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THE WIND UP OF THE SESSION

Important Measures Considered and Acrimonious Debate Indulged in During Closing Week—Brief Summary of the Socialist Members Work During the Session.

THE WORK OF THE SESSION.

Measures and Amendments Introduced by the Socialisti Members.

The session of the Provincial Legislature just closed, has been a most important one from the Socialists poin tof view. While the number if bills that the Socialists actually succeeded in pushing through was not great, it will be hard to over estimate the importance of at least two of these measures on the future of the party. These two bills both bear the title of amendments to the Provincial Elections Act. One, which was introduced by Mr. Hawthornthwaite himself, reduces the deposits of candidates for election from $200 to $100, and the other provides that a voter may get o nthe list in a new constituency at any time within thirty days of election. The latter bill was introduced by Attorney-General Wilson, and it was brought in no doubt largely by the instigation of the Socialist members of the House. When it is considered that workingmen more than anyone else must shift about from place to place, it can easily be seen the number of added votes that this may mean for the cause of Labor at the next election. The Socialists used the strategy of silence while this bill was going throug the House, for though they promised and suggested it, they said not a word, and the consequence was that the ever-ready opponents of Socialists were thrown off their guard, and the Bill went through practically unopposed. The bill to reduce the elections deposit on the other hand, became law after strenuous and bitter resistance. First it was strangled in committee on motion of the True Blue Captain Tatlow of the prehistoric ideas. By sheer determination Mr. Hawthornthwaite succeeded in having it placed on the order paper again, and secured a majority vote in its favor. John Oliver and other Liberals then tried to block it with a proportional representation amendment, but in spite of all opposition it became law by a substantial majority. While the reduction is not all that was hoped for, the fact that the old figure has been cut in two, will make it very much easier for the Socialists to place a candidate in every constituency in the Province at the next election, and in view of their ultimate results these two bills may be regarded as the most important measures ever passed in the Province in the interests of the working class. If nothing else had been accomplished by the labor representatives in the House these two measures alone would be sufficient to warrant the effort in sending them there. It was because of these measures rather than anything, that the Socialists prevented the defeat of the Government which would have entailed the defeat of the measures.

Another important measure introduced and carried by Mr. Hawthornthwaite was the First Aid to the Injured amendment to the Coal Mines Regulation Act. This bill provides that every overseer in a mine shall be compelled to take a course in ambulance work. It meant a possible saving to the capitalist class under the Compensation Act and therefore met with little opposition. Parker Williams' Master and Servant Act, to compel the payment of wages every two weeks, got safely through second reading, and was narrowly defeated in committee by a majority of one. Had this Act been passed it must have resulted in greatly reducing the credit system with which the country is at present cursed, and it is to be hoped that Mr. Wiliams will see fit to bring it forward at another session. The Eight Hour Bill for smelters which was introduced by Mr. Davidson, was also narrowly defeated by a majority of two on the second reading. This bill had been introduced by Mr. Hawthornthwaite at the preceding session, and was defeated by a majoritw of 10. That it should have grown so far into public favor within a year speaks well for its success in future anyhow. In speaking of this bill it may be said that Mr. Davidson, the introducer, has worked hand in hand with the two Socialist members throughout the session, showing that the interests of labor and Socialism are at heart the same.

The watchfulness of the Socialist members was never better shown than in the amendments they have suggested from time to time. In the early part of the session Mr. Parker Williams proposed an amendment to the Small Debts Act to do away with the power of garnishing a workingman's wages. It was defeated after a rather bitter struggle, in which the Napoleonic Bowser figured as the champion of the capitalist class, though of course he was aided by the redoubtable Paterson, the labor member for the Islands, who says he is a workingman, but always votes against measures for their benefit. Another important amendment by Mr. Hawthornthwaite was that he proposed to the Timber Act to give hand-loggers the privilege of exporting their logs. Mr. Macdonald, the Opposition leader, unfortunately introduced an amendment along the same lines to provide that the Government should scale all logs and exempt those hand-loggers. This proposal Mr. Hawthornthwaite refused to accept, regarding it as a movement for the benefit of the commercial classes rather than the workingman, and both proposals went down to defeat. Mr. Hawthornthwaite's amendment was, as he himself said, a dead straight labor issue, intended solely for the benefit of the workingman.

Another amendment by Mr. Hawthornthwaite well worthy of mention was his proposal to amend the Assessment Act to exempt from taxation the small farmer, whose income is below $1,000 per annum. Strange to say, this amendment was opposed strongly by Oliver, Tanner and Evans and every other farmer in the House, but as none of these gentlemen could be classed among those to be exempted, this might in some degree account for their action. Anyhow the amendment was defeated, and consequently the farmer finds himself taxed while the city man for whom he provides by his labor is exempt.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite has always looked closely after the interest of the squattor and small farmer, and in line with his policy he introduced a bill to extend the rights of settlers in the E. & N. railway belt on Vancouver Island, but the Speaker ruled it out of order as a measure that it was not competent for a private member to introduce, since it interfered with the administration of the public lands of the Province. He was more successful with an amendment to the vexed Columbia & Western Subsidy Bill, to confirm the rights of the squatters on the land in the C. & W. land grant. This proposal was espoused by the Government and carried. There were also a number of amendments to other bills, all looking to the preservation of the interests of the workingman and women. His great effort to extend the franchise to the latter is still fresh in the memory of the public, and although it failed, there is good reason to believe that in the future it will become law. The questions asked by the Socialist members have also all been with a view to the better protection of the life and interests of the workingmen, as for example Mr. Hawthornthwaite's questions as to gas in the Nanaimo mines, about which so great ado has been made. The sole object of these questions was to secure the greater safety of the men.

In the closing days of the session a resolution of great interest to the people of the Province generally was proposed by Mr. Hawthornthwaite and carried unanimously by the House. This was the resolution calling for stricter inspection of slaughter houses. When it is considered how easily the germs of disease may be spread by impure meat, the importance of this resolution can be seen. Mr. Parker Williams also proposed a resolution to grant old age pensions to aged and decrepit working people, but this was ruled out of order, as interfering with the revenues of the Province. Though the resolution failed in its object, it in no measure militated against the principle of the intention.

It is questionable if any two of the Ministers of the Crown have to work harder than the two Socialist members during the session. But Mr. Hawthornthwaite, who has been the longest in the House has secured since his advent the passage of over 30 bills and amendments all in the interests of the laboring classes. He has seen the cause he represents grow from puny infancy to virile adolescence, and it would certainly be no cause for wonder should he within a few years see his own prophecy fulfilled, and a Socialist majority in the Legislature controlling the destinies of the Province.

Labor Measure.

This Bill and the Election Deposit Laws are the most important labor measures ever passed in this Province in the interest of the working class. If nothing else has been accomplished since the party sent reprsentatives into the House, the passage of these two bills warranted the effort.

Under this Bill workingmen can go on the voters' list at any point up to thirty days before an election.

An Act to amend the "Provincial Elections Act."

His Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia, enacts as follows:

1. This Act may be cited as the "Provincial Elections Act Amendment Act, 1906."

2. Paragraph (j) of Section 10 of Chapter 17 of the Statutes of 1903-04, being the "Provincial Elections Act," is hereby amended inserting after the words "King's Printer," in the second line of said paragraph, the words "with any additions made thereto under the provisions of Section 4 of this Act."

3. Sub-section (e) of Section 10 of said Act is hereby amended by inserting in line 35 thereof, between the words "and" and "it," the following words: "With any additions made thereto under the provisions of Section 4 of this Act."

4 Sub-section (2) of Section 15 of said Act is hereby amended by striking out all the words in said sub-section after the word "shall," in the ninth line of said sub-section, and by substituting therefor "at the expiration of thirty days from the receipt thereof and of an affidavit in Form A of the schedule of this act provided, but at least thirty days before the date fixed for an election, place his name on the Register of Voters for the last-mentioned District."

5. Section 96 of said Act is hereby amended by adding thereto the following: "Provided, however, that nothing in this section contained shall prevent a Registrar, who has been appoitned a Retruning Officer for the same Electoral District, from voting at an election of a member for the Legislature in the Electoral District for which he has been so appointed as aforesaid, in the case of a tie as hereinbefore provided."

6. Sub-section (1) of Section 148 of said Act is hereby amended by striking out the words "or marked copy of the Register of Voters and counterfoils," in line 4 of said subsection.

7. Sub-section (4) of Section 149 of said Act is hereby repealed.

AMENDMENTS.

Steam Boiler Inspection Act and Tramway Act.

One feature of the work of the Socialists that does not attract so much notice as others, perhaps, is that of amendments to bills. A large number of these have been brought forward at different times during the past session, and all have been with a view to helping the workingmen. One of the keenest struggles to work in amendments occurred on the last day of the session over the Steam Boiler Inspection Act, which was introduced by Mr. Manson of Nanaimo, for the purpose of enabling fifth-class engineers to do different kinds of work. The following is the text of the bill as originally introduced:

An Act to Amend the "Steam Boilers Inspection Act, 1901."

His Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia, enacts as follows:

1. This Act may be cited as the "Steam Boilers Inspection Act, 1901, Amendment Act, 1906."

2. Sub-section (1) of Section 44 of Chapter 7 of the Statutes of 1901, being the "Steam Boilers Inspection Act, 1901," is hereby amended by inserting after "Fourth Class Engineers," in the sixth line of said sub-section, the words "Fifth Class Engineers,"

3. Said Section 44 is hereby further amended by adding abter Subsection (5) thereof, the following subsection.

"(5a.) Fifth Class Engineer may take charge of any plant where steam is kept for heating or drying purposes any logging engine and boiler," or any engine or boiler used for farming purposes not exceeding 20 horse power.

4. The Schedule attached to said Chapter 7 is hereby amended by striking out the words "is Engineer" where they occur therein, and by substituting therefor a certified engineer is in charge.

The Bill passend second reading without opposition, an don Monday afternoon went into committee, Mr. Murphy in the chair. Mr. Evans moved to add at the end of Sub-section 5a, Section 3, "any any farm engine and boiler up to 29 horse power." The amendment passed.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite moved to strike out the words, "or any plant where steam is kept for heating or drying purposes."

Mr. Patterson said it was absurd to hay ,that an engineer should have to hold the same certificate to watch an engine at night when the pressure of steam was as low in the daytime when it was high.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite said the Bill was being railroaded through on the last day of the session. He thought, in view of the protests received from all over the Province it would be better to hold it over for another year, and he moved that the committee rise.

Hon. Mr. Green did not think that was fair. The Bill had only been held back by the member for Alberni to receive suggestions.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite's motion to rise was defeated.

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THE POWERS WHICH OPPOSE US

W. J. Curry of Chilliwack Points out the Forces That are Arrayed Against the Working Class in its Struggle Against the Political and Ecomomic Rule of Capital.

The Socialists of this Province have watched with the greatest interest and satisfaction the work done by their comrades, Hawthornthwaite and Williams, among that galaxy of political lights assembled at our Capital, and it is safe to conclude that almost any other body of men would by the end of the session have had forced into their understanding some important truths relating to the Socialist movement. There is no doubt that the effect of these contests between the representatives of labor and capital will be of great educational value to the public, but from numerous precedents, however, and from prominent symptoms now developing, we know that about the only effect of our comrades' efforts on their opponents will be to increase their tendency to line up definitely in their defense of the interwoven interests of themselves and those they serve.

None are as blind as those whose interest is not to see, and when this economic pressure is supplemented by all the powers of education and public opinion nothing short of a miracle can open their eyes.

A Jesuit priest once said: "Give me a child until he is 12 and he is mine forever." Although this is perhaps an exaggeration, yet it illustrates a psychological truth and the power and permanency of education in which criticism is suppressed and blind faith in authority is exalted as the crowning virtue and the foundation of wisdom. Considerng these circumstances, how could we expect otherwise than that these proved champions of capitalism would successfully resist all the logic and eloquence of their opponents. Probably the strongest argument against Socialism, in the opinion of the average individual, is the fact that the educated classes—the professional men—the intellectual and spiritual guides of society are its bitterest opponents. In the opinion of many this fact renders any further investigation of the subject superfluous, but by the student of scientific Socialism this opposition is easily accounted for.

The law of social development expressed by Marx and Engels in the communist manifesto is as follows: "In every historical epoch the prevailing made of economic production and exchange forms the basis from which is built up and from which alone can be explained the political and intellectual history of that epoch." This is the key which unlocks the complex problems of our political actions and reactions, our juridicial excuses and omissions, our religious paradoxes and our intellectual sophistries. This is the capitalist epoch: "Why should the ruling class do otherwise than determine their political, intellectual and religious institutions to conform with their property interests? Why should their house be divided against itself?"

Historical facts prove that whether production and exchange are carried on der communistic, chattel slave, feudalist or wage labor principles, this law of "economic determinism" holds true, and not only does it hold true to classes, but to the individuals constituting them. "As the tree is so shall the fruit be also. Can men gather grapes from thorns or figs from thistles?"

It is as Professor George D. Herron said: "What we call civilization is but legalized and organized robbery, and until we have a comprehension of the fact that churches and art, literature and philosophy, education, morals and manners are more or less the expression of this universal robbery all our hopes of a better society are but Philistine Utopias."

The robbery at the basis of modern society takes place when the wage-earner is held up and forced under penalty of death by starvation to deliver to the capitalist the greater part of the value he produces.

Reason and experience proves that capitalist prosperity can only continue through the increasing poverty of the laboring class. Their interests are directly opposite. It is obvious, therefore, that capitalist legislation cannot improve the condition of the masses. The man who expects state or municipal ownership, strikes, prohibition laws or reform measures to benefit the producing classes, knows as much of the laws of social development as the perpetual motion crank does of the law of conservation of energy or Carrie Nation does of the drink problem. Their schemes are just equal to the method of the idiot who is said to have tried to lift himself out of a ditch by pulling on his boot straps. The wage earner who would be free must get hold of something outside of capitalist institutions, and that something is revolutionary Socialism, and that only.

The wage earner who supports any but the Socialist party is thereby tightening his bonds, but he does this because his education has been supplied by those whose interest it is to keep him enslaved.

One of the most deplorable sights today is to see all around us men and women of the laboring class cursed with the ideas of their economic masters. We see them branded as wage slaves by their faces and figures, by their clothing and food, and by the tenements and shacks in which they live, and yet because of their false education they hug their chains and often curse and ridicule those who ask them to strike for their own freedom.

The wage earner looks up to the educated and cultured classes, and because of this we see bourgeois politicians all in favor of extending the influence of bourgeois colleges. These are, of course, for the ruling class, since the children of the wage earners seldom get above the first grades of the common school before they have to go to work. Their father's wages are determined by that of the single man and because there are more men than jobs he is compelled to work for just enough to live as a laborer. On this

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ONTARIO'S CAPITALIST STEW

The Labor Grafters Get the Scum While Middle Class Reformers Skim off the Bubbles—Those Who Can Get but a Smell Become Disgrunted Heelers. New Industry Suggested.

TORONTO, March 12.—Vastly more significant than the increase in the Socialist vote in North Toronto, as compared with the figures of the general election in 1905, is the phenomenal falling off in the vote polled for the old party candidates. The Tory vote has decreased from 5,189 to 3,839, a falling off of about 25 per cent, while the Grits, who polled 3,704 at the general election, only numbered 2,418 votes in the late contest, a decrease of over one-third. This is an encouraging sign of the growing indifference of the masses. The Grit organization has admittedly gone all to pieces, the "cohesive power of plunder" no longer suffices to hold it together. And many of the Tory workers have got cold feet, owing to the lack of incentive since it became evident that Whitney does not intend to make a general distribution of spoils.

Disgruntled Heelers.

Nothing could better illustrate the rottenness of capitalist politics than the fact that without the constant stimulus of patronage, offices and contracts the machine is always liable to break down in this fashion. The fact is that not one man in fifty takes any active interest in the Grit vs. Tory fight except from mercenary motives. As for the rank and file, the "dumb, driven cattle" who don't see anything coming their way, whichever way the game goes, they have most of them got the habit of voting provided it is not too much trouble and can be "got out" if the heeler comes after them with a hack, otherwise they won't take any trouble about it. And a growing minority, who are far as yet from being Socialists, have come to the point where they fully realize that as working men they have no sort of interest in the issues over which the politicians pretend to wrangle.

A Chance for Working-Class Politics.

There is one hopeful feature about English politics as compared with Canadian which makes for the permanent success of a working class party—the entire absence of the species of cheap bribery by which here "labor leaders" are kept in the old party ranks. Here, let a man be ever so poor or so ignorant, provided he can acquire a certain amount of "influence among his fellows, or get the reputation of having it, which amounts to the same thing—he can always trade it for the promise or the chance of some little job, and occasionally he gets the job—no lottery is all blanks and no prizes. And, moreover, the party must sometimes throw a bone to the hungry dogs so as to encourage the rest of the pack. Consequently both parties are represented in every important labor organization by their contingents of office-seekers zealously doing the dirty work of the partisan and bringing "labor politics" into contempt by their machinations. Now there is none of this sort of thing in England, and can't be, simply because there is nothing going in the way of political favors or offices for the masses. All the positions in the civil service which are worth having go to the aristocracy and upper class parasites, and as to the small jobs, they are strictly filled by competitive examination and the holders paid on "business principles." An English workingman must spend his life shouting and hustling for his party without the remotest chance of getting any personal advantage. The case of John Burns is entirely exceptional. The consequence is that the Labor party starts comparatively free of the sinister influences which for a generation or more have prevented the movement for independent working-class action from making any progress.

Socialism Will Come.

Of course the English Laborites with a few exceptions are not Socialists. But the fact that they have nothing to hope for in the way of personal gain from one or the other party—no wire-pullers in their own ranks seeking to serve partisan interests bringing them into line with the Liberal or Tory party capitalist factions will make the transition from "Laborite" to Socialist much easier. A really independent Labor party with an eye single to working-class interests will not be long in developing into a genuine Socialist organization. In fact, they will be forced into it by the attitude of the capitalist parties and the logic of events, unless indeed the political leaders are cunning enough to introduce the spoils system and debauch the venal element by the same methods of bribery as have kept the workingmen of Canada the slaves of faction. That is probably just what Chamberlain would do if he were in office, but he is about the only man at once shrewd and bold enough for a move which would shock unspeakably the British sense of propriety.

New Line of Industry.

King Edward, so the papers say, has received an enthusiastic welcome in Paris. He was loudly cheered wherever he went. There is no reason to doubt it. The French are adepts in the art of producing enthusiastic applause to order, and governments, as well as theatrical managers, resort to it. Our capitalist rulers might take the hint in connection with the approaching visit of Prince Connaught, or whatever his title is. There have been complaints of the lack of loyal enthusiasm on the occasion of the visits of Prince Battenburg and Earl Grey. The masses don't seem able to enjoy these festivities by proxy as much as formerly. They crowd to see royal, vice-royal or semi-royal strangers, but they only stare and gape and don't cheer. Something must be done when Connaught arrives or Canada will be in danger of losing her reputation as the brightest jewel in the British Crown or biggest toad among the toadies in the colonial puddle. Now, what's the matter with giving a few hundred of the unemployed, whose only present usefulness to society consists in demonstrating the truth of revealed religion in fulfilling that beautiful consoling text, "the poor ye have always with you," a job as loyal and patriotic applauders. For 25 or 50 cents each and a square meal they could be hired by the hundred to line the streets, and on the appearance of his Royal Nibs to make the welkin (whatever that is) ring with spontaneous and heartfelt outbursts of loyalty. It is really a wonder that this cheap and simple plan hasn't been adopted long since.

Middle Class Reforms.

Billy Maclean, champion of middle-class interests, and understudy of Hearst, Jerome, Folk and the other American "reformers," is having a picnic just now. He has been hammering away through his paper, the World, at the insurance companies for months, and has practically forced the government to appoint a commission of investigation, and now that he has got it he isn't a bit happy, because from its make-up it is evidently intended to do the white-washing act. Now he has got the Whitney outfit committed to appoint counsel (another job for a good Tory) to represent the policy holders. So he is having lots of fun and boosting the World in great shape. It is good journalism, but nothing more—a mere tilting against windmills. The insurance investigation move, like the public ownership agitation, is only an incident of the struggle between the big and little capitalists, which is certain to end in the obliteration of the latter. The middle-class champions of the Hearst and Maclean type may gain a litle emporary popularity and profit from their course, but cannot succeed in the long run, because the class for whom they are fighting is doomed to extinction in the course of social evolution. Moreover, the middle-class are so stupid, ignorant and prejudiced, so loaded up with capitalist ideals, inherited traditions and party feelings that even now they don't know where they are at or what is hurting them. They haven't the sense to understand the situation or the pluck to combine against the forces that are crushing them down. Workingmen are slow enough in developing the class-consciousness that is their only salvation, but the middle-class, clinging to the idols of respectability, have not the first glimmerings of class-conscious feeling and tamely submit to be despoiled and effaced by the bog corporations. Were Maclean a far more sincere and effective upholder of the rights of the little capitalist than he has shown himself, there is not one Grit out of the lot who wouldn't ignore his services and vote against him as soon as his party feelings were appealed to. He will go far, will Maclean, for he is a fighter from the word go and "unco dour" like the Scotch forbears. But he is fighting for a lost cause and for a lot of pusillanimous and purblind bourgeois and parasites on the tail of the capitalist dog who have neither the brains nor the nerve to back him up or put up a fight for self-preservation. From a purely spectacular point of view it is interesting, but Socialists can afford to look on with equanimity without worrying over the result. It is nothing to us either way whether the little thieves or the big thieves come out ahead in the scramble over the plunder stolen from the working people.

PHILLIPS THOMPSON.

A few Vancouver tin-horn real estate and other brands of swindlers have now set themselves the laudable task of boosting the City's population up to at least 100,000 by 1910, by inducing people from other parts to hie themselves hither. Their cry is not for "more world's to conquer," but for more pockets to pick. This may be taken as an indication that those who have already reached this favored spot have been pretty well picked.

Harry Sibble departed on another trip through the interior of the Province in the interest of the Western Clarion last week, and the usual string of subs that follows in his wake is coming into this office. He will visit the Kootenay and Crow's Nest regions on this trip, and is respectfully recommended to the tender mercies of the wage-working heathen wandering in the economic and political wilderness of capitalism, wherever he may be treed.

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Shoddy Civilization.

In reviewing Upton Sinclair's book the Springfield "Republican" says: "The jungle puts into concrete form the common charges that have been becoming unpleasantly frequent in recent years, as to the decline of honor, not to say common honesty, in American business. A shoddy civilization fed on garbage—such is the American that the Trusts have created—As Mr. Sinclair pictures it."

With all due respect to that eminently respectable and conservative journal it might be well to remark that there has been no "decline of honor," in American business. It is now what it always was. Its underlying principle has in no sense been altered. As business becomes more highly developed and its operations assume a greater magnitude it becomes possible to more effectively apply the principle upon which all business is founded and more completely effect its underlying purpose. The fundamental basis of business, in the modern acceptance of the term, is the plunder of the working class, for the purpose of converting the proceeds of the robbery not only into sustenance for the robbers but into additional means of plunder as well. This latter expresses itself in what is termed additional or new capital. In the first place the plundering of the producers of wealth is a dishonest act. To such action honor is of necessity a stranger, except it be such as is said to obtain even among thieves. That this particular brand is an extremely elusive and uncertain quantity has been clearly proven by recent insurance, Amalgamated Copper, Standard Oil, Beef Trust and other exposures. Among thieves though there be a sort of code of honor that is as a rule observed by the members of this precious fraternity, it by no means alters the fact that the calling itself is a dishonorable one.

The cornerstone of American business, or that of any other country in fact, is the robbery of the working class. The after details work themselves out in a world-wide scramble among the thieves and their hangers-on over the division of the spoils of the robbery. This is called trade and commerce, and is usually summed up in the one word, business.

In the earlier days of the present system, while capitalist production was yet in a comparatively primitive stage and consequently business was as yet carried on in but a small way, the underlying principle and the motive which prompted its appreciation were of necessity so completely hidden beneath the intricacies of the operation of industry and business as to escape the observation even of the man who profited by the transaction. During such stage business and its devotees were logically garbed in what appeared, even to the most critical observer, to be the garb of honor. In these later days, however, with the instruments of labor grown into the huge machineries of to-day, and the consequent increase in the magnitude of industrial operation, and business transaction flowing therefrom, the system unmasks itself to even the most careless observer and capitalist production and business stands revealed as a colossal scheme of pillage and outrage perpetrated upon the only useful portion of human society, that portion that by its toil and sweat makes even present civilization, as bad as it is, possible—the working class. So complete has now become the development of capitalist production, and its operations have assumed such gigantic proportions, that the robbery of labor at its hands can no longer lie disguised.

Capitalist property is now openly brutal, arrogant and merciless in its process of grinding the flesh, bone and sinew of the workers into profit with which to swell its already enormous bulk. As shown by the exposures of Sinclair in his story of Packingtown, capital is just as conscienceless and unscrupulous in disposing of its plunder as it is in the matter of taking it from its wage-slave victims in the first instance. There is as much honor in selling rotten meat, dead rats and poisonous chemicals, as A. 1 goods, to the unsuspecting consumer, as there is in the extracting of surplus value from the toil, and sweat, and agony of a lot of wage-slaves. Either is a legitimate transaction under the beneficient rule of capital, for they are but the expressions of its life.

The exposure of capitalist methods and business which are becoming so frequent of late, are by no means an indication of any "decline of honor," in business. They only indicate that in these later days of capitalist development, the real purpose and motive underlying capitalist property are coming so clearly to the surface that they are being readily seen by those who are at all observing. Business is no more devoid of honor now than when in its infancy. The basis upon which it rests—the plunder of labor—was the same in its infancy as now in its old age.

The present is not "a shoddy civilization fed on garbage," nor has it been created by the "Trusts." It is a capitalist civilization, fed upon the plunder of an enslaved working class. Instead of the "Trusts" having created it, they are the legitimate products of capitalist civilization. They represent the associated thieves who have been forced to band together in order to successfully conduct the gigantic industrial maurading expeditions that only a capitalist civilization could make possible.

Present civilization might perhaps not inappropriately be termed a "shoddy" one. At least it is a shabby one. But shoddy, shabby or rotten to the core, it is just as clean and pure as the fundamental crime upon which its shoddy, shabby or rotten structure is builded. That crime is human slavery—a slavery that can no longer be made to pass for freedom by the singing of National Anthems, nor the reading of Declarations of Independence. Wage-slavery is as real, as atrocious, as vile, and even more degrading than any that preceded it. Any civilization resting upon slavery is of necessity without honor, without morals, and without decency. "Ye cannot gather grapes from thorns, nor figs from thistles."

Cheap Melodrama.

For melodrama that is both cheap and nasty the states of Idaho and Colorado at present head the list. The ridiculous swagger, bluster and nonsense indulged in by the officials of these states in connection with the recent arrest of Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone could not be duplicated outside of the stage of a bum 10-cent show in some tenderloin basement.

At 4:30 on the morning after their arrest, Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone were brought into the jail corridor, where some contemptible cur in human form, dubbed a deputy warden of the Idaho penitentiary, proceeded, in most melodramatic and stagey fashion, to place a pair of handcuffs upon each man, shackle their legs together so that they could only step a short distance at a time, and pinion their arms to their sides. This was done in preparation for taking them to the special train that had been provided to convey them from Denver to the Idaho bastile. Every human caricature above the level of the third grade idiot knows full well that the arrested men were subjected to this humiliating and scurrilous treatment merely for the purpose of impressing the public mind with the idea that they were most dangerous and desperate characters. There has as yet nothing occurred in the history and actions of these men to warrant even the supposition that they would attempt to resist an officer of the law, acting in his official capacity, or escape from his custody if placed under arrest. In fact, no one other than an insane person would attempt anything of the sort, and these men are far from being mentally unbalanced.

Just as the cheap and nasty show of the slums affords the opportunity for the bum actor to display that lack of talent which so eminently befits him for a place outside the pale of the "legitimate," so does the stage of governmental repression afford the opportunity for degenerate rapscallions to make coarse and vulgar display of that lack of human, of manly calibre and quality that so eminently befits them for the carrying out of the contemptible and dirty schemes of rulers whose vile and conscienceless tools they are.

As the painted strumpet parades her counterfeit charms among the audience soliciting patronage for herself while the bum hero treads the boards, so does that painted thing known as the capitalist press cater to the basest of human passions by extolling the merits of these officials, sleuths and thugs, and applauding their action in heaping insults upon these arrested men, and through them insulting the entire working class.

All of this cheap claptrap of shackling men against whom not a shadow of suspicion rests eexcept in the brain of ignorance and prejudice, all of this accusation of guilt when no crime has yet been proven against the accused, all of this swagger and bluster and buncombe upon the part of the sleuths, thugs and ruffians can have but one effect, and that effect will be good. It will tend to destroy that reverence for capitalist government and respect for capitalist law, upon which the security of ruling class economic supremtheir fellow victims be of good cheer. The louder the henchmen of capital and its dirty press proclaim their guilt the more convinced will every sane person be of their innocence. They have already been tried as by fire. Let the workers of America see to it that if this Idaho-Colorado melodrama buffonery being played by official sleuths and thugs is to be converted into a tragedy, the working class does not furnish all of the victims. Above everything else let the workers bear in mind that so long as the powers of government be left in the hands of their capitalist masters, the humiliation and insults heaped upon Moyer and his fellows will continue to be dealt out to all who dare to do battle in the interest of the workers and the upliftment of labor.

At the recent municipal election in Seattle, the fighting S. L. P. backed by a "revolutionary economic organization based upon the class-struggle," polled nearly 90 votes. Much satisfaction is felt by the stalwarts over the encouraging growth of "clear-cutness," and the increasing militancy of the purified battalions.

A Spokane capitalist is to have a 2,000-acre tract of land near Chelan Falls, converted into a huge peach orchard. Thus does large production gradually invade all fields and lines of industry.

An exchange states that John R. Walsh, who wrecked a couple of Chicago banks, not long since, also committed perjury in making false affidavits to the government about the bank's affairs. Well, what of it? It was all strictly business and John R. is a business man. Besides it's none of the workingmen's business anyway.

It is reported that a Moscow, Russia, bank has been looted of something like half a million dollars. If it be true that the trick was turned by a party of revolutionists, it is to be hoped they will make better use of the proceeds than to spend it in riotous living. Doubtless they will, too.

Once upon a time the lambs in convention assembled decided to select only such wolves to preside over the fold as would not use their teeth too harshly in dealing with their faithful subjects. A movement is said to be on foot among the typos to elect as judges only such men as will not abuse the use of the injunction in case of labor troubles. All of which is too serious to joke about.

Now that the session of the local house is over it would be well for every Socialist in the Province to get busy in preparing, for the next Provincial election which will be upon us in about 18 months. There are 42 districts in the Province, and there must be that number of Socialist candidates in the field. British Columbia is easily in the front rank in the class war upon this continent and will be the first State or Province to be captured by the revolutionary proletariat. The next Provincial campaign will be a warm one. There is much work to be done in preparing for the fray. Let every Local and individual get busy.

Bakers in France are subjected to several unusual rules and regulations. In large fortified towns, for instance, they must always have a certain stock in hand in case of war. Not only this, but everywhere they have to deposit a sum of money in the hands of the municipal authorities as a surety of good conduct; and the law, not content with merely looking after the weights and measures, actually decides the price at which bread is sold. It would seem from this that even capitalist governments have little confidence in the scalawags of which the modern business fraternity is composed.

Five bills, embodying a scheme for universal suffrage and other electoral reforms, were introduced in the lower house of the Austrian Parliament today by the Premier, Baron Gautch von Frankenthurn. The Premier was subjected to noisy interruptions on the part of pan-Germans, while explaining the details of the plan, but the majority of the deputies heartily applauded his speech.

The bills provide for the election of 455 deputies to the lower house. Every Austrian 24 years old, and domiciled in a constituency for at least a year will be entitled to vote, and every one possessed of Austrian citizenship for at least three years will be eligible to election. Plural voting is prohibited and a division of the electoral didtricts is designed so as to give the Germans 205 representatives, the Slavs 230, the Italians 16, and the Rumanians 4.

The introduction of these bills by the Government mark a distinct victory for the Social Democrats, who have during the past year carried on a most energetic popular agitation against the prevailing restricted suffrage. Having failed in its attempts to suppress this movement and being embarrassed both by the Hungarian situation and by the conflict of the German and Slav elements in Austria, the rulers now see their only hope in offering concessions. Of course, the victory is not yet won, and the Socialists will increase rather than slacken their activity.

PROVINCIAL ORGANIZATION FUND.

Calls are coming in from various parts of the Province for speakers and organizers. The Provincial Executive desires to arrange for complying with these demands during the coming summer months. If the necessary funds can be provided several tours can be arranged for speakers whose services have already been promised. It is confidently expected that such tours, if prudently managed can, be made to largely pay their own expenses through sales of literature, collections, and contributions along the route. It is, however, absolutely necessary that funds be provided in advance to enable the committee to outfit speakers so that they may not be compelled to go forth empty handed. Such fund can be easily obtained if every person interested will do his little share towards such end. It was decided at the last meeting of the Committee to issue a call for contributions to an "Organizing Fund" through the columns of the Western Clarion, such call to remain standing in its columns. Acknowledgement of all moneys received will be made through the same medium, either by publication of the donor's name, or such nom de plume as he may choose.

Moneys contributed to this fund are to be used for the purpose above stated only. Contributions should be sent to

W. H. FLOWERS, Sec.
Room 3, 222 Prior St.
Vancouver, B.C.

The following sums have been received:

O. Rayner	$1.00
C. O. D. Penticton	1.00
Dr. Curry, Chilliwack	2.00

DOMINION ORGANIZING FUND.

The Dominion Executive Committee has decided to call for funds to be used for the purpose of pushing forward the work of organizing such parts of the Dominion of Canada as have not yet been reached. There is a vast field to be covered which will of necessity entail considerable expense. The necessary funds can, however, be obtained if Locals, individual comrades and friends will take the matter up by gathering and forwarding such contributions as may be forthcoming. As soon as the requisite funds may be gathered it is the intention of the committee to arrange trips, for one or more organizers, covering as large a section of territory as possible. With energetic action in the matter of raising funds and judicious application of the same by the committee a much needed work may be carried out that will bear fruit in future election campaigns.

All money received for this fund, will be used solely for the purpose stated. The committee, at its meeting on Feb. 27, appropriated from the General Fund the sum of $25, to be applied to the Organizing Fund All money received for this fund will be acknowledged through the columns of the Western Clarion.

Dominion Organizing Fund.

The following sums have been received to date:

Dominion Ex. Com.	$25.00
Local Toronto	5.00

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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 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 supremacy, i. e., possession of the reins of government, and which necessitates the organisation 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.

Five yearly sub. cards—$3.75.

There reposes in the British Museum the body of a human being taken from a shallow sandstone grave on the west bank of the upper Nile. This man is supposed to have hunted along the banks of the Nile long before the time of the earliest mummified King which the museum possesses. It is not suggested, however, that this ancient man is in any manner closely related to Captain Tatlow, British Columbia's able and august Minister of Finance, although the latter is somewhat antiquated in his ideas.

Union Directory

When They Meet; Where They Meet.

Every Labor Union in the province is invited to place a card under this head. $1.00 per month. Secretaries please note.

Phoenix Miners' Union, No. 6, 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.

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROVINCIAL Executive Committee, Socialist Party of Canada, meets 2nd and 4th Tuesday in each month. W. H. Flowers, Secretary, R. 3., 222 Prior Street.

DOMINION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, Socialist Party of Canada, meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday in the Month. J. G. Morgan, Secretary, 551 Bernard Street, Vancouver, B. C.

LOCAL VANCOUVER, NO. 1, S.P. of Canada. Business meetings every Monday evening at headquarters, Ingleside 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, Socialist Headquarters, 185½ Queen St., West. F. Dale, Sec., 41 Henry St. Jewish branch every Sunday night, same Hall.

LOCAL WINNIPEG—Meets first and third Sunday in Maccabee Hall, corner King and Pacific Ave., at 2.30 p.m. Secretary J. Coxon, 226 Princess St., Winnipeg.

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SMOKE "KURTZ'S OWN" "KURTZ'S PIONEERS" or SPANISH BLOSSOMS
BEST IN B.C. CIGARS

Provincial Legislature

(Continued from Page One.)

Mr. Oliver then moved that "fifth class engineers might be employed for the purpose of maintaining steam." Carried.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite protested against the motion. All it meant was that employers would be able to hirt a night watchman at $50 a month to do the work that they would have to pay an engineer $70 or $80 a month for. The danger at night was as great as in the day, and he did not see why three hundred engineers in the Province who had gone to the expense of securing certificates should be thrown out of work in order to save a little expense to the employers.

Mr. Paterson said that the ability to get a certificate was no proof of what an engineer could do. Sometimes experience counted for a great deal more than education.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite then began to spar for time, so that he could hang over the Bill till the evening sitting, when he knew that he could kill it if he wished to, since the House was going to prorogue, and he could object to it going through more than one stage. As a practical way of filling up time he read the following letter, which had been handed over to him by Mr. J. F. Garden:

Boiler Inspection Act.

Vancouver, B. C., March 11, 1906.—Mr. Hawthornthwaite, M. L. A., Victoria. Dear Sir: I had a long conversation this morning with Mr. A. H. B. McGowan re our objection to amendments to Boiler Inspection Act.

I have written Mr. Garden a long letter on the subject, and am sorry I have not time to explain the matter more fully to you, but I have explained to him and have no doubt he will lay the matter fully before you.

If you are unable to have the changes made as we suggest, you would do us a great favor if you could have the amendment laid on the table till we are able to go more fully into the matter.

Thanking you in anticipation, I am yours very truly,

W. A. ROBERTSON,
Secretary.

1631 Robson Street.

Vancouver, B. C., March 11, 1906.—J. F. Garden, Esq., M. L. A. for Vancouver, Victoria, B. C. Dear Sir: I had a long conversation with Mr. A. H. B. McGowan this morning relating to the amendment to the Boiler Inspection Act of 1901, and he has advised me to write you and explain fully the reason of our objections.

I understand from Mr. McGowan that he has informed you of our objections, but I think it will be better if I explain the matter fully to you from our point of view.

This Association has no desire to play the dog in the manger, nor will we oppose any honest endeavors to improve the present Act, and we wish it understood that we have taken the following objections solely because we consider the amendments injurious.

We have no objections to a fifth-class or grade certificate being issued provided it is applied properly. In fact, in the month of June, 1905, this Association proposed the following to Chief Inspector Peck:

That all small plants where it was necessary to have the engineer able to specialize in other work, such as creameries, where a man has to be engineer and buttermaker, threshing machines where a man has to be engineer and farmer, logging engines where a man has to be engineer and hooktender, and other similar plants where it seems to us to be an injustice to the owner to have to supply two men to do one man's work, we suggested that a special yearly certificate be granted on payment of a small yearly fee of $1.00 or $2.00 each year by the party wishing to operate such a plant.

And that such time acted as engineer under those conditions would not qualify as time to count for applying for any other grade.

Our reason for this is that such a man would get into the way of a certain class of work and if ever allowed to qualify for a higher grade might pass the examination, but would be such a poor sample of mechanic as to bring forth a howl from the steam users, as I believe now is heard over donkey men in the woods.

We further wish to remark that the boiler power to be so operated by such a grade certificate be no more than twenty-five horsepower.

Our reason for so stating is that the liability to damage from explosion is thus brought down to a minimum. We object to the fifth-class man in charge of any plant where steam is kept on for drying purposes, such as a sawmill at night where steam is kept up to dry lumber.

To make this matter plain, I will state a case of a plant in town here:

The plant consists of two batteries of boilers, each boiler being eighty horsepower, and altogether eight boilers. To operate the plant through the day requires eighty-five to ninety pounds pressure, to dry out the lumber in the dry kilns at night requires seventy-five to eighty pounds pressure, as the enclosed slip containing the nightwatchman's report of the plant in question will bear out.

This is the same anywhere at nights, it being impossible to dry lumber and get results with less than sixty-five to seventy pounds steam.

Now, these plants are situated as a rule near property and residences where the mill employes sleep, and should anything like an explosion occur the danger of loss of life and property is obvious.

Again, a man with a certifcate of the grade in question is as likely as not to be a jack of all trades, and the loss of his certificate only means to him a change of the kind of work he earns a livelihood by, whereas a properly qualified man whose business is engineering can't afford to take any risks to loose his means of livelihood.

Of course, heating plants, if the words mean heating offices and buildings where the man in charge is also janitor comes under the head of the special certificate we have mentioned.

We quite agree that the schedule ought to be amended, but do not agree to the proposed change.

We consider that the words, "a certified engineer is in charge," are too vague and does not place the responsibility where it belongs.

For instance, take the case of a plant where the superintendent or owner has a certificate, the engineer operating takes orders from either of these men and naturally if an accident occurs there is going to be a difficulty in placing the responsibility.

We understand also the foolishness of a man whose name is on the certificate, as it now reads, being in charge after he has left the plant, so we suggest the amendment read thus, "where the engineer whose certificate hangs in the plant is in charge."

This will also cause the engineer to see that his certificate is hung in a conspicuous place instead of his tool chest, as is often the case at present.

As this matter seems to us to have been unduly rushed through the House, we have not been able to be as explicit as we should have liked to be, but we trust that you will be able to have our views in the matter laid before the proper quarter.

If you cannot have this matter altered as we suggest, we do not see any reason why it cannot be laid over for another session, when we are of the opinion the steam users who now seem to be most bitter against the Act will have a better opinion of it.

Trusting you will grant us your most favorable consideration in this matter, we are yours very truly,

THE B. C. A. S. ENGINEERS.
Per W. A. Robertson, Secretary.

P. S. I find I won't have time to explain the facts fully to Mr. Hawthornthwaite, so I have referred him to you for our opinions on the subject. W. A. ROBERTSON.

He thought the suggestions of the Engineers' Association were good ones, and that the Bill should be stood for another session. It might be stood over for a few days, anyhow, and he moved that the committee rise and report progress.

The motion was defeated, and Mr. Hawthornthwaite then moved that his amendment to the Bill should not apply to engines kept for heating and drying purposes should be accepted. He pointed out that as a result of the appointment of incompetent men some horrible accident might occur, and his only desire was to protect life and property.

The amendment was defeated, but by this time the hour of 6.30 was reached, and as the Bill was not yet through committee, it was practically at Mr. Hawthornthwaite's mercy, and he had thus so far won his point.

At the evening session the Bill was taken up again, and Mr. Hawthornthwaite moved that the whole of Section 3, Subdivision 5a, which reads as follows, should be struck out: "A fifth-class engineer may take charge of any plant where steam is kept for heating or drying purposes, or of any logging engine or boiler." The resolution to strike the passage out carried, and he then moved in substitution:

"A fifth-class engineer may take charge of any logging engine or boiler or any engine used for farm purposes not exceeding 20 horsepower, provided always that the service as fifth-class engineer shall not count as experience in application for any higher grade certificate."

Mr. Oliver thought that the proviso in the latter part of the amendment was absurd, for, while a boy of 15 could qualify for a fourth-class certificate, it would debar a man of experience altogether. He moved that the words "provided always that such service shall not count on application for a higher grade certificate," should be struck out.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite said if they were going to turn a lot of hayseeds loose to manage engines they might as well have no regulations at all.

Mr. Oliver said he considered that it required no small skill to manage a steam engine 250 miles away from civilization, and a man that could do that with a complete kit of tools ought to be able to qualify for a certificate on his experience.

His amendment being put to the committee, the vote stood 12 to 12.

"I vote for the member for Delta," said Chairman Murphy, and Mr. Oliver's amendment carried amid a general titter.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite moved to strike out from Section 4 the words "certified engineer is in charge," and to substitute "where the certificate of the engineer is exposed to view in a conspicuous place in the plant."

This amendment carried without opposition, and the bill was reported complete with amendments. By consent of the House it became a law by being allowed to pass through the report stage and third reading in the same evening. As it stands, however, it is practically Mr. Hawthornthwaite's bill, his suggestions having been accepted on all the most vital points.

A matter of some importance to workingmen that came up at the last sitting of the House was Mr. J. D. McNivin's bill for the safety of passengers on tramways and street railways. The main object of the bill was to do away with the running boards on the side of open cars, and to compel the construction of central aisles instead.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite said it seemed to him there was a misunderstanding about this Bill. He did not think that men working on street railways wanted to do away with the running boards. All they did ask was that a central passage should be constructed in each car for convenience in collecting fares. He would also move an amendment to the effect that not more than three persons should be allowed to stand in the front vestibule at any time.

The Bill was defeated on second reading by the casting vote of the Speaker.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite said that labor measures did not seem to be in favor at this stage, and by permission of the House he would withdraw his Shops Regulation Act, and bring it forward again at another session.

The House then prorogued with the usual antiquated formalities.

The Powers Which Oppose Us

[Continued From Page One]

continent 2,000,000 children have been forced into the labor market through poverty. What a proud position do they hold, who in the name of law and order, morals or religion, defend that thing which robs children of their childhood, which grinds up their flesh and blood into profits, and which curses humanity with an ever increasing harvest of misery and crime.

It is evident that the more conventional education one has absorbed the more opposed he must be to revolution, and this is why the full grown scribes and pharisees, hypocrites, of this generation, are quite as antagonistic to proletarian interests as they were 2,000 years ago. They are well provided for are looked up to by those whom they ride. Why should they want a change?

Not only does the economic interest of the educated classes determine this opposition, but to entertain the proposition that their education and preeminence is really based on legalized robbery, to say nothing of such supports as adulterated foods, watered stocks, corners on pork, etc., is not compatible with that serenity and self-esteem which characterizes high grade capitalistic culture.

"To almost any member of the "respectable class" the thought of revolution is distasteful, but the bourgeois female will usually spurn the idea of overthrowing established forms and infernos of this world as violently as she would reject any proposal to abolish the hell of the next, and for the same reason. Physically she is more free, mentally more enslaved than the women of the working class.

The idea of a double code of morals, and that it is "not proper" for her to vote or take an active interest in the great social questions appeals alike to her vanity and superficiality. She much prefers a pretty lie to an ugly truth.

When we consider the determining influences of woman's education we no longer wonder that she so often seems, as Edward Carpenter says, "a cross between an angel and an idiot," but while her folly is due to a perverted education and is by no means confined to her sex, her innate goodness actually endures in spite of it.

The attitude of the educated mind toward Socialism is a study in itself. To many the juggernaut of capitalism which is ever crushing the body and soul out of millions is a thing too holy to overthrow. They prefer a world of masters and slaves, of paupers and parasites, to one in which poverty would necessitate the breaking of their idols. If this is not so, then why do they not examine Socialism before condemning it?

One would suppose that those respectable people who stoop so graciously in their works of charity would eagerly examine the claims of those who tell them that under co-operative production for use, all poverty would be abolished. Is this charity, after all, but another "impression of this universal robbery?" Is this but an opiate to keep the laboring class quiet, a cloak by the doning of which thieves can pose as Good Samaritans?

The fact now admitted by the capitalist press, that the increase of poverty keeps pace with the increase of the powers of wealth production should convince anyone that the management of our social life is a colossal crime. This fact seals the damnation and destruction of capitalist civilization!

One great difficulty is that our sources of information are corrupted by the same powers which corrupt our legislature and courts, and which determine all other conventional institutions, but a system built on robbery can only be maintained by deceit, and intellectual prostitution is one of the fine arts and most powerful agents of capitalism. The capitalist class, wise in its generation, is well aware that to state the facts regarding our social conditions and publish articles by revolutionists would be ruinous to their cause.

The result is the educated classes live for the most part in a fool's paradise, and know little of the real world and nothing of the under world of the poor. Like the proverbial ostrich, they put their head in the sand and imagine that all is well. They lack the courage to face the facts.

Naturally they will not accept the doctrine of economic determinism or investigate the Socialist movement, for to do so would be to admit that the major part of their curriculums and literature, theologies, statutes and morals—all their gilded domes and lofty turrets must go down with a crash as soon as its foundation of wage labor is replaced by co-operation. Naturally those who wield the sceptres in our political, juridical, financial and military worlds do not relish the proposition that the "man in overalls" will in a few years dump them and their kingdoms into the social ash barrel. We cannot blame them. Self preservation is the strongest law of life, and it is the force behind the Socialist movement. The leaders of society have at last a glimmering of the truth, and have forever left behind them the warm precincts of sentimental Socialism. Sentiment and sympathy are very nice in their way, but cannot for a moment stand up against economic forces, and we have evidence that even "professional ethics" has an economic basis, and like "fraternity" it is mostly a question of "does it pay?"

In the coming order the intellectual misers and literary antiquarians will have to get down and out while the pedagogical varnishers and whitewashers—those whose function it is to "polish pebbles and dim diamonds"—will find their occupation gone. Those who today are paid for tinkering with some of the eruptions and blotches of our social smallpox will not be needed, as the social sewers and cesspools from which these symptoms develop will be abolished. It is quite natural that the Socialist movement should have many enemies. The teachers in the coming civilization will deal with real and living subjects. The late Professor Huxley told us that the "tree of knowledge has its roots" in the air, so under a rational order of society this would be reversed, and the basis of education will not be dead, and dying things and things that should have been buried centuries ago, but will teach us how to live in the greatest harmony with our surroundings, which show us how to live the deepest, broadest, highest, happiest life, and because of this the development of the critical faculties will be of first importance.

We as socialists believe in that egotism so great that it is altruism. We believe that "self-love guided by knowledge embraces with its mighty arms the whole human race." Socialism is more than class-conscious—it is race-conscious.

If the educated classes would only look they would see that they too are enslaved. "Follow the chain of the slave," said Emerson, "and it will be found upon the wrists of the master," and it is even so. The rich are rotting at the top and the poor are starving at the bottom. It is as Paul Lafargue says: "The leading capitalists are sad specimens of the human race. The mark of degeneracy is upon them. Satiated and disgusted with everything they are followed everywhere with ennui as by their shadow. They yawn at rising, and when they go to bed they yawn. They yawn at their feasts and at their orgies. They begin yawning at their mother's womb."

Socialism a Working-Class Move-

It is evident that Socialism must be a working-class movement, since all the powers of church and state are opposed to it, and to this class we must first appeal.

As revolutionists we should ever be alive to the fact that on the world's great stage we now take the leading roles in the most momentous act of human history, and when we realize this glorious privilege which is ours, we should be inspired with the highest enthusiasm and zeal for the cause.

Ever remembering our great responsibilities, we should use every effort to destroy prejudice and create interest in the Socialist movement—support lecturers and organize locals in every town and village in the land. We should spread Socialist literature far and wide and turn on a flood of revolution so deep and wide and swift that the workers who are not lifted by the flood will be swept away—so deep and wide and strong that even the educated classes may be swept off their feet and forced in self defense to fight for us and the new day which is surely coming.

Today the very air is vibrating with revolution. Everywhere we hear the tramp, tramp of coming armies of labor driven to revolt through want—a world movement sweeping onward with irrestible force.

In the coming revolution we witness the resultant of aeons of evolution and dissolution, the consummation of myriads of births and deaths, of struggles and defeats, and we believe and are assured that this tragic act, the coming contest between the powers that be and those that are to be, will be our last struggle with those fanged forms that have followed us from the jungles and lairs of long ago.

Today we hear everywhere the voice of the poor demanding that poverty shall cease, the voice of the oppressed pronouncing the doom of the oppressor; the voice of power brought out of suffering, of resolution crushed out of weakness, of joy and beauty born in the bottomless pit of anguish and despair; the voice of labor despised, outraged. A mighty giant, lying postrate, mountainous colossal but blindly ignorant of his strength. And now a dream of resistance haunts him, hope battling with fear, and suddenly he stirs and a fetter snaps and a thrill shoots through him and in a flash the dream becomes a resolution. He starts, he lifts himself, the bonds are shattered, the burdens roll off him. He rises, towering, gigantic. He springs to his feet, he shouts in his new-born exultation. He conquers the world.

The Montreal "Witness" says that when representatives of the working class enter public life "they will find, to begin with, that their title is a usurped one. Canada is altogether a workingmen's country. It has no leisure class." The question is not whether the capitalist works or does not work. The question is does he render to society services equivalent to the reward he obtains. The "work" of the capitalist class in Canada mostly consists of scheming to get every inch of the hide from the laborer and then further scheming to extract from the other capitalist his share of the pelt. Such work merits no reward save such as is given at the end of a rope slung over the branch of a tree or the cross arm of a convenient telegraph pole. The organization of industry the only useful work the capitalist class ever did, is now so perfect that no death, no change of ownership affects any branch of industry. Industry is in perfect shape, ready to be taken over by the working class, when it becomes sufficiently conscious of its interests. SPARTACUS, in the Winnipeg "Voice."

A metal mixer capable of dealing with 750 tons of metal at a time, is owned by the Ebbw Vale Steel Company. The huge boat-shaped contrivance is set on massive steel rollers, and a couple of hydraulic rams mounted on trunnions provide the tilting motion and keep the immense boat rocking from side to side. Posts are provided for gas-firing, so as to maintain the temperature of the contents of the vessel. This is said to be the largest metal-mixer of its type.

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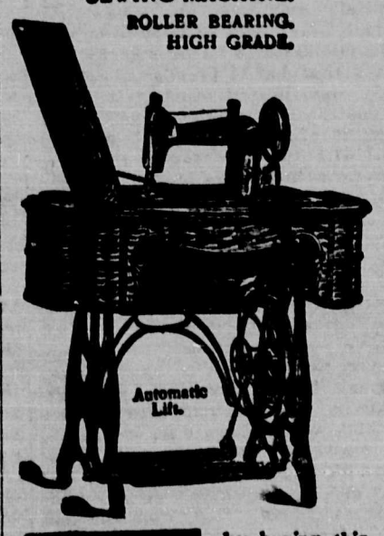

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NEWS AND VIEWS

AS GIVEN OR EXPRESSED BY SOCIALISTS THROUGHOUT THE DOMINION

Edited by R. P. PETTIPIECE, to whom all correspondence for this department should be addressed.

SOCIALIST VOTE INCREASES.

Toronto Socialists Put Up a Lively Contest and Get Results.

The bye-election in the North Toronto Provincial riding resulted as follows:

McNaught (Conservative) 3833
Urquhart (Liberal) 2418
Simpson (Socialist) 260

Total vote 6517

Socialist percentage of total about 3.6

The vote in the same district at the general elections on January 25 was:

Nesbitt (Conservative) 5189
Blain (Liberal) 3704
Simpson (Socialist) 211

Total vote 9104

Socialist percentage of total vote, 2.3.

It will be seen that the Socialist party scored an increase of about 50 votes and of about 1.3 per cent of the total vote (or about 25 per cent increase in the Socialist vote) in one year, and this in the face of a decrease in the total vote of about 2,500. Undoubtedly there were many Socialist workingmen who were unable to leave the factories and vote, although some rode in the automobiles and cabs supplied by the capitalist parties and then voted the working class ticket.

The campaign lasted only a week, and during this time the comrades distributed 10,000 manifestos from house to house, and also held two propaganda meetings in halls in the up-town residential districts, the collections at each of these meetings being more than $5. The campaign, therefore, cost only about $20, and this will be largely met by contributions.

The wide distribution of the vote is shown by the fact that in only fourteen of the eighty-two polling places were no votes cast for Socialism. In four divisions the vote ran up into two figures, and in one case the Socialist secured 10 votes to the Liberals 19. And all this in the most select residential district where workingmen live in tumble-down shacks amongst the mansions of the wealthy.

A year ago Comrade Simpson received many temperance votes, but this year this outfit did not bother us with their proffered endorsation, and gave their votes to the Sunday school superintendent, who was the Liberal candidate. Comrade Simpson conducted a clean, uncompromising campaign. Though still inclined to emphasize the fact that he is a church member, he is undoubtedly learning the revolutionary Socialist lesson.

Enclosed find three more subscriptions. G. W. W.

Toronto, February 24.

Into the Hastings Street office of a popular physician on Saturday last there entered two young ladies. One walked with difficulty and appeared to be in pain. After a careful examination by the doctor the question was asked:

"What is your avocation?"

"I am a waitress in ——'s restaurant."

"How many hours are you employed each day?"

"Twelve."

"Do you sit down while on duty?"

"No; when not waiting upon customers I stand."

"Your trouble is varicose veins. You are overwrought. You must have rest or you will be permanently crippled. Lie up for awhile."

"Good God! I can't afford to lie up. If I do I shall starve. It takes all that I get in wages to keep me while I am well."

"This true tale is respectfully dedicated to Comrade Hawthonthwaite in the hope that he will devise a plan for the relief of the overworked waiter girls of Vancouver.—Vancouver World.

Whether the last paragraph in the above was intended as a slur upon either the unfortunate waitress or Hawthornthwaite, or is to be considered merely one of those displays of imbecility that feeble-minded persons cannot well avoid making, matters but little. At any rate the tale told is one of the present system of property, and among the panders to which the World is by no means the least. Just why Hawthornthwaite should be called upon to bring relief to the harried victims of the wage system's brutality is not clear. If the World is sincere in desiring that any relief plan be devised, why not call upon the aggregation of cackling hens of the wrong sex known in the present Provincial Legislature as the opposition? Or is it an admission that the aforesaid conglomeration is incapable of doing anything but cackle in objection when some other hen lays an egg or attempts to do so?

AMONG THE WORKERS.

Commune Anniversary

With a Good Audience, a Satisfactory Meeting Was Held in Sullivan Hall on Sunday Evening.—The Speakers Were George Dales and E. T. Kingsley.

Geo. Dales, who spoke briefly, outlined the place occupied in history by the Commune, dealing more at length with the lessons to be learned from the event by the workingclass of today. First, put not your trust in kings, be they French, British or other, nor in the ruling classes. Liberty conceded or handed down by the grace or favor of any man or party was a dishonoring insult and unworthy of men. If my liberty, said the speaker, is the gift of any power above me, I at once become a political pensioner or pauper. Current events in Colorado and Idaho prove beyond doubt that the spirit of the ruling class has not changed, except for the worse. Events now transpiring in these States indicate a fiendish ferocity and an unscrupulous disregard not only of human feeling, but of legal form, never equalled in similar circumstances at any time nor in any State claiming to be civilized. Trite as the saying has become, "who would be free himself must strike the blow" its truth becomes ever more apparent. Next the necessity for an organized, self-reliant working class, with clear, well-defined views, agreed in principle and policy, and unflinching courage and resolve to carry their cause to victory. Socialists are sometimes charged, in derision, with wanting the whole earth, or its resources; they cannot consistently abate that demand, their programme includes the whole community, for these they demand the means of life, not to gratify any personal ambition, or aggrandizement, but as hostages for the physical and intellectual liberty of mankind.

E. T. Kingsley, after acknowledging the inspiration supplied by the music and song, and the presence of so many ladies in the audience, proceeded to an able and forcible exposition of the whole subject.

Dealing with the Franco-Prussian War, of which the Commune was the final development, the speaker traced the events which furnished the opportunity and to some extent the incentive and inspiration of the Communards. Paris, the beautiful capital of the leading State in Europe, had always possessed a quota of revolutionary workmen, among the noblest and best the world has ever seen; frugal, intelligent and capable of great self-sacrifice, qualities shared, too, in large measure by their wives and even children.

When these, the flower of French manhood, saw the degrading, humiliating and cowardly plot of the French Commanders and ruling classes to surrender the city to the Prussians, when they recognized the hollowness of Race Patriotism and the universal and cosmopolitan bonds of steel that bind in a common interest and policy of repression, the ruling class of the world, and instanced by the aid given by the Prussians to the French against the Communards; this was the chance seized to establish, for sixty days, a civic government, that for ability, justice and consideration for all within its pale, stands unrivalled, and an enduring monument to the worth of the working class. But the success of the Commune only further enraged the ruling class and their military tools, who would rather see Farnce a Prussian province and maintain their social and economic mastery of the masses, than see it ruled in the interests and by those masses themselves. Bribery and ignorance among the troops of the Provisional Government, then removed to Versailles, the aid of the victorious Prussians, the trustfulness and lack of organisation and knowledge of military matters among the Communards are mainly accountable for the fall of the Commune. Their very virtues contributed to their undoing. Cheered by the audience, the speaker, here made some scathing criticisms of professional murder, alias soldiering; said he: "I love a soldier as I do a policeman." Every man should have a gun, but in his own keeping and for his own protection.

The concluding part of Com. Kingsley's address was a forceful application of the subject to current events and an appeal to the worker to be ready for the unbaring of the iron hand of Capitalism on this continent.

Comrade Jas. Pritchard occupied the chair. With Miss Polly Parr at the piano and the songs of the Glee Club, directed by Mr. E. T. Burns, a pleasant variation was made from the routine meetings.

Meetings will be held every Sunday evening, in Sullivan Hall, from now until further notice.

Come along next Sunday, and bring your neighbor.

Editor Clarion: Dear Sir. Comrade Williams and myself have to thank you for the excellent report of our efforts in the House on behalf of the workers of this Province. As we had not time to personally revise the report a few minor errors were bound to occur. There is one which I would desire to have corrected. You quote me as having stated that the Province has still over 200,000 acres of land not alienated. This should read over 200,000,000.

Yours faithfulyly,

J. H. HAWTHORNTHWAITE.

Vancouver Local No. 1.

The regular business meeting was held at headquarters on Monday evening, March 19, Comrade Pritchard in the chair and Comrade McKenzie recording secretary pro tem.

Minutes of previous meeting read and approved.

Warrants as follows were authorized.

Due stamps .....$ 2.50
Hall rent 3.50
Rent of headquarters 10.00
Printing Western Clarion 2.00

Total $18.00

Program committee reported that Comrade A. R. Stibbings had been secured as the speaker for the Sullivan Hall meeting on Sunday evening next, and Comrade R. P. Pettipiece for the Sunday following.

Ways and means committee reported that a dance will be held in Hogg's Hall on Westminster Avenue on Thursday evening, March 29, under the auspices of the local.

Comrades Leah, Stephens and McKenzie were appointed as a committee to arrange for a May Day celebration on the coming first of May.

The financial report showed receipts for the week as follows:

Collection Sunday evening, Mar. 18 .....$ 9.15
Literature sales ..... .75
Dues 1.50

Total $11.40

D. P. MILLS, Secretary.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

Mrs. B. M. Burns will be the speaker at the Sullivan Hall meeting of Local Vancouver on Sunday next. Her subject will be: "Woman and the Industrial Problem." A good attendance should be assured, as the subject itself suggests an interesting evening's discussion along a line at which Comrade Mrs. Burns will be at her best. Bring your friends.

John C. Bohle, printer, operator, tourist, philosapher, is located, at least for a time, in Washington, D. C., after a long trip throughout the "Sunny South." From a letter to the writer, the following exerpt is taken:

"* * When; oh! when, will those who create all wealth get rid of their prejudice and vote for themselves instead of for so-called "good fellows," and "good men," and "honest men?" Common sense would seem to tell any laboring man that the old parties will never enact laws antagonistic to the side of capital, and yet the d—— fools hurrah for this or that prominent bilk just because he belongs to that party that hands him large gobs of taffy and heated ozone. It seems to me that the average man's think-tank is always more or less befuddled with the advantages of high or low tariff, and a whole lot of other rot; but the idiots never seem to be able to spare time to study their own needs. In one respect, the average wage-slave, the hog, and the old-time nigger-slave are the same—keep their stomachs full of grub and they grunt contentedly. * * Your news of ——'s untimely end in Vancouver, was a shock to me. He was a good honest man, and a gentleman; but found that with all his faithful work, every day, every n he could hardly make both ends meet. The story is a sad one, but only one in capitalism's great world-wide whirl-pool. * * Were the entire laboring world to realize the awful injustice of their condition the better time (when they would legislate and make laws for their own families and themselves; rather than the propertied ruling class) would soon be here. * * The old saw of the sky-pilot about the poor man getting his reward in heaven sounds stale nowadays, and will soon be ancient history. The average man nowadays wants the heaven here on earth. But, like all world-wide movements Socialism progresses slow but sure. * * Expect the national hate that is being preached against Germany from the English side, etc., is only, (and in fact really) directed against the Socialist movement there. The Socialist party in Germany is so strong, and growing at such a rate, that other countries are getting "leery," and any old ecxuse will do to war on them. It would be very uncomfortable, to put it mildly, for the propertied interests of England, France, America, etc., were the Socialists to seize the powers of government in that most intellectual land on this earth—as in the near future they probably will succeed in doing. Looks to me as though the money-power already scents danger from the German side. There is another cause for war between England and Germany, who never in all these centuries have warred; the Church of Rome would welcome such a conflict. * *"

A recent copy of the Canadian Manufacturer contains the following interesting item:

The Hungarian chemist, Brunn, described, in a paper which vouches for the facts as being well known in the highest scientific circles his alleged discovery of a liquid chemical compound which renders certain kinds of matter proof against the effects of time. He asserts that it doubles the density of nearly every kind of stone and renders it waterproof. It imparts to all metals qualities which defy oxygen and rust. It is also a germicide of hitherto unequaled powers.

The professor says that while traveling in Greece some twenty-five years ago he noticed that the mortar in stones of ruins which were known to be over 2,000 years old was as hard, fresh and tenacious as if it had been made only a year ago. He secured a piece of mortar, and has been working on it ever since until now, when, he says, he has discovered the secret. The compound is a yellow liquid, which the professor has christened zorene.

An interviewer describes the following experiments: A piece of ordinary and easily breakable slag after immersion in zorene defied the full blow of a hammer. There was the same effect on ordinary bricks and a block of red jarrah wood. All three were then immersed in water for a long time. When taken out and weighed with a delicate scales, the presence of a single particle of added moisture could not be detected. Two pieces of steel sumittted to an ammonia test equal to five years' exposure to the air emerged from the bath as they entered it. An ordinary table knife which had lain open for five months did not show the slightest stain. Professor Brunn asserts that he will be able eo make roads dust, germ, and waterproof, thus giving a commercial value to hundreds of millions of tons of slag which is now useless in the mining and smelting districts. His discovery will at the very least double the life of metals exposed to the air, such as bridges, railroads, vessels and tanks.—Daily Consular and Trade Reports.

The Chamber of Deputies today almost unanimously passed the long-debated bill providing for workingmen's pensions.

The measure provides that the employer, employee, and gavernment each contribute to a fund from which the workingman may be pensioned after he is 65 years of age.

This is the principal Socialist measure before Parliament, and has been bitterly opposed.

Six thousand government employees held a meeting at Paris recently, and adopted a resolution demanding that the government frame and have a bill passed permitting its servants to form unions. All classes of public servants were represented, from school mistresses to jailers. Sixty meetings were held in the provinces, at each of which a like resolution was adopted.

RULERS FRIGHTENED.

The alarm which the growth and activity of the Socialist movement in Germany is inspiring in the minds of the rulers—spite of the oft repeated statements that the party is hopelessly split or else that it has abandoned its revolutionary ideas and become a party of moderate reform—has been shown by recent speeches of the Imperial Chancellor, and the Secretary of the Interior, in the Reichstag. Prince Buelow made a most pathetic appeal to all the "parties of order" to forget their minor differences and act together against Social Democracy. Count Posadowsky went so far as to make a direct attack on universal suffrage declaring that Bismarck had made a great mistake in seeking to base the empire on popular representation. Universal suffrage, he said, "entailed the danger that deputies, instead of leading the masses, might be led by them." As for the demand now so energetically made for the establishment of universal suffrage in the Prussian Landtag elections, it was not to be thought of. He admitted that it was desirable that more workingmen should be represented in the Prussian Diet; but the workingmen must first become infinitely more mature politically; they must recognize the state and society, and reduce their claims to what is economically possible. If the Prussian state should provide the Social Democracy with seats in the Diet, the only possible comment would be that "Only the very biggest calves go to the slaughter of themselves." The Count is quite right as to the one horn of the dilemma. As to the other—well, when it is time to kill the calf, if he does not go willing he is likely to be driven. The Social Democracy bides its time, but it knows what is going to happen to the calf.

To Publishers

Of Country Weeklies:

We have two cases (100 pounds) of Brevier Type, 8:point, almost new, cost 52 cts 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 Oaxaca & 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

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