

3. The theory of class struggles.

4. The coming social order as the next step in evolution. The theory that external conditions determine and shape the nature of social systems was advanced in modern times by great men previous to Karl Marx—by such men as Vico, Montesquieu, Buckle, and others. Or, if we wish to go further back into ancient history, we are confronted by Bodin and his theory of climates, and still further, by so mighty a thinker as Aristotle. All these contended that external conditions such as a climate, geographical limitations, race, etc., have wrought, and are responsible for, social history. Marx, however, after considering these phenomena, perceived that they do not explain social history adequately, though they do so in part, since conditions that are so constant as climate, geographical and racial conditions are, cannot explain so variable a condition as social history is. A more variable factor is needed, contended Marx, and his collaborator, Friedrich Engels.

The main factor in determining the course of social progress, and the cause of social history, is the economic factor, argued Marx and Engels, and established this as the corner stone of their sociological theories. Production in general, as well as the means of production and distribution of the necessities by which a social system lives and develops, constitutes the foundation stone of that society. The methods of production and distribution of such production, or, in essence the nature of production, determine economically, the social relations in a historical epoch. Not the natural inclinations or ideas of men determine social conditions, but, on the contrary, social conditions, through material production in the last instance, determine the ideas and inclinations of the social aggregate. Material production is the ultimate verity of the social organization. Upon it Engels writes the following:

"The materialistic conception of history starts from the proposition that the production of the means to support human life, and next to production, the exchange of things produced is the basis of all social structures; that in every society that has appeared in history, the manner in which wealth is distributed and society divided in classes or orders is dependent upon what is produced, how it is produced, and how products are exchanged. From this point of view, the final cause of all social changes and political revolutions are to be sought, not in the philosophy but in the economics of each particular epoch.

But, and coming to the second of our above-mentioned propositions, the material methods of production also determine the moral, political, judicial and religious manifestations of an epoch. The ideas of right and wrong, justice and injustice, good and evil, morality and immorality, are but the superstructural elements reared and determined upon the basic economic structure. Thus we have so profound an intellect as Aristotle contending in a system of slavery, that slavery is perfectly moral, just and equitable. In a system of private ownership of property, private ownership is perfectly moral, reasonable and just, and justification for it is sought and found in the religion, ethics and morality of the time. And when a disregard for the sacredness of the institution of private property is manifested, no penalty is too severe for its punishment, and justification for it is again sought and found in the accepted social traditions and beliefs. Abundant proof of this is brought to us daily, but in the course of its development, rather toward its decay a society gradually gives way to the new methods of production, and these new methods, in conflict with the old, produce, like the old, a set of ideas which corresponds to its own development, and the conflict of each material class comes into being with different sets of ideas, only to be eliminated when the class possessing the old methods having developed its productive powers to the fullest extent, gives way to the new methods and conditions of material production. The new set of

ideas then becomes the prevailing code, and continues so until it attains the state when new productive forces revolt against the methods, which have already outlived their usefulness.

In passing, it may not be out of place to remark briefly upon the influence that the ideas of men exert in effecting the economic conditions, or changes. A growing tendency among the disciples of Marx to convert the interpretations of history into a sort of "economic fatalism," in which man stands as a mere pygmy in the process of social evolution, lends a detrimental and erroneous light to the theory itself. Marx and Engels, time and again, refers to this question in their works, and always with a decided disapproval of the new light cast upon the theory. "Man makes his own history," is only one of the many quotations that he brought to show the true Marxist aspect upon this question. "True, man does not make history out of the air," but out of such conditions that he finds at hand," which means that man does not stand as a pygmy before the wheel of evolution, but as an effectual power in directing the same. Marx gives man the first consideration in social progress.

The theory of class struggles forms an important constituent of the Economic Interpretation of History, and it reveals to us the real import, the extent of the great social transformation toward which society is drawing, day by day, and which will culminate in the elimination of all antagonistic classes in society.

Starting out with the statement that all hitherto existing societies present a history of class struggles, Marx distinguishes four such societies. They are the Asiatic, the ancient, the feudal and the modern bourgeois system of production. Throughout these organizations of social production, varied in form, but in essence the same, there has existed two distinct classes. On the one side stood the property owning class; on the other side the propertyless class. The former always possessed the means by which the latter must live; the latter only possessed their ability to utilize these means in order to live, i. e., their strength. One held the means by which the other must live.

The struggle between the possessing and nonpossessing classes is produced by a fundamental, an irreconcilable, difference and antagonism. The material interests of the one have always been, and are, opposed to the material interests of the other. The interests of the property owning class are to secure more property and all that goes with it—social power, mastery and recognition. The interests of the propertyless class, on the other hand, are to overthrow that social power, which brings them suffering, exploitation, misery and poverty. The interests of the former are to perpetuate things as they are; the interests of the latter are those compatible with progress and evolution—change and advancement. A victory gained by one must be, at least immediately, at the sacrifice and loss of the other. The struggle has thus continued through the ages. At first by the masters and slaves, and later by the lords and tenants, and now by the capitalists and wage workers. At times the struggle materialized into bloody revolutions, but usually beneath the surface, quietly, though persistently, rentless.

But when the cause of this underlying struggle will have been abolished, the effects will also have been banished, and this brings us to the last of our four propositions—the coming social system. The course of social development teaches us that the means of production have undergone a consistent change from a simple tool to the gigantic machine of today. Ancient production was individual production, and this registered itself in the activities, in the social customs and usages of the time, which were indeed, individual and antagonistic in their nature and composition. Changes in the methods of production, through the inventive powers of man, stimulated by the conditions and limitations of the methods themselves, made individual production a historical and

antiquated form, replacing it by a system of co-operative production. And co-operative production must register itself in the social life, and if it does so register itself, if the system of production is run anarchistically and individually despite its co-operation and social nature, an antagonism between progress and retrogress manifests itself, and the result must be, here and now, as elsewhere and always: Co-operation must triumph over individualism; social production must triumph over the capitalist and anti-social management of production. This idea is admirably stated and summed up by Marx in Volume I, Chapter 32, of "Das Kapital."

"Hand in hand with this centralization, or this expropriation of many capitalists by few, develop, on an ever extending scale, the co-operative form of the labor process, the conscious technical application of science, the methodical cultivation of the soil, the transformation of the instruments of labor into instruments of labor only usable in common, the economizing of all means of production by their use as the means of production combined, socialized labor, the entanglement of all peoples in the net of the world's market, and with this the international character of the capitalist regime. Along with the constantly diminishing number of the magnates of capital, who usurp and monopolize all advantages of this process of transformation, grows the mass of misery, oppression, slavery, degradation; but with this, too, grows the revolt of the working class, a class always increasing in numbers, and disciplined, united, organized, and bringing in its folds the emancipation of mankind from slavery and thralldom to eternal peace, good-will and happiness.—N. Y. Call.

AN INTERVIEW WITH MORRIS HILLQUIT

By William Hard

"Your question is this:

"If England were Socialist, if Germany were Socialist, if all of the big nations of the world were organized on the Socialist model, what then? Wouldn't each of them still want to sell its goods in Brazil and in Zanzibar and in Mongolia? And wouldn't this lead to quarrels, just as it does now, and to wars? In other words, is there any reason to think that Socialism any more than Capitalism, would put an end to international trade rivalry and bloodshed? That's your question.

"I will answer it first by saying that it is Capitalism that makes international trade rivalry so keen and so aggressive today, and then I will answer it by showing that Socialism would largely destroy that rivalry or make it over into something entirely different. "The trouble now is that we don't produce goods primarily for the purpose of satisfying the daily needs of our fellow-citizens. Many of those citizens, for instance, are in need of food. In our large cities there are numbers of children who come to school without breakfast. And there are bread-lines of adults in our streets. Yet we are exporting foodstuffs. Why is this?"

"It is because we are producing goods for the primary purpose of making profits for individuals, for capitalists. The workers do not get in money the full value of what they produce. If they did, there would be no profits for the capitalists. The workers get in money, in wages, only a part of the value of what they produce. Therefore they cannot buy all the goods they have produced. There is thus an artificial surplus. Even when the mineworkers have consumed as much as they can, there is still a surplus. And there you are. What is to be done with that surplus? It must be exported.

"The capitalist countries cannot exchange their surplus product with one another. That would relieve none of them. They must unload their surplus on the industrially less-developed countries, all of them on the same countries. Accordingly, even when many Englishmen and many Germans may be without proper clothing, the mass factories of England and of Germany are driven into fierce rivalries in their efforts to sell cloth to Turkey and Persia. They must dispose of their surplus.

"That's the first reason for an aggressive international trade and war policy. The second reason is even more important.

"In every highly developed country there comes to be a surplus of capital in the hands of the owners of capital. This surplus is their own country. But soon all the principal industries of that country are fully capitalized. And the surplus of capital still continues to grow. What shall be done with it? Again export it.

"So each highly developed nation becomes the bitter rival of every other highly developed nation in making investments of capital in the 'new' countries of the world, and in the effort to acquire and maintain control of such countries. And this rivalry is reckless and implacable, because it is urged on by the private interest of individual capitalists. In a Socialist state this whole necessity for aggressive trade and ag-

gressive investment in the 'new' countries tends to disappear. It becomes virtually impossible. And the wars which grow out of the international commercial and financial rivalry, as most wars do, becomes almost unthinkable. Let me show why.

"In a Socialist state the prime industries are organized under the ownership and management of the people. They produce no dividends, no profits, for individuals. A nationally operated shoe industry, for instance, like a nationally operated post office, would 'pay' in services to the people and not in fortunes for stockholders and bondholders. What would be the result? "The result would be that no large accumulations of capital in private hands could possibly come into existence. Not being in existence, they could not demand an outlet in 'concessions' and 'colonies' in the 'unexploited' districts of the world. One of the two great reasons for international quarrels in those lands would have been wiped out. There would be no great surplus of private capital fighting its way to investment in South America and Africa and Asia.

"So much for the exportation of capital. It would be eliminated, and its wars with it. The 'backward' nations would develop at their own gait, as they should, and in their own manner. "Now for the exportation of commodities—shoes, for instance. "I am assuming, according to your question, that the 'advanced' nations of the world are all Socialist and that only the 'backward' nations are still left with non-Socialist governments. "In every 'advanced' nation, then, we would see commodities being produced not, as now, for the immediate purpose of profits for individuals, but for the purpose, actually, of meeting the requirements of the people. "A nationally operated shoe industry in a Socialist England would be organized to supply England with shoes. When it had made enough shoes to protect the feet of the inhabitants of England, its prime purpose would have been accomplished. There could be no necessary surplus of any commodity.

"At present, in all 'advanced' countries, as I have shown, there is a surplus of commodities and there must be in a Socialist state there is no 'surplus' about it. "Therefore, under Socialism, there is no necessary surplus of commodities demanding territories to conquer, and demanding those territories even at the cost of international conflicts.

"The countries will be organized both of economic necessity and of personal private profit. It will become a really voluntary peaceful occupation. "If England wants coffee from Brazil, it will have to buy it with the product of its own commodities to exchange for that coffee. Its purpose will be the coffee. If it can't get the coffee, it won't produce the surplus of commodities for it. Whereas now it has the surplus anyway and must go out to sell it. That's the difference, and it's the difference between aggressive competition for personal private profit and peaceful cooperation for the daily use and benefit of the whole people.

"There's my answer to your question. Socialism, by removing the two chief causes for wars in the field of international trade, would remove those wars themselves.—Everybody's Magazine.

Local Union Directory, Dist. 18, U.M.W.A

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CARBONDALE LOCAL No. 2227 Meet every alternate Sunday at 2.30 p.m. in the Opera House, Coleman.—J. Mitchell, Sec., Box 105, Coleman.	LETHBRIDGE LOCAL No. 574 Meet every Tuesday evening at 7.30 in Miners' Hall, 13th Avenue North.—Robt. Peacock, Sec.—Treas., Box 24.
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COALHURST LOCAL No. 1189 Meet every Sunday in Miners' Hall, 3 p.m. No sick benefit. Secretary, F. Barringham; President, Duncan McNab.	CORBIN LOCAL No. 2877 Meet every second Sunday at 2 o'clock in the Club Hall, Sick Benefit Society attached.—R. Garbutt, sec., Corbin, B.C.
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What is the Fate of Constantinople?

By Ashid Hoamur.

With the first of the Dardanelles slowly crumbling into dust under the heavy cannonading of the allied fleet, with the massing of the huge Turkish army and the landing of a strong force of allied soldiers, it is possibly but a question of time before the fate of Constantinople will be settled. That the Ottoman Empire is not certain of its ability to hold the city is indicated by the reports that it has removed all its holy relics, its archbishops, as well as the Sultan's harem, to the first Turkish capital, Brousa.

There is not another city in Europe which nations have so much desired to conquer and possess as Constantinople. Now, even before its fate has been established, Russia is casting greedy eyes and weaving sweet dreams about the picturesque mosque city. But whatever nation will raise its emblem over the gorgeous palaces of the mosque of Ahamed and the marvelous Church of St. Sophia, it seems certain that the day of the Turk in Europe is a thing of the past.

The imperial city of Istanbul, as the Turks call it, is situated at the junction of the Bosphorus and the Sea of Marmora. The northern part of the city is bounded by the harbor, known as the Golden Horn, which is part of the Sea of Marmora, and is considered one of the finest harbors in the world.

Its founder, Constantine I., built the city on seven hills, forming a triangle. To protect it from invaders he had given orders to construct high and heavy walls about the city. More than 40,000 Goths were employed in its construction and it was not till a century after the dedication of the city before the walls were actually completed.

The history of the city is marked by continuous battles for its existence and continuous struggles with invading armies. It was on the 29th day of May, 1453, that the city fell into the hands of the Turks. Those were the great and glorious days when the Turks spread like a plague all over the continent. After one of the most famous sieges known to history, Constantinople surrendered to the Turkish conqueror, Sultan Mohammed II. Twice before had the beautiful city been captured, once by the Venetians and the second time by Crusaders. Strange as it may seem, Constantinople fell into the hands of the Turks by strategic war tactics similar to those employed by the allied forces now in driving them out of it.

The Turkish conqueror entered Constantinople in triumph after a prolonged and combined land and sea attack. The stubborn fight put up by the Byzantines cost the Turks heavy in the loss of human life. It was a terrible siege, and notwithstanding that the fortunes of the war had gone against the defenders of the city almost from the beginning, the Turks paid a heavy price for their victory and the capture of the city.

The terrible slaughter of humans and the indescribable barbarities perpetrated by the Turks after their victory finds no equal in the history of human warfare. Angered by the long delay they were compelled to suffer and the stubborn resistance offered by the Byzantines, the Turks assuaged their spirit of revenge by the cruelest and most inhuman deeds known to man. The brave Greek Emperor, Constantine XI., died in the thick of the fighting and the wild Turks, infuriated with the battle, poured in over his dead body to plunder and devastate the most wonderful of Europe's capitals.

While the political future of Constantinople and its results upon the fortunes of the present war are already the object of much grave concern still the fall of the city has many more points of interest than merely from a political standpoint. For centuries it has been the dream of every scholar to be able some day to penetrate the mysterious vaults of the famous Church of St. Sophia. The church originally was constructed by Constantine in 326 opposite his royal palace and was dedicated to Sophia, the Goddess of Divine Wisdom. As it exists today it is one of the greatest buildings in the world and was reconstructed by Emperor Justinian. Its architects were Anthemios, of Tralles, and Isidoros, of Miletos, both prominent in history. In 1847 the famous Italian architect, Fossati, undertook a thorough restoration of the interior.

One of the characteristics of the Moslem religion is its belief in the sanctity of the written word. "What is written with a pen you shall not chop out even with a hatchet," is one

of their proverbs. And it is this religious canon that has through the ages preserved thousands of valuable documents, which may now be brought to life again by the fall of Constantinople. While the Turks have not spared human life when the city fell into their hands, while great masterpieces of sculpture and statuary were of no value to the wild hordes, the sacred canon protected the written word. When the Greeks saw that the fall of the city was but a question of a short time they hid all their valuable documents and manuscripts in the vaults of St. Sophia, and there covered with the dust of ages, it reposes now, untouched, by human hands.

Students of Greek and Byzantine literature claim that a renaissance greater than the Greek might result in the restoration of the precious hidden manuscripts. It is what is buried beneath the treasured, sacred and mysterious vaults of St. Sophia that has awakened the keen interest of the archeologists and the students of Greek history and literature. The vaults have been always jealously guarded by the Turkish Government and no outsider ever was allowed to penetrate its depths.

It seems an irony of fate that Great Britain, which in the past three centuries, and more especially during the last ninety years, has always intervened in behalf of Turkey, always protecting them from the loss of Constantinople, should now be taking the leading part in the wresting of that marvelous city of beauty from them. It is indeed, a pill too bitter to swallow. In 1855 Great Britain went to war in its desire to protect the Turkish Empire from the invasion of the Russian bear. In 1877, when the victorious Russian forces had reached San Stefano, that is to say actually within sight of the city, almost under the walls of Constantinople, it was robbed of its fruit of victory by an ultimatum from England, backed, of course, by its mighty fleet in the Dardanelles and the Sea of Marmora. Had it not been for the English intervention Constantinople might have, perhaps, today borne a Russian name. Up to recently England feared Russia at Constantinople, as Russia might from there attack the route leading to England's Indian Empire.

From the days of Peter the Great it has always been the fond dream of the Russians to conquer the Turks and capture Constantinople. Even Catherine the Great had fond hopes of transferring her capital from Petrograde to the city of the Ottoman. The mighty Russian Empire always longed for an ice-free harbor, and Constantinople is exactly that harbor. Russia needs for the development of her trade. The present attack on the Darda-

nelles marks a most astounding change in British policy, a change brought about by the danger threatening from Germany. Half a century ago Great Britain went to war against Russia. The popular war song of that time ended with the line, "Russians shall not have Constantinople." Today it is Russia that shall have the city so as to prevent it falling under the domination of Germany.—N. Y. Call.

PROGRESS AND WORKERS

"The man who is fooled with his eyes open is thrice fooled." People progress as they learn from past experiences. It has ever been the apparent inefficiencies of prevailing methods that have been the unconscious spur to inventors, scientists and statesmen. For centuries the common people of the world struggled for that opportunity for popular or democratic rule and a wider expression of human wants and needs in their affairs of government. It has been only as the submerged class in each era have risen to participation in affairs of government that these changes have been accomplished. For countless centuries society ordained that the worker must be kept submerged and in the vain effort to continue this policy tells us of many bloody wars that have been waged.

In no stage of the world's progress have the highly intellectual element in society kept pace with the demands of those who have been pushing their way through class antagonism to a position of vantage. For the most part their voices have always been raised in warning to a privileged class that to allow the workers a voice in their own government was to invite disaster. Even after the early settlers of America had left their fatherlands to escape the inequalities and injustices of class-ridden Europe, we read that they early established practically the same distinctions in citizenship in their new homes. From the early settlement of this land to the time when the merchant class, provoked to rebellion over the imposition and enforcement of the stamp tax, declared their independence from the galling sovereignty of an alien power.

Any hopes that may have been entertained that the birth of the new nation would mean the extension of the liberties of the artisan must have received a rude shock in the face of the utterances of men like Alexander Hamilton who fought hard, long and with some success for the safeguarding of the public weal from the clamorings of the untutored mob. While religious freedom was guaranteed this was of small consequence to the many who were still denied, for various reasons, participation in their own government.

Even the fairest minded of our forefathers were prone to regard with suspicion any move that would tend to give the people a larger voice in their government. Early attempts at organizing labor were not only severely condemned but drew down on the active agents the determined opposition of those who had intrusted themselves behind the powers that held the reins of control. While it is true that the American revolution marked the advent of an important change in government, in no sense of the word did it confer any greater freedom on the masses. We find that the traffic in "indentured" servants continued for thirty-six years after we had become a "free" nation. "Indentured" servant differed only from a chattel slave in that his servitude was for the payment of debts he had contracted. They were bartered in as other merchandise.

Many of those who were foremost in their advocacy of the belief that "all men were born free and equal" were most pro-slavery in their sentiments, and all must admit that freedom can not exist in reality, unless it encompasses all humanity. We have various testimonials from legislators of the New England section of that period that the industries of their section had found it cheaper to pay a daily wage than to hold slaves they were forced to keep. In the Southland conditions were different; chattel surroundings and industry, more favorable to the exploitation of the chattel and they opposed any intrusion in their affairs.

It is significant that the great abolitionists of that day were as outspoken in their defense of the wage-workers as they were in their condemnation of chattel slavery as an institution and some of our earliest approving literature on the organization of workmen, so far as this country is concerned, owes its origin to those brave souls who despised anything that savored of oppression. These were not blinded because the black man was a chattel and the white man a supposedly free agent. The modern industrial methods were in the burning and with a prescience and discernment that is today denied to many advanced thinkers realized that the power that owned them would own the men or women that were compelled to seek employment for a livelihood.

As the change in industrial methods took place there came into prominence a type in our political system whose sole function was to enact such laws and initiate such court procedure as would tend to safeguard the peculiar interests of the owning class. To all intents and purposes the status of the artisan and mechanic had changed but little and that of the laborer none, when the Civil war cast its cloud over

the nation. Real progress in the affairs of the worker in this land owes its origin to the conditions brought about by this same war. In the 15 years following the conclusion of the war between the North and the South, the Knights of Labor, the American Federation of Labor, various railroad brotherhoods and other international organizations were given birth. Co-incident with this activity on the industrial field came efforts to secure political betterment.

Organized workers played no small part in the brief but turbulent career of many political parties since the war in an effort to accomplish the betterment they have sought, and have succeeded in having written on the statute books of state and nation many laws of a beneficial nature. With the vast power that is at present entrusted to the United States Supreme Court or the high courts in the various states very many of these laws have been declared unconstitutional and thereby ineffective. But with all the obstacles that have been confronting their progress it can be said for the progressive unions of the land that they accomplished wonders in the way of betterment.

In many of these bills jokers have been inserted by the sponsors of the measures with the knowledge that their presence would render them ineffective. This has called the attention of thinking workers to the fallacy of electing alleged friends to political office and expecting them to remain impervious to the blandishments of a controlling faction in government. The crust of political prejudice that has hedged the industrial worker has been partially broken and the future promises a wide departure in the way of political activities. While there are ultra-conservative leaders who will decry any efforts at independent political action there is a militant minority who are ever striving to broaden the views of the rank and file.

The impotence of expecting a government composed of a class antagonistic to their interests to do otherwise than uphold present existing methods is being borne home to the worker in an impressive manner. Labor is battle-scarred from a thousand encounters with the employing element but through all holds silently to its program of betterment. So far as the great movement of labor is concerned the defeats at Lawrence, Patterson, the Cour de Alenes, the almost continuous reign of oppression in Colorado coal districts, the Michigan outrage, the New Jersey massacre are but interludes before the dawning of a better day. Having struggled down through centuries of blinding ignorance, oppression and outrage the knowing men of labor appreciate that all these manifestations of a dis-

pearing rule are the outer works that will finally lead to the breast-works of the enemy and have no lingering doubts as to the final outcome of the struggle.

The fact that child labor is fast being abolished in states where decency has gained the ascendancy; the acknowledgment by a majority of the population of the nation that women should not be compelled to work the long hours as dictated by a monetary control that has no sympathies for human advancement; that men high in the councils of the nation have spoken in no uncertain terms, denunciatory of the oppressive tactics of modern industrial methods are all evidences of a steady progress. The lines must be more clearly defined on the political field than hitherto; workers must vote for workers to represent them in the councils of state and nation. These workers must be cognizant of the eternal struggle that is on and must be in sympathy with the cause and program of labor that there may be no hitch.

Women must be encouraged in their efforts to gain that universal suffrage that they seek. Those who oppose these rights are the same that oppose all human advancement. Paid lackeys of a dominant clique must be relegated to private life that the worker may receive that justice that is his due. Gold must be dethroned and human rights must be given the ascendancy. The road to happiness lies straight before us. The superstitions and myths of a by-gone age must make way for the triumphal march of the advocates of decency and justice. Society must control the machinery of production and the natural resources of wealth instead of being shackled to the chariot wheels of those who are in private control of these elements of our very existence.—Wyoming Labor Journal.

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THE PROPOSED COMPENSATION ACT FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA

One very important clause in the proposed act is the recognition of the rights of dependents not resident in British Columbia. The government could not very well introduce a compensation bill without making such provision, however, for the workers of British Columbia, and dependents generally, are indebted to the miners of District 18, United Mine Workers of America, and the metaliferous miners of District 6, W. F. of M., who fought the action of Krutz v. Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company right to the Privy Council and secured justice for the dependents of the deceased Krutz, who was an Austrian with a wife and family in that country. It is safe to assume that the Honorable W. R. Ross would not want to venture into this riding with this election bit if such clause were not included, for he was acting as adviser for the coal company when the legal "joker" was discovered (?) in the present act.

From the politician's viewpoint, the threatened election created the psychological moment for introducing this piece of remedial legislation, but it is rather unfortunate that the Attorney-General did not (as he promised) avail himself of the many essential features contained in some of the United States compensation laws. Both the Washington, Oregon and Ohio acts contain features that might, and we hope will, be embodied in this act.

To analyze and compare with all the compensation legislation available would take considerable time and space, but the permanent partial disability clause of the proposed act (clause 38) leaves room for much dissention and quibbling. True, Clause 41 partly explains how "average earnings are to be computed," but what will happen in the case of a miner who has worked ten shifts per month (or less) for the last twelve months? Will that be considered as his "average"? We hope not. The introduction of a minimum liability is just as necessary as a maximum if the worker is to derive any real benefit. The Ohio (U.S.) act provides a minimum of \$5 per week, and this, or some equitable amount should be provided for the B. C. act.

Another important feature that is conspicuous by its absence is the question of medical assistance and hospital charges. A man may be injured and the bulk of his compensation will be absorbed by specialists' fees and hospital expenses. This has happened before and will occur again. Several locals called attention at the recent convention held in Lethbridge to cases in their own membership where it had been found necessary to assist a brother who required special treatment. This is always a costly item, entailing as it invariably does a long railway journey and a big fee for the operating specialist.

The Ohio act provided a maximum of \$200 for medical assistance.

There are many points in the proposed act that are good, and there may be points that are not particularly beneficial to the worker, therefore we advise him to study the act, which we will publish in full next week. If he does this, when the "solicitors for his confidence and vote" arrive, he will be in a position to question those gentry as to what they are prepared to do for those they are never tired of stating they "represent."

THE B. C. GOVERNMENT AND HOW THEY MAY QUALIFY FOR FELO DE SE

A philosopher of rather vinegary temperament once remarked that most men when they tell the truth do so unconsciously—that is, they do so by accident. Now to every rule there is an exception and we will be generous to think that the following is one of the exceptions. (Possibly our remarks are tempered by the fact that being human ourselves, should we err, will require the same generous treatment).

"To qualify for the suicide club, the Conservative party of British Columbia has only to propose to do some more financing for Mackenzie & Mann."—Ferne Free Press.

Science tells us that there is nothing so consistent as change. There is not! In the Spring of 1912 the McBride Railway policy was hailed by our contemporaries as the only possible means of securing prosperity for this province; today it is a qualification for the Suicide Club. Why this change? Scientific—purely. "Y-e-s; why sure!

It has been suggested by some of the "faithful" who bask in the sunshine of good Conservatism, that the Mackenzie & Mann outfit has not used these funds, or contributions, from the provincial government strictly for the purposes for which they were granted; and if they have used them, have not used them upon construction; that work has been badly done and money squandered. This may or may not be true, and so far as we are concerned will express no opinion. The Mackenzie & Mann corporation is not building railways for the benefit of British Columbia's populace—they are building them for profit, and if they soak all they decently or indecently can out of the government we do not feel disposed to complain, but would suggest that the government build the railroads for the USE OF THE PEOPLE and cease to subsidize construction companies who build for profit.

It would be just as well if a few of the intellectual scribes at present engaged in wasting ink and soiling paper would ask themselves "the simple question: Am I in business for my health or to make money? When they have succeeded in answering this simple question it is possible that they will understand why Mackenzie & Mann are not disposed to turn philanthropists for the benefit of the B. C. electorate.

Change is constant, but the trouble is there has been no change so far as the railroad constructor is concerned. In 1912 he was out for all he could get and he is after the same thing this year. Public opinion has changed, and the people of Canada are slowly but surely awakening to the fact that a change in our method of government is necessary.

The question every voter will have to ask himself is: How long will it take the Conservative government (or any other party government) to realize that the present competitive system is nothing less than a Suicide Club?

A growing tendency among the disciples of Marx to convert the interpretation of history into a sort of "economic fatalism," in which man stands as a mere pygmy in the process of social evolution, lends a detrimental and erroneous light to his theory itself. Marx and Engels, time and again, refer to this question in their works, and always with a decided disapproval of the new light cast upon the theory. "Man makes his own history," is only one of the many quotations that could be brought to show the true Marxian aspect upon this question. True, man does not make history out of the air, "but out of such conditions that he finds at hand," which means that man does not stand as a pygmy before the wheel of evolution, but as an effectual power in directing the same. Marx gives man the first consideration in social progress.

The above is culled from an article by Marx Lewis appearing in this issue. It is an education in itself, and the reader might peruse it not once, but twice or three times.

We have to call the attention of our readers to the new War Tax Stamp which comes into force on April 15th. Carelessness may cause the senders of letters considerable inconvenience, as all letters posted without the War Tax Stamp will be forwarded to the Dead Letter Office. Therefore read the regulations carefully and save both friends and self disappointment and annoyance.

filled by inducing Serbia to accept Austria's ultimatum (particularly in view of Austria's former engagement not to annex Serbian territory) or localized it by standing aside. England held the deciding balance of power over the governments directly implicated in the dispute, and would probably have checked the hostile developments of the diplomatic negotiations by a timely and unambiguous threat of military intervention in case of war. As to France, she was no party to the dispute. Her national interests were not directly threatened or involved. She was drawn into the war purely on account of her defensive-offensive alliance with Russia, an unnatural alliance, which never had the sanction of the progressive elements of her population.

The mobilization of the Austrian army forced Russia to similar measures. Germany could not remain in a state of military unpreparedness while Russia was mobilizing her troops and concentrating them partly on the German frontier. The mobilization of Germany forced France to follow suit. Each nation made frantic appeals to the other to demobilize pending negotiations for peace. None of them dared to comply—to trust its neighbor.

An attempt to charge any of the warring powers with the strategic offensive would be almost as fruitless as the effort to fix definite responsibility for political or diplomatic aggression. Immediately upon the declaration of war the hostile forces rushed upon one another and boundaries were freely and simultaneously crossed on all sides. While Germany was conducting a purely offensive campaign in Belgium, she found herself compelled to defensive action in Alsace-Lorraine. In the Eastern theatre of war the campaign is conducted impartially on German, Austrian, Russian and Serbian territory and each of the countries is engaged in an offensive and a defensive campaign either alternately or at the same time. The English troops fight on French and Belgian territory against the German foe. Not a single military force, with the sole exception of the Belgian, has remained within the confines of its own country wholly engaged in the defense of its boundaries against an invading enemy. Who then is the aggressor?

While this war lasts and the partisan passions engendered by it survive the question is bound to remain mooted. The dispassionate and enlightened historian of a more remote future will probably discard its very formulation. He will not judge the nations, but the conditions which have forced the nations, all nations, into this world crisis.

For back of the political intrigues and diplomatic bickering which have ushered in this war there lies the commercial competition between England and Germany, the colonial rivalry between Germany and France, the conflicting cravings of Russia and Austria for an outlet on the Adriatic, the critical Morocco and Agadir incidents, the recent Balkan war, and all the acute quarrels of the capitalist governments of modern Europe.

Let us assume that in the accounts between the belligerent nations one of them will be found chargeable with a heavier balance of immediate responsibility than the others. Would that relieve the people of the guilty country from the necessity of fighting off the threatened invasion of the enemy? If a war be frivolously and criminally incited by the government and military clique of a country, the victor's hostile troops would not limit themselves to a primitive expedition against the guilty parties, but by military usage and necessity, would visit their vengeance primarily on the people; sack their villages and towns, destroy their fields and homes, impose their rule on them, and impair their struggles for economic and political freedom.

The danger of a country threatened by foreign invasion is not less real because it has been brought about by the arrogance or recklessness of its own government. If a building is on fire the tenants will be impelled by their instinct of self-preservation to fight the flames, even though they know the fire to be of incendiary origin, caused by the owner for the purpose of collecting fire insurance. Only when they have subdued the flames and fought their way to safety will they think of squaring their accounts with their greedy and criminal landlord.

It is this primordial instinct of national self-preservation which in the last analysis accounts for the "war enthusiasm" of the people in all countries threatened by foreign invasion, regardless of the causes or objects of the war. And the Socialists form no exception to this rule.

The Socialists of Belgium, France, Germany, Austria and Serbia are almost unanimous in support of the military operations of their countries. Their countries are under partial hostile occupation, their territories are the theatre of active warfare, their national existence is physically threatened in each instance. The Socialists of England and Russia are divided in their war sentiments. In both countries there is considerable Socialist dissension for and against the war policies of their governments. Neither England nor Russia are seriously threatened by hostile invasion or occupation of their territory. The Socialists of the neutral European countries still maintain a rigorous anti-war attitude. They are so far not drawn into the maddening vortex of armed

conflict. And finally the peace advocates in the United States can well afford an attitude of superior criticism against some or all of the Socialist combatants. Their country is about four thousand miles removed from the actual theatre of the war.

Thus the differing war attitudes of the Socialists of the various countries is to be accounted for not on ideological grounds, not on the theory that one part of the Socialist International has remained true to its principles, while another portion has betrayed them over night, but by the much simpler explanation that the Socialists of each country have yielded to the inexorable necessities of the situation, and to the extent exacted by these necessities.

The Socialists of all belligerent countries have temporarily surrendered to the compelling forces of the great world catastrophe, but in no country have they abandoned their faith in the eventual coming of the brotherhood of all men. In no country have they modified their determination to continue their struggle for lasting peace firmly rooted in social justice.

Physically the Socialist International lies bleeding at the feet of the Moloch of capitalist militarism, but morally and spiritually it remains unscathed.—Metropolitan Magazine.

A WORD OF ADVICE

British Columbia is now on the eve of another political tussle, and just as to who will pull the levers for the next term depends greatly upon the mental development of the proletarian voter of B. C.

The present industrial conditions throughout the province, coupled with the European war, and the justice meted out to the miners during the strike on the Island, may work miracles in the result of the Provincial election. The narrow margin gained over the Socialist candidate in the last election should act as a stimulus for the miners and other wage workers in the Fernie riding during the coming struggle.

The writer has been for upwards of 23 years a scientific black diamond cutter, and coming from the great coal zone of Fernie, has every confidence in the ability of the miners to grasp the power of solidarity on the political as well as the industrial field. The failures of miners in their struggles with coal operators for a living wage and the elimination of rotten conditions obtaining in mines of which they were subjected to have not been lost.

The historical struggle of miners carries me back 35 years when barefooted and hungry I travelled to hear Keir Hardie address a meeting of striking miners. The miners and their wives at this time were very enthusiastic and determined to win the struggle. They turned out with flags composed of handkerchiefs fastened to poles and marched to the selected spot. The meeting was arranged to be held on the banks of the water Ayr, Wellwood, near Muirkirk, Ayrshire, Scotland. Keir Hardie at this time was merely a youth in agitation and had very little conception of the material world around him, and no knowledge of the workings of capitalism. The slogan of the miners' leaders was, as a rule, "Stand fast, and you are sure to win," but with few exceptions the opposite was generally the result. The Wellwood strike, not being one of the exceptions, was lost.

The Scottish coal strike of 1894 was led by such notables as Robert Smillie, President of Federation of Miners, Brown of the Lothians, Gilmor of Lanarkshire, and Chisholm Robertson of Stirlingshire. Lanarkshire being the principal mining centre was carefully watched and supplied with scabs. Lanarkshire police were shipped from England to Hamilton district to protect the scabs from the pickets. Beer, probably drugged, was supplied in abundance by the capitalists and their flunkies. The police became drunk, en, slobering chunks of human flesh, incapable of anything humane.

At the hour of six one morning the police tampered with the men on picket duty which resulted in the Battle of Hanneokburn being fought over again but with the profit mongers and the police victorious. The clouds of revolt became blacker, the spirit of national hatred predominating. Thou-

sands of miners marched to Motherwell to hold mass meetings in protest. Train loads of hussars were despatched to the troubled area. The supposed riot never materialized.

The quarries near Hamilton was the scene of the skull cracking by policemen's clubs, that banished forever the idea of success by a national strike. Smillie staggering with fruitless resistance gave up the ghost in future and advocated the nationalization of mines.

The threatening attitude of the

military authorities in England against labor disputes clears the horizon of the notion of state Socialism.

Labor struggles throughout the known world have suffered defeat at the hands of those in control of the state.

The working class are powerless to break their chains of slavery without first seizing the Government. Another opportunity is given you, therefore, to register the blow that will span the gulf that separates you from freedom. G. PATON.



LISTEN TO US

"We are only little ones, but we know Zam-Buk eased our pain and cured our sores. Perhaps it would cure you, too, if you tried it?" "I'm this sound advice from 'babes and sucklings'! Take it! The speakers are the children of Mrs. E. Webster, of Seignours St., Montreal, and the mother adds weight to their appeal. She says: 'My little girl contracted sculp disease at school. Bad gatherings formed all over her head, and not only caused the child acute pain but made her very ill. The sores discharged, and occurring on the scalp we feared she would lose all her hair. She was in a pitiable plight when we tried Zam-Buk, but a few days' treatment with this balm gave her ease. Then the sores began to heal, and we continued the Zam-Buk treatment. In a short time she was quite healed. 'My little boy sustained a serious scald on the neck. It set up a bad sore, and quite a few things we tried, failed to heal it or give him ease. Once more we turned to Zam-Buk, and we were not disappointed. It acted like a charm in drawing away the pain, and soon healed the wound.'

Zam-Buk is "something different" in the way of balms. It contains powerful healing herbalecences, which, as soon as applied to skin diseases, kill off the germs and end the painful smarting. Other essences contained in Zam-Buk so stimulate the cells that new healthy tissue is speedily formed. Eczema, itch, ulcers, cold sores, abscesses, festering sores, blood poisoning, chronic wounds, cold cracks, etc., are healed and cured in this way. Use it for all skin injuries and diseases. It is also of great service for piles. All druggists and stores at 50 cents box, or Zam-Buk Co., Toronto.

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Socialism And War

Why the Socialists Fight

By Morris Hillquit

The Socialists of all countries engaged in the world war in practically all cases support their governments, but it can easily be said that their participation in the war is judged in all cases by the same standards.

The conduct of the Socialists of France and Belgium in this war meets with general approval on the ground that their countries are engaged in a defensive war against the aggressive Germany. The Socialists of Germany profess to believe that their country is under a similar necessity to fight against a threatening invasion of the Rhenish front.

However, the Socialists are right or wrong in their estimate of the situation is neither provable nor very material. If they believe in good faith and on plausible grounds that this war presents to them a case of national self-defense, they did not consciously or deliberately leave the path of international Socialism. In point of naked facts the German Socialists are doing precisely as the Socialists of the other belligerent nations—they are fighting for their country.

If they are shamed out for condemnation, it is mainly on the ground that their country is the aggressor in this war. Can we accept this charge as an indisputable fact?

The critical and unbiased reader of the multi-colored official documents of the belligerent governments will search in vain for a convincing answer in the diplomatic correspondence and negotiations preceding the war. Every country makes out a plausible case of compulsory self-defense and furnishes proof of justification on the part of its opponent.

Austria was forced to deliver its ultimatum by the open and violent action of Serbia aimed at the disintegration of the monarchy. Serbia clearly demonstrated its pacific disposition by the acceptance of the main points of Austria's onerous conditions and by the offer of arbitration of the remaining disputes. Russia, in the language of Lloyd-George, "could not stand aside with crossed arms while Austria could have prevented the war by accepting Serbia's submission reply and ceasing to demand Austria's acceptance of the predominant power in the Balkans. Germany could not remain inactive in the face of the mobilization of Russian troops, nor could

she forsake her ally who, according to the German conceptions as expressed in the Kaiser's proclamation of August 4, was "fighting for her position as a great power and with whose humiliation our power and honor would be equally lost." Belgium and France were almost physically forced into this war. Great Britain could not passively permit Germany to violate its international treaty obligations, crush France and Russia, with the undisturbed hegemony of Europe and military and commercial superiority over England.

Each of the warring nations had vital interests to defend and each seemed to be anxious to preserve those interests without a sanguinary conflict. The correct sense of the obligations of the Triple Entente are attested by every page of the English White Paper and the French Yellow Book and the Russian Orange Book, while the pacific policy of Germany is shown as strongly in the White Book of that country.

On the other hand it may legitimately be argued that every one of the Great Powers engaged in this war held the key to European peace and deliberately refused to use it. Austria could have prevented the war by accepting Serbia's submission reply and ceasing to demand Austria's acceptance of the predominant power in the Balkans. Germany could not remain inactive in the face of the mobilization of Russian troops, nor could

Shiloh's Cure STOPS COUGHS 25 CENTS

News of The District Camps

COAL CREEK NOTES

Our genial mixologist of the Club journeyed to Fernie on Saturday to welcome his wife and family on their return from a vacation spent in the old country. The adult "silvered" band were on the trail on Saturday night and a right royal time was spent in the vicinity of Riverside Avenue.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert McClure left camp on Saturday en route for Whitehaven, England. We wish them a safe journey.

Messrs. Stewart, Graham, Williams and O'Brien were in camp on Sunday morning visiting B. North mine.

Mrs. D. Markland was admitted into Fernie hospital on Thursday last. Pleas to report progress.

James Brooks, of Fernie, secured the contract for kalsomining the school.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Wheeler have left camp to take up their residence in West Fernie.

The Rev. D. M. Perley of Fernie was in camp on Saturday officiating at the naming ceremony of the infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Corlett.

Our local leather chasers assembled in full force on Victoria Park Sunday evening to participate in a practice game. From the tryout we are inclined to think that our chances of securing some of the tinware are by no means remote.

A meeting of all interested in the game of lacrosse was called on Tuesday evening. The secretary read out a brief resume of the work done last year, and we are pleased to report that our juniors finished the season with a little balance in the bank. As there was only a small gathering of

adults present, it was decided to adjourn the meeting until Tuesday evening next at 8 p.m., when officers for the ensuing season will be elected. Don't forget the time and place.

A case of alleged assault with a pit lamp was before the court in Fernie last week and adjourned for eight days.

All local "Moose" are requested to try to put in an appearance at the K. of P. Hall on Monday evening next. Matters of importance will be dealt with.

Mrs. Mason, of Welsh camp desires to thank the Amateur Dramatic Society and all who in any way assisted in the recent concert for her benefit.

Church Notices
 Methodist Church—Wednesday, 7.30 p.m., pleasant hour. Sunday, 2.30 p.m., special Easter service; solos, etc., by the Sunday school scholars; 7.30 p.m., Special service, solos, quartette, etc.; subject, "Immortality." Rev. J. Stoodley.

The Ladies Aid in connection with the above church are holding an ice cream social in the church on Wednesday, April 7th. Any person having games, etc., are kindly requested to bring same along with them. An enjoyable evening assured.

Presbyterian Church—Sunday, 2.30 p.m., Sunday school; 7.30 p.m., Easter service; subject, "Christ Risen from the Dead." Preacher, Walter Joyce. Solos, etc. All welcome.

Benefit Concert at Coal Creek Huge Success
 The Amateur Dramatic Society are to be highly commended for the splendid show put on under their auspices on Wednesday evening last. The proceeds to be devoted to the widow and three children of the late Tom Mason,

who death took place some two months ago in Fernie hospital.

Punctually at 7.30 p.m., Superintendent Caulfield made a very appropriate remarks, dwelling on the good work of the "Amateurs" in all concerts, etc. Charles Percy, then "Paaderewski" of the company, then gave a very pleasing overture, after which the entire company rendered the opening chorus, "Come Fairy Moonlight," which was well received. The next number was the long looked for attraction, which took the form of a patriotic scarf drill splendidly executed by twenty-seven school girls under the direction of Miss Townsend, to whom great credit is due for the manner in which she had trained the children, the various evolutions receiving well-merited bursts of applause. The ever-popular comedian, John Hewitt entertained the people in his own inimitable style, and was followed by Mrs. Birkett, who also found favor with the assembly. The comedy trio, consisting of Messrs. Percy and Hewitt and Mrs. Percy, gave a glimpse of life in the London suburbs in a one act play entitled, "That Brute Simmonds," each character being ably sustained by the company. After the interval our local "Kubelik" rendered the overture, "Poet and Peasant," which secured unstinted appreciation. The entire company then gave the glee, "Come Where the Lilies Bloom," George Mitchell, one of the junior members, followed with a character song, "The Wail." Mrs. Percy rendered "My Bugler Boy" in fine style. Mrs. Mitchell sang "Queen of Angels," and had the pleasure of seeing and hearing how appreciative Coal Creek can be. Miss Shenfield sang "I have a Sweetheart, and Mother is Her Name," and the concluding item of the program, a very laughable farce, entitled "That Rascal Pat," was staged.

The following is the cast: D. F. Markland as Chas. Livingstone R. Billsborough as Major Puffjacket W. R. Puckey as Pat Nockgerty Doris Newbury as Laura Edith Joyce as Nancy

After the floor had been cleared the lovers of the "glid" enjoyed their heart's desire to the strains of an orchestra composed of Messrs. Percy and Gaskell. Everybody voted the event the best ever held in Coal Creek.

The committee of the Dramatic Society desire to thank Mr. Blakey, the electrician, for the lighting effects, and hope for a continuance of his assistance; also all who assisted by the loan of property, etc.

the meeting, the income being \$840.13 and expenditure \$838.35; balance \$1.78. The following office bearers were nominated for the coming season: Hon. President, O. E. S. Witeside; hon. vice-presidents, G. Kellock, W. S. Bosworth; President, G. Clair; vice-presidents, W. A. Davidson, R. W. Riddell, R. S. McKibben, D. Davis, A. M. Morrison, W. Needham; working committee, G. Fairhurst, chairman; W. Cowan, secretary; D. Gillespie, treasurer; J. Bell, A. Anderson, E. Barnes.

A football game is being arranged for Good Friday with the 13th Mounted Rifles from Finch Creek. The business men of the town headed by our worthy mayor are getting up a time for the soldiers on Friday evening.

The result of the ballot for and against the proposed new agreement was Coleman 245 for; 23 against. Carbondale, 154 for; 27 against.

CANMORE NOTES

A special meeting of Canmore Local No. 1387, held on Friday, March 26th, at 2 o'clock, had a full attendance. The occasion was to hear the report of Secretary Carter and Brother Oakes, Scale Committee for Sub-District No. 4, who had returned from the Calgary conference.

President Lattamus, having in a few brief remarks explained the object of the meeting, he called upon Secretary A. J. Carter to address the meeting with reference to the new agreement and other important matters in connection with the organization. The District Secretary-Treasurer reminded the brothers of the conditions prevailing in the camp with the mine working only two days per week, and advised the members to use every caution when voting on the proposed agreement. He wanted them to do what in their opinion would conserve the best interests of the local and the organization.

The next speaker was Brother Oakes and he was permitted to proceed until the clause dealing with "Penalty for stoppage of work" was reached, then practically all the members expressed their dissatisfaction.

Votes of thanks to Brothers Carter and Oakes concluded the meeting.

Mines are working here two or three days per week, and as can be imagined, we are in for good times!! Best, probably for the business man, who can get \$4.25 for flour, \$3.25 for sugar, etc., etc. No desire to burden the reader with other prices—he may be too closely acquainted with same.

One of our brothers, Maciek Jakubiec, while going home off work was run over by a C. P. R. car at the tippie and had one finger cut off and several others badly lacerated. Cause of accident: Chinks are not professional brakemen.

BEAVER MINES

The mine officials and a few workmen have been busy last week removing rails and other material from the lower levels of the mine and bringing them to the surface.

Mr. Pitcher of the Canadian Coal and Coke Co., visited Beaver last Friday and after a brief inspection advised that the tracks, haulage outfit and other gear in the top levels of the mine be left intact, so that the mine could be restarted on short notice should suitable orders be obtained.

Mr. Pitcher held out no hopes, however, that an early start will be made and stated that in his opinion there will be nothing doing this summer.

The mine officials and others who were on monthly salaries, will finish on April 15th, and it is said that the hotel bar will also be closed on the same date.

Miss Lee, school teacher, Beaver Mines, left here for Winnipeg in the early part of last week, and Mrs. Hamilton, has been appointed in her place.

John Barwick, Bellevue, visited Beaver last Wednesday and delivered a very practical and common sense address in the Pioneer Hall. Of course the main-object of Jack's visit was to explain the outcome of session held in Calgary in connection with the formation of the new contract. In his opening remarks he expressed his deep sympathy with the members present, especially those who had invested their savings in the building of homes at Beaver, and in his concluding remarks told them that although the new agreement was not nearly so good as they had hoped for, yet it was the best they could get and he hoped they would accept it loyally and make the best of it for the ensuing two years.

A ballot was taken on the 29th inst.

LETHBRIDGE

John Zaman has resumed work again having recovered from a broken collar bone.

John Davenport was taken to the hospital on Sunday 28th through the bursting of a blood vessel.

An Mitchell, who underwent an operation some few weeks ago, will resume work again some time this week.

Saturday is pay day—with only four days' pay to draw.

Vice-President Graham was a visitor to the Lethbridge Local, along with Board Member Larsen, when they discussed and explained the new agreement.

The sick and accident society meets in the Miners' Hall every first Sunday in the month.

Lethbridge Local Union will hold their meetings every Friday night at 7.30 p.m., and it is to the interest of all members to attend.

The Lethbridge Miners' Band will hold their first public concert in Adams Park on Sunday afternoon, and in Galt Park in the evening, under the direction of Frank Lamesfield.

James Hurst, of Staffordville, the domino expert, is matched to play Jack Cooper, of Little Wigan, for the championship.

A SLEEPING CAR STORY

By Eugene V. Debs

Way back in the eighties I first saw California. I was then so absorbed in getting railroad employe to join socialist unions that I had no time for Socialism and in fact hardly knew there was such a thing as a Socialist movement. All that came later to spoil all my plans, and without so much as consulting me.

Since those earlier days I have been often on the Pacific Coast, and now that I find myself once more on the way from San Francisco to Los Angeles, I am reminded of a similar trip some years ago which had a rather sensational surprise in store for me.

To make the story clear and easily understood a bit of preliminary explanation is necessary. For some six years after the Pullman strike I did not see the inside of a sleeping car. During that time I traveled almost continuously, speaking and organizing, and getting what rest I could at night in the day coaches.

The strike was still on when I left Chicago for home one day not having been there for several weeks (naturally) I was followed by railroad detectives day and night, and this was kept up for two years after the strike was over, to render futile every effort to reorganize the American Railway Union.

A few of the faithful who were always with me accompanied me to the depot. Of course the reporters and sleuths were also there. The next morning I picked up a home paper to find that "Debs left Chicago on a specially reserved Pullman in princely fashion, while his judges' duties are awaiting the train." The lie was spread all over the country by the Associated Press, and although I offered to prove by the train crew and by scores of wit-

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MUTZ

FERNIE

GEORGETOWN NOTES

Mine worked three days last week. On Friday a special meeting of this local was held to hear the report of of Scale Committee, delegates Carter and Oakes. Quite a discussion took place on the proposed new agreement. Most of the miners seem to be dissatisfied with some of the new clauses.

On Saturday afternoon the regular meeting was held. Delegate Oakes staying over from Friday and further explaining the proposed changes in the new agreement.

Georgetown ball chasers traveled to Canmore Sunday last and engaged the Canmore boys in an evenly contested game ending in a draw, neither team scoring.

The Dew Drop Inn is still the headquarters of the Georgetown bachelors. They give pink teas there Saturday night; but, say, boys, go easy with the married stiffs around camp—they're getting jealous.

Peters and Kendrick, two of our boys here, have quit work and left for their ranches. Hope you have a big crop, boys.

COLEMAN LOCAL

A mass meeting of Coleman and Carbondale Locals was held in the Opera House on Thursday morning, R. M. Morgan presiding. The meeting was called for the purpose of having the proposed new agreement explained to the members by International Board Member D. Rees and our local secretary, J. Johnston, who was one of the Scale Committee. Board Member D. Rees addressed the meeting first stating the most essential parts of the business done in Calgary from start to finish, explaining as he went, and endeavoring to make himself perfectly clear. Bro. Johnston afterwards addressed the meeting. A host of

The regular meeting of Local No. 222 was held in the Opera House on Sunday, March 28th. President R. M. Morgan in the chair. Minutes of previous meeting were adopted as read. Agreed that representation be made at the meeting brought up for discussion as new business. Delegates report on Convention postponed until next meeting. Bro. Hottelaki and Lemel were appointed to act with president and secretary in taking the ballot for proposed agreement.

The annual general meeting of Coleman Football Club was held in the Opera House on Sunday evening, G. Fairhurst presiding. The financial statement for 1914 was submitted to

TOO MANY CHILDREN

are under-size, under-weight with pinched faces and poor blood; they do not complain but appetite lags, they have no ambition and do not progress.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS

We would respectfully call attention to our out-of-town correspondents that they mail their communications so as to reach us on Wednesday morning, as the train service having been cut down to one train daily, mail which heretofore has reached us early on Thursday morning, now is not delivered before noon, and in the event of being behind time reaches us too late to appear in the issue for which it is intended.

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THE REVOLT OF THE FARMERS— A LESSON ON CONSTRUCTIVE RADICALISM

By Charles Edward Russell

An enormous wheat crop; wheat prices going up; bread prices going up; a lot of people going hungry. Why? Here's why. And here's what a bunch of nervous North-Western farmers are trying to do about it.

On Monday, January 25, 1915, at Baltimore, Maryland, inspectors of the United States Government seized an entire consignment of 70 railroad cars of oats sent from Chicago and other places in the West to be shipped abroad.

The seizure was made on the ground that the oats were adulterated with seeds, kernels of rejected barley and other refuse, and had been doctored with water.

"Because of this water, so the inspectors declared, even the part of the shipment that was oats and not rubbish would have spoiled utterly in a voyage across the ocean.

"Grand are the present opportunities in foreign trade," cries the American press from day to day; "let us go forth and seize them!"

Thus, in this case, the exhortation seems to have been followed; with dirt, shoe pegs and worthless seed for oats—doctored with water at that. Doctored? How doctored?

Why, run through an ingenious and powerful machine able to force water past the outer shell and into the interior of grain berries, so that the weight thereof shall be increased but no moisture shall be apparent on the outside.

Surely, this is a wonderful machine. Why is it used?

To help in skinning the farmer, O Unsophisticated One. And thereby hangs a tale. As thus:

A sod house, whether viewed as architecture or as a creation of beauty, is truly not much, but as a shelter against blizzards it must be admitted to have its points. Also, it possesses this advantage, that gentlemen otherwise inexpert in the art of building can easily master the secret of this construction.

You go out on the prairie and cut turfs about a foot and a half wide and two feet long. These you pile like bricks, making a wall, say six feet high and enclosing a space of twelve by fourteen, or thereabouts. In this you must leave a hole for a door, which, if you are wise, you will make as narrow as possible.

Then you get a stick or two of timber and fix up a roof of more sods, and there you are. In the winter time you can sit within and laugh at every saw-toothed blizzard that ever froze other marrows all the way from Medicine Hat to Cape Hatteras. That is, you can laugh if you happen to have fuel, food, a blithe disposition and no care about the mortgage.

Yes, it is a grand device, closely resembling the hut of the Esquimaux and offering about the same luxuries. There are many sod houses in North Dakota, but none at all in Park Avenue, Sunnyside, nor about Lowry's Hill, in the fashionable region of Minneapolis. The houses you see in those entrancing spots are quite different. They are very large and stately houses, and they are built of stone or brick instead of sod, and that indeed is different. Then they are surrounded with beautiful grounds, shrubbery, flowers, arbors and fountains, and that is more different still. Yes, they are quite different from the sod houses, but the fact is that many of these great stately residences in Minneapolis, bewildering in their size and beauty, rest squarely upon the little sod houses in North Dakota, and that seems strange of all.

Driving forty-six miles in North Dakota one day last summer I saw seven of these sod houses. Four were deserted. You instantly think that the farmer, becoming more prosperous in that fertile land, had built him another and a better abode. Oh, no; he hadn't. He wasn't anywhere in that neighborhood. I saw three other abandoned farmhouses that day that were not sod houses, but fairly pretentious structures of frame. The farmers that had lived in them were not anywhere in that neighborhood, either. So I had the following conversation with the able Scandinavian gentleman that was steering the automobile through heavy weather:

"What's become of these farmers?"
"Cleared out."
"Where?"
"Oh, I don't know. Some to Canada."

"What for? What was the matter?"
"Foreclosed and cleaned out, that's all. You see they mortgaged the land to buy it; then they mortgaged the house; then they mortgaged the horses and wagon to get seed; then they mortgaged the wash tub to get fodder. Well, the crop came, and the farmer, he don't get no price, so he can't pay. So they come, take the farm, take the machines, take the team, take the wash tub."

"Well, who's got the farm now?"
"The bank. It held the mortgage."
"And what will the bank do with it?"

"Soak it on some other sucker." The level, treeless plain of the prairie stretched on every side, the thick soil underneath as black as my hat and oozy with richness. Here was the best region in the world in which to grow wheat, and this was what happened to men that had tried to grow the wheat the world needed.

Whenever the increasing pinch of the cost of living causes a new protest, a vociferous chorus led by Mr. James J. Hill, the famous philanthropist of the North-west, assures us that the remedy for our troubles lies in mortgaging the number of farmers. "Back to the farm!" shouts Mr. Hill. "Production is far short of the normal. Back to the farm!"

A convocation of well-meaning persons has taken him at his word and organized a national association to induce more agriculture. "Back to the land!" is the top line of a hundred real estate agents' advertisements. "Come out to the rich wheat lands of the North-west." And this was what befell some of the men that listened to the pipes of these charmers.

The rich land was there all right; it could and did produce the stated amount of wheat. The world needed that wheat and demanded it and paid a great price to consume it. And the man that with infinite labor plowed and sowed and reaped received not enough of that price to pay the interest on his mortgage and must borrow the money to get back to Illinois.

Yet if he could have obtained at his market town anything like a fair share of the price the consumers must pay for his wheat he could easily pay his mortgage, feed his family, build far better than a sod house, and dwell in the comfort that naturally pertains to such a country.

What becomes of the margin between the price he obtains and the price the consuming world pays for that wheat? All the difference between failure and success, between poverty and sufficiency, lies in that question, and so at last the farmer is beginning to understand.

What becomes of it? First, the over-capitalized railroad takes its loot for the fat melons the directors cut for themselves and the dividends they declare on watered stock.

This is no figure of speech. Take, for instance, the eminent philanthropist, James J. Hill, whose tuneful voice arises once a week shouting cheerily, "Back to the land!"

Mr. Hill dominates the railroad transportation of the North-west, and is charged for hauling a bushel of wheat five cents more than in Canada the Canadian Pacific charged for a longer distance at the same time.

A gouge of five cents a bushel on the wheat produced on an average Dakota farm would amount at compound interest to \$20,000 in twenty-one years.

If, therefore, a man accepts Mr. Hill's invitation and goes back to the land in Mr. Hill's domain, Mr. Hill's company in twenty-one years will have gouged that man's son out of the price of a start in life.

This is nice for Mr. Hill, and may explain some of his choral activities, but the main question is, How about the man?

What becomes of the margin between the price the farmer obtains and the price that the consuming world pays for his wheat? You can find out in this story.

Mr. Hill dominates the press of the North-west as well as its railroads. He also dominates much press elsewhere. That is why you seldom see in type any of these simple little facts. Mr. Hill does not dominate this magazine. That is why you see these facts here.

When the gouging railroad has had its great share of the plunder, the bank takes a whack at the remainder for excessive interest charges. Then the Elevator Trust takes a whack for its benevolent purposes, and what is left is subjected to a gouge for the benefit of the golden palaces that adorn the fashionable regions of Minneapolis and Chicago.

Gouge is a euphemism. I suppose that when old Blackbeard or Captain Kidd looted a ship and sunk it he pleasantly referred to his enterprise in similarly figurative terms. By comparison the performances of these worthies seem almost respectable. You think now that this is exaggeration or bitterness. When you know the name of the wheat business you will find that for an example the speculative side of that business I have but understated the facts.

The places where the gouging operations reach their climax are the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce and the Chicago Board of Trade. Some persons refer to these institutions as gambling halls. This, again, is but inaccurate speech. Gambling infers chance. The legitimate functions of the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce and Chicago Board of Trade are one thing and well enough. Their speculative operations are a totally different thing, and it is here that they have eliminated all chance and substituted a lead-pipe cinch.

Come and see if this statement is extravagant. Wheat prices on the Minneapolis and Chicago markets are arranged in grades, and the grade is determined by inspection. A certain hard, clear, flint-like wheat, not common, is called No. 1 Hard, and is at the top of the grading. After that comes No. 1 Northern, Nos. 2, 3 and 4, Rejected and No Grade. No Grade is wheat in such condition that its standing cannot be determined.

The prices range downward with the grade. No. 1 will usually sell for 2 or 3 cents a bushel less than No. 1; No. 3 for about 3 cents a bushel less than No. 2; No. 4 for less than No. 3, and so on. Rejected may be 10 to 15 cents less than No. 1. No Grade may sell for more than Rejected, or it may sell for less, according to its condition. In general it may be estimated at about the price of No. 4, although in specific instances it may bring far less.

On these gradings the first trick is turned. The inspection at Minneapolis is done by agents of the State Railroad and Warehouse Commission. They are overworked, subject to political control, and wretchedly underpaid. From each car received they take several samples, look at them, and pronounce the grade of all the wheat in that car.

Commonly, they grade wheat too low. You can explain this fact in any way you please, but it will remain a fact. No grain is ever graded too high; most of the grain is graded too low. If doubt is entertained on this point, the records may be consulted. An aggrieved farmer or shipper has the right to appeal to a kind of higher court maintained for the purpose. Appeals are troublesome, and most farmers prefer to pocket their losses. They are not on the ground; they must depend upon the commission merchant; and he is often adversely interested when he offers the appeal. But of such appeals as are made 75 per cent. result in the raising of the grade at first assigned by the inspector.

This is conclusive. It shows that whatever the reason may be, the tendency of the inspection is to favor the miller and the grain speculator against the farmer.

When a farmer sends in a carload of No. 1 Northern and the inspector grades it No. 2, that farmer may have lost \$30 on that one car by the inspector, and the grain manipulator has made that amount.

You can see now that Senator McCumber was probably justified when he declared on the floor of the Senate that unfair grain grading cost the farmers of the West and North-west \$70,000,000 a year.

This is but the prologue to the story. Let's have now the regular chapters.

One of these North Dakota farmers, say out near Mohall, has had a good yield this year, and ships in five carloads of what he thinks is pretty good wheat. It certainly should be good; it comes from the best wheat soil in the world. He sends it, let us say, to the Gougemhall Grain Company, a firm of brokers on the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce, to be sold on commission.

The railroad company, of course, charges for hauling the wheat 35 per cent. more than the service is worth. That we all understand.

The wheat arrives in Minneapolis (if the train stays on the rails) and the inspector comes along to look at it. Instead of grading all the wheat No. 1 Northern, he decides that only one car is entitled to that grade. One car, he says, is No. 2, another No. 3, another is of Rejected, and the fifth is No Grade.

He turns in a sample of each car for the Gougemhall Company, and before the exchange opens (not morning the agent of the company has the samples, each in a little tin pan, neatly arranged on a table, apparently for sale).

But the minute the hammer falls at the agent of the Black Flag Elevator Company comes along and buys the five cars, each at a price under the market.

Now, the Black Flag Elevator Company is only an alias for the Gougemhall concern. Both agents have the same employers, and the sale is merely from the Gougemhall Company's right hand to its left.

Nevertheless the first agent gravely marks down the sale, and charges the Mohall farmer with 1 cent a bushel

commission—for selling from the company to the company. The sale of the wheat at less than the market prices is easily effected, for the reason that the farmer does not know at what moment the sale reports to have been made, and of course the market can always be said to be fluctuating.

The five carloads now go to the Black Flag Elevator. There the five grades are poured into one bin. After a time the Black Flag concern gets an order for five cars of No. 1 Northern.

It fills the order with the Mohall farmer's wheat, and enters up a selling commission. That wheat went into the elevator in five grades; it comes out as one. This makes good business for the Gougemhall Company, owners of the elevator. As observe:

Bought five cars of wheat at 85½ cents, average \$4275
First commission \$50
Sold same wheat, after mixing, as No. 1 at 91 \$4550
Gouge on mixing trick \$375
Second commission 50
Gouge on under buying, say 25

Total gouge \$500
Less legitimate brokerage if sale had been made for farmer to miller direct at full price miller paid 50
Net gouge \$450

Or about \$90 a car, illegitimate profit, being money that justly belongs to the farmer and the miller. To which must be added elevator charges and screenings at \$8 a ton, taken out before the sale to the miller.

O Captain Kidd, O Blackbeard of deathless fame, O Captain Flint, and old John Silver, but pikers all are ye by comparison!

Supposing the market price of No. 1 Northern to be 91 cents, the farmer's balance sheet will look like this:

One car No. 1 Northern at 90½ cents (under market) \$ 905
One car No. 2 at 88 880
One car No. 3 at 85 850
One car Rejected at 79 790
One car No Grade at 75 750
Total \$4175
Less commission 50
\$4125
Less freight at 16 cents a cwt 480
\$3645
Less demurrage whether any was actually paid or not.. 6
Net receipts \$3639

If the wheat when he sold it has been graded as it was when it passed out of the Black Flag elevator he would have received \$4,550, less commission. He had been swindled, therefore, of \$375, plus the gouge of the railroad company, plus the gouge of dockage, which is still another swindle, and means the deductions exacted for alleged dirt and impurities in his wheat, most of which are commonly mythical.

The agricultural department of his state, after much experiment, has determined that to produce a bushel of wheat there costs 75 cents. He has received now an average of about 72 cents a bushel. He may be as skillful as a departmental expert, as courageous as a lion, and as persistent as a terrier; this sort of thing will mean sooner or later defeat, and unless he has other luck or other resources, the melancholy journey back to Illinois.

The farmer plows and sows, God gives the increase, and the elegant gentlemen of the Black Flag sit in their offices and cop it off without turning a hand.

Therefore "Back to the land!" and be quick about it, that you may be trimmed good and proper, and the illith of the black flag contingent be abundant.

But about the magical, mystical transformation wrought in the elevator on that wheat—what was done to it to raise its grade to No. 1?

Nothing to speak of. Any wet wheat was dried; an air blast blew out some screenings. As to the rest, mixing and re-mixing at the mill. Unless, of course, the Black Flag crew happened to be of a particularly business-like order, in which case they ran the wheat through the doctoring machine before referred to, thereby adding to the weight of the wheat (and likewise to their profits) another goodly 5 per cent.

I have seen gentlemen that do this all day go to church and sing hymns on Sunday.

*This precious chapter is the history of financial piracy was turned up first by an investigating committee of the Bankers' Association of North Dakota.

You may think that when I say the wheat goes into the elevator in five grades and comes out as one I make a mere assertion. No assertion about it.

Here is the record for three months of a single elevator:

Grade	Received (bushels)	Shipped Out (bushels)
No. 1 Northern	99,711.40	196,288.30
No. 2 Northern	441,465.10	467,764.00
No. 3 Northern	273,047.20	213,459.30
No. 4 Northern	201,287.20	None
No. Grade	116,021.10	None
Rejected	59,742.30	None
Total	890,245.10	877,512.00
On hand, estimated		12,733.10
		890,245.10

Gouge on these transactions, 483, note that every bushel was accounted for, but 638,000 bushels went in as low grade and came out as high.

Of course, it is not to be inferred that all elevators do these things any more than that all members of the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce and Chicago Board of Trade are gamblers, or that all farmers in North Dakota live in sod houses. But the records, nevertheless, indicate a practice, and of such practices the American farmer has been the victim.

Thus, some years ago a twelve months' record of state grain inspections in Minnesota made this showing:

Grade	Received (bushels)	Shipped out (bushels)
No. 1 Hard	341,567	1,000,438
No. 1 Northern	10,070,414	16,900,917
No. 2 Northern	7,341,596	3,978,311
No. 3 Spring	1,335,830	444,401
Rejected	256,063	134,471
No Grade	1,335,531	344,823

That is to say, 5,466,372 bushels went into the elevators as low grade and came out as high grade and the elevator men took the resulting profits.

In two years the terminal elevators of Minneapolis received 15,571,575 bushels of No. 1 Northern wheat; in the same two years they shipped out 19,978,777 bushels of the same grade. This was 4,407,202 bushels more of No. 1 Northern than they received. Where did the 4,407,202 extra bushels come from? They did not grow in the elevator bins, certainly, and as at the beginning of the period these elevators had no No. 1 Northern wheat, the excess was not something left over from former years.

In the same period the same elevators received of No. 2 wheat 20,413,594 bushels and shipped out 22,242,410 bushels, or 1,828,826 bushels more of this grade than they received. Where did this come from?

Here were 6,236,028 bushels of wheat of these two high grades that were shipped out, and yet had never been received.

Hurrah for the Jolly Roger! In one year the terminal elevators of Duluth* received 599,602 bushels of No. 1 Hard and shipped out 646,606 bushels of it. They received 15,187,012 bushels of No. 1 Northern and shipped out 19,886,137 bushels of that. Here was a mysterious gain of 4,748,130 bushels of these two grades in a single year.

In the same time they received 19,693,454 bushels of No. 2 and shipped out 15,178,999 bushels of it. They received 7,035,133 bushels of No. 3 and shipped out only 1,971,355 bushels of it. They received 392,241 of Rejected and shipped out only 94,626 bushels of it. They received 2,514,505 bushels of No Grade and shipped out only 465,922 bushels of it.

No buccaneering on the Spanish Main ever touched these goodly takings nor dreamed of them. Under the Jolly Roger—this is the life! Here are further illustrations of this process, being the record of another year at the Duluth elevators:

Grade	Received (bushels)	Shipped out (bushels)
No. 1 Hard	90,534	199,528
No. 1 Northern	12,401,897	15,217,759
No. 2 Northern	10,196,172	6,723,733
No. 3 Northern	2,616,065	283,299
Rejected	2,300,202	314,139
No Grade	2,586,843	256,943

Two million bushels of No. 3, 2,000,000 bushels of Rejected and 2,000,000 bushels of No Grade were by this magic transformed into 6,000,000 bushels of No. 1.

The profits on these transactions must have been more than \$300,000. This is indeed the life! But where does the farmer come in? The inquiry has still another side. The inferior wheat thus graded up was sold as No. 1. What becomes of it? Much of it goes abroad, where it contributes its due quota to the ill repute of American business,* being, according to a phrase current in some quarters, "good enough for damn dogs." The rest of it is ground into flour and eaten by ourselves. It isn't around by the Minneapolis millers—

(*Hearing before the Senate Committee on Agriculture, January, February and April, 1905, on the McCumber bill. P. 207. One of the witnesses at this hearing, Mr. W. C. MacArthur, of Fargo, South Dakota, cited the facts about elevator frauds and then proceeded to a Minneapolis newspaper account of the sentencing of a grocer's boy in that city to sixty days' imprisonment for selling a short-weight peck of apples. P. 197.)

(*After innumerable protests against these frauds, including a protest of a remarkable nature to the President of the United States, foreign buyers turned to Argentina, and our wheat exports fell off.)

indeed it is not! They know too much. All the wheat they grind must come straight from the farmers and keep out of the mixing houses. But it is bought by unwary millers at a distance, or by those that can get nothing else. Three-fourths of it is inferior stuff, being wheat injured by mold, must, or something else. Not alone the farmer, therefore, but the whole nation is swindled, and the next time you taste must in your bread you can know the reason why.

Yet we have not told the worst of the story. Even more stupendous than the fraud upon the farmer by unfair grading is the wrong done to him daily by the absolute control and manipulation of the current market.

Here is something few persons ever consider, but if your increasing grocery bill is of importance to you, this is worth your serious thought.

You read today in your newspaper that wheat on the Chicago Board of Trade reached \$1.50. Now, just what does that mean?

It means that wheat sold today for delivery in the month of May at \$1.50. Not a bushel of wheat transferred, you understand, but one gambler in Chicago, under the disguise of a pretended transaction to be effected in May, bets that the price then will be \$1.50, and another gambler bets that it will not.

That bet becomes the governing price for the nation. On it is based the actual price of actual wheat at elevators.

On it is based the actual price of every barrel of flour.

On it, in turn, is based the actual price of every loaf of bread, now become in many cities 6 cents and promising to go higher.

It is not monstrous that men should be allowed to gamble in a nation's food supplies and skim their profits from the distress of millions?

Say there is a farmer in the neighborhood of Zumbrota, Minnesota, that happens to have some wheat left. Today he drives to town with a load of it. When it has been graded (or undergraded) the buyer at the elevator looks at the quotation of \$1.50 for May wheat in Chicago, bases upon it about seven different deductions, and pays the farmer what is left. But always that price named in the bet in Chicago, the thing that is politely called "the price of the May option" or the "December option," determines the basis of the price paid to the farmer in Zumbrota, or anywhere else.

How is that for a system—to induce men to go "Back to the land?"

If the determining bets of the Chicago gamblers were made on the weather, or supply and demand, on winds or waves or anything else definite and tangible, the case would be approximately on a par with roulette or rouge-et-noir. As a matter of fact they are not bets on anything so legitimate, but to a great extent they are bets on the state of mind and decisions of the gentlemen that for their own profits control the market.

They can make the price of the future (or option) what they will, and the price of actual wheat today is determined by the price of the future (or option). Actual cash wheat is the

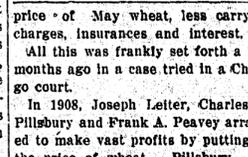


Dr. Andrew Wilson, Dr. Gordon Stables and Dr. Lucille Scott, the famous English analysts, have all personally tried Zam-Buk and expressed themselves convinced of its great healing value.

Mrs. St. Denis, of Thompson St., Weston, Wisnipeg, suffered long with eczema and finally her doctor said only Zam-Buk could cure her. Another fine tribute of a scientific man to this great herbal healer.

Mrs. St. Denis says: "The eczema broke out on my nose and one side of my face. I could get no sleep because of the irritation and pain, and my face was in such a shocking condition that for two months I did not go out of the house. I applied remedies and my doctor treated me, but without effect, until one day he said that the only thing which would be likely to cure me was Zam-Buk. I procured a supply and to cut a long story short, in a few weeks Zam-Buk cured me completely, leaving no scars."

Zam-Buk is a sure cure for cuts, scalds, burns, eczema, scaly sores, hemorrhoids, inflammation, piles, etc.; also an embrocation for rheumatism, sprains and sciatica. All drugs, oils and ointments, or not from Zam-Buk Co., Toronto, for price. Refuse harmful substitutes.



price of May wheat, less carrying charges, insurance and interest. All this was frankly set forth a few months ago in a case tried in a Chicago court.

In 1908, Joseph Letter, Charles A. Pillsbury and Frank A. Peavey arranged to make vast profits by putting up the price of wheat. Pillsbury and Peavey were grain manipulators and elevator men of Minneapolis.

A solemn agreement was made among the three that they would withhold their wheat from the market until they had driven the price to a certain figure.

Under their manipulation the price soared until it had risen to a dizzying height. Then Pillsbury and Peavey calmly broke their agreement with Letter, sold their wheat, took their profits, and left Letter with a loss of \$12,000,000.

In the course of this pious performance it was necessary to turn in 200,000 bushels of wheat at Minneapolis that had been graded No. 2. As No.

(Continued on Page Seven)

Who is Your Printer?

Do you ever consider the importance of the use of stationery that is in harmony with the nature of your business? In many cases your letterhead is considered as an index of your business character, hence the necessity of a good printer.

If you want really high class printing—the kind we always produce—try us with your next order

The District Ledger
"QUALITY" PRINTERS
Phone 48a :: Fernie, B. C.

SPRING!

We have a fine selection of—

Baby-Buggies Sulkies And Go-Carts

at reasonable prices

Buggy Wheels Retired on Shortest Notice

J. D. QUAIL

Hardware and Furniture Phone 37

FERNIE - B. C.



The Original and Only Genuine

Beware of Imitations Sold on the Merits of Minard's Liniment

A. Macneil S. Banwell MACNEIL & BANWELL

F. C. Laws Alex. I. Fisher LAWE & FISHER ATTORNEYS



We Are Ready to Scratch

This Lumber Business When you want spruce you do not want hemlock.

KENNEDY & MANGAN

Lumber, Lath, Shingles, Sash and Doors. SPECIALTIES—Mouldings, Turnings, Brackets, and Detail Work.

KING'S HOTEL

Bar supplied with the best Wines, Liquors and Cigars

W. HILLS Prop.

Fernie-Fort Steele Brewing Co., Ltd.

Beer and Porter Bottled Goods a Specialty

How's This?

We offer one Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure.

SHILOH quality cheap goods, more value, and better than the rest and more.

The Revolt of the Farmers-A Lesson in Constructive Radicalism

By Charles Edward Russell

(Continued from Page Six)

It was useless to the manipulators, who could use only No. 1. A demand was made that the grade on this wheat be raised.

What by a misnomer are called in Illinois "public warehouses" help materially in the skinning process. They are controlled by the manipulators, who fill them.

When these matters were before the Rules Committee of the National House of Representatives, in March, 1914, a South Dakota farmer testified that in the previous fall he had sold his wheat for 69 cents a bushel.

Suppose it to be only one cent, and what does that mean? We produce in this country every year something like five billion bushels of grain that is subject to future trading, manipulation by elevator companies and the gouges of fortune-grabbers.

In view of these simple facts to look upon the efforts of the gentlemen that are engineering the various "Back to the Land" or "Forward to the Land" movements is to laugh.

All this did not mean that the price had been regulated by the supply available for public consumption, for that price was really based upon the gamble concerning the option months ahead; or, in other words, it was fixed by future trading.

The same farmer witness pointed out that the skinning process was applied impartially no matter what kind of grain the farmer raised. He had a table of the market prices of corn under this system, and with it proved his contention that the price was always driven down when the farmer had corn to sell, and up when the corn had passed into the warehouses.

To illustrate again how little actual supply and demand may have to do with these markets, I cite the fact that in March, 1914, there was less corn in the United States by 300,000,000 bushels than the country produced in 1912, and still manipulation made the price lower, when normally it should have been higher.

And again, the year 1909 was the famous bumper grain crop year, when grain production in this and other countries made its record. In 1911 the yield was much less here and abroad. Yet the price of wheat in 1911, the year of small yield, was about 12 cents a bushel less than in 1909, the year of great yield.

The manipulators for their own purposes made it less.

Or, again, take the high prices of wheat supposed to have been caused in January of this year by the European war. To see that this was an artificial and stimulated condition one has only to turn to the reports of the Agricultural Department. On January 1, scarcely any wheat was left in the hands of the farmers.

It certainly was if you regard "his own" as the province of the defrauded. Now you can see why "Back to the Land" has a sound as bitter in the ears of those that know the truth.

He is willing to go to the land on somebody else's back, but he does not want

to stay there longer than to cut the melons and get the product of the farmer's toil.

And yet resentment against individuals for any of these things would be but foolish. The natural disposition, of course, lies that way, but without warrant. It is not individuals that are at fault so much as the system, of which all of us, even the men we have called grain gamblers, are the helpless victims so long as it shall last.

For more than a generation the farmers of the West have groaned under these impositions. They are trimmed on all sides. The railroads, the elevators and the grain exchanges took everything except the mortgage.

Farming in the United States ought to be the best legitimate business in the world. Fertile soil, good climate, enormous populations to be fed—where can you beat these conditions?

To correct these intolerable evils every kind of governmental remedy has been tried and re-tried, from regulative pills to rate-control plasters, and not a condition has been changed.

Wearied of this and built co-operative elevators at the railroad stations. Time was when the railroads would have blocked that game. They don't dare to block it now, thanks be to publicity and to nothing else.

Now, of course, all the co-operative farmers' elevators at these little stations ought to send their grain to the co-operative farmers' exchange in St. Paul, and some day they will.

To reduce the extortionate railroad charges, rate regulation was vigorously advocated. The baneful injunction and the Supreme Court took care of such innovations.

But at last there has arisen in the Northwest a movement very different from all these, a movement efficient, logical and so seriously threatening the sanctified Black Flag that all the power of the established system is put forth to crush it.

Because for once it flings away the dear old American fetish of pottering legislation and adopts instead the only remedy that will cure.

The increasing pressure on the farmers has driven them to unite in several excellent associations for common defense and common action. One of these, the Society of Equity, is leading the revolt of the Northwestern farmers.

Co-operative grain marketing began on a small scale in 1907, a group of far-sighted farmers, operating as best they could through the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce. In 1911 they incorporated the Equity Co-operative Exchange, and the next year their success warranted them in establishing their own terminal selling agency.

After the year of this the Minneapolis banks, acting on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce, made vicious war upon the co-operative enterprise. This is one of the most extraordinary stories in the history of modern business. I can only cite the result, which was that the banks forced the new exchange to move to St. Paul.

In December, 1914, a call of the Society of Equity invited 5,000 farmers of the Northwest to a Farmers' Congress at St. Paul, where the case for co-operation was set forth in remarkable speeches by Congressman Mansbach, Senator Clapp and others. About 700 farmers took more than \$60,000 of the stock of the Co-operative Exchange and assumed the permanent success of the new enterprise.

Merchants and others in St. Paul offered to subscribe for the rest of the stock, and to supply any amount needed. The farmers declined. No words but actual farmers could hold out of the stock. Shares are \$50 each, by far the greater number of holders are farmers.

The enterprise is purely co-operative. It receives shipments of grain and sells them, charging the established commission of 1 cent a bushel. This is its revenue. It pays to its stockholders a percentage of the profit. It decides the stockholders may establish a contingent fund of \$10,000 from this all net receipts above a percentage returned to the customers whether stockholders or not, in the proportion that each has shipped grain to the Exchange.

In the first two years after it had established its own terminal agency the Exchange had marketed 1,000,000

bushels of grain. So rapid is its rise that this year it will probably market 8,000,000 bushels.

It secures for the farmer the best obtainable prices, it does away with the mixing swindle, it operates in the daylight and on the level, it tolerates not dealing in futures, it returns to the producer the gouge formerly grabbed off under the black flag.

Under Co-operation the farmer is ceasing to be skinned—on this side anyway.

When the Equity Exchange ship was launched the merry gentlemen under the Jolly Roger raised a contemptuous ha! ha! They are not laughing now, but putting forth every effort to crush their competitor.

All of the independent millers outside of the black flag influence prefer to buy their supplies of the farmers' Co-operative Exchange, and for a most significant reason.

They get better grain. As the Co-operative handles only grain straight from the farmers, and none of it ever sees a mixing house, it is not filled with seeds, dirt, sprouts nor adulterations from the Rejected and No Grade.

Co-operation, the certain road to relief. Even the obstacles put in the way of the farmers' venture have merely enforced this lesson.

Thus, for a reason most instructive the new exchange has not always been able to get all the grain it could handle.

You must understand that for years the Grain Combination, through its Elevator Trust, controlled all the grain buying and therefore had the farmer roped and could skin him in the finest style of the art.

After many years some of the farmers wearied of this and built co-operative elevators at the railroad stations. Time was when the railroads would have blocked that game. They don't dare to block it now, thanks be to publicity and to nothing else.

Now, of course, all the co-operative farmers' elevators at these little stations ought to send their grain to the co-operative farmers' exchange in St. Paul, and some day they will.

As a result the Equity in its first year was able to touch only one-eighth of the farmers' elevators. To meet such insidious methods it has sent out its own lectures, who have gone from one farmers' association to another, explaining the situation.

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The farmers that have shared in it have done far more than to establish an honest grain exchange and to secure relief from many of the frauds practiced upon them. They have shown to the whole nation, if it cares

WORLD'S GREATEST KIDNEY REMEDY

"Fruit-a-tives" Have Proved Their Value In Thousands of Cases

WONDERFUL RECORD OF A WONDERFUL CURE

Only Remedy That Acts On All Three Of The Organs Responsible For The Formation Of Uric Acid In The Blood.

Many people do not realize that the Skin is one of the three great eliminators of waste matter from the body. As a matter of fact, the Skin rids the system of more Urea (or waste matter) than the Kidneys.

"Fruit-a-tives" cures weak, sore, aching Kidneys, not only because it strengthens these organs but also because "Fruit-a-tives" opens the bowels, sweetens the stomach and stimulates the action of the skin.

"Fruit-a-tives" is sold by all dealers at 50c. a box, 6 for \$2.50, trial size, 25c. or will be sent postpaid on receipt of price by Fruit-a-tives Limited, Ottawa.

to look, the way to solve its puzzling problems.

Slowly the whole world is learning the fallacy of the theory of competition. "It is not true," said George W. Perkins before the Industrial Relations Commission, "that Competition is the life of trade. Co-operation is the life of trade."

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Directory of Fraternal Societies

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS. Meets every Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock in K. P. Hall.

ESTHER REBEKAH LODGE No. 20. Meets first and third Thursdays in month, at 8 p. m., in K. P. Hall.

ANCIENT ORDER OF FORESTERS. Meet at Aiello's Hall second and third Mondays in each month.

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS. Meet every Tuesday at 7.30 p. m. in their own Hall, Victoria Avenue.

LOYAL ORDER OF MOOSE. Meets every Monday at 7:30 p. m., in K. of P. Hall.

LOYAL TRUE BLUE ASSOCIATION. Lady Terrace Lodge, No. 224, meets in the K. P. Hall second and fourth Friday of each month at 8 p. m.

LOYAL ORANGEMEN. Terrace Lodge 1713. Meet at the K. P. Hall first and third Friday evening of each month at 7.30. Visiting brethren cordially invited.

is the way it looks to a man up a tree. How does it look to you? Your government should own and operate all public utilities for your benefit.

BADLY WOUNDED For severe wounds, cuts, skin diseases, eczema and all skin troubles—for adults or for children, there is nothing to equal the great herbal healer ZAMBUK HEALS QUICKLY

Fernie Provincial Election 1915

Fellow Workers,— Once again the time has arrived when the worker has an opportunity of expressing his opposition to the present order of things. Once again he can give evidence of his convictions that he is dissatisfied with the continuance of his exploitation.

List of Locals District 18

Table with 3 columns: No, Name, Sec. and P. O. Address. Lists members of District 18 including individuals like J. Whalley, J. Longman, James Burns, etc.

Everything Advertised on This Page is MADE IN CANADA

For Easter Week we will have on display the Latest Ideas in Children's Suits, Reefers, Hats and Caps

Ready-to-Wear Department

Ladies' Suits

Now is the time to make your Easter selection. We have in stock a full line of Suits in all the leading styles and colors. The coats are the loose-belted effects and military styles. The skirts have the plain, circular and yoke effects, which are the popular styles for this season. Sizes, 16 to 44.

Prices \$13.50 to \$37.50

Special \$15.00 Suits

Here is a bargain that will please the woman who wants a Spring Suit at a small cost. These suits are all regular stock and almost without exception have been marked from \$27.50 to \$40.00. The coats come in short and medium length. Some of the skirts are plain tailored and others fancy; colors, navy, black, Copenhagen, grey and brown. Sizes, 16 to 44.

Special \$15.00

Dresses

Attractive dresses made of such popular materials as taffeta, crepe de chine, messaline and poplin, in navy, rose, brown Belgium blue. The styles represent the Empire and the coatee modes, with newly designed skirts. Sizes, 16 to 44

Prices \$10.50 to \$35.00

Blouses

Come in and see our line of Spring Blouses of crepe de chine, messaline and taffeta.

Prices \$3.50 to \$8.50

Hats

We have a large assortment of trimmed Hats in all the new shapes and colors.

Prices \$3.00 to \$15.00

Untrimmed Shapes

In burnt, black, and white; in small and large sizes.

Prices 50 to \$5.00

25 Per Cent OFF Ladies' Bags and Purses

This includes our entire stock of leather and bead bags and purses. In the assortment are the new saddle and pouch styles. Regular prices from \$1.00 to \$18.00.

Pay Day Special 25 per cent Off

DRY GOODS DEPARTMENT

Ladies' Kid Gloves

These are exceptionally good value and are made from specially selected skins. They come in tans, white and black. Sizes, 5 1/4 to 7. Regular, \$1.25 pair.

Pay Day Special 75 pair

Ladies' Neckwear

We are now showing a big and exclusive range of the newest neckwear, featuring amongst the latest the new military styles. These come in Organdie and are trimmed with ribbon and buttons.

Prices 35 to \$1.00

SEE WINDOW DISPLAY

Towel Special

Linen Turkish Towels. Splendid value and a good drier.

Pay Day Special 30 pair

Ladies' Cashmere Hose

All wool; made from a specially selected yarn; spliced toe and heel and double garter top. Full fashioned.

Special 3 pair for \$1.00

Ladies' Umbrellas

Extra strong steel frame and a good quality taffeta cover. A big selection of pretty handles to choose from.

Pay Day Special \$1.00

Special in Neckwear

These are exceptionally good values. In the assortment one can find almost any kind of collar, either for waist or coat. They come in lace, organdie, muslin, etc., and sell regularly up to \$1.25.

Pay Day Special 25

Hose Supporters

Made from an extra good quality elastic with extra strong patent clasp which will not tear the wearing top. Sizes: child's, misses' and ladies'. Regular 35c.

Pay Day Special 25

Childrens Suits and Hats

Child's Suits in plain and corduroy velvet, serges, tweeds worsteds and several novelty cloths.

Child's Reefers in Fawns, Greys, Scarlet, Black and white and Navy, in all sizes from three to twelve years.

Children's Hats in Felt and Velvet in new shapes and color combinations.

Children's Caps in Serges, Meltons, Tweeds and Velvets in all colors and sizes.

See Our Window Display

MADE-TO-MEASURE CLOTHING DEPT.

This has always been a special feature of our Men's Department. We represent the best makers of "Made in Canada" clothes: 20th Century, Wm. H. Leishman, and Copley Noyes and Randall. We do not ask for a deposit and guarantee a perfect fit and general satisfaction with all of our made-to-measure garments. Suits run from \$18.50 to \$50.00. Our \$25.00 Special is a Crackerjack. Drop in and see our range of cloths.

HATS

A new shipment of up-to-the-minute Felt Hats for men are on display in our Clothing Department. Select your Easter Hat now.

Prices \$2.50 to \$4.50

Here is Something Interesting

A lot of last season's Felt Hats in colors, ranging in price from \$2.50 to \$4.00, are on sale in our Clothing Department at..... \$1.95

Ask to See Them

MEN'S EASTER SUITS

Special lines of Tweeds, Worsteds and Serges, made in the regular three button models perfect fitting, and good wearing suits will be on sale in our Men's Clothing Dept. at

\$8 \$10 \$12.50
\$15 \$18.50

These are exceptional values; be sure you see them



LATEST STYLES IN EASTER FOOTWEAR FOR LADIES

We have just received a shipment of high-grade novelty footwear, the newest and most up-to-date styles for Spring wear. Below is a description of a few of the lines.

Ladies' Patent Colt, sand colored cloth tops, Blucher style, with Spanish shaped heel, low short vamps and plain toe; a very stylish shoe.

Ladies' Patent Colt Button Boot, made with knaki cloth top, new shaped french heel, short vamp and round toe; a very dressy shoe.

Ladies' Patent Colt Blucher or button high Shoe, black cravenette top, high Cuban heel, round toe and the new short vamp; a very comfortable and dressy shoe.

"INVICTUS" SHOES FOR EASTER WEAR

Easter this year echoes the call of Spring—strengthening the desire for new and more appropriate apparel. Invictus Shoes offer you all that is desirable in footwear—the final touch to a correct appearance.

See The New Styles

In our new styles you will instantly note the superior excellence of the leather and the unusually careful workmanship and finish.

"The Best Good Shoe" will prove its right to the title in the service it will give—greater wear and shape maintenance than you ever had before.

Easter Offerings in our Grocery & Provision Dept.

Flowers:

See our display of Cut Flowers and Plants on show Saturday morning. They will be gorgeous and reasonable in price.

Fresh Vegetables

We will also have a good assortment of green vegetables, including celery, lettuce, onions, radishes, spinach, etc.

Confectionery

Every child and grown-up likes sweets Easter Sunday—we can supply them. Our assortment is good.

Royal Mixed Candy, per lb 10
Star Mixed Creams, per lb 15
Riley's Slab Toffee, per lb 35
Lowney's Cream Chocolates, per lb 35
Lowney's Cream Chocolates, in boxes 30 to \$1.50
Lowney's Baby Boxes, each 10

GROCERY DEPT.

Peanut Butter, 16 oz. jar 25
Clover Honey, 1 lb. pots 25
Clover Honey, 2 1/2 lb. pots 70
Pure Maple Syrup, qt. bottles 50
Pure Maple Syrup, 1/2 gal. tin 95
Stuffed Olives, small 20
Queen Olives, 16 oz. 35
Canada First Condensed Milk, per tin 10
Lowney's Cocoa, 1/2 lb. tin 25
Cowan's Cocoa, 1/2 lb. tin 25
Cranberry Sauce, 1 lb. glass 35
Libby's Peaches, 2 1/2 lb. tin 25
Canadian Peaches, 2 lb. tins, 2 for 35
Chiver's Lemon Curd, 1 lb. glass 35
Roger's Pure Cane Syrup, 2's, 2 for 35
Tea, Special Blend Bulk, 2 lbs. 75
Libby's Asparagus Tips, 1 lb. tin 25
Libby's Asparagus White, 2 1/2 lb. tin 40



PROVISION DEPARTMENT

Young Turkeys, per lb 30
Young Ducks, per lb 25
Young Chicken, per lb 25
Fowl, per lb 20
Premium Ham, small, per lb 24
Premium Ham, sliced, per lb 28
Premium Bacon, per lb 35
Premium Bacon, slabs, per lb 38
Premium Cooked Ham, per lb 40
Special Lean Bacon, 4 to 6 lb. piece, per lb... 21
Boned Plain Ham, per lb 15
Boned Rolled Ham, per lb 30
Cooking Eggs, per dozen 15

HARDWARE DEPARTMENT

O'Cedar Mops, small size \$1.00
O'Cedar Mops, medium size \$1.25
O'Cedar Mops, large size \$1.50
Garden Rakes, each 50 and 75
Garden Hoes, each 50 and 75
Garden Spades, each \$1.00
Garden Forks, each \$1.40
Poultry Netting, 24 inch, per yard 60
Poultry Netting, 36 inch, per yard 60
Poultry Netting, 48 inch, per yard 10
Poultry Netting, 60 inch, per yard 12 1/2
Poultry Netting, 72 inch, per yard 15
Grey Enamel Dish Pan, 17 qts 45
Grey Enamel Water Pail, 14 qts 50
Copper Bottom Wash Boiler, No. 9 \$1.90
Royal Canadian Wringer, each \$3.90

The Store of Quality

TRITES-WOOD COMPANY, LTD.

Money Saving Prices

BRANCHES AT FERNIE, MICHEL, NATAL AND COAL CREEK