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MR. RALPH SMITH CRITICIZED

Although an Acknowledged Authority on Theology, Doubt Exists as to His Infallibility in Regard to Mundane Affairs.

Mr. Ralph Smith recently addressed a Sunday night congregation in the local Methodist church. We note the following from the Nanan Herald's report of Mr. Smith's sermon. With the theological end of the address I have no quarrel. Mr. Smith's guess is as good as mine is likely to be. I therefore note only references made to mundane affairs:

Mr. Smith said: "That life generally had been very pleasant and light to him, as he had for many years tried to see that the good of things was greater than the bad, the pleasures were more numerous than the pains, the joys than the sorrows, it viewed from a broad and general standpoint. The social reformation of the race depended on the reformation of the units of the race; strange excuses, however, are sometimes given for the discovery of weakness of our character, for the doctrine of hereditary sin, the teaching that we were personally to blame, we all inherited weaknesses and also transferred them to our children, but the worldly doctrine that sought to exonerate itself at the expense of its victims was as foolish as it was cowardly. Personal responsibility is the basis of character and throwing the blame on our ancestors could only result in excuses for continued faults. Then there was the position to blame environment, the extent of the influence on our character was no doubt incalculable to blame them for our weakness, to encourage and excuse ourselves, for we must remember that from it was the creation of humanity and we could not expect it to be better than the race. At the individual, then the environment. Good individuals were an absolute guarantee of good environment, but good environment was not a guarantee of good individuals. Hope is always sweetly saying it is further on. There was the doctrine of despair, everything going to the devil; the Almighty had made the Universe, and everything was done, even the foundations of society. This doctrine was the hope of a cry of the incompetent and was certainly not the doctrine that had created the Anglo-Saxon race."

The mental attitude of the average person is simply a reflex of the hopes and disappointments, of the successes and failures which go to make up every-day life. If the game strikes a streak of luck, whether a result of "rigging the game," or blind credulity of fate or a laudable exercise of the "individual initiative," there is no virtue in being saved at the result. Much less is it possible to base a scheme of social economy upon such a freak indication. To construct a theory of life from the fragmentary experience of one individual, be that self any other, is to wander as far from the facts as one flies from the other. Yet this is the mistake at Mr. Ralph Smith makes.

As individuals, we are the sum of two factors, inherited qualities, placed in contact with an environment. Our inheritance begets mainly to the physical. Nature insists in endowing us with the hooked nose or the red hair of an ancestor. Medical science shows that in our blood run the diseases of our parents. Temperance people assert that a craving for drinks is transmitted from parent to offspring; the latter as it may, the former demonstrates scientific truths, and because the same truths are adopted as having been written by the finger of the Almighty six thousand years ago, it forms one of the few bridges that spans the gulf between science and religion. Mentally we inherit a capacity, a canvas with unsharpened outlines of a picture that may be completed in a thousand different ways. Coming into the world we bear a relationship to the species only. We hear absolutely no relationship to any particular mental or moral plane. The germ of a given individuality may exist, but environment is the soil and climate in which the germ must unfold and develop. Environment is the hand that paints the canvas which determines our mental status. A tree rooted on a bleak, wind-swept coast, cut back by winter frosts and scorched by the hot sands of summer, will grow gnarled and twisted and lose its symmetry. In like manner, human being brought up in ignorance and poverty, worked to the limits of endurance, and snubbed by those whom he falsely believes are his superiors, will develop blunted faculties and an ill-balanced character. The same fundamental laws govern all life. The human being like the plant is limited to the possibilities of the soil and atmosphere in which he grows. Again this fact is a ready acquiescence in modern Society makes no apology for taking the child from a disreputable parent.

A prominent characteristic of man is his power of adaptation. While plastic stages his character

may have been moulded by a kindly environment. Later on in life a conflict arises between the fundamental law of life—self-preservation—and the ethical laws of moral rectitude. In other words economic necessity demands one line of action, moral rectitude demands another. Economic necessity fights with the stomach; moral rectitude fights with the brain. A warm sympathy exists between these two organs; the stomach is the fire-grates and boiler; the brain is the engine. When the steam gets low in the boiler the engine slows down, resulting in a corresponding change in the work accomplished. The slower vibrations create a different form of light. Moral rectitude sinks into the world of abstract things. A live ass is seen to be more beautiful than a dead lion, and in spite of moral qualms, the individual decides, while in Rome, to do as the Romans do.

The variation in prison population between summer and winter, between "good times" and "hard times," speaks plainer than words of the influence of economic environment upon morals. The New York State Board of Lunacy estimates that seven thousand young women in New York and Brooklyn go insane every year owing to lack of sufficient food and clothing. How many more become prostitutes? How many become thieves? How many commit suicide? Did all this misery occur through some deficiency of character in these women, or is it traceable to an evil economic environment? Are the thousand and one frauds, adulterations, falsifications and hypocrisies which engulf us all, and the enormous increase of suicide and crime of every description which damns the present day to be explained by a few self-satisfied words about character? What are the factors that operate upon, and influence character? The every-day surroundings in which we live. This too, is environment. Then, if a lowering of the general character be observed we must seek its cause in the environment. Want, and the fear of want, breeds rogues, vagrants, murderers, suicides, lunatics, prostitutes and drunkards, and again on the other hand, a thief may be so placed that cupidity finds its greatest gratification in being honest. Man in his activities will conform to the basic laws of energy—will follow the line of least resistance.

To say that "good individuals are an absolute guarantee of good environment," when the good individual can only appear as a resultant of a good environment, is to reason in a circle; to beg the question, in fact.

It is true that hope has an energizing influence, but if hope be not based on justifiable grounds it becomes blind credulity, like the ostrich trying to evade its pursuer by hiding its head in the sand. Its effect is to weaken rather than to strengthen. No doubt the "doctrine of despair, everything going to the devil," grates on the ears of the man whose life work has been to lift himself out of his class. But how does the condemnation of the existing economic order fit in with the every-day experience of the worker? It may be "the cry of the incompetent," but incompetent to do what? Incompetent to lift ourselves out of our class.

The present economic order is founded upon the exploitation of a propertyless class. That class can no more release itself from exploitation without remodeling the whole economic system than the lower story of a building may be removed without changing the character of the edifice.

To talk of "individual initiative" and "character" as a remedy for working-class exploitation is merely a play upon words—a lullaby. It is true that an individual may by cunning, climb on to the shoulders of his fellows and out of his class, but all the runners in a race cannot win a prize. The ethics of the prize ring forbids the victor gloating over his victory. The tenth man in a well may climb a column of his fellows and reach the surface; but having done so, his duty is to take prompt measures to rescue his benefactors, not to pat his chest and call attention to his own superior abilities in escaping their predicament. It is class activity that is necessary to solve a class problem. We might lift ourselves out of our class, but it would be at the expense of our fellows. We believe that by concentrated action the whole class can be lifted and placed on a footing of manhood instead of merchandise. This hope appeals to us more strongly than the personal hope of being classified among the successful—the competent.

Working to this end we necessarily come in conflict with those who would have affairs remain as they are, no better evidence of which is required than the fact that instead of appealing to the intellect, the appeal is made to racial prejudice and ignorant vanity by a re-hash of the worn-out drivel about Anglo-Saxon superiority.

P. WILLIAMS, Nanaimo, B.C., Jan. 10, 1906.

A telegram from Winnipeg, published in a local evening daily says: "That Winnipeg is profitable for loan sharks, who prey upon the misfortunes of the illiterate, and make exorbitant profits out of the necessities of the poor and financially embarrassed, was shown by some astonishing facts which were presented to the Trades and Labor Council. W. H. Reeve, the president of the Council, brought before the members striking instances of the grasping usury of loan companies now flourishing in the city, and operating especially in the North End. He told of a man who secured the loan of \$30 for three months. He was compelled to pay \$12 for use of \$30, but the company deducted the \$12 for interest when the transaction was made, so that the man only received \$18, while paying back to the firm \$30. They had an additional interest on \$12 in the meantime. It figures out at over 160 per cent. interest." In the same paper, or any Vancouver daily for that matter, may be found advertisements of "money to loan," concerns which can skin Winnipeg sh-

locks by a block. Indeed, the advertisement of one outfit of sharks states in plain figures "10 cents per dollar per day." It seems brutal enough for capitalist property to rob the workers of the product of their labor in the field of production. But for the ruling class to allow such damnable hold-up and swindles to be perpetrated upon men whose necessities drive them well-nigh to desperation, is inconceivable—even under capitalism. But it's a glorious system, and there's so much "prosperity."

"Collier's" has cast Vancouver's horoscope and discovers that the city is likely, in the not distant future, to become a great metropolis with a few millions, more or less, of a population. This prognostication has set the local business mouth watering in fond anticipation of the glorious era of exploitation and profit-mongering that is of necessity implied in the fulfilment of such a rosy prediction. Judging from the result of similar experiences elsewhere it might be well to suggest to the workmen that if Vancouver should be builded to metropolitan proportions they will own mighty little of it when the job is completed.

PREDICT COMING EXPLOSION

Railway Magnates and Others Foresee the Collapse of American Democratic Institution As a Result of Congested Economic Conditions.

In the opinion of Mr. James J. Hill we are fast reaching the point at which, according to European writers of the last century, American democratic institutions will explode and the man on horseback will arrive. That is to say, the public lands, or free lands, as they are sometimes called, are being rapidly taken up, and will soon be no relief for the congested economic conditions of the crowded centers of population.

In a letter to the national irrigation congress, Mr. Hill calls attention to the fact that since 1898, when 8,458,896 acres of public land were taken up, the amount has risen year by year until, in 1903, it amounted to 22,650,928 acres. Mr. Hill declares that most of this public domain has been gobbled up by "lumber kings and cattle barons," who are depriving bonafide settlers of the land to which they are entitled. He says:

"Except in a few secluded spots, where the influence of the railroad companies as colonizers has been exercised to secure actual settlement on their lands, the influx of actual cultivators is so small as scarcely to be reckoned with. Those who go upon government land in our day for the purpose of making homes are a handful."

Commenting on these facts in a well written article, the New York Evening Mail says:

"A handful upon 22,650,928 acres! It is true—most distastfully true. There must be an end to this. It is as much a fact now as it was in the days of Caesar and of Gracchus in Rome, and as it was when Count Rumford saved Bavaria from its hordes of sturdy beggars, that the only salvation of a slum-cursed nation is access to the land. In one way or another that must be had."

"The ring of land-grabbers must be throttled, or the nation will suffer for it. The irrigation works, with their chance for small settlers, are an alleviation of the situation, but only an alleviation. National assistance to irrigation is equivalent to saying, 'If there is any land left so arid and desolate that the lumber kings and cattle barons do not want it, we will spend hundreds of millions to make some of it available for use by the people.' But if we have statesmen who are capable of handling the subject, they will regain possession for the people of the vast domain that has been stolen."—Kansas City Journal.

What the "lumber kings and cattle barons" have been doing with what is commonly termed the public domain, Mr. Hill and his kind have been doing with the means of transportation. The former will have a long road to travel yet before they succeed in as completely seizing upon the countries' lumber and pastoral resources as the latter have upon its transportation facilities. In either event it is but the logical working out of the present system of property in the means of wealth producing which has for its underlying motive the reducing of the wealth producers (workers) into proletarians and the coining of profits out of their wage servitude.

Mr. Hill's apparent disapproval of the action of "lumber kings and cattle barons" may be readily understood when it is remembered that the railroads would derive a much larger volume of traffic from a territory possessing a numerous population engaged in diversified industry, than from one devoted exclusively to lumbering or cattle-raising. There is usually a well-defined material reason for the opinions of foremost citizens of the Jim Hill type.

The New York Mail is somewhat mixed in its reasoning. The only "salvation of a slum-cursed nation" no longer lies in access to the land alone. This might have been the case in former times when the matter of fashioning the resources of

the earth into form for human consumption, was a process carried out by the individual, practically unaided by his fellows. Today the man with access to the land is practically helpless unless coupled therewith he also possesses access to the machinery of production, which implies all that constitutes the great modern system of making and distributing things, factories, mills, shops, mines, railways, steamships, etc. Granted access to the land, while the modern machinery of production and distribution remain as at present—capitalist property—the product of the worker upon the land must needs be surrendered into the hands of that property, and the toiler again stripped of all right to his means of existence, will be forced to ones more drift as a derelict upon the troubled sea of wage-slavery. All of which means the perpetuation of the slum-curse that the Mail practically admits now rests upon the nation.

Subterfuge after subterfuge may be tried in order that human society may escape the curse that has been called down upon its own head because of its unsufferable ignorance and folly in so long allowing itself to be class-ruled and class-outraged. The curse that rests upon humanity today is the curse of capital. That curse must be borne patiently, even to the bitter end, or that portion of human society upon which it falls most heavily (the working class) must rise in its might and bring to an end its baneful sway.

Not back to the land, but working class mastery of all the means of producing and distributing wealth should be the slogan of the workers.

With the resources of the earth and the machinery of production rescued from the polluting embrace of capital, and made free of access to every human being for the purpose of supplying himself with the things needful for his existence and comfort, that which the Mail refers to as the "slum-curse" will vanish as dew before the morning sun.

The setting free of the means of labor, and the consequent freeing of labor itself implies a political upheaval such as the world has probably never seen before. This upheaval must of necessity come at the hand of the working class itself. The present ruling class (capitalist) is daily proving itself incompetent to deal with the gigantic powers that have sprung forth as a result of the mathematical precision with which the development of capital has concentrated the wealth of the world and impoverished the class that produced it. The present system of property can no longer conserve the needs of human society. Not only Jim Hill and the "Mail," but thousands of others proclaim it from the house-tops, though perhaps unwittingly. Every appeal or effort that is made to relieve the distress that prevails in every center of population of any consequence, proclaims to the world that capitalist property has been "tried and found wanting." That capital cannot provide for its dependents. That the rule of capital must be broken and that form of property be swept from the board to make room for another better suited to human needs at this stage of history.

Statesmen are needed, and they must needs be statesmen in every sense of the word. Men who realize and understand the trend of development all down through the ages, and can thus recognize the nature of the next scene shifting upon the great stage of human events. They must be men who, realizing the task in hand, will leave no stone unturned to accomplish it, and not stop to count the cost. These men can come only from the ranks of labor for this class in human society alone is interested in their coming. The times are ripening. We shall not have long to wait.

A NOTED GERMAN SOCIALIST

August Bebel Acknowledged by Capitalist Press to be a Vigorous Champion of the Movement for Labor's Emancipation.

The following, which appeared in the News-Advertiser, of this city, on Jan. 9th, is a manifestly fair account of the position held in the German Socialist movement by Herr Bebel, and a deserved tribute to the courage with which he defends it. The Western Clarion is not disposed to hero-worship and attaches but little importance to individuals no matter how strong their personality or commendable their characteristics. That which makes Bebel and others what they are upon the stage of events, is the movement behind them, and whose spokesmen and warriors they are. The German Socialist movement huris its challenge into the teeth of the German ruling class through the instrumentality of Bebel and others, and that challenge cannot be ignored because it embodies the program of the next politico-economic change in human society made absolutely imperative by the economic development of the past. The voice of a Bebel is merely the voice of a new order of human society announcing its approach. Bebel, with his powerful personality and dauntless courage, is but a human epitome of the movement whose creature he is; a movement virile, bold, aggressive and all-conquering, because it carries within itself the key that alone can unlock the gates of the future to still further human progress towards a more perfect civilization. The reader should remember that in the following, it is the German Social Democracy that is pictured, and not Herr Bebel as an individual or a personality, apart from it.

"Bebel—Buelow," the title of so many German newspaper articles during the Reichstag Session, is one of the best evidences of the position occupied in German public life by the acknowledged leader of the Social Democratic party.

August Bebel, a turner by trade, is practically the only man in the Reichstag who fearlessly criticizes the Kaiser's policy, and so much importance is attached in governing circles to the effect on the German people of this criticism that it is almost invariably replied to at once by the exponent of that policy, the Imperial Chancellor, Prince von Buelow.

This rhetorical duel between the leader of the "men who possess nothing," as the German Socialists call themselves, and the Kaiser's highest official, has become one of the great features of the Reichstag debates. The news that "Bebel will speak tomorrow" fills all the galleries of the House, and "Bebel sprich" (Bebel is speaking) is one of the few messages that bring the members of every party to their places.

COMPELLING ATTENTION.

Bebel is described as no orator, as merely a clamor, but the whole House listens attentively to him for two or two and a half hours. The press accuses him of merely stringing together sentences which contain nothing new, which become wearisome with their repetition of the old story, but every newspaper in the Empire, whether representing the ultra-Conservatives or the radical factions, devotes articles to every speech he makes on Imperial politics.

This may be partly due to the fact that behind Bebel are three million voters representing a vast mass of discontent which might one day take inconvenient shape; it is equally due, however, to the Socialist leader's personality.

The members of the Reichstag are not moved by his eloquence as are the great crowds of working men and women, whom he influences in a way that no other public speaker in Germany can equal, but they appreciate a man who has the courage to speak his mind. In Great Britain the policy pursued by the government is the policy of a party whose confidence the Ministers possess; in Germany the only policy pursued is the policy which the Kaiser personally considers will be beneficial to the people. The Ministers and Secretaries of State are appointed by the Kaiser, and remain in office just as long as they please, being paid by the people. The Kaiser thus dictates his Government's policy, and, moreover, he also himself enters the arena of politics.

The ordinary combatants in this arena adopt the tactics that have been employed in similar situations before today, and they look on with bated breath when the despised Socialist leader stands up manfully to dispute the ground with the other leader, who has such enormous advantages over him.

A REBUKE TO "YOUNG MASTER"

With all his vivacity, Herr Bebel

knows exactly how far he can go, though his boldness has sent many a thrill of excitement through the House.

Perhaps his most daring venture into the field of personalities was his public rebuke, from his place in the Reichstag some sessions ago, of the German Crown Prince. His Imperial Highness had made a remark about the Socialists which the party considered derogatory to them. Bebel gently reprimanded the "young master" for this, and as suavely recommended "the young man" to be more careful in his language when speaking of a large body of citizens who might one day be his subjects. The President stood up excitedly with his hand on the bell, but as no name was mentioned he could not stop the speaker, though he could see by the faces of the members that every body knew to whom Bebel was referring.

Herr Bebel is always intensely earnest when addressing the House on what he considers to be the mistaken policy of the Government. His eyes glisten, he shakes his head till the wealth of his grizzled hair looks like a lion's mane, he gesticulates freely, his right arm is constantly in movement, and he is perpetually pointing with his finger to his sworn enemies, the reactionary parties, now deprecating, now threatening, now prophesying. This, too, lends a certain charm to his speeches, for the Reichstag debates are usually intensely dull.

His power in his own party is enormous, so much so, that his political opponents style him "the Dictator." He and his co-leaders use every endeavor to prevent factions, knowing that their strength lies in keeping well together. Radicalism in Germany is practically effete and Liberalism seems to have lost all its stamina, so that the cause of "the people" is left in the hands of the Socialists.

A LIFE-LONG COMBATANT.

Dissension, sometimes strife, there must be in such a large party as the Social Democrats have now become, and Herr Bebel evidently thinks that seemingly arbitrary measures are occasionally advisable in the interests of unity. At the present moment there is especial need of an undivided front; millions of workers are suffering severely under a policy which taxes them for the benefit of the great landowners, and the government is about to ask the sanction of the Reichstag to fresh taxation.

The power of Bebel's eloquence over "the masses" and the strength of his character in the councils of the party will undoubtedly assure him a predominant influence over the policy of the great party as long as he lives. This influence is being felt at the present moment, for there is reason to believe that to it, probably in spite of opposition on the part of less advanced leaders, is due the more pronounced revolutionary tactics that the party is openly adopting.

For 43 years, since he was 22 years old, Herr Bebel has fought manfully by word of mouth and in writing for the betterment of the position of the working class. He has in this time braved fearful odds, for the whole forces of Junkerism and reaction have unceasingly been arrayed against him.

No amount of scorn, ridicule, and persecution has even daunted him; indeed, their only effect has been to increase his popularity with his followers. He has several times been in prison or "high treason against the German Emperor," and only the immunity enjoyed by members of the Reichstag has saved him from being frequently punished for plain speaking there.

"THE NEW MODEL."

He is a comparatively rich man. For he retired from his turnery business with a fair competence, and his best known book, "Die Frau und der Sozialismus," has been most successful from a pecuniary point of view. He is constantly being twitted by his opponents on this account; he is told that he does not act up to the principles he teaches, that it is unjust to the party which wages such deadly war against capitalism when the leader himself is a capitalist. His standpoint is, however, that it is a principle of Social Democracy that every man is entitled to keep and enjoy what he has earned by his own honest labor, whether manual or mental.

Herr Bebel's ideals will not be realized in his lifetime, but he has achieved a monumental work in the interests of the working class, and he and his colleagues have built up a power which will never be trampled under foot.

Unemployed Workman: Just tell me what's the matter with my wife?

Doctor: "Why, man, she is starving for want of food, she has no disease, but is very weak. Give her port wine, eggs and chops."

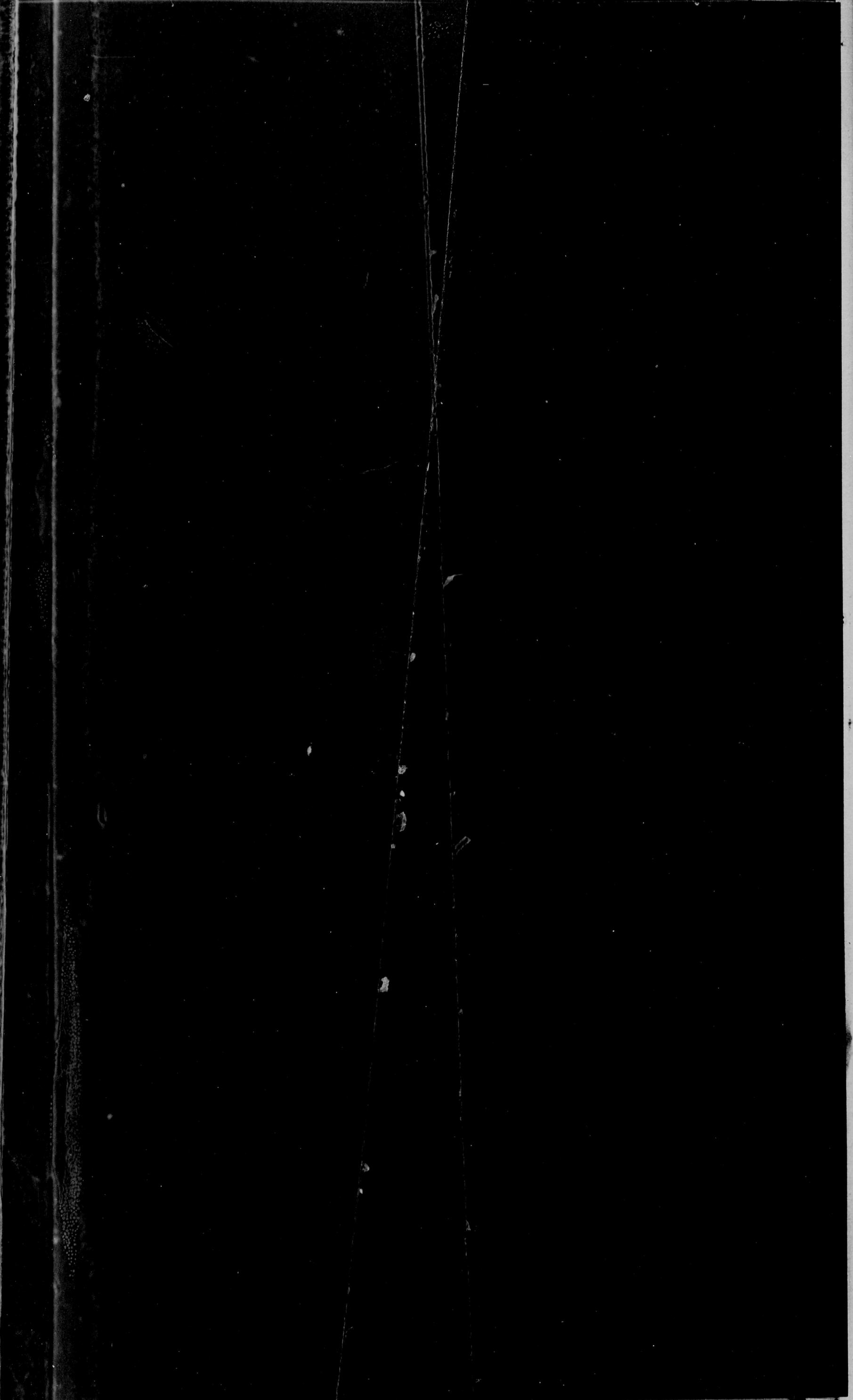
Unemployed Workman: Yes, but where shall I get them from?

Doctor: Oh! ask the (Prime) Minister.

A handbill calling a meeting of unemployed, in Bolton, Eng., wound up as follows:

Her Ladyship: "Doctor, do tell me the truth, what is the real cause of my illness?"

Doctor: "Well, madam, you have been feasting too much lately, eat dry toast and drink soda water for the next three days and you will be all right."



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It is true that hope has an energizing influence, but if hope be not based on justifiable grounds it becomes blind credulity, like the ostrich trying to evade its pursuer by hiding its head in the sand. Its effect is to weaken rather than to strengthen. No doubt the "doctrine of despair, everything going to the devil," grates on the ears of the man whose life work has been to lift himself out of his class. But how does the condemnation of the existing economic order fit in with the every-day experience of the worker? It may be "the cry of the incompetent," but incompetent to do what? Incompetent to lift ourselves out of our class.

The present economic order is founded upon the exploitation of a propertyless class. That class can no more release itself from exploitation without remodeling the whole economic system than the lower story of a building may be removed without changing the character of the edifice.

To talk of "individual initiative" and "character" as a remedy for working-class exploitation is merely a play upon words—a lullaby. It is true that an individual may by cunning, climb on to the shoulders of his fellows and out of his class, but all the runners in a race cannot win a prize. The ethics of the prize ring forbids the victor gloating over his victory. The tenth man in a well may climb a column of his fellows and reach the surface; but having done so, his duty is to take prompt measures to rescue his benefactors, not to pat his chest and call attention to his own superior abilities in escaping their predicament. It is class activity that is necessary to solve a class problem. We might lift ourselves out of our class, but it would be at the expense of our fellows. We believe that by concentrated action the whole class can be lifted and placed on a footing of manhood instead of merchandise. This hope appeals to us more strongly than the personal hope of being classified among the successful—the competent.

Working to this end we necessarily come in conflict with those who would have affairs remain as they are, no better evidence of which is required than the fact that instead of appealing to the intellect, the appeal is made to racial prejudice and ignorant vanity by a re-hash of worn-out drivel about Anglo-Saxon superiority.

P. WILLIAMS,
Nanaimo, B. C., Jan. 10, 1906.

A telegram from Winnipeg, published in a local evening daily says: "That Winnipeg is profitable for loan sharks, who prey upon the misfortunes of the illiterate, and make exorbitant profits out of the necessities of the poor and financial embarrassments, was shown by some astonishing facts which were presented to the Trades and Labor Council. W. H. Reeve, the president of the Council, brought before the members striking instances of the grasping usury of loan companies now flourishing in the city, and operating especially in the North End. He told of a man who secured the loan of \$30 for three months. He was compelled to pay \$12 for use of \$30, but the company deducted the \$12 for interest when the transaction was made, so that the man only received \$18, while paying back to the firm \$30. They had an additional interest on \$12 in the meantime. It figures out at over 160 per cent. interest." In the same paper, or any Vancouver daily for that matter, may be found advertisements of "money to loan," concerns which can skin Winnipeggers sh-

PREDICT COMING EXPLOSION

Railway Magnates and Others Foresee the Collapse of American Democratic Institution As a Result of Congested Economic Conditions.

In the opinion of Mr. James J. Hill we are fast reaching the point at which, according to European writers of the last century, American democratic institutions will explode and the man on horseback will arrive. That is to say, the public lands, or free lands, as they are sometimes called, are being rapidly taken up, and will soon be no relief for the congested economic conditions of the crowded centers of population.

In a letter to the national irrigation congress, Mr. Hill calls attention to the fact that since 1898, when 8,453,896 acres of public land were taken up, the amount has risen year by year until, in 1903, it amounted to 22,650,928 acres. Mr. Hill declares that most of this public domain has been gobbled up by "lumber kings and cattle barons," who are depriving bonafide settlers of the land to which they are entitled. He says:

"Except in a few secluded spots, where the influence of the railroad companies as colonizers has been exercised to secure actual settlement on their lands, the influx of actual cultivators is so small as scarcely to be reckoned with. Those who go upon government land in our day for the purpose of making homes are a handful."

Commenting on these facts in a well written article, the New York Evening Mail says:

"A handful upon 22,650,928 acres! It is true—most dismally true. There must be an end to this. It is as much a fact now as it was in the days of Caesar and of Gracchus in Rome, and as it was when Count Rumford saved Bavaria from its hordes of sturdy beggars, that the only salvation of a slum-cursed nation is access to the land. In one way or another that must be had. "The ring of land-grabbers must be throttled, or the nation will suffer for it. The irrigation works, with their chance for small settlers, are an alleviation of the situation, but only an alleviation. National assistance to irrigation is equivalent to saying, 'if there is any land left so arid and desolate that the lumber kings and cattle barons do not want it, we will spend hundreds of millions to make some of it available for use by the people.' But if we have statesmen who are capable of handling the subject, they will regain possession for the people of the vast domain that has been stolen."—Kansas City Journal.

What the "lumber kings and cattle barons" have been doing with what is commonly termed the public domain, Mr. Hill and his kind have been doing with the means of transportation. The former will have a long road to travel yet before they succeed in as completely seizing upon the countries' lumber and pastoral resources as the latter have upon its transportation facilities. In either event it is but the logical working out of the present system of property in the means of wealth production which has for its underlying motive the reducing of the wealth producers (workers) into proletarians and the coinage of profits out of their wage servitude.

Mr. Hill's apparent disapproval of the action of "lumber kings and cattle barons" may be readily understood when it is remembered that the railroads would derive a much larger volume of traffic from a territory possessing a numerous population engaged in diversified industry, than from one devoted exclusively to lumbering or cattle-raising. There is usually a well-defined material reason for the opinions of foremost citizens of the Jim Hill type.

The New York Mail is somewhat mixed in its reasoning. The only "salvation of a slum-cursed nation" no longer lies in access to the land alone. This might have been the case in former times when the matter of fashioning the resources of

the earth into form for human consumption was a process carried out by the individual, practically unaided by his fellows. Today the man with access to the land is practically helpless unless coupled therewith he also possesses access to the machinery of production, which implies all that constitutes the great modern system of making and distributing things, factories, mills, shops, mines, railways, steamships, etc. Granted access to the land, while the modern machinery of production and distribution remain as at present—capitalist property—the product of the worker upon the land must needs be surrendered into the hands of that property, and the toiler again stripped of all right to his means of existence, will be forced to once more drift as a derelict upon the troubled sea of wage-slavery. All of which means the perpetuation of the slum-curse that the Mail practically admits now rests upon the nation.

Subterfuge after subterfuge may be tried in order that human society may escape the curse that has been called down upon its own head because of its unsufferable ignorance and folly in so long allowing itself to be class-ruled and class-outraged. The curse that rests upon humanity today is the curse of capital. That curse must be borne patiently, even to the bitter end, or that portion of human society upon which it falls most heavily (the working class) must rise in its might and bring to an end its baneful sway.

Not back to the land, but working class mastery of all the means of producing and distributing wealth should be the slogan of the workers.

With the resources of the earth and the machinery of production rescued from the polluting embrace of capital, and made free of access to every human being for the purpose of supplying himself with the things needed for his existence and comfort, that which the Mail refers to as the "slum-curse" will vanish as dew before the morning sun.

The setting free of the means of labor, and the consequent freeing of labor itself implies a political upheaval such as the world has probably never seen before. This upheaval must of necessity come at the hand of the working class itself. The present ruling class (capitalist) is daily proving itself incompetent to deal with the gigantic powers that have sprung forth as a result of the development of capital has concentrated the wealth of the world and impoverished the class that produced it. The present system of property can no longer conserve the needs of human society. Not only Jim Hill and the "Mail," but thousands of others proclaim it from the house-tops, though perhaps unwittingly. Every appeal or effort that is made to relieve the distress that prevails in every center of population of any consequence, proclaims to the world that capitalist property has been "tried and found wanting." That capital cannot provide for its dependents. That the rule of capital must be broken and that form of property be swept from the board to make room for another better suited to human needs at this stage of history.

Statesmen are needed, and they must needs be statesmen in every sense of the word. Men who realize and understand the trend of development all down through the ages, and can thus recognize the nature of the next scene shifting upon the great stage of human events. They must be men who, realizing the task in hand, will leave no stone unturned to accomplish it, and not stop to count the cost. These men can come only from the ranks of labor for this class in human society alone is interested in their coming. The times are ripening. We shall not have long to wait.

A NOTED GERMAN SOCIALIST

August Bebel Acknowledged by Capitalist Press to be a Vigorous Champion of the Movement for Labor's Emancipation.

The following, which appeared in the News-Advertiser, of this city, on Jan. 9th, is a manifestly fair account of the position held in the German Socialist movement by Herr Bebel, and a deserved tribute to the courage with which he defends it. The Western Clarion is not disposed to hero-worship and attaches but little importance to individuals no matter how strong their personality or commendable their characteristics. That which makes Bebel and others what they are upon the stage of events, is the movement behind them, and whose spokesmen and warriors they are. The German Socialist movement hurls its challenge into the teeth of the German ruling class through the instrumentality of Bebel and others, and that challenge cannot be ignored because it embodies the program of the next politico-economic change in human society made absolutely imperative by the economic development of the past. The voice of a Bebel is merely the voice of a new order of human society announcing its approach. Bebel, with his powerful personality and dauntless courage, is but a human epitome of the movement whose creature he is; a movement virile, bold, aggressive and all-conquering, because it carries within itself the key that alone can unlock the gates of the future to still further human progress towards a more perfect civilization. The reader should remember that in the following, it is the German Social Democracy that is pictured, and not Herr Bebel as an individual or a personality, apart from it.

"Bebel—Buelow," the title of so many German newspaper articles during the Reichstag Session, is one of the best evidences of the position occupied in German public life by the acknowledged leader of the Social Democratic party.

August Bebel, a turner by trade, is practically the only man in the Reichstag who fearlessly criticizes the Kaiser's policy, and so much importance is attached in governing circles to the effect on the German people of this criticism that it is almost invariably replied to at once by the exponent of that policy, the Imperial Chancellor, Prince von Buelow.

This rhetorical duel between the leader of the "men who possess nothing," as the German Socialists call themselves, and the Kaiser's highest official, has become one of the great features of the Reichstag debates. The news that "Bebel will speak tomorrow" fills all the galleries of the House, and "Bebel sprich" (Bebel is speaking) is one of the few messages that bring the members of every party to their places.

COMPELLING ATTENTION.

Bebel is described as no orator, as merely a clamor, but the whole House listens attentively to him for two or two and a half hours. The press accuses him of merely stringing together sentences which contain nothing new, which become wearisome with their repetition of the old story, but every newspaper in the Empire, whether representing the ultra-Conservatives or the radical factions, devotes articles to every speech he makes on Imperial politics.

This may be partly due to the fact that behind Bebel are three million voters representing a vast mass of discontent which might one day take inconvenient shape; it is equally due, however, to the Socialist leader's personality.

The members of the Reichstag are not moved by his eloquence as are the great crowds of working men and women, whom he influences in a way that no other public speaker in Germany can equal, but they appreciate a man who has the courage to speak his mind. In Great Britain the policy pursued by the government is the policy of a party whose confidence the Ministers possess; in Germany the only policy pursued is the policy which the Kaiser personally considers will be beneficial to the people. The Ministers and Secretaries of State are appointed by the Kaiser, and remain in office just as long as they please, being paid by the people. The Kaiser thus dictates his Government's policy, and, moreover, he also himself enters the arena of politics.

The ordinary combatants in this arena adopt the tactics that have been employed in similar situations before today, and they look on with bated breath when the despised Socialist leader stands up manfully to dispute the ground with the other leader, who has such enormous advantages over him.

A REBUKE TO "YOUNG MASTER" With all his vivacity, Herr Bebel

knows exactly how far he can go, though his boldness has sent many a thrill of excitement through the House.

Perhaps his most daring venture into the field of personalities was his public rebuke, from his place in the Reichstag some sessions ago, of the German Crown Prince. His Imperial Highness had made a remark about the Socialists which the party considered derogatory to them. Bebel gently reprimanded the "young master" for this, and as suavely recommended "the young man" to be more careful in his language when speaking of a large body of citizens who might one day be his subjects. The President stood up excitedly with his hand on the bell, but as no name was mentioned he could not stop the speaker, though he could see by the faces of the members that every body knew to whom Bebel was referring.

Herr Bebel is always intensely in earnest when addressing the House on what he considers to be the mistaken policy of the Government. His eyes glisten, he shakes his head till the wealth of his grizzled hair looks like a lion's mane, he gesticulates freely, his right arm is constantly in movement, and he is perpetually pointing with his finger to his sworn enemies, the reactionary parties, now deprecating, now threatening, now prophesying. This, too, lends a certain charm to his speeches, for the Reichstag debates are usually intensely dull.

His power in his own party is enormous, so much so, that his political opponents style him "the Dictator." He and his co-leaders use every endeavor to prevent factions, knowing that their strength lies in keeping well together. Radicalism in Germany is practically effete and Liberalism seems to have lost all its stamina, so that the cause of "the people" is left in the hands of the Socialists.

A LIFE-LONG COMBATANT.

Dissension, sometimes strife, there must be in such a large party as the Social Democrats have now become, and Herr Bebel evidently thinks that seemingly arbitrary measures are occasionally advisable in the interests of unity. At the present moment there is especial need of an undivided front; millions of workers are suffering severely under a policy which taxes them for the benefit of the great landowners, and the government is about to ask the sanction of the Reichstag to fresh taxation.

The power of Bebel's eloquence over "the masses" and the strength of his character in the councils of the party will undoubtedly assure him a predominant influence over the policy of the great party as long as he lives. This influence is being felt at the present moment, for there is reason to believe that to it, probably in spite of opposition on the part of less advanced leaders, is due the more pronounced revolutionary tactics that the party is openly adopting.

For 43 years, since he was 22 years old, Herr Bebel has fought manfully by word of mouth and in writing for the betterment of the position of the working class. He has in this time braved fearful odds, for the whole forces of Junkerism and reaction have unceasingly been arrayed against him.

No amount of scorn, ridicule, and persecution has even daunted him; indeed, their only effect has been to increase his popularity with his followers. He has several times been in prison or "high treason" against the German Emperor," and only the immunity enjoyed by members of the Reichstag has saved him from being frequently punished for plain speaking there.

"THE NEW MODEL."

He is a comparatively rich man. For he retired from his turnery business with a fair competence, and his best known book, "Die Frau und der Sozialismus," has been most successful from a pecuniary point of view. He is constantly being twitted by his opponents on this account; he is told that he does not act up to the principles he teaches, that it is unjust to the party which wages such deadly war against capitalism when the leader himself is a capitalist. His standpoint is, however, that it is a principle of Social Democracy that every man is entitled to keep and enjoy what he has earned by his own honest labor, whether manual or mental.

Herr Bebel's ideals will not be realized in his lifetime, but he has achieved a monumental work in the interests of the working class, and he and his colleagues have built up a power which will never be trampled under foot.

Unemployed Workman: Just tell me what's the matter with my wife?
Doctor: "Why, man, she is starving for want of food, she has no disease, but is very weak. Give her port wine, eggs and chops."
Unemployed Workman: Yes, but where shall I get them from?
Doctor: Oh! ask the (Prime) Minister.

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Saturday... January 13, 1906.

BARKING UP THE WRONG TREE

A no inconsiderable portion of the Socialist press of this western continent is in a continued ferment because of what it looks upon as criminality in high places. It is fearfully wrought up over the crime of the amalgamated as told by Lawson, the exposures incidental to the New York insurance investigation, the inside working of the Beef Trust, and the thousand and one similar affairs that make up the story of thievery, graft and swindle as practiced upon each other by the members of that choice coterie of confidence operators that constitute the modern business world.

Granted that all of the accusations made by the Lawsons, Steffins, Tarbells and others of like kidney be true, and that the big business pirates and kings of finance have compelled countless thousands of lesser thieves to walk the plank, it still affords no reason why anyone who views things from the standpoint of the working class should shed a tear or lose a moment's sleep. The producers of wealth are not robbed of their product through amalgamated copper deals, or Standard Oil and Beef Trust schemes to crush out "independents" and other small fry competitors. Such schemes, along with those of the insurance companies, banks, loan, investment and other like concerns, are purely incidental to the disposal of the proceeds of the robbery of labor. This robbery is effected in the field of production. All of the phenomena complained of logically follows as a sort of aftermath.

If one bunch of business experts succeeds in despoiling another bunch of any share of the plunder resulting from the robbery of labor, there is no logical reason why the already fleeced workers should be disturbed over it. It would be all the same to them whether the proceeds of the robbery were divided equally among the participants, or some should obtain a larger share than others. In neither case would any benefit accrue to those who had been fleeced.

In the indiscriminate scramble to secure possession of as much as possible of the wealth stolen from labor in the field of production, it is reasonable to suppose that the participants will resort to oftentimes questionable practices to gain their ends. That is they will be questionable from the standpoint of those who get the worst of the deal. But, however, that may be their complaints there is no good reason why the sympathy of those should be aroused who stand neither to win nor lose by the transaction.

Some papers are just now engaged in making much fuss over the affairs of the Panama Canal, and are asserting that graft galore is in evidence in connection with the scheme. In this they see the "people's money" being squandered to enrich a lot of grafters and hoodlums. As the money is to come from the United States treasury, and even the novice in Socialist philosophy knows that government, like all the rest, to be but an "executive" for managing the common affairs of the whole bourgeoisie," (Communist Manifesto), this money belongs to the capitalist class of that country. They are the "people" in this case, and if they see fit to use their own money for the purpose indicated, it is their own business. The wage-mule or other outsider who would dare question the transaction ought to be put in the chain-gang for life as an impudent intermeddler in other

people's affairs. In the building and subsequent operating of the "big ditch" some persons will be robbed, but it will not be the "people" referred to. It will be the workers who build and operate it. As long as capitalist property holds sway, this and all similar enterprises will be used as levers to squeeze profit from the hide and carcass of the only useful portion of the human family, the working people.

Out the stupendous robbery practiced upon the working class in the field of wealth production accrues the enormous volume of plunder over which the business fraternity has such a "monkey and parrot" time in "dividing-up." So long as the workers may be kept interested in the squabbles occurring in the ranks of the business world, so long will they fail to discover the source of their own poverty and misery, and take proper measures for relief.

The plunder of labor at the hands of capital in the field of wealth production is made possible solely by virtue of the ownership and control of the means of production by the capitalists. This gives to capital absolute control of the products of labor, and out of which it is continually adding to its already unwieldy bulk and enormous power. This form of property is, at this stage of the game, made possible only by the capitalists holding control of the powers of the state, i.e., government. By the exercise of those powers the rights of capitalist property are kept intact and its victims, the wage-slaves, held in subjection. The very keystone of the arch of human slavery is now, as it always was, government with its military arm as a last resort. In other words, slavery rests upon the law of force, whether the form of that slavery be, chattel, feudal, or wage.

Presumably, chattel masters, and feudal lords played scurry tricks on one another upon occasion. This, however, by no means altered the status of their slaves. The same is true of capitalists and their wage-slaves of today. To whatever extent capitalists may swindle each other, the fact still remains that the wage-slave is still a wage-slave, and compelled to surrender his hide down to the last square inch to the particular capitalist gang that may for the moment have the clench upon his means of living. The wage-slave's deliverance from capitalist exploitation depends upon his breaking the rule of capital over his means of living. This means the striking down of capitalist property. The blow cannot be struck except by the workers wresting the powers of government from the hands of their capitalist masters and using those powers to set themselves free.

To fix the attention of the workers upon the robbery which is practiced upon them in the field of wealth production, and to persistently point out to them the line of action to be followed in order to bring it to an end, should be the duty of the Socialist and the Socialist press. In deluding themselves and others into believing that the various grafting schemes referred to are of any other interest to the wage-slave than to merely show the inherent rottenness of capitalism's own family affairs, they are barking up the wrong tree.

SQUELCHED.

The Vancouver Socialists are now squelched. The "World," the local "squirrel-gun" that "prints the facts," took a shot at them on Monday last that was a prize-winner for logic and consistency. It all happened in consequence of the Socialists putting up four candidates for the School Board Election on Jan. 11. Under scare-head lines, the following hot squirt was delivered:

"Are the peculiar doctrines of local socialism—the kind of thing which Mr. Hawthornthwaite, M.L.A. promulgated a few weeks ago—to be inculcated in the public schools? Is the young idea of this city to be taught to shoot straight at every owner of property with a bullet or a ballot, or both? These are no idle questions, for the socialist party, quietly reckoning on public apathy in all that concerns the schools—and not without justification—has four candidates in the field and is out to elect them all to the board of school trustees of which body they would form a majority. If they succeed, the blackboards of the classrooms may be adorned with such mottoes as, 'Profits for the masters, wages for the slaves,' 'Workers, you have nothing to lose but your chains,' and so forth. The schools of the city would then be in the hands of men who attack religion, the marriage ceremony, and the home."

Of course everybody in Vancouver knows that neither Hawthornthwaite nor any other sane Socialist ever advocated any shooting "straight at every owner of property" with bullets, ballots, or anything else. This does not necessarily deter the World from printing the "facts" however. Should the blackboards in

the future be adorned with the motto mentioned it should meet with approval of the "World," because of its well known loyalty to "facts." It's no doubt well-meaning little "squirt" at the men who "attack religion, the marriage ceremony and the home," is quite in line with its conception of facts. It really sounds good coming as it does from a sheet that upholds the capitalist system of property which has molded religion into a hypocritical mask for its thievish profit-mongering practices, made of the marriage tie a grotesque farce, and the home to at least thousands of the working class a thing unattainable, and to other thousands a coarse travesty upon a dog kennel. Be that as it may, however, the silly "World" squirts forth the following as a clincher:

"The chief point in the platform which indicates the socialist aim they are driving at is included in the following paragraph from their manifesto: 'The substitution of text books on history, ethics and political economy written from the working-class standpoint for those now in use that uphold and honor the capitalist system. Especially will we oppose the cultivation of the jingo and military spirit in the young, and the glorification of murder and robbery under the guise of war and conquest, and, instead, seek to inaugurate courses of exercises having for their object the physical and mental improvement of the children.'"

Surely that is a clincher, and taken from the wicked socialists at that! It clearly proves all that the World insinuates about the murderous proclivities and general all around cussedness of the bad socialists, as any one can readily see. No wonder they consider themselves squelched. Vancouver is especially fortunate in being honored with a newspaper, whose intellectual pabulum is of such an exceptionally high order as to preclude the possibility of its field of usefulness being "cribbed, cabined, and confined," to the narrow and vulgar limits of advertising cheap real estate schemes, interspersed with an occasional futile attempt at sandbagging one railroad in the interest of another equally as bad.

But the Socialists. Squelched? Most decidedly so.

ANOTHER AGREEMENT.

Word comes that the 100,000 skilled men in the building trades of New York city have signed agreements with the employers covering periods from one to three years. The prevailing wage in most of the trades is to continue, but the housecarpenters and the cabinet makers secure a slight advance. The agreement dates from Jan. 1.

Some of those persons who are afflicted with the trade union microscope of the alleged revolutionary brand are howling like coyotes because the New York men made their agreement to begin Jan. 1, instead of May 1, upon the grounds that at its expiration, if upon the latter date, the opportunity for pressing demands for an increase would be better. At that period of the year building operations are in full swing while the contrary is true of the mid-winter season. Of course, the credit for securing Jan. 1, as the date of agreement is given to the "leaders" of the "pure and simple" unions, and is pointed out as an act of treachery upon their part, that secures to the employers no inconsiderable advantage in the making of future agreements.

The wise trade unions at this stage of the game, are not looking for trouble. The circumstances of the labor market will bring trouble enough of themselves. If wise, they will take advantage of the most favorable terms that can be obtained now, without laying plans reaching too far into the future. This seems to be what the unions of New York City have done in the present instance. As trade union action, it is logical. Trade union action is nothing but traders' action, i.e., the action of sellers of labor power, and its action must be determined by those same circumstances and conditions that surround the sale of merchandise in general. In the buying and selling of merchandise, the buyer as a rule holds an advantage in determining when delivery shall be made and other matters incidental to it. This is more particularly true of the purchaser, of the merchandise labor power. If employers in making agreements with employees prefer to have such agreements terminate with the year rather than at some other period, it is not within the power of the employees to gainsay it. It is hardly worth while for their "leaders" to connive with the employers for the purpose of fixing such date, even were they inclined to do so.

The same squabbling that occurs within the ranks of sellers of all other commodities or merchandise, occurs within the ranks of those who sell labor power. Combination will work against combination, and every

trick and device imaginable will be resorted to in order to win out in the delightful game. Just as there are more business men than necessary to meet the requirements of trade, so are there more sellers of labor power. This condition affords the groundwork for all sorts of bickering and quarreling within their respective camps.

There is much of enmity being stirred up within the ranks of the workers in the United States at the present time through rival organizations of labor. Each is engaged in bitter attack against the others, and each has about equal justification for its action. These quarrels are bound to arise out of the conditions now prevailing in the labor market of capitalism. Such quarrels will continue so long as the workers have no conception of their position in capitalist society, nor of the necessary line of action to lift themselves out of it.

The action of "labor leaders" is typical of the make-up of their following and the purpose of their organization. An organization can express nothing in advance of the conception of those who constitute its membership. Though blatant members of, and spokesmen for a trade union may voice the most radical or revolutionary sentiments, the fact still remains that the organization cannot go beyond trade union lines, i.e., dealing with the circumstances surrounding the sale of labor power. A striking instance of this is afforded in the recent attempt at building a "union" in opposition to the American Federation of Labor. While certain spokesmen for the new organization prate loudly of class-consciousness, class struggle and revolution, it is to be noticed that the union itself, true to the union instincts, busies itself with such matters as alone can come within its scope as an organization of sellers of the merchandise labor-power. All that it has so far done is to "hawl out" its older and better established competitor, and engage in two or three petty little strikes in the "economic field."

While the attack and counter-attack, crimination and re-crimination is going merrily on between these merchandising factions within the wage-slave class, the revolutionary movement of labor must push forward the work of educating the laborers to a correct understanding of their position as the exploited victims of capitalist property and patiently and persistently point out the road they must travel if they would free themselves from its bondage.

The so-called "labor leader" whether of the alleged new school or the old who still believe it possible to raise the working class to better conditions under capitalism is altogether too blind to the facts that stare him in the face daily to be worth wasting time over. He is too dull to be able to accept an argument though it be bristling with truth.

So long as workers pin their faith to trade union action so long will they spend their time endeavoring to adjust themselves to the circumstances that surround them under capitalist rule. They will fight and quarrel among themselves, either singly or by faction; they will make such agreements with employers from time to time as may appear in their judgment to be advisable; rival factions will vilify and abuse each other without limit, but never until they have realized the utter hopelessness of labor's struggle against capital in the economic field can they be expected to act in union along the line of revolutionary action against the master class for the purpose of bringing to an end its present conscienceless and unscrupulous rule.

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PLATFORM

WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE



SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA

We, the Socialist Party of Canada, in convention assembled, affirm our allegiance to and support of the principles and program of the international revolutionary working class. Labor produces all wealth, and to labor it should justly belong. To the owners of the means of wealth production belongs the product of labor. The present economic system is based upon capitalist ownership of the means of wealth production; therefore all the products of labor belong to the capitalist class. The capitalist is master, the worker is slave.

So long as the capitalists remain in possession of the reins of government all the powers of the state will be used to protect and defend their property rights in the means of wealth production and their control of the product of labor.

The capitalist system gives to the capitalist an ever-swelling stream of profits, and to the worker an ever-increasing measure of misery and degradation.

The interest of the working class lies in the direction of setting itself free from capitalist exploitation by the abolition of the wage system. To accomplish this necessitates the transformation of capitalist property into the means of working-class production into collective or working-class property.

The irrepressible conflict of interests between the capitalist and the worker is rapidly culminating in a struggle for possession of the power of government—the capitalist to hold the worker to secure it by political action. This is the class struggle.

Therefore, we call upon all workers to organize under the banner of the Socialist Party of Canada with the object of conquering the public powers for the purpose of setting up and enforcing the economic program of the working class, as follows:

1. The transformation as rapidly as possible, of capitalist property in the means of wealth production (natural resources, factories, mills, railways, etc.) into the collective property of the working class.
2. Thorough and democratic organization and management of industry by the workers.
3. The establishment, as speedily as possible, of production for use instead of production for profit.

The Socialist Party, when in office shall always and everywhere until the present system is abolished, make the answer to this question its guiding rule of conduct. Will this legislation advance the interests of the working class and aid the workers in their class struggle against capitalism? If it will, the Socialist Party is for it; if it will not, the Socialist Party is absolutely opposed to it.

In accordance with this principle the Socialist Party pledges itself to conduct all the public affairs placed in its hands in such a manner as to promote the interests of the working class alone.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA.

hereby apply for membership
I, THE UNDERSIGNED,
in... Local
... Socialist Party of
Canada.

I recognize the class struggle between the capitalist class and the working class to be a struggle for political supremacy, i.e., possession of the reins of government, and which necessitates the organization of the workers into a political party distinct from and opposed to all parties of the capitalist class.

If admitted to membership, I hereby agree to maintain or enter into no relations with any other political party, and pledge myself to support by voice, vote and all other legitimate means the ticket and the program of the Socialist Party of Canada only.

Applicant.....
Address.....
Occupation.....
Age.....
Citizen.....
Admitted to Local.....190.....
..... Chairman.
..... Rec.-Sec.

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Union Directory

When They Meet; Where They Meet.

Phoenix Trades and Labor Council. Meets every alternate Monday. President, M. J. Quill; Vice-President, N. Lennox; Sergeant-at-Arms, T. B. Cosgrove; Secretary-Treasurer, Webster Rogers. P. O. Box, 198, Phoenix, B. C.

Phoenix Miners' Union, No. 1. W. F. M. Meets every Saturday evening at 7:30 o'clock in Miners' hall, V. Ingram, president, W. A. Pickard, secretary.

Socialist Directory

Every Local of the Socialist Party of Canada should run a card under this head. \$1.00 per month. Secretaries please note.

SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA
Headquarters, Vancouver, B. C.
Dominion Executive Committee,
A. B. Stebbings, John E. Dubarier,
Ernest Burns, C. Peters, Alf. Lamb,
A. J. Wilkinson, treasurer, J. G. Morgan, secretary, 551 Barnard St., Vancouver, B. C.

LOCAL VANCOUVER, NO. 1, S.P. OF CANADA. Business meetings every Monday evening at headquarters, Inghelise Block, 313 Cambie Street, (room 1, second floor.) Educational meetings every Sunday at 8 o'clock p.m., in Sullivan Hall, Cordova Street.
D. P. MILLS, Secretary, Box 836, Vancouver B. C.

LOCAL TORONTO—Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, Temperance Hall, Bathurst St. F. Dale, Secretary, 41 Henry street, W. G. Gibble, organizer, 130 Hogarth Ave.

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PLAIN FACTS ABOUT SOCIALISM

Conversation Between Smith and Jones Touching Upon Political-Economic Questions as Reported by Dr. W. J. Curry.

"Come in, Jones, and take a seat. Well, Smith, I see we have some Socialist agitators in town at last, and the worst of it is, one of our good Grits has gone clean crazy. He has not only joined the Socialist party but has actually painted the red flag of anarchy on their reading room window. Yes, I believe that something in that line has struck town, and what it has come to stay. The Socialist is a revolutionary Socialist in my self, full sized, and warranted not to fade, shrink or grow moss. But tell me, what do you know about Socialism? What books have you read on the subject? Well, the fact is, I have better use for my time than in reading such rot. Besides, I was told that it would unsettle the mind and might cause brain fever. And I read either in the Vancouver World, or the Ladies' Home Journal that Socialists want to divide everything up and to destroy law and religion. In fact one of the great statesmen of B. C. told me just before last election that it would not only destroy Christianity, but all the other blessings of this great and glorious civilization. Good for him! When he laid his ears back to make that noise did you notice how they were silt, and what corporation brand he was marked with. Jones, I'm surprised that a man of your sense would have a mind too weak to stand unsettling. What do you suppose your brain was intended for? There is a proverb that tells us that a wise man changes his mind, but a fool never does. How on earth could you expect to gain any correct knowledge from the popular papers and magazines on a subject so unpopular as socialism? Why, don't they tell the truth? Yes, when it pays. They are just as truthful as their advertisements of chewing tobacco, whiskey, or patent medicines. They are run by business men, and competition is war. Don't you know that the capitalist class, and those who from infancy have been trained to support its system, hate Socialism like the devil hates holy water? A socialist paper is to the average capitalist like a red rag to a mad bull. The capitalist controls all the avenues of information, and very few of our editors, teachers or preachers dare—even if they would—speak favorably of socialism. We don't blame them, but the system which makes us all more or less slaves. I can assure you, Jones, that socialism is no graft and that to champion a cause as unpopular takes some courage, and it costs money. This is why the capitalist mind can't grasp the problem and honestly thinks the upper story of the socialist is out of repair. To him the idea of investing money and energy in the Co-operative Commonwealth is like buying town lots in Paradise. Take my advice and read up the subject, and don't make a donkey of yourself by displaying such ignorance of a world-wide movement which already numbers its adherents by millions and ultimately must succeed. Don't be too hard on a man who has not had a chance to get the correct story. I dropped in this morning on purpose to get some pointers for a feller can't back socialism properly without knowing its weak points. If you can show me that it don't mean dividing up or anarchy, I'll look into the matter. Say, Smith, wouldn't it be a joke if a dyed-in-the-wool Grit and a leader in the 'roarin' socialist agitator class, I'm glad you are taking a more rational view of the subject. How can a man judge a thing he is ignorant of? What would you think of a Judge so prejudiced that he sentenced a man to be hanged without even hearing the defence? And that is what you people do with socialism, and the worst of it is you are condemning your best friends, and you don't know it. You just read some of those books and attend our meetings, and I'll bet a yearling calf to a new hat that inside of ninety days you will be walking around town with the chip of Socialism on your shoulder anxious for some Grit or Tory to tackle you. I'll take you up. And if you have time you may explode a few more of them bombs now. They are not half bad, and my hide is as tough as yours, anyhow. But to be candid with you, Smith, I don't want any revolutionary call on my ranch, as I have enough trouble with my stock now. Blaze away, and if I find we'll have to divide up I'll sell the ranch the first offer I get. You have the right stuff in you to make a live Socialist, and now we will get down to business. Scientific Socialism is that science which treats of the laws and forces which govern and produce social development and is based on historical facts and logic. History tells us that the material interests of the ruling classes forced primitive communism to be replaced by chattel slavery, chattel slavery by feudalism, and feudalism by capitalism. So recent economic developments assure us that capitalism is soon to be replaced by a system in which the producers of wealth will also own the means of wealth production. You mean that those who actually build the railroads, ships, mills and factories, etc., and run them will own them and all the wealth that through them is produced? Yes, that is the idea. Why should the millions of the world's workers be suffering from poverty while that class which only by reason of their owning the capital which labor produces, possesses all the good things of life? There are in the United

States today 8,000 millionaires and five million of the working class who are paupers for want of work, and there are sixty million paupers in Europe. The papers say that this is an age of prosperity. So for the people who control the Wall Street reports inform us that John D. Rockefeller has an income of \$10,000 per hour and that 250,000 capitalists in the United States own between them one hundred billion dollars in wealth. I will give you an idea now how prosperous your class is. In England a Royal Commission has reported that over a third of the population is underfed and miserably clothed and housed. The effects of this chronic starvation and suffering is evidenced in the fact that out of 187,000 men recently examined for volunteers, 150,000 were rejected because physically unfit, and yet we know that several times the standard for recruits has been lowered to correspond with the decline of the English working class. London has nearly two million people in extreme poverty, and a million more with but a week's wages between them and pauperism, while one out of every four people who die in that city dies a pauper. There are in East London thousands of men, women and children who spend their nights and days in the streets because they cannot afford shelter and we notice that the English navy recently launched a battleship that cost ten million dollars. Things in America are a little better, for over a million poverty-stricken emigrants arrived last year, during which year government reports showed that fifty per cent. of the working class were out of employment part of the time—that two million children and five million women have been forced into the labor market through poverty and yet the capitalists tell us that 'Socialism will destroy the home.' Destroy the home! The same government report states that fifty per cent. of the working class who live in cities have a 'home' consisting of one miserable room in a tenement house, and in this one room the whole family eats, sleeps, lives and dies. We are moreover, informed that this 'prosperity' kills fifty per cent. of the children of the working class of cities before they are five years old, while the mortality in the upper class is only one-fourth of this. Child slavery today is mostly more cruel and destructive to body and mind than the negro slavery ever was, and yet you people oppose the only way to abolish it. The maddening part of it is that it is not necessary for while there is far more poverty and suffering than in any other stage of human history yet the powers of producing the necessities and comforts of life are tenfold what they were even a century ago. Today five men with modern machinery can feed a thousand, five men can clothe a thousand or make boots and shoes for five thousand. There are today, millions of men out of work and millions of acres of land unused and yet millions of people suffer famine! This is the way the capitalist runs things. We know that under co-operative production a working day of even five hours would give every man, woman and child in the world all the comforts and luxuries of life, and yet people, through an ignorant prejudice, oppose the only means by which this can be done. Say, Smith, this is horrible, but why don't the papers show it up? Haven't I told you that all but the Socialist papers are controlled by the very class whose system produces this misery, and they are paid if you figure it out, you will see to misrepresent and repress facts. That every millionaire can only accumulate his wealth by making paupers and wage-slaves and that Rockefeller's billion dollars means that about half a million workers have been deprived of all that makes life worth living, and yet his money is taken to support churches and with the proceeds of his oil he is to lighten the darkness of the heathen. No, the capitalist is too class-conscious, too wise to cut his own throat by exposing to the public gaze capitalism's hellish products of misery, crime and death, for if he did it would be swept off the earth in six months. The capitalist is now sowing the wind; soon he will reap the whirlwind, as ruling classes have before done. The fact that we take it for granted that those of the useful class are usually poor and of the useless class usually rich proves that our education is provided by those whose interests it is to warp our minds and morals in order that we will defend this condition as the correct and permanent order of society. The capitalist class controls our education. Well, I admit I can't see any flaw in your proposition, but what sticks the most of us is, how can one get hold of the capital without stealing it? In the first place, you must remember that the Revolution is going on every day now in the minds of the working class and socialism is simply one of its expressions, not its cause, and the socialist vote doubles every two years. We think that in the more advanced countries labor will gain control of the reins of government through the ballot, and we are sure if society escapes a deluge of blood it can only be through the policy of the Socialist party. Constitutions and laws are made by man they can be amended or overturned. Today we see the political agents of the capitalist class declaring war or enforcing peace; making and breaking civil,

moral and religious laws as the capitalist interest demand. From recent exposures made by Lawson and others, we know that some of the greatest thieves of the age, and liars, are not only out of jail, but are actually occupying the high places of society. The law is their servant, not their master. So, when through the ballot the producer becomes the dominant class law and other social institution will be conformed to interests of that class. By legal enactment the capital and natural resources can be restored to society to which it really belongs. Competition will be replaced by co-operation, and production for profit by production for use. What will become of the capitalist? When the change comes, the remnant of that class which survives by reason of their having devoured their competitors will probably be regenerated to useful and contented members of society. Socialism will abolish economic classes and all will be producers. But what about dividing up? Why that is just what socialism will stop. Farmers are producers, not capitalists. Modern machinery has enabled you to produce five times as much as your grandfather could and yet you get the same—a bare living, and the capitalist gets the balance. The United States census report of 1900 shows us that the average farmer and workman produced in one year \$2,450, while his average income was only \$437, so that every time you vote the old ticket you tell the capitalist you like to divide up and give him and the commission men five times what you keep for yourself and family. You farmers feed the world and yet work harder and have less comfort and pleasure than any class on earth. If you would only use your brains more you could soon, through Socialism, double your income and divide up the work with those who now do nothing productive and every other producer could do the same. Under Socialism the armies and soldiers, clerks, salesmen and servants and the drones will be put to work producing wealth for all. The motto of Socialism is, 'all for each, and each for all.' Today competition wastes over one half our labor. Capitalism has had its day of carnage and its crimson sun is now sinking in the west. Everywhere we read the hand-writing on the wall: 'Weighed in the balance and found wanting.' Capital cannot longer provide for society and its further existence is a colossal crime. The law of self-preservation is everywhere forcing on the Revolution and in Russia we see the beginning of the end of capitalism. Today the one great expression of that power that worketh for the righteousness, is seen in the socialist movement. Well, Jones, I must say you seem to have the right and left bower and all the trumps—in fact I'm cured. Yes, I admit I hold a good hand, but as we are going to be partners soon, it will be all right for you to. Hold on, though, I forgot something! As a leader in the Church and a family man, I must know if Socialism opposes religion. It depends on what you call religion, but I know that a few preachers—whose living is not depending on men like you who want to divide up with the capitalists—are coming out flat-footed for Socialism. Quite a number more are now climbing up on the fence and looking over. You will find that preachers will not forget how to flop over when the present attitude toward negro slavery assures us of this. Francis Willard, who was considered quite as wise and religious as the average rancher or member of the W.-C. T. U., said in her last address to the annual convention of that society: 'I believe in the things Socialism stands for and were I not entirely occupied would go into the movement heart and soul, as in fact I have done in my public utterances for years. Oh, that I were young again, it would have my life. It is God's way out of the wilderness into the Promised Land. It is the very marrow of Christ's Gospel. It is Christianity applied.' Francis Willard did not believe in a 'miracle of grace' softening the heart of the capitalist. She was a proletarian revolutionary Socialist, and knew that if the laboring class should be free it must free itself. Judge W. E. Richards, of Washington, in a published address said: 'I am a Socialist and a Christian. Socialism has to do with the right relations of men economically and not with sentiment of faith. It cannot possibly come in conflict with your religion unless your religion interferes with just and wholesome economic relations, and not only so but if you profess to teach a religion based on justice and fair dealing among men you cannot honestly oppose the only practical way by which justice and fair dealing can be realized.' If it should happen that some socialist should expose your hypocrisy and inconsistency as a teacher of religion, don't jump at the conclusion that he is attacking religion. If you do you make it manifest to all impartial observers that you are not able to defend yourself and that you are driven to the necessity of bearing false witness against your neighbor as the only way to defend your religion. Now, Jones, if your religion is not based on truth and brotherhood the sooner you discard your religion for a good one, the better.' Smith, you have done the job, and from this on no one in Ohlliwack is going to kick harder on 'dividing up' with the Capitalist than this same Jones. You go to Ashwell's, Henderson's or Parson's and get a hat in each place if you want and tell them I'll square up the next time I come to town. Here I've been dividin' up all the time, voting for it at every election, and only just now found it out!

STARVING IN JAPAN. A million people are said to be starving in Japan, and a similar number are tramping through the highways and byways of England, looking for employment which is not forthcoming. Starvation has for centuries claimed its victims by the thousands, among the yellow and black races. It has also left a few marks of misery in rich and populous American cities. England in the past has shipped many of her paupers to America. Japan has been sending hers to the Philippines, Hawaii, Mexico and British Columbia, and some of them to the United States. Now that she acknowledges a surplus million that are unable to procure the necessities of life at home, we may expect an increased immigration of the little brown men.—Vancouver World, Jan. 9, 1906. How many of the starving Japanese belong to the ruling class of that country? How many of England's aristocratic and capitalistic bums and loafers are among those who 'are tramping through highways and byways' . . . looking for employment which is not forthcoming? Has 'starvation for centuries claimed its victims by the thousands among the yellow and black races' and 'left a few marks of misery in rich and populous cities,' because the resources of the earth were exhausted, or the starving ones were too lazy to draw upon these resources for sustenance? Has England in the past shipped paupers to other countries because the resources of that country were over-taxed, or because those resources and the machinery of production have been seized by the ruling class and held as capital, to be used only for the profit of the thieves? The 'World' in its infantile wisdom is occasionally inclined to doubt the socialist contention that capitalist property is fundamentally based upon the robbery of labor, and that the misery and suffering so appallingly wide-spread among the workers of all countries is the logical result of such robbery. As the 'World' evidently recognizes the existence of this veritable avalanche of misery, would it kindly offer a correct explanation of its cause so that proper steps might be taken to abolish it. It is claimed that the Cape Mudge Indians are developing a very marked degree of business sagacity. Long contact with the superior Anglo-Saxon civilization has resulted in so bleaching their complexions that many of them show little trace of Indian origin. According to C. J. South, superintendent of the Children's Aid Society, a very profitable business has been builded up by shrewd ones among them, in the sale of young girls to white purchasers. Mr. South says, 'Girls with white skin, dark brown hair braided down their backs, big innocent, childish eyes, are being sold today and have been sold for years in British Columbia to the highest bidder.' This might appear quite startling but for the fact that this sort of traffic is no new thing. It has long been prevalent in every civilized country of the earth. It is a part of, and incidental to this age of buying and selling. The incentive of gain has long been held up as a most worthy one. Sometimes, it is true, this dear old 'incentive' appears rather coarse and disgusting, but nothing should be done to 'destroy' it. Mankind would 'lapse into barbarism' without it. At least that is what we are told by capitalist apologists.

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Become Shippers. So announces the daily press in flaring headlines. And these are the same smelters, the capitalist owners of which are just now refusing to grant an eight-hour shift for its wage-labor, instead of the 12 hours of servitude exacted at present. Great is capitalist prosperity; great is 'prosperity'—for the men who own the jobs.

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NEWS AND VIEWS

AS GIVEN OR EXPRESSED BY SOCIALISTS THROUGHOUT THE DOMINION

Edited by H. P. PETTIPiece, to whom all correspondence for this department should be addressed.

What is Profit?
Getting something for nothing.
What is robbery?
Same thing.
Then capitalism is based upon robbery?

Yes.
And, in order to perpetuate its rule, the church, school, press and other agencies of capitalism propound the sacredness of "profit."

How's that?
The church seeks to show that profit has divine sanction—more especially where the big thieves blow back with a handsome donation for "missionary work."

In the schools our youngsters are taught to figure out the rent, interest or profit on a given amount or under certain conditions, thus instilling the young minds with the righteousness and morality of profit-theft.

The press glorifies and how-tows to those who get away with the most profit—the more extensive the plundering and theft from the workers, the more "prosperity," "good management," "executive ability," or "brains."

How many wage-earners could secure jobs from capitalist concerns if they did not collectively produce enough during their work-day to pay their own wages, and leave some over for the job-owners?
No "business" could live were it otherwise.

Now, what would you call the amount the boss has over after he sells your product in the "open" markets of the world, pays your wages, and makes deductions for "salaries" and the reproduction of machinery, etc?

Profit—dividends.
Exactly—something for nothing—robbery of labor, the source of all wealth.

How do you like it?
Well, it's getting harder all the time to make ends meet.

Why?
Because there are so many looking for jobs, and who must find work or starve.

Why?
Because as capitalism developed and the means of wealth production concentrated in the hands of the trusts, etc., and modern power and machinery was introduced, fewer men are needed to do the world's work.

And?
Well, you see, when there's so many men looking for jobs, competition forces wages down, and so long as men are dealt in like other commodities, it will get worse instead of better.

But, how can it be otherwise?
By the workmen taking possession, politically, of the reins of government and transforming, by legal enactment, all property which is used to rob labor into working-class property—collectively owned property.

Then?
Food—pure food—will be produced to eat; clothes—not shoddy—will be made to wear; houses—modern—built to be lived in by those who work. In short, there will be no more "profit"—robbery of labor.

But that would be Socialism?
Well, what of it?

What have the working-class got to lose but its poverty?
Oh! the Socialists are too extreme!

All right, comrade, let's hear from you a year hence. When you get a job, write.

Com. Burns, in elucidating the remarks of the writer last Sunday evening in City Hall, put it this way: "In other words, the previous speaker says that if the workers do not hang together, they must hang separately."

With Com. Stebbings as chairman, and Coms. Wilkinson, Burns, Farr and Pettipiece as speakers, Local Vancouver, S. P. of C., held a fairly good propaganda meeting in the City Hall last Sunday evening. Though raining, still there was a fair-sized and interested audience. An unusual number of ladies were present, and pretty little Miss Farr gave two or three piano selections worthy of older musical talent.

A daily press despatch speaking of a demonstration of hungry workmen and women in London, says: "During the progress of the service, they marched up the steps singing the 'Marseillaise.'" Here the motley crowd was joined by contingents from other quarters, and all, to the number of 3,000, began filling into the cathedral. Such a scene has not been witnessed at St. Paul's since twenty years ago."

During a recent trip of the Cunard steamer Lucania, a few Socialists on board arranged Socialist meetings among the third-class passengers. At the first meeting 150 men were present, and at the second 800. Speeches were made in half a dozen different languages. Whatever the number of first-class passengers who attended the meetings is not given.

An unemployed demonstration in front of the Guild Hall, London, recently, was dispersed by the police. This is the only way capitalism can settle the unemployed problem.

A preacher by the name of Richmond has been turned out of his pastorate at Stamford, Conn., because he is a Socialist. The comrades everywhere should be very careful not to antagonize the church.

SPENCE'S BRIDGE, B. C.

SPENCE'S BRIDGE, B. C., Jan. 2.—Had I not been away from home a good deal lately I would have dropped a line to you are this. I am glad to see a "News and Views" column in The Clarion, and it looks prosperous. The two men devoting their entire time to sub-rustling the good work done for Socialism by such methods cannot be over-estimated, as I can testify, having been around with Com. Sibble for a part of two days, and watched the way he went after the boys.

The Clarion is a good straight Socialist paper—no fooling about it—and every worker ought to subscribe to it.

There is no news of importance from this part of the country. I notice, however, a decided increase in the interest taken by the workers in Socialism, which is not scoffed at as it was two or three years ago.

The work on the new Nicola Valley railway still progresses. Last Fall I believe there was upwards of 1,500 men employed at one time, the great majority of whom were without homes in the strict sense of the word. In fact very few of them were Provincial voters, for no doubt many of them never had the chance of staying long enough in any one district to earn the privilege of getting on the list. The law should be that a resident of British Columbia, with the proper qualifications could vote in any district at Provincial elections, and a Canadian citizen in any part of Canada at Dominion elections.

I suppose The Clarion will be taking up subscriptions on the 22nd of January for the Russian Revolution and I herewith enclose one dollar to help the comrades who are struggling so bravely in that country, and are opening the eyes of the world.

SOCIALIST VOTE IN TORONTO.

The municipal elections in Toronto were held on New Year's Day, the result being an encouraging vote for the three Socialist candidates for the School Board. The vote cast in the last three municipal elections for candidates of Local Toronto, S. P. of C., for the Board of Education, is as follows:

1904.
Phillips Thompson 1181
John A. Kelly 861
Fred Peel 381

1905.
James Simpson, (elected) 5930
Phillips Thompson 2438

1906.
Phillips Thompson 2808
W. H. Rawbone 1388
Fred Peel 1187

In 1904 and 1905 the votes were confusing as each voter had six votes and could give as many as three to one candidate. The cumulative vote has been abolished, however, and the 1906 vote is straight—one man one vote. Thompson is better known than the other two candidates, so Peel's vote can be taken as the class-conscious vote.

The socialist manifesto asked voters to abstain from voting for Socialism if they could not vote the straight Socialist ticket and for no other candidates whatever. For Mayor and Aldermen property qualification laws barred the socialists out, so we called upon all socialists to write "for socialism" across their ballots.

Next year Toronto Local hopes to be able to nominate candidates for Mayor and aldermen as well as the school board. W.W.

AMONG THE WORKERS.

"A good speaker or two is the very thing we need."—H. Siegfried, Revelstoke, B.C.

CLARION QUESTION BOX.

Mrs. P., Vancouver.—1. If Socialist Party representatives had it in their power to do so—under capitalism—all taxes would be placed on capitalist property, i.e., property used for the purpose of exploiting labor.

2. Certainly, the poll tax, as obtains in B.C., would be abolished.

3. Your individual property, (home, etc.) would not be taxed at all, and I should say your water, light, and street-car fare would amount to very little if anything at all. 4. I don't know. I'm not an authority on the future. I'm more interested in the abolition of the wage-system, and my removal from the category of a commodity than such things as you mention. However, there is no reason why there should not be municipal laundries, bakeries, kindergartens, etc., in addition to parks, beaches, etc., even under this system of property ownership.

4. The Socialists would abolish all the property qualifications under the sun. Who does the voting, anyway? I confess it's capitalist property voting its demands through its agents or owners.

5. There's fire-fighting equipment, bells, halls, hose, engines, firemen, etc., to save life and property—though primarily the latter. Try falling off a scaffolding, and see how long it will take the officials to get your crushed or wounded body landed in the New General Hospital.

Wireless power transmission is now prophesied by one of the promoters of the wireless telegraph system. In view of what has been achieved there is little ground for considering this prophesy extravagant.

Industry and self-denial may or may not be virtues worthy of commendation. It depends wholly upon circumstances. If a person by his own industry and self-denial succeeds in laying by the wherewith to afford him protection against the chilling blasts of adversity, surely no sane individual could offer reasonable objection. If, however, the wherewith was obtained at the expense of the industry and self-denial of others, the matter would wear a somewhat different aspect.

Light housekeeping in London is to mean electric cooking. New apartment houses are now being equipped with suitable apparatus. This will not be of particular interest to a very large portion of the city's population as they have nothing to cook.

The ominous silence in regard to affairs in Russia at present is strongly suggestive of a butchery of revolutionists alongside of which the slaughter of the Communards of Paris in 1871, will pale into insignificance.

According to the Winnipeg Voice, the English printers brought over to that city for the purpose of breaking the printers' strike, have turned out to be union men and have joined the strikers. It rather looks as though the printers were going to win out in the present eight-hour struggle.

Among the numerous huge engineering enterprises now in hand by the United States government is the dam over the Salt River Canyon in Arizona. It is to be the highest dam in the world and will create a lake covering 250,000 acres of now barren land. The dam will be 240 feet high and the water will be carried to Phoenix, 60 miles away, by canal and spread over 200,000 acres of fertile land. This and similar undertakings afford striking evidence of what may be accomplished by collective labor when once organized and directed to useful purpose.

Five Clarion sub. cards—\$3.75.

According to dispatches, women slaves are used in the shops of the pump trust, "at work that requires the strongest of men, working amid steam, dust and grime that would brutalize the most hardened male worker, and at a wage of \$1.25 for ten hours' killing toil." What a dreary waste life would be for these female wage-slaves were it not for the consolation of religion, the sacredness of the marriage tie and the protection of the home.

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It is said that the mowing down of unarmed workmen in St. Petersburg, on Sunday, Jan. 22, 1905, broke the "Little Father" superstition and convinced the Russian workmen that autocracy was a thing not to be reformed, but overthrown. How many more Hazelton, Brooklyn, Cour de Alene, Chicago, Colorado and other similar affairs will be needed to convince the workmen of this Western continent that the same is true of capital, is as yet, a mystery.

The press dispatches being the startling news that an operation is to be performed on Mrs. Herman Oelrich's \$50,000 pet dog Louissette. She is suffering from a tumor. The middle room of the third floor of the Oelrich mansion, on Fifth Avenue, New York, is to be used as the private hospital. It is equipped with the very finest of surgical appliances. Louissette is of French extraction, and is in no way related to the Oelrichs family by birth. It is to be hoped that the tumor is genuine and not an appendicitis story gotten up for the purpose of making some criminal surgical practice. Louissette's income is derived from the same source as that of the Oelrichs family. It comes from the sweat of a lot of wage-mules, the most of whom will read such news as above referred to with open and undisguised admiration. There is no fool like the wage-mule. In fact the dog's position in human society is preferable, although the dog is not to blame for that.

Five Clarion sub. cards—\$3.75.

The loftiest elevator in the world is reputed to belong to Switzerland and is installed opposite Lucerne at the famous natural mountain observatory of Burgenstock. The elevator is picturesquely hidden in a grotto, which is reached by a picturesque road from Kehrstein cut out of the mountains overhanging the lake. The elevator is operated by electricity, and has a carriage twelve feet square carrying seven passengers.

The carriage rises to a total height of 600 feet in less than three minutes, so that mountain climbing by electricity is far easier than by an alpenstock. The first 213 feet pass through a wall of masonry, and the following 387 feet in a steel lattice work, daylight and an increasingly wider view lending delight to the swift journey.

A gallery leads from the landing to the top of Hammelschwand mountain, 3,600 feet above sea level. There is provision with two steel cables for the elevator to be lowered by hand should the magical electricity fail.—Ex.

"If the workers want to know what Gompers means they should look at the misery, the hopelessness of the defeated cotton spinners at Fall River."—Exchange.
What has Gompers got to do with the state of affairs at Fall River? Nothing; absolutely nothing. The cotton spinners, like their fellow workers elsewhere and in all lines, are victims of the wage-system. They have been defeated in their various struggles for "better conditions," not by Gompers, whatever that is, but by the condi-

BIG CROPS.

According to all accounts the season just closed has been marked with excellent crops of all kinds throughout this Western Continent. Canada is especially bountiful in regard to the enormous wheat crop of the middle provinces. The corn crops of the United States is reported to amount to 2,700,000,000 bushels, the largest on record. This splendid season's harvest has furnished material for much newspaper jubilation over the unprecedented prosperity, more especially of the farmer. The cartoons of Uncle Sam sitting contentedly upon the fence surveying his immense field plethoric with corn, wheat, pumpkins, apples with corn, barley, rye and other stomach-oats, barley, rye and other stomach-filling good things affords a pleasing picture happily suggestive of the wave of prosperity that has fairly overwhelmed the honest agriculturist in return for his season's labor.

The season's crop has undoubtedly brought a by no means inconsiderable harvest of prosperity, but the farmer, especially he of the smaller farm, will have considerable difficulty in locating it around his modest premises. The entire crop, outside of such portion as may be consumed by the farmer and his family direct, must be turned over to the tender mercies of capitalist property in the shape of railroads, elevator companies, milling and manufacturing trusts, etc., at prices not determined by the farmer, but by influences outside of him and beyond his control. After settling his season's bills, the honest farmer will, as a rule, find himself fortunate if he can play even on the year's work. The year's work will not only include his own, but that of every member of his family capable of lending a hand. His prosperity will be confined to playing even, or at the most obtaining some trifling sum to the good.

But the prosperity accruing to the owners of capital out of the converting of this huge mass of product into form available for human consumption, will be something worth talking about. Out of this process, the result of the labor of the farmer and his fellow-slave the wage-worker of factory, shop, mine, railway, etc., fabulous millions will be harvested by that class in human society whose sole function is to seize the wealth produced by the laborers. The owners of capital will much more than play even upon the season's harvest. They will have millions to the good as a reward for their industry in not sweating. Without lifting a hand in useful service during the year they will receive an enormous plunder taken from the toil and sweat of the horny-handed and thick-headed sons of toil both rural and urban.

The history of this continent has been an almost uninterrupted one of good crops each year, and at the same time it has been a history of an equally uninterrupted reduction of the small farmer from the position of an independent small producer, to that of a brutally robbed tenant farmer or a plundered wage-slave outright. A heavy season's crop coupled with a shortage elsewhere does nothing more than afford perchance, a temporary check to the process. In the long run, the result is equally certain that he must be dispossessed of his independence, and converted into an appendage to capitalist property and compelled to contribute the bone, flesh, blood and sinew of himself and family to its ever-widening and deepening stream of profit.

Uncle Sam sitting upon the fence serenely surveying the season's crop is strikingly suggestive when it is realized that this shrewd and calculating gentleman typifies the capitalist class of the United States. Small wonder there is a look upon his crafty visage that says: "B'gosh, that looks good to me."

Speaking of big crops brings to mind the fact that each recurring election in the good Uncle's domain, as well as in Canada, discloses a bountiful and easily gullible crop of political suckers, made up largely of that class that produce the enormous wealth of these countries and get just about enough out of it to keep from starving or being arrested for indecent exposure. It will be interesting to note whether succeeding elections will show diminution of this crop.

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To Publishers Of Country Weeklies:

We have two cases (100 pounds) of Brevier Type, 8:point, almost new, cost 52 £s a pound a year ago; will sell at 25cts a lb. Following is a sample of the Type:

Hartford, Conn., Jan. 10.—A certificate of incorporation of the Cazaca & Pacific Railway Company of Hartford, has been filed with the secretary of state. The authorized capital stock of the company is \$40,000,000. These figures exceed those of any other company which has filed such a certificate with the secretary

WRITE
Western Clarion,
Box 836. VANCOUVER, B. C.

tions of the labor market, in which, by force of circumstances they are compelled to sell their labor-power in order to exist. In so far as any understanding of the labor problem is concerned, Gompers is undoubtedly ignorant enough to satisfy all requirements. It is entirely unnecessary however, to attribute to that distinguished individual, the defeat of cotton spinners or others in their wage-struggles against an overstocked market. The gent has enough of a load to carry, as it, and besides it would not square with the facts.

A despatch from San Juan to the New York Post says that all the laborers in Porto Rico's sugar industry may go on strike this month. There 225,000 men, women and children—one-fourth of the population of the island—engaged in the industry. These employes are making more money than ever before, but they have been stirred to dissatisfaction by an agitator who is said to be a representative of the American Federation of Labor. The planters give as a reason for refusing an increase of wages the statement that they expect a decline in sugar prices of 20 per cent. next spring. It is expected that this year's sugar crop will be worth \$10,000,000. The marvellous influence of the agitator over people who are "making more money than ever before," is a corker for fair. He must really be a powerful cuss to be able to induce workmen to go on strike when they are already enjoying wages, such enormous wages as these Porto Rican slaves no doubt are getting. The agitator is an all around bad man who causeth much trouble that would not otherwise occur. Yes, indeed.

PENTICTON, B. C.

PENTICTON, Jan. 6.—Pentiction Local is still gaining members and now has a total of 26, with more on the anxious seat. We are hopeful of a change of heart on the part of another half dozen or so before spring and a consequent increase in our ranks to that extent.

For lack of a suitable hall no public meetings have been held as yet, but this state of affairs will soon be remedied and we will be enabled to deal to better advantage with the unregenerate capitalistic minded workingman who persist in blocking the path of progress to their more intelligent comrades by their apathy and unthinking opposition.

Com. Harry Sibble, the Clarion sub-rustler, spent about a week with us in December, and left with between 25 and 30 scalps dangling at his belt. When the pay streak pinched out, he hit the trail for Fairview and the Lower Similkameen, where he will, no doubt, find business good, especially along the new line of railway the Great Northern is building into that favored region.

Com. Van Hise writes from Peachland that the December meeting of the local there was well attended, and a good program was rendered. Com. Van Hise read a paper which was well received.

Officers were elected for the Peachland local as follows: Organizer, Gog H. Van Hise; Sec., R. Kirky; Rec.-Sec., A. Hutton; Treas., E. Hayward.

Peachland local contains considerable talent and will give a good account of itself in the effort being made up and down the valley to arouse and organize the Socialists of the Okanagan.

Kelowna Local has nothing much to report lately. One new member was added a short time ago, and more are manifesting an interest in the movement who will likely join a little later.

In the Similkameen the comrades appear to be resting on their oars, especially at Hedley, where a strong local should exist.

Olalla is probably the banner Socialist camp of the district, a comrade from there claiming that out of 14 votes in the place 11 were socialists.

Around Okanagan Falls and Fairview we also have some wide-awake members who lose no opportunities to preach the gospel of economic freedom.

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Exclusive patterns are now here—some of the choice ones will be sold early, and some of the designs we cannot duplicate. If you appreciate unusual styles it will interest you to come promptly.

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BY KARL MARX.

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