THE WESTERN CLARION

Published in the Interests of the Working Class Alone.

Legislative Assembly FEB 3 - 1906 VICTORIA, B. C.

THIS IS NUMBER 358. VANCOUVER, B. C., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1906. Subscription Price Per Year $1.00

THE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

Activity of the Socialist Members in Considering and Discussing Matters Brought Before the House at Victoria.

Parker Williams' amendment to the "Small Debts Act."

Among matters that came before the Legislature during the past week there was, perhaps, none of greater interest to the workingman than the Attorney-General's Amended Small Debts Act, and the amendment proposed by Parker Williams to do away with a creditor's garnishee under $100 roused a warm class discussion.

When the report on Bill (No. 10) intituled "An Act to amend the 'Small Debts Act,'" was considered, Mr. Williams moved to add the following new section:

"3. Section 5 of the said chapter 13 of the Statutes of 1901 is hereby amended by adding thereto, at the end thereof, the following words: 'Provided always, that this section shall not apply to any debt not exceeding $100 due, or accruing due, to a mechanic, workman, laborer, servant, clerk, or employee, for or in respect of wages or salaries.'"

In speaking to his motion, Mr. Williams said that the object he had in view was to limit the operations of the Small Debt Act of 1901, which gives a creditor power to hold the wages of a debtor without proving any claim upon them. As far as this applied to the wage-worker, who was wholly dependent on his wages for the means of existence, there was great objection to any creditor being allowed to seize and hold the wages of a workman before he had received it himself.

"The moment" said Mr. Williams, "that a creditor garnishees the wages of a workman, that man's position is compromised, the confidence of his employer is immediately shaken, and his credit is gone. And the worst of it is that often when this matter comes before the Small Debts Court, it may be found that the debt never existed, but the evil is done, and it is impossible for the man to stand in the same position as he occupied before.

The garnishee also bore heavily on an individual who might not be able to pay just at the time, but would be able to pay if given sufficient time. When the case came before the Small Debts Court as it would have to do if there were no garnishee he would be given a chance to pay the debt in instalments, but the garnishee gave him no chance. The amendment did not aim to release a workman from his obligations altogether, but it only sought to have the claim properly proved before his wages were attached, and he considered that on general principles there was great objection to allowing the seizure of the wages of a workingman before any claim had been proved against him.

Mr. Bowser characterized the amendment as class legislation of the worst kind. It was a means of helping the workingman to evade his just debts up to $100, and the storekeeper who had to buy goods from the wholesale merchant would suffer in consequence. If the workingman ran into debt he had himself to blame and should learn to live within his means. He was already protected in the County Court to the extent of $40 a month, and in the Small Debts Court to the extent of $30 a month, which was sufficient to maintain his family.

Mr Williams objected that Mr. Bowser was basing his objections to the amendment on grounds that did not exist, but the speaker overruled him and Mr. Bowser continued that the garnishee was a just protection for the groceryman as otherwise there was nothing to prevent a workman frittering away his money in gambling, drink or anything else, and refusing to pay his just debts. He represented a constituency full of laboring men himself, but he would not be afraid to meet them and explain his position in this matter, as he knew they would uphold him.

The Attorney-General defended the amendment. He considered Mr. Bowser's assertion that it would be used by workingmen to defraud their creditors an asperasion on the character of the workingmen of the Province. There were honest and dishonest workingmen just as there were different kinds of people in other occupations, but there were also those who were unfortunate and it was these that the amendment was designed to aid. It was not intended to release a man from his debts, but simply to prove that the debt should be taken to the Court and adjucated on before it was claimed. The workingmen were not the only people who sometimes frittered their money away.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite said the Attorney-General had gone into the matter so thoroughly that there was very little left for him to say. The Attorney-General had certainly taken the wind completely out of the sails of the member for Vancouver.

"That honorable gentleman," said Mr. Hawthornthwaite, "says this is class legislation. I want to point out to him that all legislation is class legislation of one kind or the other, but the great majority of it is for the benefit of that predominant class which the honorable the third member for Vancouver, represents. He says that he represents a laboring man's constituency and is quite prepared to go before them and explain his action in this matter. I only want to add to that that when the working people are advanced to a proper understanding of these things, he need not go before them. He could save himself the trouble, because they would not listen to him for two minutes. He calls this class legislation, and says that it will give the workingmen a chance to escape their just debts. Let me tell him that they are not endeavoring and have no desire to escape their just debts at all, but they are endeavoring to place themselves in a position where they shall not be compelled to pay debts that are unjust. (Applause.) I have known men in this province who have been compelled again and again to pay debts that are unjust under the system of legal blackmail which was exposed by the member for Newcastle (Mr. Williams) in his speech on the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. We are endeavoring to place it out of the power of the honest groceryman of whom my friend from Vancouver speaks so much, to attach the wages of a workingman, and compromise his position in doing so. He says the Small Debts Court will protect the workingman to the extent of $30 a month, but the Small Debts Court is a mere farce with the legal profession anyhow. It was intended to afford a cheap method of settling disputes about small debts, but we find, for instance, that legal men will not take cases to the Small Debts Court. They go to the County Court. Why? Because there is more profit for them in the County Court.

The object of the Bill was simply to protect workingmen against those who would compel payment whether a debt is owed or not. They talked of British justice and fair play, but this was not fair play. The member for Vancouver talked of people skipping out and leaving debts unpaid, but if a man wanted to leave the Province, there was a process by which he could be prevented. He could not skip out if he would. The power to garnishee as it stood at present was only a way to compel men to pay debts they did not owe, and he trusted the House would take measures to remove this unfair legislation from the Statute books of the Province. (Applause.)

On being put to the vote, Mr. Williams' amendment was negatived on the following division:

Yeas—Messrs. King, McNiven, Murphy, Jones, Tanner, Davidson, Henderson, Wells, Cameron, Hawthornthwaite, Williams, McBride, Wilson, Houston, Green, Wright.—16.

Nays—Messrs. Drury, Brown, Evans, Oliver, Paterson, Hall, Tatlow, Cotton, Ellison, Clifford, Bowser, Fraser, Ross, Fulton, Garden, Taylor, Young, Macgowan, Shatford, Grant, Manson.—21.

Hawthornthwaite's Speech on The Life-Saving Resolution.

One of the best speeches delivered by Mr. Hawthornthwaite during the present session was that on the resolution of Mr. Manson, calling on the Dominion Government in view of the recent wrecks to establish life-saving stations on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

After speeches had been made by Mr. Manson and Mr. Oliver, the mover and seconder of the resolution and also by Premier McBride, Mr. Hawthornthwaite said:

"I do not think I should allow this occasion to go by without drawing attention to one aspect of these deplorable disasters that is not often mentioned on the floor of this House. The member for Delta (Mr. Oliver) said that had life-saving appliances been placed on the west coast of the island this disaster might have been averted. I would remind the honorable gentleman that it is not only on the west coast of this island that lives are lost for want of proper precaution. There are lives being lost in industrial pursuits every day for the same reason. In the United States last year, 10,000 men lost their lives on the railways alone. It is appalling to think of—more men were lost on the railways of the United States than in the Boer war. These accidents are not decreasing; they are incidental to production as it is carried on at the present time. With the capitalist class who employ these men it is merely a question of cost. Human life is the cheapest thing on the market today, and they exploit it for all it is worth. Life is cheaper than the means of protecting it, and the employer prefers that life shall be wasted rather than that he shall provide the means of protection. If one man is killed, it is an easy matter for him to get another, but it is not so easy for him to recover the money he may spend in the purchase of life-saving appliances."

Mr. Hawthornthwaite congratulated the gentlemen for bringing in the resolution. The intention was good but a mere barren resolution could accomplish but little after all. Such things would occur so long as the present system prevailed. Twice before the Island had been shocked with disasters of this kind. There was the incident of the General Slocum and the Clallam. The Slocum was a good illustration of the question of cost as compared with the human lives. After the lives of the passengers and crew had been lost, it was found that the life belts that had been wrapped round helpless women and children in the hope that they might be saved only dragged them to certain death because they had been loaded with lead by unscrupulous manufacturers. In addition to that the life boats were rotten and the ship itself unfit to carry human lives. The same thing still prevailed. They learned that this very vessel, the Valencia, was built 23 years ago and was absolutely unfit to carry valuable human lives on this coast. Until they adopted a system in which the question of cost was not paramount in everything they could hardly hope for a better state of things.

"I assure the House," added Mr. Hawthornthwaite, "that it was not my intention to bring any discordant note into this discussion. I want to assure the House that our party is sincere in wishing in every possible way to safeguard human life, but I want to point out that it is not marine disasters alone that should be guarded against. I want to point out that we must continue to stand face to face with this loss of human life, until men are intelligent enough and humane enough to understand the causes and to remedy them. (Applause.)

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Bill for the Relief of the Municipality of Dewdney.

No measure has caused more discussion in the House this session than the bill for the relief and discorporation of the Mnuicipality introduced by Premier McBride.

The Premier explained that the Municipality of Dewdney was incorporated in 1893, chiefly for the purpose of constructing a certain dyke near Hatzic. In the following year came the great floods of the Fraser and the dyke was washed away. The people became discouraged and many of them left. Since then the Municipality had been at a standstill, no Councils being elected. There was a debt of $30,000 against the lands and of the late Loan Companies from whom the money for the dyke had been borrowed, had been filing their claims. If they seized the land everyone in Dewdney would become insolvent. The two principal creditors the Yorkshire Banking Corporation, and the Sun Life Insurance Company, had agreed to compromise with the Government and content themselves with a payment of $25,000, letting the rest go. Of this amount the people of Dewdney were willing to repay $15,000 in taxes and the Government would assume the rest. It was necessary to do this not only to help the people but also for the sake of saving the good name of the other municipalities of the Province.

Mr. Oliver, the member for Delta, attacked the Bill bitterly as a piece of charity for which the members of his own constituency of Delta among others, would be called upon to pay.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite said that when this dyking question came up last year he took the position that the duty of the Province was to wipe out the whole debt. These farmers should not be held responsible for this debt. It was not the desire of many of these municipalities in the first place that these works should be undertaken as they were. They had been forced upon them by the Government of the day, and they certainly could not help it if floods came along and washed them away afterwards. These were disasters which no one could prevent, and he considered it most unfair that these farmers should be saddled with this indebtedness. The member for Delta was very selfish in dealing with this question, especially when it had to be considered that he represented one of the wealthiest farming districts in the Province.

Mr. Oliver—"How do you know? you were never there."

Mr. Hawthornthwaite—"No, I was never there, but I have heard the honorable gentleman talk as I have heard him express his opinion on every subject that comes up in this House from steam boilers to high finance. It is true that I have not been to that constituency, but that is not necessary to find out what it pays into the Public Treasury and what it takes out. I can look at the public accounts of this Province and they will show that Delta is one of the wealthiest farming districts in this Province. With regard to taxation it draws from this province large sums of money and practically makes no returns whatever. (Hear, hear.) It pays into the Provincial Treasury some three of four thousand dollars, and receives back for schools, roads and bridges, between $20,000 and $24,000, and I think in this respect the member for Delta is selfish. Here is a district poorer than his own, and here we find the friend of the farmer rise from his seat in this House and say, "My district is all right, and as for you, you can go your own way, you can fry in your own fat for what we care." That is his position, and his remarks are applauded by members of this side of the House.

Last year I drew the attention of the House to the fact that with the evolution of capitalism the position of the farmer would grow worse year by year, and now the honorable gentleman must admit that this is coming true.

(Continued on Page Three.)

TRAITORS, JOKERS AND USURY

Brief Criticism of the Fads, Fallacies, Foibles and Follies of Capitalist Civilization and its Apologists and Defenders.

Apropos of the present crusade against the money lending sharks with their 115 per cent. interest, it would be interesting to know what rate of interest the crusaders consider to be just, and why. By what standard do they fix the reasonableness or justness of interest? The legal rate was, until recently 6 per cent, and is now, I believe, 5 per cent. Five per cent. is the rate that can be collected on overdue debts when no other rate has been agreed upon between debtor and creditor and is evidently considered by our wise legislators at Ottawa to be just and right. It is not denied by anyone save Socialists that interest is right, but evidently too much right makes a wrong for our good bourgeois friends dub 125 per cent. "robbery," though when they have the chance they themselves are guilty of collecting more than the legal rate, 6, 7, 8, 10, and 12 per cent. being common rates in this part of the commercial world.

* * *

Interest is a premium paid for the use of money. Were the money to be locked up in a vault instead of being lent the owner would get no interest, but when lent the borrower must himself produce the interest or extract it from others, the lender has no part in its production, he turns his attention to its distribution. The lender, therefore, obtains something for nothing, he is a robber whether he obtains 5 per cent. or 125 per cent. It is claimed that the lender or investor (who is merely a lender in other guise) is entitled to interest as a "reward of risk," the risk he entailed in lending his money. The burglar risks his liberty when engaged in cracking a safe and by the same reasoning is entitled to all he can get as a "reward of his risk."

* * *

The Tribune of this city is very grieved to find that the labor and Socialist press of England denounce John Burns as a traitor to his class for accepting a cabinet position with a capitalist government. The Tribune, of course, will not and cannot see that the interests of the working class are directly opposite to the interests of the capitalist class, it will not and cannot see that a cabinet, whether it be Conservative or Liberal, is merely the executive of the capitalist class, there to attend to the interests of that class and that, therefore, a working man who accepts a position in any other than a working class government is a traitor to his class, unconsciously, perhaps, but none the less a traitor. John Burns, by accepting a cabinet position is as responsible for the actions of that cabinet as any other minister.

* * *

In "Rienzi" Lord Lytton makes one of his characters say as follows: "If there be a vile thing in the world it is a plebian advanced by patricians, not for the purpose of righting his own order, but for playing the pander to the worst interest of theirs. He who is of the people but makes himself a traitor to his birth if he furnishes the excuse for these tyrant hypocrites to lift up their hands and cry 'See what liberty exists in Rome, when WE, the partricians, thus elevate a plebian!'" These words fit the case of John Burns, he has sold himself for a price.

* * *

Mr. Chamberlain, of Brummagem fame, is credited with saying that England has her choice between tariff reform and Socialism, and is choosing Socialism. Surely the genial Joe is joking. The Socialism which consists of a Liberal government strongly entrenched need have no terrors for Joe even though that government includes Honest John among its members. The interests of the capitalist class is safe in the hands of a Liberal government the working class will get only what they are strong enough to take and that will not be much at this stage.

* * *

It seems to the ordinary individual to be the height of stupidity for the workers of Winnipeg to elect members of the master class to the Provincial legislature and then go to them hat in hand and beg, beg is the word, for legislation. It does seem as if it would be more sensible to send members of their own class to the legislature where they could introduce and fight for whatever legislation was required. This legislation might not be obtained under these circumstances, neither will it be obtained under present circumstances if it infringes one hair's breadth on capitalist privileges, but with legislators of their own, the workers would at least have the satisfaction of giving the capitalists a run for their money.

* * *

In Britain, that country which in the eyes of the average Canadian is far behind this great, free and prosperous west, they are, at least politically, much farther advanced than we from a working class standpoint. The latest available returns at time of writing give 40 "Laborites" elected. Though the political opinion of these 40 are of the most heterogeneous description these 40 are, at least, a sign that the long slumbering working class is at last awakening to its interests and intends to have legislators from its own ranks of the enemy. It proves that the British working class is beginning to see that its interests are opposed to the interests of the employing class, a lesson which apparently will take a lot of education to impress upon the Canadian worker, for outside of B.C., political death reigns supreme among his class and seems likely to so reign for some time to come.

SPARTACUS.

The Revolution.

We have read the morning cables, we have listened for the news,
For the great historic story flashed across the weed and ooze;
Of a nation in her anguish, of a people trodden down,
Raising high their blood-red banners in the country and the town;
Of a people crushed and beaten underneath the tyrant's heel,
Rising with a sound of cannon and a glint and flash of steel. ...

When the French (like tigers learning, after long and cruel years,
That the cage door stood wide open that the exit held no fears)
Rose and smote their ancient masters, looked on Death with eyes of scorn,
Surely was the Revolution of the later Russia's born;
Surely was the great uprisings of the people far and wide,
Shadowed in the onward current of the rushing human tide.

They have suffered, ox-eyed peasants, patient, bovine, dull and slow;
They have suffered—exiles tramping through the white Siberian snow,
Knout and cell and rope and rifle—all that human mind invents,
All that slaves in anguish learn of man's Satanic punishments—
They have suffered! Let them triumph! Triumph yet they surely must,
For the mills of God are grinding, and the Lord High God is just.

People of the Revolution! Hail across the leagues of foam!
People of the Revolution! What was Greece and what was Rome?
People of the Revolution!—in the empire of the Czar—
Lo! one rebel sends ye greeting from a land, remote, afar,
Lo! one rebel bids ye conquer, pigmy though his wishes be,
Would to God, he dieth fighting for the cause of Liberty!

Would to God his dull days ended like uprisen Russia's sons,
To the deep resonant baying of the Revolution's guns;
Hail! ye soldiers of Rebellion! High and Holy is your cause;
Children of the wond'rous present, fathers of the future laws.
Hail! ye moujiks, common peasants, all unskilled of tongue and pen!
Ye are yet the Sov'reign People, ye are brothers, ye are men!

Not today and not to-morrow shall your final conquest hold,
But thro' years of storm and travail, storm and travail to be told.
What Carlyle shall write your story? What wild Swinburne sing your song
Of the Last Great Deeds in Europe when the Russian faced his wrongs?
When the Autocrat was driven, like a jackal, to his lair,
And the people learned how mighty are the people everywhere.

On and on, Slavonic helots! Thro' the dark and narrow ways!
Write your tale of Human Freedom, sing your Russian Marseillaise!
When a hundred years are over, when begins another age,
They will scribe in exultation wond'rous deeds on history's page.
They will tell how trodden Russia, out from Moscow to the sea,
Rose and woke the startled nations with a Song of Liberty!

—E. J. BRADY in Sydney Worker.

Another Russian murderer, General Grianoff, took sudden departure for oblivion on Jan. 29, by the bomb route which has become so fashionable in that country of late. He was given his ticket by a man disguised as a painter, whose identity has not yet been disclosed. The papers refer to this "crime" as a "political act of vengeance in retaliation for the General's severity in repressing the revolutionists." To discover anything criminal in the removal of one of these trained and bloodthirsty butchers requires a discernment remarkably keen.

The people of the United States are said to possess about one-half of the world's diamonds, and are spending fully three million dollars a month on imported jewels of all kinds. It is said to be no uncommon thing to see a workman's dinner-pail plentifully studded with rare and costly gems as a pleasing indication of the quality and plenteousness of the filling inside. This will appear as an extravagance only to those, who, by failing to read the capitalist press remain ignorant of the fabulous wages paid in that favored land.

Some idea of the figure being cut by the United States in the world's market, may be gleaned from the following. The exports for 1905 totalled $1,626,962,343. The imports amounted to $1,179,358,846. The excess of exports over imports was $447,603,497. That this balance of trade in "our" favor was not returned to the United States in the form of money is shown by the fact that the total imports of gold exceeded the exports by only $3,452,097. The wage-mule and the working farmer of the United States should get a large measure of comfort out of a careful study of these figures. The nearly half a billion dollars of wealth that did not return to the country represents the amount that was wrung from their slavish toil and expended abroad, either in the debaucheries of loafing capitalists and their hanger-on, or in the way of capitalist investments in other lands. The eleven hundred millions of imports was also wrung from their sweat and like a bad penny it returned to be used for the purpose of making them sweat again and more copiously. Let them not be downcast, however, for "we" are conquering the world's market and the "balance of trade" is in our favor. Sweat: you ignoramuses, sweat. It is the price you pay for your ignorance, and that is a qualification you needs must possess in order to maintain your present proud position of "American Sovereigns." And besides all this, remember that you are "free" and the few paltry millions referred to is but a bagatelle compared to the total amount out of which you are skinned every year of your ridiculous lives. Talk about a good thing—you are the best ever.

The spectacle of drunken soldiers marching through the streets of Russian cities with "a dead baby, with a bayonet run through its body being displayed at the end of each gun," ought to encourage parents to see that their boys are trained to military service. The profession of trained murderers is a most noble calling, as anyone can readily see. Its real nobility was splendidly typified in the above and similar instances which have occurred in Russia during recent months.

"German scientists announce that everything needed to make a man weigh 150 pounds, can be found in the whites and yolks of 1,200 hen's eggs. Reduced to a fluid, the average man would yield 98 cubic metres of illuminating gas, and hydrogen enough to fill a balloon capable of lifting 145 pounds. The normal human body has in it the iron needed to make seven large nails, the fat for 14 pounds of candles, the carbon for sixty-four gross of crayons, and phosphorus enough for 820,000 matches. Out of it can be obtained besides twenty coffee spoons of salt, fifty lumps of sugar, and forty-two litres of water."—Ex.

Twelve hundred hen's eggs at "two bits" a dozen would be worth $25. This precludes the possibility of carrying on a lucrative business in the manufacture of men, as the average one on hand at present is worth far less than that sum. It seems that referring to a man as a "gas bag" is not a figure of speech, but the mere statement of a fact. But with all the valuable properties enumerated above in the human composition, it does seem as though they might be turned to commercial account rather than be wasted through burial or cremation. It is painful to think that the present method of disposing of the dead may be cheating our dear capitalist masters out of some profit to which they are justly entitled. What right has the dead slave to carry into the grave, illuminating gas, iron, candle fat, carbon and phosphorus? He should be prosecuted as an ungrateful thief for so doing.

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A bill has been introduced in Victoria providing that "All timber cut on ungranted lands of the Crown or on lands of the Crown which shall hereafter be granted, shall be used in this Province, or be manufactured in this Province into sawn lumber, that is to say, into boards, deal, joists, lath, shingles, or other sawn lumber." To this bill, J. H. Hawthornthwaite has offered an amendment as follows: "Provided always that logs cut or hewed by bona fide hand loggers may at all times be exported."

The Western Clarion

Published every Saturday in the interests of the working class alone at the Office of the Western Clarion, Flack Block basement, 165 Hastings Street, Vancouver, B. C.

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SATURDAY, FEB. 3, 1906.

PROFIT AND HUMAN LIFE.

"We do not often find ourselves in accord with the member for Nanaimo, (J. H. Hawthornthwaite,) but no truer words were ever spoken than when he said in the House this week that "the cheapest thing on this continent is human life," and disregard for its sacredness and rights is daily strengthening the hands of those who hold revolutionary ideas" —The Week.

The words used by Mr. Hawthornthwaite were uttered during a discussion in the House of the wreck of the steamer Valencia on the coast of Vancouver Island, in which more than 100 men, women and children lost their lives. The Western coast of the island is probably the most dangerous upon the Pacific shores of this Western Continent,, and although thousands of human beings are annually carried in close proximity to its threatening and treacherous rocks and reefs, there has as yet been established no adequate coast-guard or life-saving service to warn the mariner of approaching danger, or to save the lives of those who may be so unfortunate as to find themselves in the position of the victims of the Valencia disaster.

No doubt marine disasters will occur so long as man ventures to brave the terrors of the sea. They will arise from causes that are probably beyond the power of human vision to foresee and guard against. But it is no exaggeration to assert that the enormous loss of life incidental to the operation of the modern industrial appliances, both upon sea and land, is largely due to the purpose underlying their control and operation. The fundamental purpose for which modern industry, and this of course includes transportation, is carried on, is profit. The chief desideratum of the owners of capital is that it shall bring to them the largest possible volume of profit. This naturally implies the minimum in cost of operation. It logically follows that there is no valid reason why the owners of capital should incur any expense in order to safeguard the lives of those who may be called upon to operate their properties, as they (the owners) as a rule are extremely careful to remain outside of the danger zone themselves. If they do in rare instances participate in the operation of their factories, railway or steamship lines, they usually do so from the precincts of the office, where danger to human life is reduced to the minimum.

Those who entrust themselves to the tender mercies of modern transportation companies for conveyance from place to place take their lives in their hands by so doing. In the mad race for profits, which is the motive power that induces the madness, an utter disregard for human safety follows as a logical consequence. To attain the desired end the most senseless risks will be taken, with the same abandon, and contempt for possible consequences, as exhibited by the gambler who stakes his all upon the turn of a card. In view of the thick weather, which had made it necessary for the master of the Valencia to run for hundreds of miles by dead reckoning, prudence should have prompted him to lie off in the open sea until the weather cleared, before attempting the passage of so dangerous a shore line as that upon which his vessel was wrecked. Had he done so, however, it is safe to assert that he would have been called to account by his employers and probably have lost his job. As there would have been no means of proving that by remaining outside until the weather cleared an awful disaster had been averted, there was every reason why he should have pursued the course he did.

It is of little use to complain that the Valencia was an out of date tub, entirely unfit and unsafe for the purpose for which she was used. Transportation facilities are not maintained for the purpose of fitness and safety, but for the purpose of bringing profits to their owners. Any old tub is good enough to take chances with so long as there is a bare possibility of reaching port at all. If such a tub should be successful in making a large number of voyages, many good dollars would remain in the owners' pockets, that might have been wasted by discarding her and putting a new vessel in her place. The chances are that from the point of safety and fitness, the Valencia should have been long since discarded, but the suspicion remains that in spite of some few thousands of dollars loss by the recent wreck the company is not the loser by keeping her in commission.

Lighthouse and coast-guard service costs money. It must be forthcoming if at all from capitalist governments. If that section of capitalists engaged in marine transportation desire that such safeguards be amply provided, those sections of the capitalist class engaged in other lines of plunder will logically rise in objection because their interests do not demand lavish expenditure in this particular line. Their thieving would be better conserved by railway subsidies, tariffs or some other governmental jugglery or sleight-of-hand. So long as the means of production remain capital and the purpose of their operation be profit, we may, with the utmost confidence, expect this utter disregard for human life and safety to continue. From the standpoint of capital it is far cheaper to kill a few thousands of people annually than to provide such appliances and adopt such regulations in regard to their use as would insure the maximum of safety to all concerned.

True, "the cheapest thing on this continent is human life," and it will grow ever cheaper until the "hands of those who hold revolutionary ideas," have become sufficiently strengthened to enable them to convert the means of modern industry to their proper use as the instruments whereby human society as a whole may secure to every individual the right to live by his own labor without being used as a pawn upon the chessboard of a ruling class.

Then, and not until then, will it be possible to erect necessary safeguards to life and limb, because, then, and not until then, will it be to the interest of every member of human society that such precautions be taken.

BOWSER SCENTS DANGER.

Parker Williams' amendment to the "Small Debts Act," which was intended to exempt a workingman's wages up to $100, from a creditor's garnishee, caused Mr. Bowser, who by the way, was elected to the House by workingmen's votes—to get quite a sniff of danger to the interests of his exceedingly honorable profession. It will be remembered that the honor attached thereto was briefly referred to by Parker Williams on the floor of the House recently, as reported in the Western Clarion of last week.

The "Small Debts Act," as it now stands, affords an excellent opportunity to the legal "profesh" to acquire proficiency in the art of nagging pestering, brow-beating and bulldozing impecunious small debtors, whether male or female. The practice thus obtained eminently befits them for making general all round nuisances of themselves in dealing with witnesses and others in the higher courts later on. This dirty and pestitential practice also affords to numerous ones of this delectable fraternity the means to keep the pot boiling until they succeed in qualifying themselves to land bigger game, Therefore the amendment that proposed to exempt wages up to $100 from assault by small l buzzards was quite sufficient to offend the alert olfactories of Mr. Bowser. While Bowser had his smeller working he made other and further important discoveries. These he proclaimed to the assembled legislative multitude by declaring the amendment to be "class legislation of the worst kind." In this the astute Bowser uncovered a most peculiar circumstance, one that had it not been for his presence would probably not have been uncovered by the House. In view of the fact that all legislation under class government must of necessity be class legislation, Bowser's astuteness is phenomenal.

In view of the Bowser discovery, it may be inferred that the "Small Debts Act," itself is not class legislation. It is to be hoped that Bowser himself will be able to see that it was not put upon the Statute books for the benefit of the small debtor class at least.

Bowser's insinuation that the amendment was intended as a "means of helping the workingman to evade his just debts," is of little value in the premises, as anyone at all acquainted with the circumstances obtaining here in Vancouver, Bowser's own bailiwick, knows that it is not the workingmen who "evade their just debts." Some of them may upon occasion be temporarily up against it, but as a rule, they pay for what they get. Mention might be made, however, of a class in the community who spend the most of their time in borrowing from each other to pay their bills, or telling their creditors to call again. There are some lawyers among them, too. If it was not for the petty relief afforded the "perfesh" by these contemptible "Small Debts Acts" and the like, there would probably be more of them. **Some of them might even be driven to perform useful service in order to prolong their existence. No wonder Bowser is worried, although it is to be hoped that his individual security is not threatened by Williams' amendment.

It should be comforting to the silly working chumps who elected Bowser, to know that their wages are already protected in the "Small Debts Court to the extent of $30 a month," which is "sufficient to maintain" their "families." The suggestion may safely be made that the Bowser astuteness was never developed on $30 a month. Bowser is to be congratulated upon heaping such an insult upon the workingmen, especially of his own city. Anything in the shape of a workingman who is so devoid of an understanding of his own interest and welfare and that of his class, as to use his franchise for the purpose of sending a Bowser and hil ilk to parliament, ought to be insulted, only it is an impossibility to do so.

It is claimed that Bowser once upon occasion put out the lights in the City Hall, Vancouver. If he is not more discreet in his language in the House when touching upon these matters affecting the workingmen, they are liable to get wise and snuff his political light out.

Anyhow, Bowser is funny. A great deal more so in fact than M Quads' production.

CAPITALIZING JAPAN.

From one af our Japanese exchanges, "The Hikari," we learn much of value relating to what is going on in the Island Empire in the way or reducing the producers of that country to the conditions of wage-vassals of capital.

Tobacco and salt industries have already been taken over as government monopolies. Numerous large companies engaged in the manufacturing of beer, sugar, oil, matches, cotton and other lines are amalgamating. The concentration of railway capital is being much talked of, although at present there exists much fierce competition in transportation. It is predicted that the larger companies will absorb the smaller and consolidation will go on as it has in the United States. Many of the big capitalists it is reported have doubled their wealth during the war with Russia. Day laborers have increased in a remarkable degree during the past decade. Peasants are flocking into the towns, leaving their lands barren behind them, Graduates of higher schools are finding it difficult to obtain employment. The middle class is rapidly sinking into and becoming submerged among the lower classes.. The contrast between the poor and rich is each day becoming more pronounced. "Dividends, profits, mansions, villas, carriages, banquets, holiday trips, concubines, geisha-girls, etc., are the life of the wealthy, while long-hours, scanty wages, slums, rags, drinking, profligacy, quarrels, stealing, murder, etc., are that of the poor,"

Soldiers and sailors are the sons of the poorer classes, as the sons of the rich escape military duty by various excuses. The right of suffrage is limited to the well-to-do.

Marshals and Generals are coming back from the war, and triumphal arches are being erected in various towns and cities. They are welcomed with "Banzais," but "we can well hear the grievous cry of the unemployed in the bottom of the Banzai."

It is expected there will be as many as 800,000 unemployed when all have returned from the war. Young women are used in the railway stations as ticket sellers, and in other work. They are not given employment unless single. Newspapers are either the tools of the government or of individual capitalists. While some profess independence they are used merely for money making purpose, and never for that of promulgating principles or measures for the uplift of the poor.

Buddhism is the best friend of the Imperial house; it is based upon the superstition of the poorer classes. Christianity is also endearing itself to the ruling class by preaching contentment and obedience to the poor. Political parties are synonymous with grafting organizations. The Diet is the place where graft is legalized. Togo and Oyama are worshipped as demi-gods, etc.

The above gleaned from "The Hikari" indicates everything going on quite in conformity with the usual capitalist fashion in other countries. In fact what is written of Japan could be made to read with equal truth of any other capitalist country by a mere change of names.

May the Japanese workers speedily attain sufficient wisdom to break the chains that capitalism is now forging upon their limbs, instead of wearing them for centuries as badges of honor as have the white slaves of this continent and Europe.

The Chicago American, in referring to the sweatshop workers of that city uses these words: "Brave slaves of cruel system in Chicago put $20 in the bank in nine years." But a few years ago it was considered something awful when the Socialist applied the term "Slave" to the modern worker. Now it is quite the fashion to do so, and besides, it is the proper term in every sense of the word.

The San Francisco Chronicle asserts that at 26 Broadway, New York, is located the most effective Socialist propaganda club in the world. As every one knows, that is the office of the Standard Oil Company. As this concern represents one of the largest combinations of capital on earth and is continually adding to its enormous power by cruching smaller concerns and absorbing their capital, there is little doubt but what is, at least in an indirect way, doing much to prove the soundness of the Socialist position and bring converts to its support. Let the good work continue.

Manufacturers in the United States are becoming alarmed over the threatening competition of the Japanese capitalists, especially in the line of cotton yarns and fabrics. Competition is the life of trade. So we have been taught at least. So there is nothing to kick about.

BRITISH ELECTION RETURNS.

BURNLEY.

F. Maddison (elected) Lab-Lib	5,288
G. A. Arbuthnot, Con.	4,964
H. M. Hyndman, Socialist ...	4,932

BRADFORD, (West.)

F. M. Jowett, (elected, Soc., Labor	4,957
Sir E. Flower, Con.	4,187
W. Claridge, Lib.	3 580

BRADFORD, (East.)

W. E. Priestly (elected) Lib....	6,185
Sir Vincent Caillard, Con.	4,277
E. R. Hartley, Socialist	3,040

ROCHDALE.

Col. C. M. Royds, Con.	4,449
S. G. Hobson, Socialist	2,500

Labor candidates in North East and South West Manchester, returned by majorities of 2,432 and 1,226.

HALIFAX.

J. H. Whitley, Lib. (elected)	9,354
J. Parker, Lab.-Soc. (elected)	8,937
Sir Sairle Crossley, Con.	5,041

It is claimed that where 88 per cent. of the strikes which occurred in Italy during 1901 succeeded, and in 1902, 87 per cent,. during the year just closed but about one-third were successful. This shows the diminishing value of this crude method of industrial warfare as capitalist production becomes more highly developed. It is about time it was abandoned.

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PLATFORM

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.

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I recognise 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.

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Phoenix Miners' Union, No. 8, 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.
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SMOKE KURTZ'S OWN KURTZ'S PIONEERS SPANISH BLOSSOMS BEST IN B.C. CIGARS

Provincial Parliament

(Continued From Page One.)

Mr. Oliver—"No, no."

Mr. Hawthornthwaite—"Well, still the honorable gentleman rise in his place and say that it is not true, and that he finds no difficulty in disposing of his surplus produce?

Mr. Oliver—"I would inform the honorable gentleman that when I find any difficulty in disposing of my produce I am not coming to this House for relief. I attend to my own business." (Opposition applause.) I want just to say that the honorable gentleman made some incorrect statements."

The Speaker—"Out of order, You can say anything after the gentleman who has the floor has finished his speech."

Mr. Hawthornthwaite — "Well, if the honorable gentleman cannot answer my question that he cannot dispose of what he produces——"

Mr. Oliver — "I never said anything."

Mr. Hawthornthwaite — "Well, if he will tell the truth that will dispose of it. Of course he is not coming to this House for relief. It is well known that the honorable gentleman has a good bank account, has numerous lands to dispose of before he reaches that position. At the same time he squeals about being compelled to pay a few cents extra in taxes to help his neighbors who are in dire distress. Let me tell him if he were in their position he would come with his hand and fall on his knees and ask this House for relief." (Laughter.)

"The people of Dewdney today are in a precarious position and their land is likely to be taken from them. The premier has introduced this Bill to give them relief and I think it should be granted. The member for the Islands (Mr. Paterson) opposed this legislation as he opposed the legislation of last year on the grounds that farmers in other municipalities have already to pay enough in taxes without shouldering the burdens of other places. But how about the Liberal Government at Ottawa which he supports? I say that the farmers of this Province are being fleeced by the Liberals at Ottawa in the matter of taxation and are compelled to pay an undue share on everything they use. They cannot sell their produce and are taxed to an enormous extent by the Government at Ottawa, by the implement men, and by the good groceryman spoken of by the third member for Vancouver, (Mr. Bowser). Under these circumstances, I think it only fair to these people to give them the relief asked for on the floor of this House." (Applause.)

As soon as Mr. Hawthornthwaite had concluded, Mr. Oliver rose to his feet. "Mr. Speaker," he said, "It has been repeatedly asserted in this House, and I believe even by a Minister of the Crown, that the district I represent, only pays some $4,000 a year into the Provincial Treasury——"

Mr. Bowser—"I would like to ask the honorable gentleman what the Municipality of Delta does pay?"

Mr. Oliver—"I shall be able to ascertain that when this Government insugurates a better system of bookkeeping." (Opposition laughter and applause.)

Mr. Hawthornthwaite— "It seems to me that the honorable gentleman does not know what he is talking about. He first tells the House that a certain thing is not true and then he gets up and says that, owing to the book-keeping he cannot ascertain whether it is true or not." (Laughter.)

Mr. Bowser spoke at some length in support of the Bill, substantiating Mr. Hawthornthwaite's statement about the Municipality of Delta by showing from figures from the public accounts that that district received from the Provincial Treasury $17,000 a year more than it paid in.

Mr. Macdonald, leader of the Opposition, expressed deep sympathy for the people of Dewdney, but was opposed to the principle of the Bill. He thought the matter should be very carefully inquired into before the Bill was allowed to pass the House.

Mr. Stuart Henderson agreed with his leader and moved that the House appoint a special committee of five to inquire into the circumsyances of the Dewdney Municipality and report to the House.

Mr. Oliver again attacked the Government saying that they were compromising with a grasping and greedy corporation, and the House shoul be fully informed on all the circumstances before the Bill was passed.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite said the alleged leader of the Opposition, the member for Rossland, was following out his old practice of expressing sympathy for people and then voting against measures for their relief. The member for Delta had spoken of one of the Loan Companies as a grasping and greedy corporation, and yet he could not deny that this grasping and greedy corporation was prepared to make a compromise in this matter involving a reduction in the debt that was due of some thousands of dollars.

Mr. Oliver—Well, we want to know about that.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite said he was satisfied that the people of Dewdney had gone about this work in as business-like a manner as was possible under the circumstances. He agreed with the member for Delta that it was unfair to impose on the people of Dewdney outside the dyking area a debt of $15,000, and he, (Mr. Hawthornthwaite) intended to move in committee to strike out that clause and allow the Province to pay the whole indebtedness. (Opposition laughter.) That was the stand he would take and allow the whole debt of $25,000 to be wiped out. As it stood, one or two farmers in that district were well off and laughed at the rest who would have to struggle to pay this debt. He considered this unfair, and would take the only way in which it could be remedied.

Divisions were then taken both on the amendment and the Bill. The amendment was first voted on as follows:

Nays—Messrs. Davidson, Williams, Hawthornthwaite, Tatlow, McBride, Cotton, Clifford, Bowser, A. McDonald, Green, Fulton, Garden, Wright, Young, Gifford, Macgowan, Shatford Grant, Manson—19.

Yeas—Messrs. Drury, McNiven, Evans, Murphy, Jones, Oliver, J. A. Macdonald, Hendesson, Munro, Paterson, Wells, Cameron, Ellison—13.

Bill read a second time on the following division:

Yeas—Messrs. Davidson, Williams, Hawthornthwaite, Tatlow, McBride, Cotton, Ellison, Clifford, Bowser, A. McDonald, Green, Fulton, Garden, Wright, Young, Gifford, Macgowan, Shatford, Grant, Manson.—20.

Nays—Messrs. Drury, McNiven, Evans, Murphy, Jones, Oliver, J. A. Macdonald, Henderson, Munro, Paterson, Wells, Cameron—12.

PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS ACT.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite in moving the second reading of the "Procincial Elections Act" for the purpose of reducing the deposit of candidates from $200 to $50, said the Bill had been before the House on several occasions already, and had been defeated by narrow majorities, though both parties pretended to stand for manhood suffrage on their platforms and yet when steps were taken to remove all obstacles in the way of a proper expression of opinion at the polls they found a number of men in the House opposed to it. This opposition was owing chiefly to the Liberal party, and he failed to see how they could reconcile their platform of reform with their stand on this matter.

When this measure was brought up a year ago, the unfair tactics was introduced of choking it off by moving adjournment after adjournment. One of the Liberal members excused the action of his party by saying that they were going to vote on a similar measure proposed by himself.

"If there is one thing to be gained by bringing up this measure now," said Mr. Hawthornthwaite, "It is that it will show who are the men who persistently stand in the way of its adoption. When we see in different portions of the world today disturbances going on that are a disgrace to our civilization, and I would point out to you that sililar disturbances in this country are not so far distant as you would believe. I believe that the United States, the country adjoining us is on the eve of an internal revolution, a bloody revolution, and that a scene of desolation and bloodshed will spread over the land such as the world has never seen before. These things are being brought about in two ways, one by the oppressions of vast corporations and trusts, and the other by election frauds of enormous magnitude. It was found in the recent election in the city of New York, that no less than 40,000 fraudulent ballots were cast. This is one of the obstacles in the way of a free expression of that opinion. The Boer war was now admitted to be a mistake which could have been avoided had the people been given the ballot as they should have been.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite continued that though we were shocked by the elections in the United States we were not altogether free from that sort of thing here, as was shown by the recent elections in Alberta and Saskatchewan, where money was spent like water to corrupt the electorate. At least, if all were true that was said of the elections in those provinces we could not afford to point the finger of scorn at the people in the United States. Of course, conditions in the United States were more favorable to such a condition of affairs as he was alluding to than possibly they were anywhere else. A few years ago, only 10 per cent. of the people of the United States were unemployed, and today it was said that 40 per cent. of the people were unemployed half the year round. That kind of thing could not continue without bringing trouble. The method adopted in Russia of a big general strike would obtain vogue in the United States, and would precipitate a bloody revolution. That was a condition of affairs that the Socialists wished to avoid in Canada. Delegates from those organizations in the United States that were agitating for a general strike had been sent to Canada to urge action on similar lines here.

"Our Party, however," said Mr. Hawthornthwaite, "is opposed to that. We believe that under the British flag that reforms can be introduced by legal and proper methods, and in view of that position it is the duty of every man in this House by his vote and voice to remove every obstacle that prevents the people from expressing their desires in a legitimate way. I ask them to assist me by voting for this Bill and removing that difficulty out of the way of the electors of British Columbia." (Applause.)

Mr. Bowser moved the adjournment of the debate, and the Bill has not come up for discussion since.

Mr. J. H. Hawthornthwaite's "Act to amend the Coal Mines Regulations Act," is now in the hands of the Mining Committee of the House, who are trying to add to it to make it more effective for the object for which it is designed, namely, the safety of the men working in underground mines. Some regulations will be added in relation to men returning to fuses that have failed to explode, and matters of a similar nature. When the Bill was called for second reading, Mr. Hawthornthwaite asked that it might be held over for a while to see what amendments the Committee on Mining could make to it. There is universal approval of Mr. Hawthornthwaite's effort to institute a system of speedy relief for injured miners.

On Tuesday, the Finance Minister, (Hon. Mr. Tatlow) moved in the House the second reading of "An Act to amend the Assessment Act, 1903." He explained that one of its objects was to correct some misunderstandings about the Income Tax, and to insure the payment of a four per cent. tax by all persons having an income exceeding $10,000 a year. It also provided that anyone having over $2,000 worth of real property in any one district, must pay the higher rate of taxation which obtained above that amount. It provided besides for the confiscation of mineral claims which the owners failed to redeem within one year after they had been sold for taxes.

Speaking on the Bill, Mr. Hawthornthwaite said: "Before the Bill passes this stage, I would like to make a few remarks on it. As far as the Minister of Finance goes, the Province is very fortunate in securing his services. We often say that under the capitalist system a man does not often find his true vocation but the Minister of Finance is an exception to that rule. Sometimes, however, he overlooks things, as a little instance of which I would simply call attention to one of these little paste-boxes with which every member is supplied. Each of these contains a little well for water to keep the paste moist, but at the present time if a member wants to seal a letter, he must spit through the brush. (Laughter.)

Speaking of this particular measure, in that portion regarding the taxation of improvements through the Province, by our suggestions, exemption was made last year for the benefit of the small farmers, that they, instead of the large farmers, might receive the benefit of the Act. It was agreed that land up to $2,000, should be taxed only one-fifth of one per cent.. But what did we find? During the past summer some emmissaries of the Honorable gentleman, called assessors, were sent out through the country, and when they found that anyone was taxed under the $2,000 rate they raised the assessment over that amount, and placed it in the higher class. So far as the farmers are concerned, I agree with the view expressed by the honorable member for Delta, (Mr. John Oliver) on the floor of this House a year or two ago, when he said he did not see why the farmer should be taxed more largely than any other individual coming under the Act. As it stands, no one is taxed on income under $1000 per annum, and I do not see why this provision should not apply to the farmer. I would suggest that before this Bill reaches Committee the Government will make provisions in it to that effect, and if they do not do so, then I will be under an obligation to introduce the amendment myself. Provided that a farmer's income does not exceed $1,000 per annum he should be exempt from taxation. I think these men are at least as much entitled to that as others.

I would draw attention also to Section 18 of this Bill. It would appear from it that miners throughout the Province who have taken up mineral claims but have failed for some reason or other to keep their taxes paid up will be subject to a hardship. It provides that if the owners of surface rights fail to pay the taxes to redeem this property within the alloted time after it has been sold, that property will be confiscated to the Government. I am satisfied that this was not the intention of the Hon. Finance Minister, but certainly some provision should be made to give these men more chance to hold their land.

A little further down in the ninth line of the same section you find that improvements are also to be confiscated without regard to any other interests than those of the Government. Now it is quite possible that someone might have an interest in the mine—a mortgage for instance—but under this section their rights would be absolutely confiscated.

I would draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister to these things with the hope that when the Bill comes into the next stage some provision will be made for remedying these defects, more especially for the sake of the farmers to whom I have referred.

Mr. Jas. Murphy, of Cariboo, moved the adjournment of the debate.

Hawthornthwaite's Amendment to The Land Assessment Act.

When the "Assessment Act" came into committee, Mr. Hawthornthwaite moved his amendment as follows:

"Provided afways, that where a farmer owns, resides upon and cultivates a portion of land not exceeding one hundred and sixty acres in extent, and where the assessed value of such land does not exceed five thousand dollars, and the income derived from the cultivation of said land does not exceed one thousand dollars per annum, the said land shall be exempt from taxation."

Mr. J. H. Hawthornthwaite explained that he put the amendment in order to give the Government a chance to redeem the pledges given to the House two years ago. At that time the credit of the Province was bad, and it was necessary to take some steps to re-establish it. The Government appealed to the House to help it in the work, and that help was given. On that appeal, the Government succeeded in carrying the act at that time, and their measures had resulted in largely decreased expenditure in the Province, and in the face of this, the amount of taxation required was very big indeed. They were assured that when there was a substantial sum in the Treasury, steps would be taken to relieve the people from this heavy taxation. Now the credit of the Province had been re-established, the Government had a handsome surplus on hand, and there was no necessity for increasing that amount.

The Speech from the Throne referred to the general prosperity of the Province, but that prosperity was simply confined to the capitalist class. The position of the workingman was not a jot better than it had been If anything, it was growing steadily worse, and the farmers of the Province were in precisely the same position, since they heard in country districts a constant cry from them that they were unable to dispose of their produce. Instead of the prosperity of the capitalists beneficially affecting these people, it was gradually leading to their extermination. They had not yet arrived at that condition, but were hurrying towards it, and in the meantime they should do what they could to relieve them and make them as happy as possible in the conditions under which they lived.

Another argument which he wished to lay before the House and to which his attention had first been called by the member for Delta was the fact that the farmer was the only man who paid taxes on income under $1,000. If this amount became law, it would place him in the same position as every other workman and business man in this Province. (Applause.)

Hon. Mr. Tatlow, Minister of Finance, regretted that he could not accept the amendment, as it would mean that three-fourths of the farmers of the country would be struck off the Assessment Roll, and the finance of the country, though better than they had been, were not in a position for that yet. The deficiency of the Chinese restriction tax would have to be made up in future, and it would be practically impossible to reduce taxation further at present, though his personal idea was that all taxation should be derived from real estate and income tax.

Messrs. Tanner, Evans and Paterson, of the Opposition, all spoke against the amendment, Mr. Tanner terming it a scheme of political charity, which no self-respecting farmer should ask for.

Mr. Parker Williams said he had his complaint to make about the interpretation of the Assessment Act by agents of the Government. It simply knocked the small farmer on his back. One of these gentlemen came around his district last Summer, and where he found a farmer assessed at only $1,300, promptly raised it above the $2,000 mark so that he would come under the higher rate. The member of Saanich talked about farmers not wishing to come to the House for charity, but you had only to whisper that it was of any use to them to come, and you would see them here all right. (Laughter.) They spoke of it being cowardly in people to wish to avoid taxation altogether, so that it could be seen that the wealthiest people in the Province were not above receiving charity of this kind. Taxes is something that no one will pay if the law or the Lord will show them the way out of it. (Laughter.) If things were put into proper shape, the question of direct taxation in this Province should not bother them. If the natural resources were properly taxed the total revenue required for the Province could be derived from them with ease. He did not believe it right that the timber and mining industries of the country should go to build up a few millionaires in Toronto and Montreal, while it was left to the farmers to sustain the greater part of the taxation of the Province. The dividends of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Co., alone, would pay every cent required to maintain the Government of the country.

As far as exempting the farmer with an income under $1,000 went, the same logic could be used in support of that as in the support of the exemption to the same amount in the case of any other business man. The only difference was in the vast majority of cases the farmer had to lead a life that was infinitely poorer and harder than that of the ordinary man, and if one class more than another deserved special consideration it was the farmers.

The amendment was put to the House and defeated by an overwhelming majority, its only supporters being Messrs. Hawthornthwaite, Williams, Davidson, Houston and Wright.

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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.

SECRETARIES PLEASE NOTE.

While it is possible for the editor of "News and Views" to secure access to the Party correspondence of both the B. C. Provincial Secretary (Com. Flowers), and the Dominion Executive Secretary, (Com. Morgan), much better results could be attained were the Secretaries of all Locals to send their Party news direct. Address: "R. P. Pettipiece, Vancouver, B. C."

It can be fittingly said of General Grieznoff, chief of the staff of the Viceroy of the Caucasus, that he "got it in the neck."

Japan is destined to become thoroughly capitalized in the near future. A million unemployed already, and General Booth is on his way to Tokyo.

"The recent elections in England" from a Canadian Socialist standpoint, will be the subject of an article in next issue, by a Vancouver comrade. K

Vancouver Local held no propaganda meeting last Sunday. The committee are endeavoring to again arrange for Sullivan Hall, until outside speakers can be arranged for.

If the Clarion does not contain enough news of the Socialist movemen to suit some of its readers, let them proceed to send some in from their locality. If there is no news, start in agitating and make some.

The Municipal ownership wave has struck Vancouver. The wages of civic employees will still be determined by the condition of the labor market. A bare existence will be the portion of those who do the work.

If the $13,000,000 of dividends declared by the Canadian Pacific Railway last year had been added to the wages of the men who produced it, do you think the "incentive" of the employees would have been destroyed?

It would certainly be an awful pity if some of the "homes" provided under capitalism were "destroyed." Countless numbers of them would not be fit to keep decent dogs in under Socialism.

The machine-drill for cutting rock, has been introduced in Vancouver. It is now in use in a tomb-stone yard on Mt. Pleasant. One man can do now in two hours what he formerly could do in two days. The other fellows are now looking for jobs. And thus the process goes on.

"At Dawson it was 75 degrees below zero; 82 below at Tantalus. The road at places is covered with fifteen feet of snow," reports the daily press. And still the workers of these mining localities keep warm enough to agitate for Socialism, as reports from Dawson Local amply corroborate.

"But how are you going to take over the mines, railroads, etc.," is frequently asked the Socialist. The Parsons say: "The Lord giveth, and the Lord taketh away." The Socialist puts it thusly: "The people giveth; the people will taketh away." The legal enactment of five men, with the power to enforce, should easily give place to the legislation enacted by, for the most part, dead men.

"Good, sober Christian and industrious" workmen are oftimes prone to lament the short-comings of their unfortunate fellow workers who are "on the road" attributing this jobless position to "drink" and other acquisitions of capitalism. Does it ever occur to the former that if the latter were to follow their example, it would immediately increase the intense competition for jobs—and perhaps it would be the "sober man's job? Production for profit, instead of for use, means that the few are fortunate by virtue of the misfortunes of the others.

Harry Sibble, the tireless propagandist and Western Clarion Agent of irresistible persuasiveness, reports that much interest is being taken by the miners of the Boundary district in economic questions. Considerable time is devoted to discussion along such lines at the various union meetings. This is as it should be, for out of such discussion and inquiry will come the knowledge necessary to determine the correct line of action to follow for the emancipation of labor from the thralldom of capitalist exploitation. The Clarion desires to express thanks to the numerous comrades and friends who, according to Com. Sibble, have extended to him courtesies and cordial treatment galore.

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CLARION QUESTION BOX.

G. E. W., Penticton, B.C.— Have not met the comrade yet. Will make use of him when located, if possible. I note the increased Clarion sub list in your locality as result of Clarion Agent Sibble's canvas.

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VICTORIA, B. C.

By H. Burnett.

The A.O.U.W. Hall was packed to the doors Monday evening, 29th inst., the occasion being a lecture by Comrade Mrs. Irene Smith, on "Woman's Suffrage," with speeches by Comrades Hawthornthwaite and Williams, and Mr. Davidson, M.P.P. Comrade Marcon presided, and after brief speeches by the three Labor members of parliament, Comrade Smith, began her address, which was very lengthy and proved highly interesting to the large audience present who listened with rapt attention till nearly eleven o'clock. The bulk of Comrade Smith's audience comprised people who were comparative strangers at Socialist meetings, so she started out with tracing the evolution of human society from savagery and barbarism down to the present stage of our modern capitalist development. Woman's sphere in these evolvin stages of the race was finely described by the speaker. Then the present day was dealt with. In very telling language, Comrade Smith described the conditions under which woman labored in the large industrial centres, where wages were at the starvation point, where it was an impossibility for them to keep up a respectable appearance, and hence the growing army of prostitutes and suicides throughout the land. She told of woman supplanting man in the industrial arena, and hence the ever-increasing army of tramps and n'er-do-wells. Woman must emancipate herself, by first of all studying out for themselves this great social problem, never resting content until the ballot paper was in their hand, and they were on the same equal plane as their lord and master—Man.

Some literature was sold, a good-sized collection taken up, and all went home seemingly edified by the instructive discourse rendered by our comrade from Uncle Sam's big farm.

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

I stated in my last that while conditions in Winnipeg were not for the time being very favorable to Socialist propaganda, they were interesting from a sociological standpoint, and supply much to confirm Socialist analysis of society. I would here touch a few points, notoriously true and available to any observer in the city.

The boomster spirit, a combination of swagger and vulgarity on the surface, but inspired and impelled from behind by that shrewd avarice for which this continent has become famous and which has been copiously adopted by Canadians, is nowhere in the Dominion more active just now than in the city of Winnipeg; nay, this claim is too modest, for by the general acclaim of ever competing cities the prairie is allowed to be the most "progressive community" in Canada.

If this were the place for it, much might be said of this glorification of totals and mere bigness; it permeates every institution in society, and as a specific tendency or social disease might be, not inaptly, termed "aggregation." How worthless and misleading it is as a measure or indication of workingclass well being may, in part, appear in what follows.

For at least two years past, Winnipeg has been whelmed under an avalanche of boom prosperity, as witness, a rapid increase in population, bank clearings of $40,000,000 and over, per month, and sometimes amounting to two millions per day, building permits of ten millions per annum, civic and customs revenues more than double, and an application in land values, outside of improvements, of 300 per cent. on the average in the whole civic area, with other developments pro rata. What more could the heart of Plutus desire? What better evidence of social well being could be asked than these infallible standards of conventional capitalism?

Such is the obverse of the medal which Winnipeg wears with so much pride today, a pride heralded forth in five daily capitalist newspapers. But let us turn the medal for a moment and read a few items legibly written on the reverse.

Vital statistics points to a deplorable condition of unhealthiness. Usually the birth and death rates about balance each other, but somehow for two consecutive months, the deaths exceed the births by as much as 40 per cent. The special scourge of Winnipeg, typhoid fever, has been so prevalent and fatal that the authorities, for "business reasons" have refused to furnish or publish figures on the subject. There is no natural reason why Winnipeg should not be as healthy as any town in the Province, but a rate-shaving policy dictated by the propertied classes keeps the city in most of its old time filthiness and consequent unhealthiness.

In vice and crime the city is well abreast of its bank clearings. Some three years ago at the instance of a group of evangelical parsons and professors, egg'd on by real estate sharks, Winnipeg had one of its periodical "purity spasms." A mass meeting was held in the opera house, parsons, in tragic tones and attitudes declaimed on the enormity of the social evil and the policy of segregation, business men pointed out its deplorable effects on real estate, and the reduced efficiency of their business help. There was the testimony of matrons who implored and beseeched for some plan that would save their saintly sons from contamination. There was stupid, blackheaded, ignorant unctuousness ad nauseam with sordid selfishness to book in almost everything that was spoken; not a word of common sense or apprehension of the real causes of and necessity for prostitution; not a word or thought of consideration for the woman and girl victims. In their fanatical frenzy, they would club them into the Red River, or at least chase them out of town. They would stamp out the evil, they would blot love out of the book of life, except so much as the code of the capitalistic hearth prescribes for themselves, these nations and their reverend champions, and it was done. It was done as far as such things can be done, and with the common and inevitable result of such doing. In a brutal and inhuman way the women were ejected from their houses by the police, hauled before the city beak, fined and dispersed.

Segregation was in the main, abolished, and succeeded, of course, by dissemination or distribution over the whole city, more or less, with the effect that the supposed evil or social phenomena today is greater than ever, even allowing for the growth of the city. The parsons in convened assembly have eaten crow and confessed the failure of their plan, and so again the champions of virtue are assembling their forces. A fund of $5,000 has been subscribed; how to be expended God only knows, the phenomena in every form is to be fought, doubtless to be conquered as before.

These spasms exhibit the capitalist class in their most ignorant and despicable phases—social and political. Partingtons, they stand on the shore of human passion and essay to drive back the tide with police clubs, ignorant of the fact that the conditions they pretend to deplore are the legitimate and inevitable outcome of the system by which they live and flourish, ignorant of the fact that social conventions, themselves the reflection of capitalist society, and more than all actual economic conditions, or the system, make it difficult, undesirable and sometimes impossible for the young to come together in the normal and natural manner dictated by nature. From beginning to end in this business, woman is victimized and man is brutalized.

It may be that in Vancouver you have had, on a smaller scale, some similar experience.

Of such crimes as come before the courts, high and low, Winnipeg has had a recent crop rivalled only by the wheat, but these and some concluding reflections will furnish matter for another short story.

STONEHENGE.

ACTION AND REACTION.

In certain quarters a great deal of concern seems to be manifested at the present materialist trend of the Socialist movement.

A brief consideration would show this attitude to be illogical even on the part of an idealist, for the movement is merely obeying a fundamental law. The law of reaction which has played a not unimportant part in all great movements. In the present struggle in Russia we see an extreme effort towards democracy, succeeded by a reaction to autocracy. If the impetus towards autocracy is strong enough to carry it to the extreme, the reaction towards democracy, which must inevitably follow, will sweep Czarism and all that appertains to it out of existence.

And so it is with the Socialist movement at large. For years the pendulum has swung towards idealism, finding its extreme in that school which sought to appeal to the altruism of the capitalist class to inaugurate the Commonwealth for the benefit of humanity. Naturally their efforts did not meet with any degree of success, as the altruism of the capitalist had been stifled by the protective selfishness necessitated by competitive commercialism.

From that extreme, the pendulum has been swinging downward through various reform ideals, gathering with increased impetus, increased support, as it approaches its true mean, the class struggle. And it is absolutely inevitable that it should swing as far to the ultra-materialist extreme as it did to the ultra-idealist. And those to whom this materialist trend is distasteful should not on that account seek to retard, but should rather add their weight to the movement for the sooner it attains its extreme, the sooner will the reaction to idealism take place. But it will not be the same idealist trend. It will carry with it all the benefits accrued from materialism. A truer understanding of the economic basis of Socialism, a more logical and critical outlook, a clearer perception, less tendency to pursue every new, bright phantom, a calm uncompromising confidence in the inevitability of Socialism in our time.

And it will be this swing of the pendulum that will bring us to the beginning of the end.

Material interests initiate revolutions, high ideals accomplish them; knowledge applies the results.

"Mc."

There are 8,274 factories in Japan employing 483,989 men and women. Capitalism is thus making excellent headway in turning that country into an industrial hell for the purpose of frying the fat out of wage-slaves.

VANCOUVER LOCAL, NO. 1.

The regular weekly business meeting was held on Monday evening, Jan. 29th., Com. Arnason presiding.

The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted, and the following warrants authorized:

Rent of headquarters to Feb. 3rd,	$10.00
Due Stamps	7.50
Total	$17.50

The Municipal campaign Committee reported having collected $38.75 and having expended $34.50, leaving a surplus of $4.25.

The report was received and the balance ordered to be credited to the general fund, and the committee discharged.

The Ways and Means Committee reported that a dance will be held for the benefit of the Local at the Masons Hall, corner of 9th Avenue and Quebec Streets, on Tuesday evening, Feb. 6th. Admission 50c. Ladies free. Refreshments will be served without extra charge, and a general good time is anticipated.

Tickets may be secured at the door or at any of the following places: Burns & Co., 101 Powell, and 138 Cordova Sts. E.; Socialist Headquarters, 113 Cambie street, Room 1, or from any active member of the Local. The Committee report was received.

Under head of new business, Comrade E. Burns was elected organizer by acclamation, and a matter regarding organization of South Vancouver, was referred to the Provincial Executive, and steps were taken towards procuring the services of Comrade Cloak, of Bellingham, to speak at Vancouver.

The financial report showed receipts as follows:

Donation to General Fund	$ 1.00
Municipal Campaign surplus	4.25
On Dues account	7.50
Total, for week	$12.75

After receiving financial report the meeting adjourned.

D. P. MILLS, Sec.

P. H. Morrissey, grand master of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, declares that railway employes are compelled to work too many hours to insure safe traffic on the roads. In a speech on the subject recently, he said:

"There is no other occupation today in which men are forced to be more alert and active and yet are expected to remain in service so many hours at a time. Laws should be enacted to protect the railroad men. We should work unitedly in an effort to procure the enactment of measures providing for the maintenance of the families of railroad men who meet with misfortune."—Labor Advocate.

Such childlike confidence in the potency of the law to bring relief, is beautiful to behold. It is equalled in beauty, only by that displayed by he who goes to a drug shop to purchase an appetite. The display of sense in either case is the same. If Morrissey and his trainmen insist on leaving control of the law factories in the hands of the railway companies and other capitalist concerns they will get all the law that is coming to them. The only families it will maintain, however, will be those of capitalists, and such things, ruffians and assassins as may be necessary to enforce it. It is probably too much to expect that it should ever dawn upon upon Marrissey that it is not more law that the workers need, but more sense. If they had sense enough to seize the powers of government on behalf of their own class, and wipe out the accursed laws that now debar them from free access to their means of living, i.e., the resources and machinery of production, they would find speedy relief from the ills which so grievously afflict them. This superstitious faith in the efficacy of the law to bring relief to that class in human society against whom it is aimed, is about the most ridiculous that ever lodged itself in the human brain.

Investigations of the conditions under which the sweatshop slaves of Chicago exist, shows that there are hundreds of them who do not earn over $1 per week during these winter months. Even in good times in the garment trades they are fortunate indeed to earn as much as $3, or $4, or $5 a week. That, with such wages, life is little better than a living hell, goes without saying. That thousands of workers are being irresistible forced down into similar conditions each year, everyone knows who cares to give the matter any attention whatever. Every person possessing any knowledge whatsoever of the mechanism and workings of the present system must know that not only is it inevitable that such conditions exist but that they must continually grow worse. And yet there are people professing to be Socialists who are so ignorant as to believe that the conditions surrounding these cruelly exploited and crushed victims of capitalist production can be alleviated through some so-called "economic" organization, or other patchwork tom-foolery.

Twenty-eight signers of anti-militarist placards, which were posted upon the walls of Paris on the first of October last, have been recently tried, found guilty and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment. As none of the disciples of the meek and lowly Nazarene have as yet entered any protest against such verdicts, it may be taken as an indication that they realize that the doctrine of "peace on earth" taught by that gentle soul nineteen centuries ago, is a ridiculous absurdity during these enlightened days. The only thing it is safe and proper to teach now is war, glorious (?) war.

"His Majesty" King Christian, of Denmark died on Jan. 29. Lucky for Denmark, however, there is another chunk of "majesty" in the shape of his son, to take his place. The country is safe.

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

WRITE

Western Clarion,

Box 836. VANCOUVER, B. C.

Marshall Field, the big Chicago merchant and financier, died the other day worth anywhere from $100,000,000 to $150,000,000. Through the capitalist press the public has since been treated to a delicious lot of guff and gush about the superlative virtues of this most wonderful man. The New York Globe considers his career to be "a most wholesome corrective of the idea that most of the very rich men of this country are possessors of tainted wealth that they have amassed by grabbing. What God or the community has made, or by oppressing labor, or by applying competition—throttling trust methods to business." He was probably kept so busy all his life producing the wealth represented by his millions that he had no time to play the usual capitalist skin game.

FROM SQUAMISH VALLEY.

On Saturday, the 20th inst., a meeting of the Socialists of Squamish Valley was held in the Public Hall, for the purpose of ascertaining our strength here and applying for official organization. In spite of cold weather and bad roads, enough supporters were present to justify us in applying for a charter. Besides the five who signed the application, there are at least half a dozen more whom weather conditions prevented from appearing. In the meantime, it was decided to form a league and to hold a meeting the next Saturday evening in commemoration of "Bloody Sunday." Accordingly during the ensuing week our members "got busy," with the result that on Saturday evening, the 27th. inst., an audience of about 30 men, women and children were present at the Hall. The majority of the voters present were acknowledged supporters of the Party. The rest were inspired with curiosity as to the intents and purposes of the meeting.

Comrade C. E. Kilby, who occupied the chair, opened the meeting with an address in which he briefly outlined the platform and policy of the Canadian Socialist Party, and sketched the evolution of society from primitive communism to the present system of capitalistic ownership of the means of wealth production

Comrade Alexander Stephen followed with a brief plea for the Russian proletariats now engaged in a life and death struggle for liberty and justice. Followinb this, a collection amounting to $5.00, was taken to buy arms and ammunition for our comrades in Russia. This amount, though small, is more than I have ever seen collected here for any of the itinerant missionaries of the Gospel who visit Squamish Valley.

After a few musical and lighter selections, the programme was closed by an address by Comrade Stephen, who dealt mainly with the misconceptions of Socialism prevalent here as elsewhere. He also outlined the method by which we propose to restore the resources and tools of production to the people.

This question of compensation seems the only one which seriously troubles many in the valley who would otherwise make good revolutionary Socialists.

The meeting was then thrown open for discussion. A "hot time" followed. For half an hour questions of all kinds were fired singly and in volleys by the audience. Comrade Kilby bore the brunt of battle bravely and answered all inquiries satisfactorily to the questioners. Excited groups prolonged the discussion after the meeting was closed. Socialism has come to stay in Squamish. It is the main subject of discussion on all occasions at present. We are now in hopes that the Vancouver Executive may see fit to send us a speaker as soon as possible to lend prestige to our movement.

Meanwhile we will keep the fire burning merrily. Glad, that even in this secluded valley we can keep in touch with the world-wide movement of our class and strong in the conviction that our cause must ultimately succeed. Yours fraternally,

ALEXANDER STEPHEN,
Secretary.

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