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THE GIANT MILLS OF ENGLAND

Functioning as Capital They Afford Their Owners the Means of Holding the Workers in Bondage at Starvation Wages.

The following clipped from an article by Ernest Cawcroft, in Pennsylvania Grit, throws a flood of light upon the amicable and of course highly satisfactory family arrangements of brothers capital and labor as exemplified in England the classic ground of capitalism. The enormous productive power of Brother Labor, armed as he is with the powerful modern implements of production, quite fittingly expresses itself in the generous allowance of from $2 to $14 per week which this Brother is permitted to draw in the form of wages, from the family exchequer. Just what Brother Capital draws from the same source is problematic but it is presumably no less. Considering the arduous duties devolving upon Brother Capital, as compared with the joyous and lightsome task of Brother Labor, it would be rank injustice upon the part of the latter to deny the former at least an equal participation in the products of their "joint industry."

But what a huge farce this talk about Capital and Labor being "Brothers" is. No more striking proof of the mastery of the former and the slavery of the latter could be given than that furnished by Mr. Cawcroft, in his article, although it is quite evident that in writing it he had no such intention in view. He evidently set out to show the relative superiority of the condition of the American workman over that of his cousin slave of Britain. What he has succeeded in showing, however, is the perfect similarity of their conditions and their slavery. That which he pictures of English industries can be duplicated and even worse than that, in any of the great industrial centers of this western continent.

THE WOOL TRADE.

Be that as it may, England has a ship in every port in the world, and as the wool and cotton materials are gathered, steam and sail carry the unworked fibre to the mill doors of Yorkshire and Lancashire. The reader will observe that the English factory building is not dissimilar in appearance to that found in the Eastern cities of this country. Those who have some knowledge of American textile industry, however, will realize upon entering the English factory that the system of manufacturing is quite different. While the subdivision of labor, and the consequent specialization of industry, has been one of the common features of the economic evolution of the century, that revolution has been manifested in various ways in the several nations. Here in this country it has been the aim of the American manufacturer to take in the unclean raw material at one door and in turn to ship it direct to the purchasers at the other door. Until the present day, that has not been the prevalent system in the cotton and woollen mills of the Kingdom. Today in Bradford, Leeds, Manchester and Nottingham, the observer will notice that the scouring, carding and combing may be done in one factory and under the direction of a man who has made a specialty of that branch of business; while the weaving and dying and other finishing processes will engage the time and attention of another mill. What is true of the woollen industries applies in the same sense to the manufacturing of cotton. A recent British blue book states that there are 264 worsted mills in the Kingdom, having one and one-half millions of spinning spindles, where spinning alone is done; while there are 288 mills where weaving alone is the particular branch of industry. Of course, it must be remembered that the combs and spinning frames of today are but the hands of our ancestors modernized. We who have been able to profit by the experience of the past, and who have produced vast plants in this country, where wool is taken from the board and woven into cloth within the same mill shed, must remember that this marked and minute division of industry may be traced to the days when one man took the wool home to comb to be followed by another who took it to his house for the application of a further process of hand manufacture. We may suggest that our system is preferable to this; we may urge that an alteration in the fiscal policy of the Kingdom would stimulate British industry; and we may point out that a little more speed in the shuttle and greater agility in the handling of the spinning frame, would increase Britain's ability to hold the markets of the world; but above and beyond this, the fact remains that given raw material, the British workingman in his own good time and in his own good way, will produce a card of cloth which will excite the envy of any manufacturer in the world.

In the first of this series of articles, some attention was given to the wool sorter—that independent workingman who, like the old-time printer, feels that machinery cannot take the place of his hands. That his wages are the equal of any in a woollen mill follows as a matter of course. Now, let us follow his fleece to other parts of the mill. The wool is washed and then it finds its way to the comb. The man in charge of the combing machine works from 50 to 56 hours a week, and his compensation ranges from 20 to 30 shillings. In other words he is paid a weekly wage of from $5 to $7. Either in a cotton or worsted mill, the cleansed and combed wool is placed on the spinning frame. Many young women are employed at these frames. The wages in this line of industry are small, ranging from $2 to $4 a week as an average. The weaving room is one of the most interesting sights of an English factory far there the observer will find a greater number of adults at work, and as many of the men have families dependent upon them the wages are necessarily high. Six or seven dollars a week is a fair estimate of the weekly wages paid to the weavers of the English manufacturing districts.

The extent of these industries may be gleaned from some figures which the writer elicited in official quarters. There are 3,000,000 spindles working in England and Scotland in the production of worsted goods; 2,000,000 are producing the material designated as wool and shoddy; while there are 43,000,000 spindles in the cotton factories of England. Another series of figures tend to sustain the assetion that, barring Pittsburg as a possibility, this is the most marvellous manufacturing section on earth. It appears that 700,000 looms are weaving cotton goods, in the Kingdom; 43,000 looms are devoted to the making of wool and shoddy goods; while 51,000 looms are employed in producing the worsted of the Islands. When it is recalled that over 1,000,000 people are employed in the factories of this district, coupled with the statistics as to the number of spindles and shuttles, the reader will have more than an abstract conception of this remarkable system.

English Industrial Life.

But it is the purpose of these articles to present in a general, yet concrete, manner, the various phazes of English industrial life; and hence it will be necessary to eliminate further details regarding this line of manufacturing in the hope that some other citations will prove equally interesting. The writer remembers the day in July last when he journeyed to Sheffield from Leeds for the purpose of seeing the procession in honor of England's King and Queen. They were to open a new Governmental arsenal that day; Sheffield, big, and enthusiastic, turned out in a body to welcome their Majesties. Over at the arsenal some workingmen toiled, making ready for the visit of inspection upon the part of the King. These men worked fifty-five hours a week and were given a wage ranging from $9 to $11. While the official statistics show that wages are slightly increasing in England, it is needless to point out that the wage given those men is not to be compared with the rate of compensation here. It is generally known that Sheffield leads the world in the manufacture of cutlery and steel ware. Here is a branch of industry requiring the keen eye and skilled hand of the practical mechanic; it will afford a text for some pertinent, interesting comparisons of the relative wages paid in England and the United States. Take the case of the hardy blacksmith, as an illustration: In England he receives a wage, averaging 17 cents an hour, while his American friend obtains 29 cents for the same period of work. The bricklayers constitute a representative body of workers; as such they have a strong union in England; but despite that fact, their wages are but 20 cents an hour, or well-nigh 30 cents less for the same hour's work than is paid the American workingman. Machinists and plumbers receive from 17 to 20 cents an hour in England, a sum far less than the American rate of wages in those important trades; then there are the compositors. The writer visited the office of the Yorkshire Morning Post. The office was well equipped with the improved linotype machine and a modern press; but, as a matter of course, the management did not seek to take advantage of those improvements and at the same time shock the sedate English mind by the issuance of hourly fournals. The compositors were working at least 50 hours a week and receiving 18 cents an hour for their work. They seemed as happy as the average printer and as fully contented as it is possible for one of the craft to be. In England, as here in this country, it is the unskilled man who bears the brunt of the industrial fight and he is the first to bear the burden of the hard times. The unskilled laborer receives about 10 cents an hour everywhere in England except London, where excessive rents necessitate a large wage. It may be remarked by way of explanation that the average wage-scale cited in this article, relates to sections outside of London. As in New York and other large cities of this country, the London workingman is receiving a somewhat larger compensation for his services.

But let us leave the spindles of Bradford, the lathes of Sheffield and the ironworkers of Leeds to walk along the banks of the Clyde. That body of water is at once the most remarkable, the most disagreeable, and most important in the commercial life of the nation, of any in the United Kingdom. A narrow stream, it floats the broadest steamships in the world; naturally a shallow river, the Clyde Trust has made such improvements that during the present year the largest Cunarder in the world, will slide off the banks. Going down the Clyde, the tourist will observe turbines, twin.screw steamships, war vessels, propellers, little ships, big ships and all manner of crafts, both afloat and in course of construction. The shipping of the clyde, next to Liverpool, is the largest in the Kingdom; and the gross tonnage of the vessels constructed on the banks of this Scottish stream exceeds any other port in the world. Going down the Clyde there is a rattling of riveting machines resembling the volley of a company of infantry in battle. Because this stream maintains a particular branch of industry and in view of the fact that its continuance is essential to the commercial expansion of the Empire, the wages paid the men who build the boats will form an interesting study.

The abler mechanics and the men who do the real constructive work, receive from $10 to $14 per week. These men are regarded as exceptionally fortunate; and while the work is hard, the higher wages paid, coupled with the increased purchasing power of a dollar as compared with this country, enables this class of workingmen to live in comfort. As a matter of course, Glasgow and the communities along the Clyde, swarm with men doing odd jobs in connection with the shipping of the port. The man in charge of the pleasure craft on which the trip was taken, confided that he earned 30 shillings, or $7.50 a week. He stated that he had a small house which cost in rent $6 per month; and that while his share of the taxes was quite heavy, he was able to live fairly well, as do many others who obtain no more.

IMPROVEMENT IN PIE-MAKING

This Toothsome Delicacy to be Made by Machinery but Still to be Eaten in the Same Old Way.

Pie-making, that ancient and honorable calling of fragrant and tooth. some memory, is now to be destroyed by that combination of levers, shafting, belts, cogs, cams and pulleys known as a machine. Like the other one-time cherished arts of shoemaking, spinning and weaving, it is to be stripped of all the glamor of poetry and romance and reduced to the vulgar level of a mere mechanical process. Instead of pie "like mother used to make," we shall know the article as made by, say Smith's patent lever, double cylinder, high-speed, repeating pie machine or by Jones' standard duplicating, roller process. From the following account of the new machine we suggest that it might properly be called a "linopie:"

"Another severe blow for the arts and crafts has resulted from the arrival in Philadelphia of the pie-making machine. It has always been supposed that making pies was a work for human fingers. Despite the inroads of machinery on the crafts, the pie artisan has stood alone, untouched by modern inventiveness. It was thought that a pie was too complicated and individual a creation ever to be produced by brainless mixers and trimmers and stampers.

Now comes this pie-making machine, to standardize the pie and destroy its individuality and then to multiply and cheapen it. One man, three boys, and the machine turn out from sixteen to eighteen pies a minute in the Philadelphia bakery, where the pioneer machine has been installed. The inventor describes his contrivance as a boon to the human race, about 10 feet long and 20 inches wide. An electric motor furnishes power, and gas jets keep the forming dies warm. Over the machine is suspended a tank with "filling" for 400 pies and in it an agitator revolves to keep the material from blocking the outlet.

After the paste for crusts has been properly mixed it is weighed and cut into proper-sized pieces by a dough-divider. A tray full of lumps of dough for bottom crusts is placed at one end of the machine and another tray containing lumps for top crusts at the other end. At the rear is a stack of plates automatically fed by a ratchet. A magnetized arm swings around, picks up a plate and places it on a die made to receive it. A piece of dough is placed on the plate and the next movement brings it under a die which forms the lower crust. Then the fruit is deposited from the tank and the plate moves forward. By this time another lump of dough is flattened out and stamped with an initial—such as "L" for lemon—while an automatic bellows blows a puff of flower over the dough to keep it from sticking. The next movement brings this filled pie and this upper crust together, one operator being stationed here to adjust the top cover if necessary. Then the covered pie comes under the edging die, which cuts off all scraps and the pie passes forward on an apron which leads to the oven.

So the process goes on with all regularity until 400 pies are lined up They are all perfect—too perfect perhaps. They are machine made and no contaminating hand has touched them from their initial stage of doughiness until they are ready to be taken from the oven—and therein lies their chief virtue.—Scientific American.

"Tainted money" will be cheerfully accepted in payment of subscriptions to the Western Clarion at the regular rates. We have a few hungry creditors whom we would be most happy to soak with the vile stuff.

The newspapers chronicle in a fragmentary way the happenings in Russia, usually under the caption "Renewed Riots." Whenever the workers attempt to render the chains of their servitude less galling, of course its a "riot." What else could it be?

The unemployed problem in Australia is becoming each day more pressing. To help matters, the Federal government is furthering immigration schemes, and Booth's Salvation Army outfit contemplates shipping to the Island Continent at least 12,000 of England's paupers during the next twelve months. That will fix it all right.

The religion of the Salvation Army will, I think, pass muster at the gate of heaven.—General Booth.

We were about to procure a package of the General's brand of goods, but as he does not seem to be sure that they will "pass muster" we shall be forced to refrain. Will the peddler of some brand that he knows will pass muster, please call? This thinking business does not go with us in matters of such serious import.

Do the silly chumps, who are incessantly conjuring up schemes to get the pauperized city workers out upon the land, realize that those already engaged in agricultural pursuits are amply sufficient to keep the world's market glutted with their products? This is so emphatically true that people are driven into the cities by the thousands in quest of an opportunity to make a living, an opportunity that the country districts no longer afford. Whichever way they move is much like "jumping from the fry-ing pan into the fire." It will require something of deeper import and of more drastic character than this shifting about to solve the problem.

"Where goest thou, ignorance?"

"To fortify the mind of a maiden against a peril."

"I am going thy way. My name is knowledge."

"Scoundrel! Thou art the peril."

—Truth Seeker.

Kaiser Bill, of Germany, was so pleased with the parade of the army corp at Coblentz during the recent army manoeuvres, that he gave each soldier 12 cents out of his own private purse. Just what use the soldiers will make of this stupendous sum is not stated.

The buckets of the clam-shell dredger, now extensively used in California for levee building along the San Joaquin and Sacramento rivers have a holding capacity of 8 cubic yards of material. The capacity of one of these huge dredgers is from 3,000 to 4,000 cubic yards in a day of twenty-four hours.

In 1890 Germany swapped Zanzibar for the island of Heligoland in the North Sea. Since that time the encroachment of the sea has reduced the island's area by fully 25 per cent., and bids fair to wipe it out entirely within the next half century. "Kaiser Bill's" attention should be called to the matter, so he could put a stop to it.

The day is near at hand when the workers must stand together, Republican and Socialist, employed and unemployed, union men and scabs. One will feel the pangs of hunger as much as the other; republicans will get hungry the same as the socialists. When the full dinner pail will be hanging on a rusty nail and when the workingman begins pulling his belt strap tighter, it may be that the question of economical production and equitable distribution will be more seriously considered by the wealth producers, and it is to be hoped that they may finally decide to restore to the people, (in other words to themselves) what is rightly theirs.—Edward Higgins, in Machinists' Journal.

STOCKETT AGAIN IN TROUBLE

Escapes Scylla of Eight Hour Law to Fall into Charybdis of Cheap Fuel Oil.

Thomas Stockett, manager of the Western Fuel Company which operates the mines at Nanaimo, appeared before the Tariff Commission at Victoria, on Oct. 7, and made tearful complaint that crude oil is making serious inroads upon the coal trade of the Province. The astute gentleman intimated that he had no objection to the importation of crude oil for any other purpose than fuel. When imported, however, for the latter purpose, his judgment prompted him to suggest that a duty of just 2½ cents per gallon would be about the proper thing..

If there is a creature on earth that can give the genius swine cards and spades and then beat them out in hoggish qualities it is the average capitalist or his tool. To whatever extent the importation of crude oil might injure the business of other members of the labor-skinning fraternity, this Stockett was supremely indifferent, so long as he could induce a "paternal" government to afford protection to his particular line of swindle. Surely no hog could out-hog this particular capitalist specimen.

But a few weeks since the concern over whose destinies Stockett presides in managerial capacity was in close approach to the throes of dissolution because of an insignificant little piece of protective legislation intended to check it in purchasing labor-power cheaply. The burden of the Stockett song was that the eight-hour coal mines act was an iniquitous measure because forsooth, its purpose was to interfere with the unbridled license to gouge the workmen which the Western Fuel company and other capitalist swindlers, of like ilk, claim as their special privilege and right. For this person, right upon the heels of his vehement protest against protection being afforded the workmen in the sale of their commodity, to jump into the ring and ask that protection be afforded him in the sale of his, is about as beautiful display of gall and impudence as it has been our good fortune to witness for many a day.

Stockett's consistency should assist in showing to the workers who do not yet see it, that from the capitalist view-point, government is merely an instrument to be used against them, and as an aid to any dirty capitalist scheme that might be hatched.

The whole trend of industrial development is along the line of cheaper production. That is the production of needful things with less expenditure of human labor. In fact that is all there is to industrial development. Capital not only seizes for itself all that is gained by such development, but when opportunity offers, it will erect reactionary barricades to impede further progress in order that its own individual hog proclivities may have full swing.

It is by trade and commerce that even the spread of present day civilization, rotten though it is, is made possible. The more rapidly it spreads the sooner will the baneful sway of capital be brought to a close and the doors opened for the advent of the next succeeding order. Every measure designed to check, retard or thwart, the free play of the forces of industry, trade and commerce, is essentially reactionary in its nature, and in the last analysis a stumbling block in the pathway of progress. Many such measures have been resorted to by ignoramuses in the past, and as the breed is not altogether extinct more may be expected to appear.

The efforts of the old-time workman to prevent the introduction of the machine and to maintain a monopoly of his craft by limiting apprentices, are cases in point, but the rankest, most cowardly and effective of them all is this tariff scheme, which has surrounded each country with a cordon of the most contemptible, arrogant, nose-poking, brass-buttoned, scalawags that ever escaped the hangman's noose. He who upholds the competitive system by his voice and vote, and goes fearlessly into the field and accepts its consequences without a murmur, might pass muster as a man, but he who, like Stockett and his tribe, give it their support, go into the arena and emit baby-squalls for protection from its consequences, should be compelled to suck the sugar-tit of every decent man's contempt.

Let the workmen of Canada make note of the fact that Stockett, on behalf of his company, goes to the government for relief, Let them do likewise by marching to the conquest of all the organized powers of the Dominion, and once in possession use them for the purpose of putting the Stocketts, et al., forever out of the business of masters of slaves.

We sincerely hope that if there be a workman in Canada who is yet blind to his class interest to the extent of supporting the present system by his voice and vote he will at least be manly and consistent enough to accept the consequences without squealing like Stockett and his Fuel Company.

In prohibiting M. Jaures from speaking in Berlin, the German Kaiser planted something, which in due time will bring forth good fruit while the mortification and humiliation felt by M. Jaures when the edict was served upon him will bring a rich reward. For when the working people of Germany have again an opportunity to select men to represent them in the Reichstag it will be found that a greater number have been selected from their ranks than ever before. They have already acquired the habit, which is a growing one, but the growth will be greatly accentuated by the Jaures incident. This in turn, will have a good effect elsewhere, for the workingmen of other countries, seeing how the workingmen of Germany are helping themselves by "going into politics," will do likewise, and in the end much good will have been done for the cause of labor through the futile efforts of a king—a relic of by-gone days—to stop the car of progress.—Machinists' Journal.

The delightful conditions prevailing along the Panama Canal, are graphically hinted at by a machinist working there, who, in writing to the Machinists' Journal remarks: "I can see no headway with the work since my arrival, while the sanitary conditions are going from bad to worse. More square yards of dirt have actually been removed from Monkey Hill (our own graveyard) that from the Culebra Cut, (the only place along the line where they are pretending to do anything)." Monkey Hill is surely a suggestive name for a place to bury dead working plugs. Quite appropriate, indeed.

Nero was a brute, but the innocents he had slaughtered only suffered physical pain for a few moments. The victims of the war of the classes suffer mental and physical torture during childhood, neglect and contempt in youth, persecution and degradation in manhood, all for the liberty of the masters of bread to buy labor in the cheapest market.—Sydney Worker.

George Livingstone Richards, an American inventor, has perfected a machine that "folds, wraps, addresses and sorts magazines for the post" In the space of an hour it folds up thousands of magazines, puts them in gummed wrappers, addresses each one to the person for whom it is intended, and sorts them out into sacks, according to the locality to which they have to be sent."

The magazines are fed in at one side of the machine and a moment afterward come out at the other side wrapped and addressed, and fall into their respective sacks. It is claimed this machine will do the work of one hundred men. Those formerly employed in this line, may sit on the fence and watch the days go by, once this machine is installed in the magazine offices. They will have plenty of time to figure out the beauties of capitalist property in the means of production.

An exchange asks: Do you know that every able-bodied male citizen of the United States between the age of 18 and 45 is a member of the militia, and that the president of the United States has authority through the Dick Military Bill, to order him out to do military service?" Of course we know it. And we furthermore know that notwithstanding all Dick and other similar laws the citizen of the United States or any other country, who will engage in military service for any other purpose than to defend himself and his liberties, is that sort of a fool that we could not specify without resorting to language that would shock our pious brethren. There are enough brutal and vicious laws, devised by the ignorant and unscrupulous tools of capitalism, that we are forced to obey, without obeying those that make for murder. No man is under any obligation, either moral or otherwise, to obey such a law. No creature entitled to be called a man would obey it under any circumstances whatever.

HIS ONLY CHANCE.

"Is there a man in all this audience," demanded the female lecturer on womanis rights, "that has ever done anything to lighten the burden on his wife's shoulders? What do you know of woman's work? Is there a man here," she continued, folding her arms, and looking over the assembly with superb scorn, "that has ever got up in the morning, leaving his tired, worn-out wife to enjoy her slumbers, gone quietly downstairs, made the fire, cooked his own breakfast, sewed the missing buttons on the children's clothes, darned the family stockings, scoured the pots and kettles, cleaned and filled the lamps and done all this, if necessary, day after day, uncomplainingly? If there be such a man in this audience, let him rise up! I should really like to see him!"

And, in the rear of the hall, a mild-looking man in spectacles, in obedience to the summons, timidly rose. He was the husband of the eloquent speaker. It was the first time he had ever had a chance to assert himself.

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"THE CURSE OF COOLIES."

Having evidently learned of some of the brutal treatment which South African capitalism metes out to its Chinese coolies when they fail to perform their allotted task to the satisfaction of the masters, the San Francisco Chronicle, under date of Sep. 12, waxes virtuous in a manner truly touching, and sorrowfully proclaims that coolies "inevitably degrade the people who employ them." If they would only degrade themselves, presumably the Chronicle would have no complaint to make.

The stripping naked of these unfortunate wretches, and tying them up to stakes by their "pigtails," and the even more fiendish practice of "tricing" them up, has shocked the good Chronicles' sensibilities and has caused it to aver that "slavery in its most degrading form" has thus been "established under the flag of Great Britain," as a "permanent institution." That the slavery exists we are willing to admit, but as to its being a "permanent institution." we have our doubts for the reason that history shows us that human institutions undergo continual changes, those of one period or epoch, differing materially from those of another. From this we are forced to the conclusion that such institutions do not and cannot wear the garb of permanency.

The Chronicle, however, in a mild way attempts to partially excuse the drastic treatment meted out to the offending coolies by naively remarking that, "very likely many of them are bad men and do not comply with their contracts." Those who are at all familiar with the methods resorted to, to induce these coolies to undertake their South African experience, and who understand the nature of the beast (capital) that rounded them up in its "compounds" and drove them to their tasks, will have no difficulty in imagining the nature of those "contracts." To persons at all informed in regard to this miserable business, it will not be a metter of surprise that some of these wretches went back upon obligations incurred under such circumstances. Be that as it may, however, the fact that they refused to "comply with their contracts," is amply sufficient to establish their "badness" in the eyes of their capitalist masters, and from the standpoint of capital renders them eminently deserving of the most condign punishment. In fact, the breaking of such a contract is one of the most heinous crimes in capitalism's penal code.

In the course of its virtuous wanderings, the Chronicle blunders upon the fact that "slavery is as degrading to the masters as to the slaves," and adds: "No man can be given power over a great herd of human beings whom he regards as of an inferior race,, without himself becoming brutalized." And yet there is nothing startling or remarkable about this. Slavery is a low, vulgar, cowardly and treacherous institution, carrying within its bosom the seeds of all the crime, and vice and moral filth that makes a civilization based upon it a stinking cesspool that neither master nor slave can escape because its confines are, of necessity, as wide as the civilization that fills it. From out of this cesspool of a slave civilization, it is true there will struggle forth noble precepts and lofty conceptions that, if allowed to blossom in all their beauty and shed their fragrance upon mankind would tend to uplift and forward the race to higher and better planes of conduct, of reasoning and of living. But they struggle against a material environment, so low, so course, so vulgar and so brutalizing as to be almost overwhelming. They are as far beyond the appreciation of the brutal master as that of the grovelling slave. If they cannot be advantageously added to the paraphrenalia of the shrine of profit and power at which the master worships, he will have none of them. The slave is kept so busy in clinging to his chains in order to quiet the demands of his belly, that they appeal to him in vain. A rose may struggle forth from a compost heap and endeavor to fill the air with its fragrance, but its beauties will not appeal to the crawling slimy and disgusting creatures that infest the heap, and its fragrance will be all but stifled by the stench from the festering mass that environs it. Truly, as the Chronicle says, "slavery is degrading to both the master and slave," and we might add through them, it degrades the civilization based upon it.

The Chronicle exultingly remarks: "In this country there can be no "contract labor and no herding of human beings, unconvicted of crime in stockades." What a short memory the Chronicle has. But a few short months since,, men, unconvicted of, and even uncharged with any crime were herded in stockades in the State of Colorado. Perhaps the Chronicle would get out of this by saying that these were not "stockades" but "bull-pens."

Stockades, as used in South Africa, are unnecessary in the United States or any other highly developed capitalist country, for the reason that such countries are amply supplied with slaves who cannot escape. If they break away from one master their necessities will soon compel them to seek another.

It is unnecessary to round up coolies in China and transport them to these countries. There is ample supply already on hand from which each individual master or concern may recruit the number of slaves required. The Chronicle's own city of San Francisco is no inconsiderable slave "compound." There are within its confines some thousands of slaves of every degree of quality, ready to be put to the yoke at a moment's notice.

The whole capitalist world is a huge compound containing millions of slaves whose necessities compel them to hold themselves in readiness at the master's call. It is only in rare cases when their services are required in out-of-the-way places that have not yet afforded sufficient attraction to call them to the spot that the method adopted in South Africa becomes necessary.

If any person doubts that present civilization, based as it is upon wage slavery, bears the ear-marks of a cesspool civilization, we recommend that they read the Daily Chronicla, and the other members of the family to which it belongs. If the accounts there given of the daily happenings in this glorious age, does not bring the stench of the cess-pool to his nostrils, he had better consult a physician, as his smelling apparatus must be out of order.

That which the Chronicle terms the "curse of coolies," is really the curse of slavery. It is a curse that will blight and poison human society until the slave shall have awakened from his lethargy and broken the chains of his bondage, by the abolition of capitalist property in the means of wealth production, and its attendant evil, the wages system.

It is the mission of the present slave class to accomplish this revolution. Once accomplished, and the means of production set free to the workers, so that they may produce food, clothing, shelter, etc., for the sustenance of themselves and those dependent upon them, beyond question humanity will move forward to a plane of civilization that will no longer be a stench in the nostrils of decency.

POOR OLD EXCUSE.

In the arrest of Comrade Arthur Morrow Lewis, while addressing an audience upon the corner of Cordova and Abbott streets on the evening of Oct. 6, the police, as usual in such cases, fell back upon the old excuse of "obstructing the street and interfering with traffic." So often has this poor old excuse been trotted out as justification for such impudent arbitrary and nose-poking conduct on the part of the police, that it has become threadbare.

It appears conclusively from the evidence, that no street obstruction occurred upon the evening in question, and no traffic was interfered with in any manner whatever. The only person who discovered anything that could by any stretch of the imagination be construed as an obstruction was the officious hulk in uniform who was responsible for the arrest.

Street gatherings are by no means uncommon in Vancouver or any other city of any size. In fact they are almost a daily occurrence. Salvation Army, street peddlers, and those who may perchance be possessed of some particular hobby which they desire to elaborate upon for the benefit of their fellow citizens, are quite in the habit of using the street corners for their particular purpose. It is particularly noticeable that rarely if ever, does there come any complaint, in regard to such slight obstruction to the free passage of the streets as may be offered by these gatherings, from they who use the streets for traffic, pleasure or pastime. The average citizen is altogether too mindful of the rights and comforts of others, too courteous to his fellows, and too decent to make complaint because some other person or persons happen to make it necessary for him to take a few extra steps. We have many times seen a sidewalk so completely blocked with people listening to some street speaker, or seller of nostrums, that all who passed were compelled to take to the middle of the street, and yet all of them, men, women, (oftentimes with baby carriages) and children alike, would meet it with the utmost good nature and unconcern. Once more we repeat that the average person is instinctively too decent and courteous in his association with his fellows, to grumble, growl and make a boor of himself over insignificant and trifling discomforts that others may perchance unwittingly cause him.

It should not escape the notice of any one that bumptious and officious policemen much more readily discover street obstructions in connection with socialist meetings than any other street gatherings. When in the jungle, the master relies on the keen scent of his faithful dog to warn him of the approach ol dangerous beasts. In the jungles of capitalist production and robbery, the masters may evidently rely upon the smelling proclivities of the police to likewise warn them of the direction of approaching danger.

In the case of the dog it is termed instinct. What it may be in the case of policemen, we do not know, but much of their conduct at least stinks in the nostrils of decency.

If these uniformed street loafers see fit in the future to arrest street speakers of whatever persuasion, let them at least be manly enough to state in court that they do so because they do not approve of what these speakers teach. There is no valid reason why they should longer attempt to disguise the real animus of their action in this respect, behind that ridiculous old plea of obstructing the streets." This poor old excuse has become so seedy and threadbare that it no longer affords the means of deceiving even suckling babes. It has been trotted out so often and has become so common and of such ill-repute, that there are none so intellectually poverty-stricken as to longer do it "reverence."

WHAT GUARANTEE.

The question is often asked, what guarantee can be given that the elected representatives of Socialism will not conform in their action to the ethics of plunder and graft followed by the representatives of capitalism? The same guarantee may be given that the former will not do so, as may be given that the latter will. The particular behavior of the political representatives of an economic system is determined by the fundamental basis of the system itself. In fact, all expression of an economic system must of necessity be like the basic principle of the system itself. The basic principle of the present or capitalist system is the exploitation or plunder of wage-labor. This is in itself the very essence of fraud, trickery, robbery, deceit and graft. It logically follows that whatever institutions arise from such an economic basis must be permeated with and take on the character and habit of that from which they spring. This will express itself in the moral and ethical code of the supporters and defenders of such a system of property and society. Hence we have every walk of life under the rule of capitalist property permeated with the plundering and grafting characteristic of that form of property. The legislators of capitalism could no more be expected to steer clear of their present practices, without proving false to the system they are pledged to defend, than a business man could to refuse to accept the juicy profit upon which the success of his business depends.

It is not a matter of individual misconduct when a capitalist legislator or other governmental official throws down one gang of capitalist pirates and gives his support to another, or perchance throws them both down and feathers his own nest. It is merely a matter of business, and an evidence of unsevering loyalty to the underlying principle of the robbery of labor, upon which the entire structure of capitalist society rests. As a political defender of the robbery of labor, he is justly entitled to as much of the plunder as he can successfully lay his hands on. That is strictly business in every sense of the word, and should meet with the hearty approval of the entire business world, barring of course that part of it which got the worst of the deal by being thrown down.

Among the many accusations that have been made against legislators and other members of capitalist governments, there is one that has not appeared, and that is, that even one of those complained of has proven traitor to the underlying principlr of capitalism. Not one of them has taken advantage of his office to assert and render effective, the right of the laborer to the full product of his toil. Should one of them be guilty of such traitorous conduct the beneficiaries of the present system would be justified in stringing them up to the first lamp post. The economic conception of the Socialist is an entirely different one from that of the present order. It is one based upon the very reasonable assumption that every person should be entitled to reap the full fruits of his labor. Being such it does not contain within itself the elements of graft, plunder and robbery, and it logically follows that its every expression must be equally free from it. True, an individual may occasionally fall down in the struggle, and why should such an event not happen. It is only the strongest of moral fibre that could be expected to withstand the enervating effects of centuries of capitalist poison. Small wonder if an occasional individual should break under the strain. This, however, would no doubt meet with short shrift, and does not in the least affect the general proposition that men as a rule stand true to the economic class in human society to which they belong and whose interests they are pledged to defend.

THROWS A FIT.

"There is another matter worth remembering. Shame lurks in every discussion of a peace conference. Plenipotentiaries trade human lives as peddlers trade cucumbers. On the one side stand so much land and so much money; over against them are so many human lives and so much human suffering. Land and money are very real; human suffering is very intangible. Kings and plenipotentiaries are ready to have men killed rather than to injure "national honor" by paying an indemnity. And when peace comes, each nation thinks the other has the best of the bargain."—The World, Today.

It is quite shocking to see a prominent magazine like "The World of To-day," throw a fit without any valid reason for it. What in the world of today, or even of yesterday would "plenipotentiaries" do if they did not trade human lives as peddlers trade cucumbers?" This is an age of trade. Trade is the one dominant factor of present civilization. It is by ttade that the proceeds of the robbery of labor under the wage-system is made realizable by the robbers. Were this plunder not disposed of through the channels of trade the "incentive" of capitalist property would be destroyed, and surely no one wishes to destroy that sweet virtue except, perhaps, some crazy socialist.

What is trade but traffic in human life? Is not the life of the laborer coined into the product of his labor? What is the essential difference between trafficking in his flesh, and trafficking in the product of his toil?

If he was purchased body and soul as under chattel slavery, it certainly would be for the purpose of enabling the purchaser to utilize him as a laborer, and by this method obtain the product of his labor. The "World Today" would no doubt recognize such a transaction as a trade in human life. By handling the worker in the position of a non-owner in the means of living, capital secures possession of the product of his labor without being compelled to assert title to his body, as the chattel slave masters were forced to do. The one system or method is as essentially a traffic in human life as the other. The entire business world of today is busily engaged in trafficking in human life. Plenipotentiaries are only agents of the traffic, and it is their business to further it to the fullest possible extent. What would "World of Today" expect them to do, suck their thumbs? That estimable periodical should take a dose of catnip tea.

A Mr. Sydney Adamson, through the columns of an Eastern periodical bewails the fact that "civilization is killing art in Japan." He says that art flourished luxurantly in the Island Empire, and brought forth dreams of beauty in "ivory, silk and wood, delicate cloissone, and fragile porcelain," up to the time there appeared upon the scene the "great trading nations learned in little save the wonderful machine power of production." These have proceeded to "trample out unconsciously the flower of art," and now "Cockney dealers, German curio merchants, and American dry-goods' agents are all beguiling the Japs for gold into into cheap production, and, worse, insisting on an adaptation of the worst Western Ideals of design which handled by Japanese, produce a villianous mongrel compound offered in America and Europe to the world as Japanese art." Of course this is awful in the extreme, but the gentleman's wail is quiet uncalled for. We are living in a practical age, and under a practical civilization. Art might stand some sort of a show in dreamland, but it certainly can have no place in a civilization that by virtue of its fundamental basis (capital) is devoted solely to the purpose of skinning wage-slaves and swapping their hides. That in itself is art enough, and it is the only sort there is any profit in anyhow. What more could a practical person wish for?

Panama Canal affairs are beginning to take on an exceedingly suspicious appearance. It is well known that the powerful transcontinental railway interests do not look with favor upon the project, as its completion would of necessity result in a demoralization of the present juicy freight rates which the roads are enjoying. If there is any combination of capital more powerful politically than that of the railways of the United States, it has not yet been located. It need cause no surprise if the present attempt to build the canal should prove as great a fiasco as that made by the French company About the most cheering feature of the affair is that the French scalawags, aided no doubt by those of Yankee extraction, succeeded in getting safely out of it forty million "simoleons" to the good. Where the forty millions came from is of little consequence.

"Jefferson J. Praplee, once a wealthy New York banker and business associate of J. Gould, Commodore Vanderbilt and John P. Blair, was sent to the Poor-House here today."—News Item.

Praplee will now have the opportunity of washing the dishes, scrubbing the floor, cleaning up the yard, weeding the onion bed, hoeing the "spuds," splitting the wood, or doing some other useful thing, an opportunity he has probably never had before, or at least if he has had it, has failed to grasp it. If the whole capitalist gang were sent to the Poor-House, it would cost the workers far less to keep them than it costs now.

And now the unhappy and friendless Chicago meat packers have been haled to the bar of justice, and mulcted in the sum of $25,000, as a penalty for their schemes to "evade the law, and exploit the public." The majesty of the law from now on, will be to these guilty wretches something terrifying to contemplate.

The result of a police raid in New York City, uncovered a "pink tea," at which "keepers of disorderly houses" were the guests, and a "police captain," the host. Another striking affirmation of the old adage about "birds of a feather."

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Classes and the Class Struggle

From "Mass and Class," by W. J. Ghent.

It is a part of the economic interpretation of history to hold that since the dissolution of primitive tribal society, social processes have inevitable grouped men in economic classes. An economic class is an aggregate of persons whose occupation has the same bearing on the supply of things wanted by mankind, and who, in that occupation sustain the same relation toward other persons. Or, in other words, it is an aggregate of persons whose specific economic functions and interests are similiar, and who, therefore, bear a common relation to the prevailing economic system. In all communities of persons who produce goods for individual profit there exists necessarily, an antagonism of material interests. These persons may have like general interests; as consumers, they will all want goods at low prices; they may equally desire peace, prosperity and health; they may have an equal interest in salubrity of climate and fertility of soil. But their particular interests vary and conflict in accord with the different methods by which the individuals secure their living. The diversity and antagonism of kinds of interest and function determine class divisions.

The interests of a geographical section are of a different character from the specific interests of a class. That all the inhabitants of Alabama are benefited by the development of the iron industry of that state may be true; but the facts alters in no way the nature of the economic relation between the iron-workers and the mill-owners. The cotton industry of Georgia is a sectional interest in which all the inhabitants of that state may be deeply concerned; but the wretched peons who pick the cotton and the masters who reap the profits have functions entirely apart and specific interests directly opposed. The Bryan movement of 1896, and to a less extent that of 1900, were in large part sectional. They were not, however, in any specific sense, class movements. Men of all classes were comprised therein, and in not the slightest degree were class lines shifted or class relations modified throughout the South and West, where these movements developed their greatest strength. The Civil war, too, was prompted by a sectional interest, and that in turn, was based on an economic interest. Moreover, as between the controlling forces on each side, it was, in the main, a class conflict. But within each of the two warring sections, were widely separated economic classes, whose boundaries and relations, (except those of the slaves) remained unaltered by the struggle. In no other instance, perhaps, in modern times have classes with interests so fundamentally opposed as were those of the various Southern classes made common cause in a great war; and the truth embodied in the adage, "This is a rich man's war, but a poor man's fight," which ex-Secretary Herbert tells us became a common saying in the South at the time was gradually driven home to the consciousness of every intelligent poor man who bore his part in that conflict. In present times, under the increasing stress of the industrial struggle, class feeling conquers both sectional and national feeling. It overlaps the boundaries of sections, and even of nations, and among both capitalists and workmen embodies itself in national and international affiliations of men of a common economic interest.

Class membership is based on similarity of specific functions and interests. But the units of a class may be engaged in a great diversity of occupations. Baker and compositor, ironmoulder and carpenter, are alike units of the class of wage-earning producers. Their specific function, despite the varying technic of their labor, is that of producing goods for wages; their specific interests are alike, and they all bear a like relation to the economic system. All owners of the tools of production used by other men are of one class, all self-employing producers are of another. So, too, all slaves, whether men employed in picking cotton, or women employed in nursing their master's children, were of the same class. Whatever the nature of their toil, whatever the degree of trust in which they were held by their owners, they wete alike in that they had common interests, a common function in doing what they were bid and a common relation of absolute dependence.

The earliest appearance of an economic class is in the form of slavery. Under pure savagery, slavery is but rare and incidental; it is possible and perhaps probable, that slave classes begin to appear with the conquest of peoples who have developed tribal industries—that is the craft of making some one produce in which all the working members of a tribe engage. A tribe skilled in a certain craft is conquered by a rival tribe, covetous of its product, and is henceforth compelled to produce for its conquerers. Tribal industries appear at a very early time in the history of mankind, certainly as early as the period of so-called "hoe-culture." With the subsequent development of agriculture comes the need of workers in the fields; and other adjacent tribes are conquered and enslaved. Classes also arise under the division of labor consequent upon the growth of individual industry and the accumulation of property; but this is indisputably a later and stable society. Classes are thus formed under either peace or war, in the former case through the accumulation of individual property, in the latter case through tribal or racial conquest.

Whenever these conquests occurred, among post-primitive tribes, they usually resulted in a more or less complete subjection of the defeated. Whatever the previous gradation of classes among the vanquished, the quartering upon them of a new ruling class generally meant an almost uniform levelling to the status of slavery, serfdom, or peasanthood. Even in comparatively recent times, this form of subjection has sometimes resulted. Such a conquest, for instance, was that of the English Saxons by William of Normandy. "Within the lifetime of William . . . of his two sons, . . . and the nominal reign of Stephen," writes Professor Cheney, "the whole body of the nobility, the bishops, and abbots, and the government officials had come to be of Norman or other continental origin." Even the architects and skilled artisans, and perhaps most of the merchants, were Normans. The great body of the Anglo-Saxons had been reduced for the time to the status of an inferior class.

But in later times, coincident with the firmer establishment of political status and the development of more stable forms of industry, conquest has affected classes less and less. Even the many conquests in feudal times for the most part merely supplanted one set of rulers by another, effecting by taxation or tribute the exploitation of the defeated, and leaving the serfs, tenants, and overseers who escaped death in their former tenures and employments. And as feudalism passed away, and a new form of production arose, these classes were naturally transformed to meet new needs. There is thus traceable in the more civilized lands, but particularly in England and Germany, where economic development has proceeded along comparatively regular lines, a historic continuity of classes. "Out of the slave class, as it was organized by the Romans in the countries subject to the Empire" writes Professor Ingram, "the modern proletariat has been historically evolved." From villeins to peasants, from free tenants to yeomen or small landholders, from retainers to professional men, is a common and discernible evolution. There are breaks in the process, it is true, due to the rise or fall of individuals from one class to another; to the expansion of industry, which has created new classes, and to the overrunning of communities and sections by hordes of alien workers, displacing the resident workers. But as under a particular form of production the position of a class in its relation to the other strata of society remains generally constant, so, too (allowing for such modifying factors as displacement due to capitalist concentration and alien immigration, and the freer opportunities common to new countries), does it hereditary personnel. The children take up the work of their fathers and carry it on to the next generation; and though the son of a physician becomes a civil engineer or a lawyer, the son of a baker becomes a shoemaker or a bookbinder, while troops of boys from the towns and country flock to industrial positions in the cities, yet the general vocational class of the great mass of fathers and sons remains the same.

Even in America, despite its comparatively brief history, its less regular economic conditions, and its constant influx of immigrants, the evidences of class heredity are abundant. Let one take, for instance, any stable community in the Middle West, where the refinement of modern industrial processes has not as yet caused a wholesale expropriation of the "middle class," and compare its character today with that of twenty or thirty years ago. He will find that though the population has undergone considerable change, and though the variety and number of occupations have greatly increased, yet the farmers of today are in large parts the sons or grandsons or other heirs of the farmers of yesterday and that the mercantile, professional and even artisan and laboring classes show a like heredity of vocation. That individual exceptions, due sometimes to signal ability, but more often to chance, are many, is not to be disputed; but they are rare compared with the instances that make the rule. The social instances centering about the life of a boy tend strongly to conform him to his father's class; and when to these are added the more powerful determinant of economic influences, there is small chance of escape. The child of the artisan has one environment, the child of the lawyer another. Each feels, thinks, and acts in greater or less conformity to his particular surroundings; and when the time is reached that the child's future is decided upon, it is the income and the intellectual training of the lawyer which determine a professional career for his child, and the lesser income and lesser intellectual training of the artisan which determine for his child a life of manual labor.

The first classes in America were the product of an older civilization, and were imposed on our social life at its beginning. The Mayflower brought in indentured servants, and in the previous year a cargo of negro slaves was sold in Jamestown. The status of the white servants was little better than that of slaves. During the term of their bound service "they were worked hard, were dressed in the cast-off clothes of their owners, and might be flogged as often as the master or mistress thought necessary. . . . The newcomer became in the eyes of the law a slave, and in both the civil and criminal code was classed with negro slaves and Indians. . . . They were frequently sold to speculators, who drove them chained together sometimes, through the country, from farm to farm, in search of a purchaser. For nearly two hundred years this traffic was maintained, continually adding to the servile white class of the North, as the importations of negroes at the South kept adding to the servile class of that section.

At the end of their term of service these servants sought work for themselves. Many of them drifted West and took up land, many struggled into small business, or developed some particular form of industrial service. But the rapid development of American industry, along with the still more rapid appropriation of land, had created a proletarian class in all the large cities; and the great mass of the freed servants went to swell this body. The existence of a class of landless "free" workers at day labor is revealed in pre-Revolutionary records. Following the Revolution, the development of capitalism in the North caused both bound service and slavery to disappear, and greatly augmented the numbers of these "free" workers. Though the outlet of unappropriated lands in the West set some limits to the growth of this class, it nevertheless steadily increased. The sufferings of the city poor were often appalling, and the social writings of the first half of the nineteenth century show that however hapless may now be the condition of a great part of the working class, it was worse then. Protective and sanitary laws, labor organizations, and the general influence of manhood suffrage, all of which combine in our day to set some bar to the otherwise inescapeable robbery of "free" workers under capitalism, were as yet unknown or of but slight efficacy. Winter in the larger cities was a season of general privation. "Notwithstanding the active and stirring features the city of New York exhibits," writes an author of the third decade, "there were, on the first of January, 1826, at least one-fourth of the journeymen in its different mechanic arts, destitute of settled employment." Frances Wright (Madame d'Arusmont) gives a darker picture of the winter of 1828-1829; while Horace Greeley, writing of the same period, but particularly of the "dead" season of 1831-1832, says: "Mechanics and laborers lived awhile on the scanty savings of the preceding summer and autumn; then on such credit as they could wring from grocers and landlords, till milder weather brought them work again. . . . It was much the same every winter." Ten thousand persons were in utter poverty in New York City during the winter of 1838-1839, while in 1843, according to Parke Godwin, forty thousand persons, or about one-ninth of the city's population, were relieved at the almshouse. America may have been another name for opportunity, as Emerson said; but it is evident that to hundreds of thousands of persons opportunity itself was but a name. A landless, proletarian class had become a fixed and enduring stratum in American life.

The existence of classes here in republican America is often indignantly denied. But upon what valid grounds the denial is made would be difficult to discover. Industrial evolution has resulted in a vast differentiation in kinds of employment, and it has amplified and extended the fundamental differences in the relations of men to production itself and to the system of production. The relations of the toolless employee and of the factory-owning employer to the product of any particular shop are widely distinct; and throughout all society there exists a gradation of groups of men with varying re-

(Continued on Page Four.)

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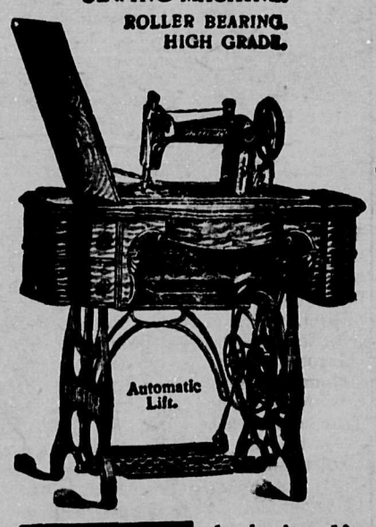

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PLATFORM OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA

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 in the means of wealth 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

I, the undersigned, hereby apply for membership 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 spremacy, 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.....19.....
.....Chairman .....Rec.-Sec.

Socialist Party of Canada

DOMINION EXECUTIVE HEADQUARTERS.

J. G. MORGAN, Secretary. Vancouver, B. C.

VANCOUVER LOCAL NO. 1.

The regular business meeting of the Vancouver Local, was held at the headquarters on Monday evening, Oct. 2nd. Comrade Morgan in the chair.

After the adoption of the minutes of the last meeting, and the authorizing of warrants for bills payable, a communication from the Victoria Local, suggesting sundry changes in the Constitution, was ordered to be laid on the table to be taken up before the delegates to Convention are elected.

After reports of committees, Comrade Morgan read a telegram from Comrade Lewis, of San Francisco, stating that he would come to Vancouver immediately. It was ordered that the Comrade be engaged to speak in Vancouver on Satutday and Sunday.

Comrade English was added to the programme committe and made chairman thereof. The meeting then adjourned after receiving the financial report which showed receipts of $4.50.

The Local again met on Monday, Oct. 9th., Comrade Stebbings presiding.

After the adoption of the minutes two applications for membership, were ordered to take the usual course, and under the order of communications and bills, warrants were ordered drawn covering some forty dollars of expenses. After receiving the reports of committees, the programme Committee was authorized to continue the services of Comrade Lewis for another week, and to engage the City Hall for next Sunday evening.

A motion to instruct the Provincial Executive that we do not consider it necessary to hold the annual convention this year was lost, and the question of location for convention resulted in the choice of Vancouver.

Comrade Burns was elected chairman for next Sunday evening at the City Hall.

After the receiving of the financial report showing gross receipts for the week of $57.85, exclusive of a balance in the secretary's hands of ninety cents donated for the express purpose of purchasing coal for the headquarters, the meeting adjourned.

DAVID P. MILLS,
Secretary.

Box, 836, Vancouver.

SHOULD WATCH HIS "YOUNG MEN."

In referring to the prospective trouble in the Pennsylvania coal regions, Hearst's Los Angeles Examiner, of Sept. 30, says, editorially:

"The big coal strike is coming—sooner or later—and the coal mine 'owners' are ready.

"They propose to refuse recognition of the union. They propose to fight against the labor-saving devices imposed by law to save miners' lives. They mean to continue overcharging for powder, and to force the men to give three thousand pounds for a ton.

"There is no question that the men will be forced into a strike sooner or later.

"The fighting of union labor is in the air—and a series of strikes in which the employers have won makes them eager for new victories.

"The Beef Trust beat their workmen.

"The street cars in New York City were made into 'scab' roads with the aid of Murphy and Mayor McClellan backing up their owner, Belmont.

"The employers think that there is not much fight left in the union workman and they mean to go at him on all sides.

"The big strike will have to come and as we have said, the owners of the mines and the railroads are ready.

They have piled up many mill ons of tons of coal—near the railroad tracks and near the big cities. They have been getting their labor cheap enough, and they have been running on full time—getting lots of coal ahead to be ready for the strike.

"Of course it costs money to pile up the millions of tons of surplus coal—and of course they have lost interest on that money.

"But that does not worry them. The PUBLIC WILL PAY BACK THAT INTEREST THREE TIMES AND TEN OVER WHEN THE STRIKE COMES.

"The labor in a ton of coal represents very little money. That sum of ten times over will be added to the customer's bill when the high prices are quoted.

"The coal strike will be the EXCUSE for high prices.

"While the public pays a big price and the miners' families go hungry the mine owners will evict the families of miners from their shanties, rake in the strike profits and laugh.

"It will not be a pleasant experience or an easy fight for the workmen. If they win, it will be after a bitter and violent struggle. The coal is there piled up in the mountains all ready for the strike. What can the men do to win?

"It is even likely—if they fail to strike of their own accord—that they will be pushed into rebellion by a halfway lockout. The owners want revenge for the last strike, and they want to 'teach their men a lesson.'

"It will be a hard lesson. But it will not be wasted. And when it is learned, let the mine-owners look out. It will be their turn to learn something.

"The lesson that the miners must learn is this:

"THEY CANNOT FIGHT THEIR EMPLOYERS EXCEPT WITH THE BALLOT.

"While they let the mine-owners own railroads, and legislatures, and make laws, their strikes can do nothing permanent. The trusts are arganized for POLITICAL ACTION. Everybody knows that.

"The men must be organized for political action, or they must remain in hopeless uncertainty, on small pay, varied by painful strikes."

Although the Examiner man subsequently runs off into a lot of New Zealand rubbish and nonsense, such editorials are too perilously near the truth to be of any substantial value in conserving capitalist interests. If the workers are once taught the futility of the revered strike and boycott, and become imbued with the fact that redemption from the industrial ills under which they are suffering lies in the political conquest of their masters, it is not a "far cry" to the time when they will discover how to realize the fruits of such a victory once it has been attained. Thousands of them are already beginning to understand that the gates of economic liberty can only be opened to the working class as a result of successful political struggle against the master class.

William Randolph had better watch his "young men" a little more closely or they may perchance be the means of setting other workingmen to thinking along the same lines. Mem who think are dangerous to capitalist tyranny.

HISTORICAL ACCURACY.

The Kansas City Star, a leading western daily, mentions the fact that four elaborate histories of the United States are now issuing from the press, while the fifth has been announced. In length they range from ten to twenty-eight volumes, and at least, two of the five promise to be of the first rank. The Star points out that these modern histories that are being written, the "most comprehensive documents ever undertaken," are not based merely on "past politics," as has been the rule followed by Bancroft, Adams, Windsor and others, but upon the thoroughgoing Marxian conception of economics, which is unquestionably a great triumph for Socialistic philosophy. The same paper adds:

"The modern historian cannot, for instance, regard the Revolution as caused by the capricious tyranny of a wilful government. He traces the causes of irritation in the restrictions on trade and manufacture that were a part of the regular colonial policy of the age. He shows the development of a distinctive temper, bred of the conditions of life in the New World. From these and similar considerations, he points out that a rupture was inevitable, though not perhaps, the accompanying war. Again, in dealing with the slavery question, the modern historian does not praise the North and censure the South. He points out that slavery flourished where economic conditions made it profitable, and that it declined where it was not easily put to industrial use. The economic interpretation of history, which was first elaborated by Marx in the middle of the last century, has given a new impetus to historical studies. Thus it happens that American history is now being written on an elaborate scale and from a new point of view."—Appeal to Reason.

"BILL" HAS MUCH TROUBLE

Kaiser "Bill" of Deutchland, a most "amoosin" cuss, and the European counterpart of the "strenuous" gent who presides over the destinies of the "land of the free and the home of the brave," has been having trouble of his own lately. At the recent army manoeuvres he got stuck in the mud just like a common mortal and had to be ignominiously dragged out of his ignominious position by a couple of lieutenants, losing one royal boot in the operation. But his most serious trouble, however, is caused by something more sticky than mud and which promises in the caurse of time to strip all the ridiculous duds from the royal back. This, of course, makes his royal highness somewhat uneasy, as the following will show:

"The Kaiser is furiously angry over the success of the Social Democratic Congress just concluded at Jena. He had been assured by von Buelow, who fully believed it himself, that the congress would result in a split, destroying the effective power of the party for a long time, but the Socialists have emerged from the congress perfectly united, stronger, more dauntless and more determined than ever to wage war against the Kaiser's absolutist pretentions, and against militarism.

The strife between Editor Eisner, of the Vorwearts, and Editor Mehring, of the Leipzig Volkszeitung, as to the methods of the press campaign has been stilled. Eisner was charged with being too namby-pamby while Mehring, on the other hand was considered too ferocious. Both parties agreed to abide by the decision of a special committee appointed to consider the subject.

Then the congress decided emphatically in favor of holding a labor festival on May 1, no matter what obstacles the Government and the employers may interpose. This apparently trifling matter was really most significaot as a demonstration of defiance to the Kaiser, who has denounced this labor festival idea as anarchistic.

But the most vital and far reaching of all was the decision that if the progress of the Social Democratic movement be in danger of being checked or hampered by Governmental interference, whether administrative or legislative, the workers shall retort by proclaiming a univetsal strike. Any interference with the right of meeting, liberty of the press or restriction of suffrage will be met by this expedient, which the Kaiser regards as revolutionary. These declarations are regarded as a deliberate throwing down of the gauntlet to the Kaiser, who is not likely to stand being flouted in this fashion, although every effort he makes to defeat the Social Democratic movement in the present conditions of German working class life, only gives it increased strength." — New York World.

THERE'S FUN AHEAD.

China is about to organize a modern enlisted army of 1,000,000 men on the German modern order, to form its own bulwark against foreign aggression, regardless of the Anglo-Japanese treaty, according to General Yin Tchang, the Chinese Minister at Berlin. The general has been recalled to Pekin, and will probably be entrusted with the re-organization of the army in the capacity of Minister of war.

"China's future was never brighter than now," said General Yin to your correspondent today. "The Anglo-Japanese treaty guarantees us such a period of security from foreign aggression, that we have resolved to create a real army. China must work out its own salvation. At present it is not ready for foreign treaties."

When asked if the army, when organized, would be employed in a race struggle against the whites, General Yin replied, "Have we reason to love the whites? Do the whites love us? We can easily understand the restrictions against the coolies, but the shutting out and persecution of educated Chinese, as practised in some countries, cannot be defended and now must cease. Any friendship between the yellow race, and the white race will remain impossible until China shall prove herself able to defend her own interests. Then that friendship will grow on a basis of full equality. I am happy at the prospect of participating personally in the reform work my country has decided to inaugurate.

"I hope that our serious efforts to bring the Chinese civilization up to date, will benefit all humanity."

General Yin Tchang is one of China's most brilliant soldiers. He was educated in the German army and speaks the Kaiser's language like a native Berliner.—Press Despatch.

NO SLAVES UNDER OLD GLORY.

Six hundred and fifty laborers from Martinique brought here yesterday on the French steamer Versailles, under contract to work on the canal, refused to debark or submit to vaccination, which is imperative under the American sanitary regulations. They clamored to be taken back to Martinique, claiming that they had been misinformed as to the conditions here before they embarked, and they later learned these conditions were intolerable and deadly. Five hundred of them were with difficulty persuaded to land, and these were sent to points along the line of the canal. One hundred and fifty remgined on board and declined to leave the ship under any consideration. These were forcibly ejected from the vessel yesterday afternoon by Panama and canal zone policemen, but not until nearly every one of them had been clubbed, and several were bleeding from bad wounds.

Early yesterday the French consul M. Bonhenry, appealed to the men to listen to reason, explaining that they had left Martinique under contract with the canal zone immigration agent, guaranteeing the payment of their passage here, and that while working on the canal they would have, in addition to their wages a guarantee of free quarters and free medical attendance. The men, however, were not amenable to reasoning. Notwithstanding the efforts of the consul and of the Panaman and American officials, and despite the information given them by several of their countrymen that health and other conditions on the isthmus were satisfactory and the terms of their employment would enable them to save money, they persistently refused to leave the ship, baring their breasts and invoking death in preference to going ashore.

The captain of the Versailles, who all through the trouble, displayed an extraordinary amount of patience, told the men he was ready to take back to Martinique all those who were able to pay their passage, but the men argued that the French Government would be willing to reimburse the steamship company and that they themselves were penniless.

Before noon, at the instance of M. Raven, the agent of the company, and of the French consul, a squad of twelve Panama police went on board the vessel and told the men that force would be used if they persisted in their refusal to disembark. Seeing that the police were armed with bayonets and guns, the men again barred their breasts and said they preferred death to being taken ashore Governor Melendez, Mayor Andron, chief of police, and others, argued with the men, but again without effect. Ten additional policemen arrived at the wharf, but the Governor wishing to avoid bloodshed, and considering that the police force was insufficient, telegraphed to President Adamor, asking permission to use the canal zone police, to which the President consented. In the meantime twelve policemen from the zone arrived at the dock and were being held in readiness.

At two o'clock the laborers were informed they would be given two hours to reconsider their decision, and at four o'clock, three of them consented to disembark, the others still holding out. Then the Panaman policemen, armed with clubs approached the laborers, and on their refusal to quit, began to club them right and left. The zone police, a few minutes later, assisted in the clubbing, but with better judgment, and less indiscriminately. About fifty of the laborers leaped into the sea, but all of them were able to swim. The captain, however, sent a boat, which picked them up. Nearly every man had received blows and several of them were bleeding from ugly wounds.

Seeing that resistance was useless, the men yielded. Many of them had not eaten since Saturday. At five o'clock, all the laborers, who were in a pitiable condition, were placed on a train, which left for Corazal, where they will be put to work.—Montreal Star.

The above needs no comment. These villianous working men, having manifested a disposition to violate the sacredness of contract well deserved the treatment they received. The fact that they were lured into the contract under misrepresentation and false pretense, by no means detracts from their guilt in breaking it. The right to lie and swindle, cheat and defraud workingmen, is among capitalisms most cherished rights, and should not be questioned. It should be remembered the Canal Zone is under the folds of Old Glory, and slavery could no more exist there than under the Union Jack. Figure it out for yourself.

ONE THING AND ANOTHER.

An individual of the name of George Grey and his wife, who is addressed as "my lady" so that none shall mistake her for a mere woman, are about to visit Winnipeg and are to be met by a large number of Winnipeg tuft hunters and escorted somewhere or other by a procession. The question of precedence in this procession has caused great trouble and heart-burning among the various societies who are organizing this exhibition of sycophancy. The question was decided by drawing lots but the question that naturally arises in the sane mind, the question of why a procession at all, was not touched upon.

What has this man done to merit an escort of citizens in any town? Nothing, absolutely nothing. The humblest laborer is many times more useful to the community. Earl Grey never did a useful day's work in his life, an idle parasite, living on the product of other people's work, head of a public house trust which extracts profit from the slinging of booze which trade this man professes to deplore, a man who, not on account of any merit but solely by accident of birth has been appointed as the ornamental figurehead of the Canadian government, and who thinks no shame to draw the pay from the Canadian people for doing nothing. This is the kind of man Winnipeg delights to honor.—Spartacus, in Winnipeg Voice.

Twenty-five protestant bodies have missions in Japan. The troubles of the Japanese did not end with the close of the war with Russia.

Mrs. Harduppe— John, I'm sure there's a burglar in the house. Mr. Harduppe—Well, I feel sorry for him; I know what it is to work hard for nothing.

Butcher—I need a boy about your size, and will give you $1 a week. Applicant—Will I have a chance to rise? Butcher—Yes; I want you to be here at 4 o'clock in the morning.

According to the London Lancet, the plague in India continues with unabated virulence. From Januar 1st to April 22, of the present year, 630,968 were sent to their grave by this awful scourge.

By breeding and feeding his fowls in a special way, a scientist in Wiesbaden, Germany, has been able to so increase the natural quantity of iron in eggs that they are medicinal and useful for the cure of various diseases. The attention of the Doctors' Union should be called to this as a gross infringement c he privileges of their trade.

CLASSES AND THE CLASS STRUGGLE.

(Continued in Next Issue.)

gular product, and to production as a whole. Professor Ely, in his most recent book, frankly concedes the fact of classes in America, briefly explaining their genesis and development:

"If we take any definition which we will as a guide, we must acknowledge that we have classes in the Unted States. We have groups of individuals who possess common characteristics. They have their own peculiar habits of body and of mind, and their own peculiar needs. The farmer has his own way of looking at things, the merchant another way. The wage-earner, especially as he develops, as he is doing, class consciousness, has still other ways of doing things and viewing affairs. The chief classification in our own day is that which is caused, on one hand by variations in wealth, and on the other, by a separation between the employed and the employers."

And again, in the same work, dwelling upon the clearer delimitation of class lines under mohern social processes, he writes:

"This classification (employers and employed) has been growing in importance. In Washington'e administration, let us say, it at least would not have been unreasonable for an ordinary laboring man to expect to become the manager of a business of his own. Nowadays it is absurd to hold out to the masses of men such a prospect.. The few may rise as the few may draw prizes in a lottery, but it is foolish for an ordinary workman to look forward to great wealth or to the ownership of an independent business. There are, for example over a million persons engaged in the railway business in the United States, but less than one per cent. of them are officers of any sort, let alone being persident of the railway."

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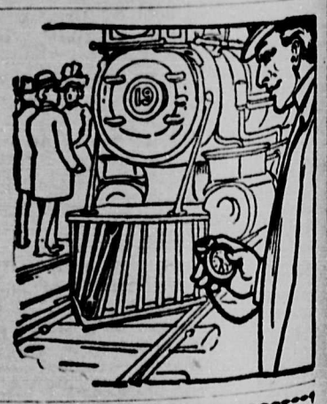

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