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THE WESTERN CLARION

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THE NEXT ACT IN WORLD DRAMA

Desperate and Bitter Contest With Government Ownership Next in Order Before Decks May be Cleared for Final Action in the Struggle of the Proletariat for Freedom.

The conflict over the distribution of labor's product is irrepressible, and in this conflict the only vantage ground from which any lasting success can be forced by either side is the control of the tools and natural resources. So the conflict is developing itself into one for ownership of the means of collective production and distribution. That its conclusion utimately is the common ownership of the things we depend upon in common is not in doubt. It is a question only when and how it will be. The theory has not been successfully controverted, and cannot be that the development of capitalist industry necessarily increases the number of those who are unavoidably unemployed and reduces the workers to a condition more and more unbearable. For this very reason it is clear that this capitalist system must and will be modified before it reaches its climax. There will be a transition rather than a catastrophe. But the aggregate evils of the transition may be greater than the sum of all the evils of any possible catastrophe. This transition to Socialism can be through a partial condition like that anticipated in Mr. Herbert Spencer's "Socialism, The Coming Slavery." But we are glad that we don't have to agree with Mr. Spencer that it is slavery that is coming.

Meanwhile the work of the Socialist agitators is first to discredit and destroy the popular belief in the normal and legal rights of capital. This work they are doing with right good success everywhere, arousing the workers to realization of the fact that capitalists have no rights as capitalists, and that they have no power themselves to enforce their pretensions. And the capitalists are lending us effective aid in this work. As it advances to completion, laws and usages will be modified to conform. Though the changes be by imperceptible increments, the result will be collective ownership of the means of collective production just as surely as if the necessary properties were immediately "confiscated." But the existing industrial and financial organization will not be so greatly shaken.

Public opinion of a nation turns as a great ship turns, imperceptibly to those who strain at the ropes. But the growing sentiment for public ownership shows that public opinion yields to physical necessities and the incessant Socialist agitation. Yet its advocates protest truly that they are no Socialists. Mr. Hearst says "We are not opposed to capitalism large or small." Socialists regard this radical movement with distrust and hostility, because by it alone can the time be delayed when much more will be gained than state capitalism. That the government should conduct the capitalist system is something to which we are just as much opposed as the capitalists themselves have been. But the campaign thunder of the Socialist Party has been stolen it seems. And so it must seem for a while to those who lose sight of the object to be gained by government ownership. Does the Socialist Party possess any great principle distinguishing it from other political parties which professional politicians canont steal? The Socialist movement was born in revolt against the horrors of poverty. It gets its whole philosophy by analyzing the modern industrial and financial system in search of the cause of poverty. Its aim, namely, to make the conditions of all employments prohibit the incomes which able bodied idlers draw through their ownership of the means of production and distribution, is as opposed to capitalist business and capitalist politics as light is to darkness or life is to death. Where one is the other is not. This principle no professional politician will adopt; and it is the only one worth stealing. We want full pay for the work we do, and government ownership if it is a means to this end. But government ownership will not in itself secure labor's product to those who produce it. This is sustained by the experience with government ownership abroad, of which there is very much more already established in European countries than is even proposed here. Yet it has not stopped the migration of hundreds of thousands each year to this country in search of better conditions of labor. Nevertheless it is expected that the movement for government ownership now being organized within and without the old political parties will swallow up the Socialist Party by becoming more and more radical, as though they would defeat it in the end by counterfeiting it.

To this new and shifty antagonist in the political field for public ownership not opposed to capitalism the Socialist Party will have to oppose more skill and political sagacity than is needed against the clumsy brutality of the old capitalism. Capitalist public ownership has certain points of immense advantage in a contest with the Socialist Party for immediate political success. Complete collectivism is not an issue at this time, and we cannot make it an issue. And, if we were in power to set about its establishment at once, we could hardly set about it in any other way beside that by which it is coming through the public ownership of public utilities by capitalist administration, though fundamentally different to the way it will come under Socialist administration. When we talk to the man on the street about a new system, it simply makes him tired. And when he will listen, we do not succeed in giving him a clear and positive understanding of what we mean by the new system, because the system will have to evolve itself. It is evolving itself. The thought of the complete subversion of the present order of things to replace it with our brand new system is too big. It overwhelms him and frightens him. We might do just as well if we did not worry him too much with it. We shall convince him more easily of the irreconcilable antagonism between his interests and the capitalist interests that finance the other poliical paries, and of he necessity for the political organization of his class against them. We cannot make a successful political party out of devotees of the Co-operative Commonwealth.

Most of those who are capable of understanding us are dominated by middle class morals and ideals. The majority of those who are incapable of understanding us are propertyless wage workers on whom we have a more unmistakable claim than on any other class. Capitalism has crushed hope out of many of them. One needs but to look into their blank hopeless countenances and meet their dull stare to be overwhelmed by a sense of how hopeless is the effort to inspire them with an ideal and arouse them to resistance. Out of those who study the problems involved the majority are holders of some small investments. And the more energetic and successful members of the wage working class hope themselves to become investors too; so that their morals and ideals are also the same. They hope to enjoy security and an income without labor. It is hopeless to appeal to their moral sensibilities against the inherent immorality of capitalism. Theft consists undoubtedly in the harm done to those whose goods are taken without recompense, because they are put to some pains to replace them. And the effect of obtaining goods without labor equal to their production is the same by whatever method it is done, and even if a partial recompense is given to satisfy the law. But honestly they do not regard it as wrong, and they hope to succeed by it. Often they are deeply religious. They hold some absurdly distorted notions of honor and patriotism which are sometimes as sincere as they are fantastic. But the commonplace morality is quite good enough for them. The clergy, who say they are divinely ordained to teach us morals, naturally resent the suggestion that there may be something of morals known or to be learned which their teachings do not comprehend, and they retort by attacking the Socialist philosophy. If a wage-worker has a small investment, and his predominant interest as a wage-worker is nine times greater than his interest as a capitalist, nevertheless he thinks of himself as a capitalist. He does not consider that whatever his employment, and whatever the name under which he receives compensation for that employment, his compensation must be less because of cheap labor in other employments. To him that political party appeals successfully which claims to serve both the interests of laborers wanting better wages and of business men who want to hire labor cheap, for he is in fact something of both laborer and capitalist himself.

The farmers regard Socialism with abhorrence, thinking that it threatens their possession of the land they till. Whereas the number of mortgaged farms and farms worked by tenants reaches the dimensions of a national calamity. Trusts and monopolies, especially the railroad monopoly, which taxes the farmers' goods both coming and going, skim off all the surplus of the farmers' annual income above the cost of the barest kind of living. But, while the financiers leave him title to the land, the farmer works under the delusion that he is an independent property owner, working for himself and family. The farmers, as a class, will vote for the government ownership of railroads, as that is not opposed to capitalism.

Meanwhile an attitude can be maintained by us, which, if it will not yet win them over, will at least command the respectful attention of that large class of workers who are also small investors, leaving us free to show clearly and forcibly that this government ownership lacks the very thing essential to make it worth while to them. The Socialist Party will doubtless put forth its utmost efforts to proclaim the fact that municipal and national ownership will be in the interest of that class which pays the campaign fund of the political party which administers it. But it is not true that government ownership administered by a capitalist party will be necessarily or positively of no benefit to the workers. And we shall defeat ourselves by attacking the people who are really working for government ownership in other organizations besides the Socialist Party. Violent denunciation of the leaders in whom they have confidence will not tend to destroy that confidence. At the same time it is incredible that the capitalists themselves would prove the correctness of the Socialist principle for us by a successful application of it, even if they undertake government ownership to stave off political defeat; and we shall have our opportunity by effective criticism to show the reasons of its failure. That public ownership after the fashion of the capitalist should be corrupt is inherent in the nature of it. It will be corrupt not only as capitalist business is corrupt, but even as measured by the moral standards of the trading class themselves. The public may expect no mercy and should deserve none when they choose to have the purchase of properties from public service corporations negotiated for them by the politicians who prove themselves attorneys, so to speak of the capitalist owners of these corporations. Government industries administered by professional politicians are often disgracefully inefficient and usually unprogressive, resisting the introduction of improved methods and devices. But these things will be learned by experience.

If this public ownership party which is not opposed to capitalism great or small is to accomplish anything at all, it must accomplish it at the expense of the great capitalists. Money must be gotten by taxation to pay for the properties designed for government ownership. Since it will be difficult or impossible to collect this from the wage workers, already reduced to the barest necessities, the property owners will pay it. Purchase by the issue of bonds will gain nothing. It gives government guarantee of the incomes which it is the object to reduce. For the bonds must be at least as good as an investment in order to be worth as much as the stocks they are issued to pay for. In fact, it is possible to get government ownership only by taxing in the largest proportion the very people who own the properties the government would buy. The capitalists oppose with all their might having the money taken from them by taxation to pay for the properties taxed. It is, in fact, confiscation. By no means will they be tricked or urged into supporting a political party for any such purpose, though they might gladly exchange their stocks for government bonds. The great capitalists show no hesitation in declaring themselves opposed to government ownership and will present a powerful and determined opposition to it. On every field of industrial and political conflict they have defeated the little business man who renews his hope of self preservation by this movement for government ownership of the big capitalist's business. Into the world wide titanic struggle it comes with no more inspiring motive than the business interests of the petty traders and no other definite principle to determine its course. Its advocates among the petty traders have no new weapons and none so good that their old opponents do not have much better. This movement trims its course to the wavering and conflicting purposes of the little capitalists, a demoralized and failing class. It possesses no principle that is not equally well adopted by any old political machine whenever it becomes useful for political purposes. It can pursue no definite course, therefore, with steadiness and confidence. Its contemptible weapons of trading for what it can get and compromising where no honorable and lasting compromise is possible will be soon lost in the confusion of its indecision. Nor is it by any means possible that the matter will be left to rest with its failure. Some relief from the increasing economic pressure will be gotten. And failure of half-hearted measures can but make the demand for it more uncompromising and peremptory. Compromise after compromise will indeed be wrung from the great capitalists, but not by those who seek compromise. Compromise they will yield only to blunt the sharpness of the demand for much more and to prevent the immediate effectiveness of Socialist agitation. And, indeed, is the approaching climax of capitalism in this most advanced of capitalist nations so slow and so far off that relief can be felt from such a doubtful and trifling concession as this government ownership? It has been yielded already by the less developed capitalism of Europe without preventing the rapid increase in the Socalist vote there. If no war or other world calamity intervenes to relieve the overproduction of capitalism and postpone again the industrial depression which Mr. Rockefeller says may be expected in the next two years, the Socialistic sentimen that expresses itself in a hesitating demand for government ownership may crystallize suddenly into Socialist conviction and determination. We may then expect here what has happened abroad, first in Germany, then in France, and now in England, a magnificent increase in the Socialist vote.

Warren Atkinson, in International Socialist Review.
New York, September, 1906.

SOME RECENT GLORIOUS UNION LABOR "VICTORIES."

After all the fuss and turmoil which accompanied the strike of the Hamilton street railway employees, they are now back at work—that is, those of them that the company feel justified in employing those who were conspicuously obnoxious, it is openly asserted, will not be taken back. A couple of hundred sympathizers who were so foolish as to continue to obstruct and assault the property of the railway company, even in the face of the armed militia and police are nursing sore heads and bruised bodies, and one at least who took part in the disturbances will serve two years in jail.

At Lethbridge, where the coal miners have been on strike for some time, a "settlement" has been effected and the men have returned to work without establishing the principle of the "closed shop."

At Fernie much the same sort of compromise has been arranged, the men notifying the comapny they were ready to go to work after an industrial struggle lasting some months, and asked for a train in the morning to take them to the mine. The company not providing this accomodation they walked, and as many as the company "could find places for" were put to work.

For years we have had it dinned into our ears that the union was the only salvation of the wage earner. Hardly a person who has paid any attention to these matters at all but will be familiar with the tactics pursued by the trade and labor unions in their endeavors to raise or maintain wages—by strike, boycott and "patronize the union label," and many there are who still believe in the potency of these weapons. May we beforgiven if we regard them in the light of broken staffs and the ones who are relying on them as the sole equipment of labor's arsenal as more to be pitied than anything else.

But while we may regard with pity those who are so blind as not to see that these methods can only result in such "victories" as the three above quoted, how are we to regard those who knowing the inevitable consequences of such action will yet encourage others to cling to these weak and foolish attempts to pit their empty stomachs against the property holdings of the industrial lords, who are entrenched behind and backed up by all the powers of the state—military, police and judiciary? How are we to regard those who after witnessing their deluded following go down in one defeat after another will yet persist in calling the attempt of workingmen to combine in order to raise wages in an overstocked labor market, the only labor movement? We hesitate to apply a term for fear of doing an injustice to some who honestly strive thus because they know no better way.

The trade union movement is generally led and fostered by those organized trades who by reason of possessing a skill which differentiates them from common labor are in a position, by trade union combination, to effect better selling terms on the part of its members for this particular kind of labor-power over the supply of which they have some control. And because unionism, under these circumstances, is applicable to them as a portion of the working class they proclaim that the same tactics can be pursued by all with like results. The idea is fallacious, but the pity of it is that those workingmen who act on this idea, because they can see no other hope of relief, follow it tenaciously and consistently to its logical outcome—which was the clubs of the police and the bayonets of the militia in the Hamilton instance and the actual spilling of blood in Quebec.

There is a labor movement, however, and a field of activity in which labor is absolutely invincible. That movement is the Socialist movement and that field is the field of politics. The wage-earners of the Dominion are in the majority. A political platform which will express their class interests must eventually command their consideration and support. As their interests lie in setting themselves free from capitalist exploitation and in the abolition of capitalist property in order that they may be the masters of the productive property with which they create the wealth of the country they are bound sooner or later to be driven we be forgiven if we regard them in emancipation, as there is no other road they can travel by.

And although we may deplore the starvings, and clubbings, and beyonettings and heartrending conditions to take the political road to their rebels against the exactions of capitalist production, yet it seems to be a necessary part of their progress towards sane action and the process of getting their eyes opened; and no one will rejoice more than the Socialist when that time arrives.

Proletary, in Winnipeg Voice.

IN THE DEAR LAND OF FREEDOM

A New York Workingman Lured by the Rainbow of Promise into one of Capitals' Slave Camps in Southern Florida Writes Interestingly of his Trip.

Key West, Fla., Nov. 8, 1906.—I am writing this letter by moonlight as I lie in my muddy tent, supposed to be asleep Did the guards, who pace the watches of the night, know what I am doing, my hide wouldn't hold shucks, for I am in a slave camp in Southern Florida, and I am supposed to be dead to the rest of the world. But I am not dead by a long shot. On the contrary, I am very much alive, and, ere many moons have passed, my present boss, Mr. Flagler, the far-famed emperor of Florida, will find it out. For I am going to present a truthful portrayal of industrial conditions as they actually exist in the slave camps here in Florida, and the first situation that I shall deal with will be the East Coast Florida Extension Railway.

Hired by a Labor Agency.

It was in New York that I first received an invitation to migrate south by a labor agent representing the Flagler interests in Florida. With several hundred others, I was handed a glowing description of the conditions that surrounded the life of the workingman in Dixie. I was told that the air was soft and the days full of sunshine, the nights such as to make those of Italy and Sicily black with darkness and green with envy, and that the climate was all the human soul could hope for. Southern Florida, I was told, was a land where all seasons were summer and where fruit o f all kinds was plentiful and lusciously golden. On the Fertile Islands, where I was to labor but lightly a few hours every day, there were no swamps, no malaria and no mosquitoes. There, in that paradise of delight, the bosses were all "Southern gentlemen," who were too well bred to evencast a sour glance at a recalcitrant workingman. It was a labor of love, the stunts among those Fertile Islands, laying the foundations of the East Coast Florida Extension Railway. It was outside work, away from the smoke and grime of the cruel city, and it was glorious and health-giving exercise to toil within easy sight of the waving palmettos, and not too far distant from a luxurious bath in the mellow surf.

Allured With Perfidious Promises.

I listened to the spell-binding story of the labor agent, and was caught with his honeyed words. The miserable existence I had eked out in Gotham rose in my memory to give emphasis to my desire, and, without more ado, I signed my name to the long list of the disinherited who were going South to find a home in freedom. At half past two o'clock in the afternoon I trod the steerage of a tramp steamer, as she weighed anchor and turned her prow towards Sandy Hook, preparatory to a glorious cruise down the coast. I looked back at the smoky city, and silently thanked God that Fertile Islands lay to the south, for in those islands, I mused, I would everlastingly escape the infernal wage slavery I had so long endured in her roaring, sweating hell-shops.

The labor agent told me that my passage to Florida would cost only $12, and that I could repay the company, after I landed, at the rate of $1 per week. After we had been out at sea for three hours, another agent came around and informed me that the passage amounted to $25, and that unless I had the cash in hand I must sign a book which he had upturned to my view. In vain I reviewed my bargain with the New York agent, and remonstrated against the injustice of the present demand. I had to either sign the book, or submit to arrest upon my arrival at Jacksonville. There being no other alternative, I attached my signature to the page. Little did I dream that I was virtually selling myself into chattel slavery when I signed that book!

From Jacksonville in Box Cars.

At length port was made, and we were hustled from the boat to the wharf and thence to a train of box cars that were waiting on a nearby siding. I wondered why we were being crowded into those dirty-cramped box cars; but I had not long to wait. In less than an hour two whistles from the front announced something doing, and a moment later we were off. The car in which I was placed was crowded with a miscellaneous assortment of unkept humanity, and I felt miserably out of sorts. All day we traveled, through a strange country of wild woods and swamps and dejected little rice and cotton farms. Negroes grinned and showed their teeth as we wound in and out from one turpentine camp to another—grinned in a knowing way, and winked to one another, as we slowly sped on our course. Late in the afternoon the train halted at a siding, to the right of which was a water-tank and a coal-bin. While the engine coaled and watered, we were told to get ready for supper. In the hurry and excitement incident to getting aboard at Jacksonville I overlooked the "boarding car" away up near the head of the train. Without washing, we scrambled along the vine-grown embankment to the "boarding car," where, as we passed in line, we were each handed hunks of black bread, bits of fat pork, and a cup of black coffee, sugarless and flavorless and altogether unsatisfactory. The meal disposed of, we were ordered back into the cars in order that the journey might be resumed. And, oh, that journey! How shall I describe it? What, with gnats and mosquitoes and heat and stifling oppression, by reason of the cramped quarters, it was the worst night I had ever endured. I have spent many nights more intolerable than that since my incarceration in this camp, but that was my first experience of the kind.

In the Florida Swamps.

Nothing shall be said of the rest of the journey. Suffice it to mention that after two more days and nights of travel and travail we finally emerged into an opening beside one of the dismalist swamps that ever lay, dank and dark, beneath the vine-embowered foliage of southern Florida. Here we were unloaded and investigated. Every man was compelled to line up and submit to a personal search. This was done to secure such weapons as might be concealed anywhere about. This process finished, we were marched across country to the camp, which was to be our home.

I have neglected to state that with our journey across Florida by freight was commenced a career of abuse against us by the men who styled themselves our "bosses." We had long since ceased to be treated with even ordinary civility. Opprobrious epithets were applied to us when our attention was needed. This man and that were singled out and ordered to do or cease doing with a nonchalance that was frightful as it was menacing. When well in to the swamps the bosses boldly uncovered their revolvers and wore them at their sides in plain sight of all. The further we progressed the wider grew the chasm of hatred between the workingmen and their "gentlemanly" masters. By the time we reached camp, most of us were ready for open rebellion; but, unarmed as we were, what could we do? We were miles from civilization, in the midst of swamps reeking with snakes and disease, and we knew not which way to turn were escape possible.

Uses the Mail in Spite of Bosses.

I have been here five days, and the conditions are like unto a living death. Most of the 3,000 men scattered through the camps here are ignorant, coarse, and inured to a life of slavery. They work and whine and mumble their discontent when the boss is not looking, but none of them possesses the ingenuity or the audacity to escape. I have managed to establish mail connections with Key West, from which place my correspondence will be sent to Atlanta, Ga., where in turn it will be forwarded to the Appeal to Reason. —Special Correspondence to the Appeal to Reason.

STILL SMOULDERING.

William English Walling, the well known magazine writer on labor subjects, has just returned from an extended tour of investigation in Russia, accompanied by Mrs. Walling (formerly Anna Strunsky), and will at once write a book of his experiences in the land of tyranny, while Mrs. Walling will deliver lectures for the benefit of the Russian cause of freedom. Mr. Walling declares that the revolution is progressing more strongly and successfully today than ever before, but that all news discouraging to the government is suppressed wherever possible in order to protect Russian credits. Mr. Walling says that a new and powerful organization has made its appearance. It is called the "Moximatists," who use all the former methods of the terrorists, and at the same time carry on a guerrilla warfare. The "Moximatists" are the raiders who hold up banks, express trains and every government institution that is known to have money, and all funds thus obtained are utilized in purchasing more arms and ammunition for the people. The peasants are particularly active in this new organization, the strength and influence of which is spreading through the country like a prairie fire. According to Mr. Walling, a state of war exists in Russia that will burst forth like a mighty volcano as soon as the workingmen in the cities and the peasants are fairly well armed. The present ruling class is doomed.—Cleveland Citizen.

"Shall the wives of workingmen go into factories and shops?" asks an exchange. That largely depends upon whether they can get a job there or not. It would be advisable to consult the owner about it.

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THE TRUE SOLUTION.

The most serious problem confronting the labor-skinning fraternity of British Columbia at present is that of cheap labor. For some inscrutable reason the labor market seems to have been rather cleaned out of those choice and juicy tidbits of labor-power, the exceeding cheapness of which was wont to bring joy to the heart of the hungry profitmongers during recent years. The impecunious laborer whose condition of poverty rendered him the helpless victim of the employer, in the matter of wages, being less plentiful, joy has turned into a heartburning most consumingly painful. Of course every student of capitalist production understands that the present is merely a period of very rapid expansion of capital that must inevitably be followed by a period of stagnation during which less labor will be employed and the tendency of prices will be to seek the level obtaining previous to the present inflation, or to sink even below it. It is a mathematical impossibility that the present rate of capitalist activity should continue for any extended period of time. The reaction is bound to come and the seller of the commodity labor-power will be the first to feel its effect. It, therefore, stands the laborer in hand to make the most of the present opportunity to obtain as much as he can in the shape of wages in order to be able to tide over the period of adversity that is sure to come.

Although a period of activity is now on and the supply of available labor in the market is somewhat less than was formerly the case, the fact still remains that the average wage in British Columbia is not, even now, so large as to insure its recipient in the acquisition of a fortune. Taking into consideration the prices of the things the wage-earner has to purchase it will go little, if any, farther than the wage received during normal times.

Be that as it may, however, the labor-skinner has a constitutional aversion to paying wages that even look large as expressed in money. In fact, it is characteristic of the breed to be dominated by an over-mastering desire to get their work done for as near nothing as possible. Ideal conditions, to them, are expressed by a labor-market filled to overflowing with laborers whose impecuniosity is so pronounced as to make it possible for the labor-skinner to secure the choicest of specimens for a song. In other words, the labor-market should be a sort of bargain counter or rummage sale.

There has been a good deal of adverse criticism re the importation of Asiatic labor into the Dominion. The unrestricted importation of Asiatics is almost sure to stir up a nasty and rebellious agitation among the white workers of the province. The labor-famine that is gnawing at the vitals (pocketbooks) of the labor-skinners, however, must be broken and their present sufferings brought to an end. According to the Victoria "Week," a "true solution" of the difficulty has now been found that can be applied without awakening the unreasonable prejudice which the white workingman entertains for his fellow-heathen of Asiatic persuasion. This solution lies in the importation of workingmen and women from the British Isles. To quote the "Week":

"This is exactly the policy which the Provincial Government, through Mr. Tatlow, has just been able to carry to a successful issue. By a definite contract with Commissioner Coombs, the Salvation Army has agreed to bring out and locate in British Columbia some thousands of suitable Englishmen, who will be available either as hired laborers or in some instances as settlers. In addition, the contract provides for a supply of female domestic servants. By this double-barrelled arrangement the most pressing needs of the labor market will be supplied, for next to the demand for manual labor in the various industries, the greatest need undoubtedly is for suitable help in the homes of the province."

While the advent of the chief guy of the Salvation Army for the Dominion of Canada upon the scene may be taken as a wise dispensation of providence, no small credit is due the efficient finance minister for the well-developed perspicacity that enabled him to recognize the divine messenger as soon as he hove in sight. A finance minister who would be unable to see an opportunity when it presented itself and lacked the courage to seize it, would be unfitted for any more exalted position than cashier in a Chinese hash house.

That the Provincial Government is to come to the relief of the famine victims, by aiding the importation of the much-needed supplies, speaks volumes for its tender solicitude upon behalf of that portion of the community that is absolutely incapable of providing its own sustenance and must, therefore, depend upon sapping its substance from those who are not only capable of supporting themselves, but the idle, shiftless and useless as well. It establishes the paternalistic character of the government beyond a doubt. If our dearly beloved masters are too shiftless to do their own work and their feminine belongings too lazy to empty their own slops, it is eminently meet and proper that "our" government should come to the rescue by importing, or assisting in the importation of, more slaves to do it for them. In their assisting to assuage the heartburnings of the worthless profit-hungry crew whose tools they are, not only will government prove true to its mission, but the red sweater and poke bonnet brigade will make good their claim to the title of "Salvation Army." If the scheme works out successfully the profit-hungry will be saved the further agony of paying "high wages," and their wives the agony of waiting on themselves.

It is undoubtedly true that large numbers of working people can be induced to come to British Columbia from the old country. Ground down to a narrow and uncertain existence through centuries of capitalist tyranny and oppression they will grasp at a possible chance to escape from their misery and their servitude.

To induce them to come over, their ears will be regaled with seductive stories regarding the felicitous conditions surrounding the workingman in this favored spot. Nine-tenths of that told to them will be unadulterated falsehood while the remaining tenth may be safely taken only with the proverbial grain of salt.

The action of the government in this matter once more proclaims the class character of this venerable institution. Springing from class interests, it must inevitably respond to class needs. The instrument of a ruling class, it must leave no stone unturned to protect the interests of that class and afford it succor in the hour of its distress. That hour comes when conditions surrounding its slaves become such as to make it possible for them to obtain a few crumbs in excess of the actual amount necessary to keep lives in their miserable carcasses.

The interest of British Columbia wage-earners demands that no efforts be put forth to cause an influx of laborers from any other part of the earth. The conditions here at present are barely tolerable. To say the least, they are none too good. The effort of the present government to bring in thousands of laborers, the result of which can only be to make conditions worse, should be resented by every workingman in the province. It can only be resented by the return of a sufficient number of Socialist candidates to insure the prevention of any further action of this sort by the government of this province.

The workers of every country on earth should, as far as possible, remain where they are and fight the class struggle with their masters to a finish. So long as they allow themselves to be led from pillar to post by the sneaking knaves of capitalism, either pious or profane, so long are they unwittingly instrumental in delaying the deliverance of enslaved labor from the thraldom of capitalist exploitation.

The break made by Tatlow and his band of politicians, in effecting an open partnership with that notorious slave importing concern known as the Salvation Army, is an excellent one to make at this stage of the game. An election is coming on and it will be made good use of for the purpose of putting the Conservative humbugs on the same road to oblivion that their Liberal counterpart is now so successfully travelling.

CAPITAL.

Probably no term is more frequently used and less understood than the term capital. This is true not only of the devotees of the existing order of society, but of many Socialists as well. The editor of what passes as one of the leading Socialist publications recently stated, in substance, that the Socialist has no quarrel with capital but has a most decided aversion to the capitalist, and purposed to abolish him by making all people capitalists. This was to be accomplished by making the people as a whole the owners of capital. A more ridiculous assumption could scarce be imagined, and even the most careless examination of, or inquiry into, the nature of capital will disclose its ridiculousness.

Upon the face of it, the means of production appear as capital. The conclusion is quite naturally arrived at that any person owning such means of production is, of course, a capitalist. Consequently, if the people as a whole owned the means of production, upon which they depend for their existence, all would become capitalists.

In order to arrive at anything like a correct understanding of capital, and the peculiar circumstances that endows the individual person with the title of capitalist, it is necessary to inquire into the nature of capital itself and ascertain, if possible, what it expresses, or the particular function it may perform in the daily life of a people. If the latter be fully understood the former will be made equally plain.

The function of capital is to bring to its owner, the capitalist, as the expression goes, profit. Ask of any capitalist why he makes an investment, and he will answer, because he expects to reap a profit thereby. The dullest one in the lot is not so stupid as to be unconscious of the fact that to make an investment of the means at his command in any venture that was sure of proving a losing one would nullify the purpose lying behind the making of an investment and strip from him the garb of capitalist. Hence, unless his capital successfully performs its true function of bringing him profit it is only a matter of time until he would find himself in the non-capitalist class. Although he might still remain in undisputed ownership of means of production, say, for instance, a factory, he would have lost his position as capitalist because his holdings of property could no longer be used as a medium through which the function of capital, i.e., to make profit—could be expressed. Were it even possible for him to turn to and operate his factory by his own labor the output would acrue to him, not as profit upon his investment, but merely as a return for his own labor expended in its operation.

It may be seen from this that the means of production, though nominally appearing under certain circumstances as capital, are not in themselves capital. Under such circumstances they afford a medium through which, or by which, capital may perform its special function in the present scheme of things. With such circumstances lacking capital vanishes. The capitalist depends for his profits upon the labor of those who, perforce, depend upon his property in the means of production for their living. By purchasing the labor-power of such, as a commodity in the market, and utilizing it in the operations of his instruments of production our capitalist finds hmself in possession of whatever volume of wealth may result from the expenditure of this labor-power. Under such circumstances the labor-power of the workman can be converted into the food, etc., necessary to perpetuate his existence, only by selling it to the capitalist. Out of the wealth produced by its expenditure the capitalist recovers the amount expended for the labor-power and retains the balance as a profit. His ownership of the means of production upon which the workers depend for their existence affords a medium by which the wealth they produce passes into the possession of the capitalist. By this means capital performs its function of gathering profits from the toil and sweat of wealth producers.

Capital, then, expresses the relationship existing between exploiter and exploited. The present form of ownership establishes the relationship and makes its expression not only possible but inevitable. With the ownership of the means of production transferred from the capitalist class to society as a whole, this relationship is destroyed because the medium through which it is expressed—capitalist property—no longer exists. Capital vanishes; the capitalist stripped of his power to exploit his fellows, through his ownership of the means of production upon which they depend for their existence, becomes merely an individual member of society with the same rights and privileges as the rest.

The Socialist wages persistent warfare against capital, but not against the capitalist as an individual. The capitalist and the wage-slave are legitimate creatures of the present system of property in the means of wealth production. They are not responsible for the system, but on the contrary the system is responsible for them. So long as the means of production upon which all depend for their existence, and which, by reason of the gigantic and complicated nature of the instruments in vogue, can only be operated co-operatively, remain the property of a part of society, the capitalist and the wage-slave will remain with us. As the one exists by virtue of the existence of the other, that which dispenses with the one will do away with both. They are twins bound together by the nexus of the present system of property which will admit of no other relationship. When that nexus is broken, rigor mortis in oblivion for the pair of them.

BUSINESS.

This is pre-eminently an age of business. Everywhere is buying and selling. Every attribute of humankind, from the ability to shovel sand to that of painting human aspirations and emotions in words of living fire, is a thing for barter and sale in the market, the price largely determined by the necessities of the seller. If they be pressing even the honor of manhood and the virtue of womanhood will bring but a trifle in the market, and either will be bought with a little conscience or scruple as though the purchaser were bargaining for a plug of tobacco or a pair of shoestrings.

Every individual of the great throng that we call human society depends solely upon this buying and selling for his very existence. He or she who have nothing to sell, or to be sold in their behalf, are in a sad way, because without this they can not purchase the things necessary to a continuation of their existence. The workman must sell his power to labor, the farmer must sell his crops, the merchant must sell his wares, the factory lord must sell the output of his factory, the professional man must sell his talents, and the woman with nothing else to sell must part with her virtue, for the price they will fetch in a market that responds solely to the law of supply and demand. Each and all must sell or perish, in this glorious business era. Man is supposed to stand head and shoulders above all other animals in point of intelligence. In fact, from his lofty intellectual pinnacle, he disdains to grant the so-called lower animals the possession of anything better than instinct to guide them in their actions. Of all the animals of the earth, however, there is not one that appears capable of making the enjoyment of life such a clumsy, awkward, ludicrous and ghastly failure as man. Amongst all of his tribe it is rare indeed to find an individual whose appearance indicates close familiarity with a wholesome and hearty enjoyment of life. The bulk of humankind carry with them an unmistakably timid and frightened look strangely suggestive of an ever-present fear of want or the momentarily expected appearance of a bill collector. Occasional specimens may be found that at first glance appear to enjoy life in all its fullness, but upon closer inspection they afford an intellectual effluvium strongly suggestive of a fat hog wallowing in a swill-trough.

Day in and day out the human animal pursues his time-honored avocation of buying and selling. Rarely, if ever, does a thought of anything else enter his head. To buy cheap and sell dear is his "cloud by day and pillar of fire by night."

Business is merely the traffic in human flesh, bone, muscle and marrow, either as it is actually embodied in the carcass of the workingman himself or coined into the commodities produced by his labor. It could not exist without labor was enslaved and robbed. This robbery is the motive power that impels the juggernaut of business along its bloody pathway, leaving poverty, misery, vice, crime and corruption in its wake. Were the producers of wealth not shackled, and plundered of their product, there would be no business; no buying and selling with all of its lying, cheating, trickery, deceit and swindle; no more coining of the honor of manhood, the virtue of womanhood and the innocence of childhood into profits for the business world in the factory, mine and sweatshop hells of capital.

Enslaved labor carries upon its bent back the crushing load of all of this degrading and vulgar business civilization. Every dollar of exchange value that is bandied about and passed from hnad to hand among the traders and traffickers in human flesh and its by-products (commodities) is wrung from the laborers under the lash of a slavery more reckless, unscrupulous and vulgar than ever previously existed. It is a slavery of the office, counting-room, ledger, cash book, title deed, mortgage stocks, bonds, etc. The masters are business men, backed by a government run on business principles. The basic principle of business is to seize the products of labor and have a regular monkey and parrot time over the division of the spoils.

Capitalist production, under its enphonious name of business, has split human society into the two warring factions known as capitalists and wage-slaves. The ever increasing conflict of interest between them threatens at any moment to become so intensified as to be capable of settlement only at the cost of oceans of blood, and widespread destruction. The life of the slaves is becoming each day more unbearable, the efforts of the masters to hold them in subjection and wring even greater profits from their carcasses more determined, unscrupulous and drastic. In the field of capitalist production there is, there can be, no peace. Temporary tranquility there may be, but it is only equivalent to a truce to be broken at any moment either party may deem propitious.

A slave civilization cannot long survive. Either the smoldering fires of rebellion among the slaves will be fanned into the fierce flames of revolution, by the consuming passion for liberty that never dies in the human breast, and such a civilization perish 'neath the "iron sandal," or it will stew to death in its own corruption and rottenness, a corruption and rottenness that is the inevitable consequence of the slave virus in its blood.

Oh, business! Thou mighty magician that hath with thy magic wand turned the earth into a shambles where men, women and children are slaughtered to thy great glory and profit, we acknowledge thy power. Upon every hand we gather proof of thy magnificence. Thousands of miserably paid and cruelly harried wage-slaves; thousands more whose tenure of life hangs by the mere thread of occasional employment; the vast army of little children, the necessities of whose parents compel them to be sold into thy factories and mills; the countless thousands of the gentler sex whom thy tender mercy forces upon the street and into the red-light district; the jails, the almhouses, workhouses and penitentaries; these are thy products and along with a multitude more of similar hue, proclaim the glory of thy reign. In adoration of thee we are so carried away by thy virtues, that every time we mention thy name it leaveth a vile taste in the mouth, and an odor ariseth to the nostril strangely suggestive of numerous things that would be unprintable even in a capitalist newspaper bonused by the government.

Hurrah for the continued rule of business. Should it ever be threatened, let every wage-slave to the rescue.

Right upon the heels of the arrangement between Starvation Army Coombs and Finance Minister Tatlow to bring some thousands of workers from the old country to break the alleged labor famine in British Columbia, comes an appeal from Coombs' "army" of bums for assistance in supplying Christmas dinners to 300 "deserving poor" in this city. It would appear to be up to Tatlow, Coombs and Co. to explain why such a lusty crop of "deserving poor" alongside of a "labor famine" so desperate as to require the importation of some shiploads of relief in the shape of workers from the old country. If any tender-hearted Vancouverite wishes to contribute to the Christmas cheer of some needy person or family, by calling at this office he will be informed how to do so without the danger of being used as a means of tucking turkey, plum pudding and other good things into the bellies of a horde of ensigns, adjutants, staff captains, brigadiers, Commissioner Coombs, old Booths and other such hypocritical nuisances and humbugs.

That astute and eminently accurate Liberal journal, the Vancouver World (God save us), declares, "there is great prosperity in store for the Pacific province (B. C.), when the government shall have undergone a process of purification at the ballot-box and the reign of grafters and scarlet women shall have come to an end." While it is probably true that the province will be at least a peaceful abiding place for decent people after the workingmen have effected the aforesaid purification, still it is not altogether appropriate for one wing of the unclean gang that has so long polluted it, to apply such coarse, though perhaps truthful, epithets to the other. It savors too much of "Satan rebuking sin," or the "pot calling the kettle black." Such vindictive ebullitions of temper are most unseemly between political brethren born of the same swinish parent — capitalism—and reared at the same swill-trough of profit-mongering. Come to think of it, however, it is not the hog at the trough who sets up the loudest squeal.

A leader of the Doukhobors, the Russian exiles who took refuge in Canada, is now in St. Petersburg, Russia, for the purpose of obtaining permission for the exiles return to their native land. It is understood the permission is to be granted. After running around Winnipeg in the dead of winter, without any clothes on, looking for Christ, the Doukhobors have probably came to the conclusion that he would be more easily caught in Russia.

Considerable discussion is being indulged in over the respective value of boiled or raw milk as food for babies. The only way to settle the matter as far as infants of the working class are concerned is to ascertain which kind will soonest bring them to fit condition for the factory and sweatshop.

A dozen impious Austrians recently broke into some sort of a joss-house, chopped up a few monks and other furniture, crucified an abbot and carried off such grossly material stuff as the gold and silver that had mysteriously accumulated around the shop. The spiritual goods had been so cunningly secreted by the abbot and his monks that the robbers couldn't locate them.

Union Directory

When They Meet; Where They Meet.

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

International Association of Bridge and Structural Ironworkers, Local No. 97, meets in Labor Hall, first and third Friday of the month at 8 p. m. H. J. Parker, Recording Secretary, Room 9, 66 Cordova Street W.

Phoenix Miners' Union, No. 8, W. F. M. Meets every Saturday evening at 7.30 o'clock in Miners' hall. John McInnis, President, Walter Morrison, 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 every alternate Tuesday. D. G. McKenzie, Secretary, Box 836, Vancouver, B. C.

Dominion Executive Committee, Socialist Party of Canada. Meets every alternate Tuesday. J. G. Morgan, Secretary, 551 Barnard 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 p. m., in Sullivan Hall, Cordova Street. Frederic Perry, Secretary, Box 836, Vancouver, B. C.

Local Toronto, S. P. of C.—Meets every Sunday 3 p. m. at Davis Hall, corner Queen and Spadina Avenues. F. Dale, Secretary, 41 Henry Street. Finnish Branch meets Sunday nights, same hall. Jewish Branch, Sunday nights, at 185 1-2 Queen St. West.

Local Winnipeg, S. P. of C., meets every Sunday, in Trades Hall, at 2:30 p. m. J. Coxon, Secretary, 226 Princess St., Winnipeg, Man.

Local Nelson, S. P. of C.—Meets every Friday evening at 8 p.m., in Miners' Union Hall, Nelson B. C. A. W. Harrod, Organizer.

J. Edward Bird, A. C. Brydon-Jack
BIRD & BRYDON-JACK
BARRISTERS, SOLICITORS, ETC.
Tel. 839. P.O. Box, 982.
324 Hastings St. . . Vancouver, B.C.

PARTY MATTERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

These columns have been placed at the disposal of the Party. Secretaries of Locals are requested to take advantage of them in, at intervals, reporting conditions in their respective localities. Communications under this head should be addressed to the Dominion or Provincial Secretaries. Local secretaries are further requested to look to these columns for announcements from the Executive Committees. By this means the business of the Party will be facilitated and the Dominion and Provincial secretaries relieved of a little of the increasing burden of correspondence.

TO STUDENTS OF SOCIALISM.

In order to afford comrades an easy access to standard works on Socialism, the committee has decided to lay in a stock of literature. The following are on hand and will be sent post-paid to any address at prices quoted. Two-cent stamps will be accepted for sums not exceeding 25 cents:

The Origin of the Family, (F. Engels)	.50
The Social Revolution (Karl Kautsky)	.50
The World's Revolutions (Ernest Untermann)	.50
The Socialists, who they are and what they stand for, (John Spargo) ....$	.50
The Evolution of Man (Boische)	.50
Modern Socialism (Chas. H. Vail)	.25
Class Struggles in America (A. M. Simons)	.10
The Communist Manifesto, Karl Marx .....10 cents	
Socialism, Utopian and Scientific, Marx & Engels...10 cents	
Wage, Labor and Capital, Karl Marx ..... 6 cents	
The Mission of the Working Class. Chas. Vail	.05
Socialism and Farmers, A. M. Simons .... 5 cents	

Other works procured to order.

Address the Literature Agent, Box 836, Vancouver, B. C.

TO SECRETARIES OF LOCALS LIST OF SUPPLIES.

Constitutions, per dozen .....$	.35
Membership cards, each	.01
Application blanks (with platform) per 100	.25

The committee being a stockholder in the co-operative publishing house of Chas. Kerr & Co., can procure literature for the locals at cost.

Campaign fund receipt books are now ready and will be furnished to locals at 10 cents each.

PROVINCIAL ORGANIZING FUND.

The following amounts received up to date:

Previously acknowledged... ..$134.80	
J. H. Burrough	2.50
L. White	2.50
Total $139.80	

CENTRAL CAMPAIGN FUND.

It has been decided by the Provincial Executive to build up a central fund to be used in generally assisting in the coming campaign and more especially for the purpose of printing and distributing campaign literature.

All comrades wishing to collect for this fund should at once apply to the provincial secretary for a receipt book. No effort should be spared in building up this fund.

The following amounts received up to date:

Previously acknowledged $41.50	
Six Clarion Subs. .. ..$ 3.00	
Total $44.50	

Forward all contributions to Provincial Secretary.

VANCOUVER LOCAL, NO. 1

Regular business meeting, Dec. 10, Comrade Mills in the chair.

Minutes of previous meeting read and approved.

The following applicants admitted to membership: H. R. Siemen, Dan Johanson, Felix Myntti, John Maikson.

Warrants ordered drawn for the following sums:

Coal $2.50	
Light 2.05	
Due Stamps 5.00	
Rent of Sullivan Hall 3.50	
Literature Agent 2.35	
Cleaning Headquarters 50	

Nomination meeting postponed till first Monday after proclamation of election.

Comrade Stebbings appointed chairman for next Sunday.

Program committee instructed to procure a speaker from Seattle for next Sunday.

Receipts.

Donations towards Convention Assessment $3.00	
Collection Sunday 4.50	
Literature 2.35	
Dues 11.25	
Donation 25	

Adjournment.

FREDERIC PERRY, Secretary.

Great business activity is reported at Odessa, Russia. On Dec. 12 the bank clearings amounted to $14,500. This was largely due to heavy purchases of fire-arms for the revolutionists.

THE EDUCATIONAL FORCES OF SOCIETY

By W. J. CURRY.

Continued from last issue.

The Educational Effects of Theology.

One of the main functions of the church is to teach that the great object of life is to prepare for death, and that the fleeting moments spent in this "vale of tears" should be employed in savng our poor little souls from beng eternally damned by our lovng Creator.

If one's mental structure can be sufficently twisted to accept this proposition it is evident that the victims can never be much force in the social regeneration of mankind, and this is exactly what the ruling class desires.

The expression of free thought is the unpardonable sin., because the doctrines of hell and purgatory are the economic key-stones of modern theology, and are important buttresses of capital society. Without the superstitious fear of things here and hereafter the whole structure of class rule would crumble to dust.

The proletarian, however, has little sympathy wth the church and the instructions handed down by Paul and Peter for "servants to obey their masters," to "submit themselves to every ordinance of man, whether of king's or governor's," have litde effect on the wage-earner, or on the demands of trade unions.

The upper classes are usually aware that the "scheme of salvation" through faith in authority is one of the many schemes necessary for the perpetuation of their rule, and it is quite natural that many who live in ease and luxury, who, like the lilies of the valley, toil not, neither spin, should feel themselves to be the special favorites of providence.

The proletarian, however, knows no providence except hard work. With him it is "root hog or die." The well-fed bourgeois preacher may tell of the sparrows that are watched and the hairs that are numbered, but the wage-earner knows that there are millions of his class who are always hungry, homeless and wretched and his physical hungers and thirsts are often more than he can attend to. He cannot have much confidence in "treasures in heaven" and "mansions in the skies" when he sees the mad run on the treasures and mansions of earth by the ruling class and their theological supporters.

So we find that theology is most effective in diverting the attention of the middle classes, just those who possess the necessay ideality, sympathy and emotional energy to make mot effective forces for social revolution, if they but saw the light.

Because of this fact there is a growing number who believe with Robert Blatchford that we have a direct message for the church; that the Socialist does not have to go out of his way to meet the church; that in every step he takes he comes in violent contact with the stumbling blocks of theology.

It should be evident to all that the church is today a capitalist institution, and if the Socialist Party is to capture the citadel of state it must first conquer the srongholds of theology which lie between it and success. It is reported that President Roosevelt has recently stated that he "looks to the Catholic church more than any other agency to stem the tide of Socialism," and recent legislation in Canada, in the interest of church attendance proves that our Canadian statesmen (?) are also enlisting the political influence of the organized religion. In spite of these facts, there are some who dispute the "materialistic conception of history" and there are even Socialists who declare that Socialism has nothing to do with religion and has no quarrel with the church.

The Infidelity of the Socialist Movement.

Within a few weeks a representative theologian in this town made the statement from his pulpit that Socialism stood for infidelity and atheism, and that it was against the best people.

This attitude of the church is becoming general wherever the revolutionary movement is being felt.

This simply means that in every historical period the prevailing mode of production and exchange determines the religious and all other institutions of that period. We are doubtless infidels and atheists from a ruling class standpoint, and doubtless our morals and patriotism are equally perverse, but it is evident for the same reason that the defenders of capitalism are infidels and athiests from the standpoint of social democracy.

From the Socialist standpoint the morals of the capitalists are of the same brand as their Chicago canned chicken, embalmed beef and pure leaf lard. The idea of the country being owned and governed by a parasitic minority, while the vast majority of the useful class are without a country and are depending on said minority for existence, rather clashes with the Socialist's idea of what true patriotism should stand for.

The Socialist has faith in humanity; in the approaching triumph of social justice; in a glorious destiny for mankind; while the defenders of capitalism are without faith in humanity, and if true to their present claims and ideals of class rule can see in the future only the approaching night of chaos and destruction. Which variety of infidelity is the more consistent with true religion, with faith in "the powers that work for righteousness? The reader can judge.

There are many pious souls, even more ignorant of the religion they accept than the Socialism they reject. They are not even acquainted with the historical fact that primitive Christianity was a working class, revolutionary movement, and that Constantine, one of the most infamous monsters who ever ruled over a nation of slaves, adopted it as the last chance of postponing the doom of his empire. They do not even know that ever since Christianity became the state religion of Rome it has been the great instrument of oppression in the hands of the ruling classes, changing its position as the economic developments of society demanded.

From the religion of deeds, of the brotherhood of man, it became distorted into a blind faith in the creeds of a despotic and ignorant priesthood.

All through the ages, science and freedom have had to wage a warfare with the representatives of ruling-class religion and today we see the same powers forming in battle array, to oppose the onward march of freedom and truth, represented by the Socialist movement.

No revolutionist of today can hurl denunciations at the worshipers of Mammon more forcibly than they were applied to the ruling-class twenty centuries ago by the man Jesus. In the twenty-third chapter of Matthew may be found the following "Woe unto you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, who devour widow's houses and for pretence make long prayers, therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation." "Woe unto you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against man, for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in."

What were they compared with the present defenders of wage slavery? "Ye blind guides that strain at a gnat and swallow a camel." "Woe unto you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within is full of extortion and excess." "Woe unto you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, for ye are like unto whitened sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness." Were they worse than the big traders of today, who, through their political hirelings, send armies of workingmen to murder one another on the field of battle to give a market for their shoddy wares and instruments of destruction? Were they any worse than those who distil luxury and power from the flesh and blood of wage slaves? He condemned the business places of the traders and bankers of His day as a "den of thieves." What would He have said of Wall street, of our "frenzied financiers" and trusts, of the great insurance companies and banking institutions of today?

He declared that no rich man could enter the kingdom of heaven among men because He realized that no man can be rich without the robbery of the producer, and he knew that no man can love his neighbor as himself when on every hand he beholds his neighbors cursed through poverty.

No Debs, Blatchford or Bebel could denounce the ruling class more vehemently and logically than did this revolutionist of Judea, and the persecution and death which he met at the hands of the priests and "respectable people" of His day, shows that in the jungle of humanity the prey of the ruling classes was defended with the same ferocity then as it is today.

In his parable of the Good Samaritan and of the Last Judgment, in His Sermon on the Mount and the Lord's Prayer; in his words to Zaceheus, he showed most positively that salvation was not a matter of faith in authority but in right conduc; in working for social jusice, for the brotherhood of man, in doing exactly what the scientific Socialist is today doing. Back of the theological shreds, rags and patches hiding the real Christ we see the genuine man. Between the lines, corrupted by ruling class priesthood, we can read the records of a man born twenty centuries before his ideals could be realized. Were He here today he could not be found in the gilded temples built by those who have made this fair world a jungle of struggling beasts, but He would be found marching with his comrades under the red flag which symbolizes the blood ties and brotherhood of man.

Those who oppose Socialism because of infidelity should believe less, read more and think more. They should look well to the foundation on which they build their faith, for if their house rests only on class-rule superstition, they will find that ere long the floods of revolt will beat upon their house, and it will fall because resting on the sand of ignorance and not on the rock of truth.

(Continued Next Week)

TO SOCIALISTS IN CANADA.

The comrades of Local Claresholm, Alberta, have decided that it will be a pleasure as well as a duty to give a helping hand to our comrades in B. C. in their fight against capitalism in the coming election.

At their last meeting they voted to start a fund to be called the Alberta Aid to B. C. Election Fund.

Two-thirds of this fund is to be placed at the disposal of the B. C. Executive and one-third to be used for agitation in Alberta. Contributions to be sent to

J. J. Morgan, Dom. Secy.,
551 Barnard St.,
Vancouver, B. C.

Claresholm comrades may leave their contributions with J. W. Wooster at the Tin-Shop, Claresholm.

Stavely comrades may leave theirs with Lee Hewitt, Bands Store, Stavely.

The forces of capitalism will no doubt be concentrated in an effort to stamp out Socialism in B. C., where our comrades have won such signal victories in the past and given promise of so much greater victories in the immediate future. We, too, should therefore concentrate our efforts in B. C. that capitalism may be given an effective blow.

We therefore call on all comrades throughout Canada to do as we are doing. Locals should lose no time in appointing some one to receive moneys for this purpose. Unorganized comrades should send their contributions to the Dominion Secretary direct.

This fight in B. C. is our fight and we should act and act quickly.

Yours for the Workers' Revolution,
CHAS. F. LOWRIE.

Claresholm, Alta.

FROM YMIR, B. C.

Editor Western Clarion:

Dear Comrade—On Dec. 4th Comrade Geo. H. Goebel delivered an address in Union hall of this place, on Socialism. We had a good representative audience. It was a clear, plain and convincing argument from start to finish. Capitalism was hit a hard blow right from the shoulder. No quarter given and none asked. If we had a few more now like Comrade Goebel Socialism would easily lead the field. Yours Fraternally,

W. B. McISAAC, Sec.

Ymir, Dec. 8th, 1906

GRAND BALL.

Britannia Miners' Union, W. F. M., will give a Grand Invitation Ball in Myers' Hall, Pender St., Vancouver, on Monday evening, Dec. 31. Brassfield's orchestra has been secured for the occasion and an all-round good time is assured. The western miners already hold an enviable reputation as entertainers and the Britannia boys have on this occasion taken it upon themselves to break the record in this respect. Those who delight to indulge in the mazy waltz and the seductive quick-step should not overlook this event.

Tickets are $2.00 per couple, including supper. Invitations may be secured upon application to Prof. Myers, Myers' Hall, Pender St., or F. B. Shearme, 41 Hastings St. East. Do not forget the date, Monday, December 31, 1906.

In the course of an acute "diarrhea of words" dubbed a message to congress, T. Roosevelt of Washington, Oyster Bay, etc., says: "We should establish shooting galleries in all the large public and military schools; should maintain national target ranges in different parts of the country, and should in every way encourage the formation of rifle clubs throughout all parts of the land." No serious objection can be offered to this provided something about the size of a fat capitalist be used as a target. Some political tool of capitalism might satisfactorily fill the bill provided the range was not too long.

A lone robber boarded a Chicago and Alton train near Kansas City, Mo., recently and at the muzzle of a revolver held up fifteen passengers. He was arrested and thrown into jail. A band of robbers known as railway owners at the muzzle of the law held up their 1300,000 wage-slaves to the tune of nearly $800,000,000 last year. They will not be thrown into jail. This shows that the hold-up business may be safely and profitably conducted provided the correct method be followed and proper instruments used.

According to the report of the Department of Labor, there were 931 fatal and 2,414 non-fatal accidents in the various trades and industries of the Dominion during 1905. As the wave of prosperity has been still greater during the present year, a substantial increase in fatalities may be confidently looked for when the returns are all in.

A French sociological noodle named Mazet, has been laboriously arranging a proper list of books for the average business man to read. This is "love's labor lost." There are but two books suitable for him to read anyway. The cash book and the ledger. He wouldn't understand any other if he did read them.

NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that sixty days after date we intend to apply to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works for special license to cut and carry away timber on the following described lands in Rupert District;—

1. Commencing at a post marked Imperial Tmiber and Trading Company North East corner post situated at the N. E. corner of section 29 T'p. 15, thence 80 chains South, thence 80 chains West, thence 80 chains North, thence 80 chains East, to point of commencement.

2. Commencing at the N. E. corner of section 29 marked Imperial Timber and Trading Company's Northwest corner, thence 80 chains South, thence 80 chains East, thence 80 chains North, thence 80 chains West to point of commencement.

3. Commencing at a point one-half mile East of the Northeast corner of section 29, marked Southwest corner post, thence North 160 chains, thence East 40 chains, thence South 160 chains, thence West 40 chains to point of commencement.

4. Commencing at the same point as No. 3 marked the Southeast corner post, thence North 160 chains, thence West 40 chains, thence South 160 chains, thence East 40 chains to point of commencement.

5. Commencing at a point about one-half mile West from the Northeast corner of section 29, marked Southwest corner post, thence Noth 160 chains, thence East 40 chains, thence South 160 chains, thence West 40 chains to point of commencement.

6. Commencing at the same point as No. 5, marked Southeast corner post, thence North 160 chains, thence West 40 chains, thence South 160 chains, thence East 40 chains to point of commencement.

7. Commencing at a point one-half mile East of the Northeast corner of section 28, T'p. 14, marked the Northwest corner, thence South 160 chains, thence East 40 chains, thence North 160 chains, thence West 40 chains to point of commencement.

8. Commencing at the same point as No. 7, marked the N. E. corner post, thence South 160 chains, thence West 40 chains, thence North 160 chains, thence East 40 chains to point of commencement.

9. Commencing at a point one-half mile West of the N. W. corner of section 15, marked Southwest corner post, thence North 160 chains, thence East 40 chains, thence South 160 chains, thence West 40 chains to point of commencement.

10. Commencing at the same point as No. 9, marked the S. E. corner post, thence North 160 chains, thence West 40 chains, thence South 160 chains, thence East 40 chains to point of commencement.

11. Commencing at the same point as No. 10, marked the N. W. corner post, thence South 160 chains, thence East 40 chains, thence North 160 chains, thence West 40 chains to point of commencement.

12. Commencing at the same point as No. 11, marked the N. E. corner post, thence South 160 chains, thence West 40 chains, thence North 160 chain, thence East 40 chains to point of commencement.

13. Commencing at the Southeast corner of Section 20, marked the N. E. corner post, thence South 160 chains, thence West 40 chains, thence North 160 chains, thence East 40 chains to point of commencement.

14. Commencing at the same point as No. 13, and marked the S. E. corner, thence North 160 chains, thence West 40 chains, thence South 160 chains, thence East 40 chains to point of commencement.

15. Commencing a half a mile West of the S. E. corner of section 20, marked the N. E. corner post, thence South 160 chains, thence West 40 chains, thence North 160 chains, thence East 40 chains to point of commencement.

16. Commencing at the same point as No. 15, marked the S. E. corner post, thence North 160 chains, thence West 40 chains, thence South 160 chains, thence East 40 chains to point of commencement.

17. Commencing at a point near the N. W. corner of section 19, T'p. 15, marked N. W. corner post, thence East 160 chains, thence South 40 chains, thence West 160 chains, North 40 chains to point of commencement.

18. Commencing at the S. E. corner of section 16, T'p. 14, marked the N. E. corner post, thence South 80 chains, thence West 80 chains, thence North 80 chains, thence East 80 chains to point of commencement.

19. Commencing at the same point as No. 18, marked the N. W. corner post, thence South 80 chains, thence East 80 chains, thence North 80 chains, thence West 80 chains to point of commencement.

20. Commencing at a point one-half mile West of the S. W. corner of section 20, marked the N. W. corner post, thence South 160 chains, thence East 40 chains, thence North 160 chains, thence West 40 chains to point of commencement.

21. Commencing at the same point as in No. 20, marked the N. E. corner post, thence South 160 chains, thence West 40 chains, thence North 160 chains, thence East 40 chains to point of commencement.

22. Commencing at the same point as in No. 21, marked the S. W. corner post, thence Noth 160 chains, thence East 40 chains, thence South 160 chains, thence West 40 chains to point of commencement.

23. Commencing at the same point as No. 22, marked the S. E. corner post, thence North 160 chains, thence West 40 chains, thence South 160 chains, thence East 40 chains to point of commencement.

24. Commencing at a point near the N. E. corner of section 31, marked the N. E. corner post, thence South 80 chains, thence West 80 chains, thence North 80 chains, thence East 80 chains to point of commencement.

25. Commencing at the N. E. corner of section 28, marked the S. E. corner post, thence West 160 chains, thence North 40 chains, thence East 160 chains, thence South 40 chains to point of commencement.

26 .Commencing at a point half a mile East of the S. W. corner of section 27, T'p. 15, marked the S. E. corner post, thence North 160 chains, thence West 40 chains, thence South 160 chains, thence East 40 chains to point of commencement.

Dated at Vancouver, B. C., December 10th, 1906.

IMPERIAL TIMBER & TRADING COMPANY.

For the Campaign Fund.

Having been authorized by the publishers of the Western Clarion to receive subs at the regular rate—$1.00 per year and apply one half of all money received to the Central Campaign Fund, you are earnestly requested to assist in swelling this fund by sending your subs direct to me. Either renewals or new subs. to be taken for a period of not less than one year.

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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.

CAPITALISM'S COMMITTEE IN SESSION AT OTTAWA.

Deputations representing the manufacturers, steel and iron industry, tinplate men, and other labor-skinning concerns throughout Canada, are very much in evidence at Ottawa just now. The House of Commons is in session and the bosses desire to make sure that their hired men fulfill their mission as legislators of "our" country. "More protection"—from the highly-developed Yankee labor-skinner—is being asked for.

And why not?

Have not the workers of Canada approved of their slavery by electing as M.P.'s at Ottawa an energetic executive committee of the ruling class?

There is not one representative at Ottawa but what stands for the present form of property ownership, the fundamental basis of capitalism.

Before the workers can hope to hear their interests voiced in the Dominion House they must elect men who stand for a revolution in property ownership.

The robbery of labor cannot be regulated; it must be abolished.

To accomplish this the workers must secure possession of the machinery of the state, and by legal enactment transform all the means of life used to rob labor into the collective property of the working class; production to be carried on for use in lieu of profit.

Anything short of such a program will merely prolong the degradation and enslavement of humankind.

The only political expression of such a movement is found in the International Socialist Party.

Its wonderful growth the world over is only measured by the necessity for the existence of such an organization.

Are the workers of Canada going to shirk their part in the nearby social revolution?

The next election will give a partial answer.

NOT TRADES UNIONS BUT "ACTIVITY IN POLITICS."

The spontaneous wave of generosity (?) among the large employing interests, immediately preceding and closely following the election, is believed to have been suggested by labor's activity in politics. The voluntary advance of wages by railroad corporations and several of the protected industries has the appearance of a sort of peace offering to check the desire for labor legislation and forestall the demands of employees for an advance of wages proportionate to the increased cost of living.—Typo. Journal.

If "activity in politics" on the part of the workers will produce such results, what's the matter with trying a little more "activity" in that direction

But if the increased wage be only "proportionate to the increased cost of living" what better are we off, relatively speaking?

And how about the unfortunate cuss who gets no increase in wages because there are so many to compete with him for the job?

As a matter of fact, then, there is no solution of the problem confronting labor within the limits of the wage-system.

The workers must legally restore to themselves their means of living, and then carry on production for use—giving to each the full social value of their product.

"Activity in politics" will secure to the worker something more than "increased wages." It will give to them the full product of their toil.

Provided, of course, the activity is in the Socialist movement.

WORKERS GETTING WHAT THEY VOTED FOR.

Elizabethtown, Ky., Dec. 11.—Dock Aubury, who was convicted of vagrancy and who was ordered sold into servitude for nine months, according to the law of the state, was disposed of at public auction today to J. Johnson, a farmer, for the sum of $10. Dock's reputation for general shiftlessness was such that there were few bids, the report having gone forth that his ability to consume food was out of all proportion to his capacity for work.—Daily Press.

The above despatch seems to indicate another innovation in human slavery. It is, in fact, "government ownership," under the rule of capital, for which so-called "labor" parties are forever striving. It is not unlikely however, that the vagrant-purchaser will discover before the nine months is up that he is indulging in a losing game. Modern capitalists long ago learned that it was cheaper to buy labor-power from "free" men at such time and place as required, trusting to an overstocked labor market to keep the price down. And, besides, "free" and "independent" men cost nothing. And in case of death or accident lots more swarm around ready to fill all vacancies. A working class that will stand for and vote for the perpetuation of such crimes as the above upon members of their class are deserving of all the contempt heaped upon them by a thieving ruling class.

"WHAT FOOLS WE MORTALS BE."

It costs about $1.00 a ton to mine coal on Vancouver Island. The market price here is $6.50. If production were carried on for the use of the people instead of for the profit of Jamie Dunsmuir and his tribe, the miners—even under capitalism—could be given twice the present wage and a 4-hour day, and still sell coal for half the present price. While this would not alter the market price of labor-power, it would seem to prove the possibilities of collective ownership and operation. And, after all, why shouldn't the necessities of life be purchasable at the cost of production?

A DELUSION AND A SNARE.

Immigration laws—alien, etc.—are not worth the paper they are written on, to the workers. It cost Vancouver trades unionists over $1100 to find this out. Apparently Winnipeg and Toronto workers did not profit by B. C.'s experience. They insisted upon learning the lesson for themselves. One would naturally suppose that some of these days the workers would take a notion to write and enforce their own laws, until such times as an industrial administration is ushered in. Unless, perchance, every fool thing else on earth has been tried and fails.

B. C. LOCAL SECRETARIES.. PLEASE NOTE.

Printed registers of voters for any riding shall be furnished by the King's printer for the sum of twenty-five cents each. Written copies of the register of voters, or any part thereof, shall be furnished by the collector for the sum of, twenty-five cents per one hundred words.

Any person applying for registration in any electoral district while his name appears on the register of any other district, is liable to a penalty of fifty dollars.

LOTS OF CHEAP SLAVES FOR B. C.

Judging by the arrangement recently entered into between the B. C. government and the Salvation Army, for the importation into this province of more wage-slaves, God Almighty is to be made a party to a labor bureau. And this to assist the purchasers of labor-power to keep down wages by having plenty of job-seekers hanging around. No wonder Commissioner Coombs was banqueted by the Vancouver Employers' Association.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

The International Typographical Union of over 45,000 wage-slaves adopted the following resolution at their last annual convention:

That the International Union strongly urges upon its subordinate bodies the necessity of providing in their respective "orders of business" for the discussion of the various phases of the labor question and other matters of public moment having a direct bearing upon the welfare of wage-earners.

SAVVY THEIR CLASS INTERESTS.

A letter recently sent out by the United States Employers' Association mildly suggests that "high-class business houses and manufacturers" should boycott the advertising columns of labor papers.

STRIKE AT VICTORIA.

The Boilermakers, Iron Shipbuilders, Helpers, Laborers, Ship Carpenters, Caulkers and Ship Joiners are out on strike against the B. C. Marine Ry. Co., the Victoria Machinery Depot, and the Marine Iron Works Co. of Esquimalt and Victoria, for the establishment of an eight-hour day. In view of the flood-tide of prosperity, that, according to all acounts, is now sweeping over the country, it is difficult to imagine what reasonable excuse these concerns can offer for a refusal to grant the very modest demands of their employees. Any old excuse, or none at all, for that matter, is quite sufficient to satisfy the conscience of the average captain of industry in a case of this kind.

Presumably the Victoria breed of "captains" are of the usual type and may be depended upon to beat the men out if possible. It is not a question of what ought to be, judged from any standpoint of human decency, but one of what can be forced by either side to the controversy. If labor cannot be obtained to take the strikers' places, the companies may be forced to grant the demands of the men. If it can be obtained, the men will lose.

All workers are requested to stay away from Victoria until the trouble is settled. By so doing they will assist their fellows in forcing the point at issue.

REGISTER! REGISTER!

Never mind about the date of election in B. C. Register anyway. And register at once.

HOME-MAKING UNDER CAPITALISM.

If Socialism is not soon ushered in, capitalism will leave no homes to be destroyed, an accusation so often hurled at Socialists by paid puppets of capital. And, judging from the following daily press despatch, "free love" seems to be thriving fairly well under the present order of Christian civilization.

A Dec. 11 cable to the New York Journal from Paris says: "Eugene B. Higgins, the New York millionaire, and Emma Calve, the dramatic cantatrice, it is learned, have put into actual practice the trial marriage theory of the American woman, Mrs. Herbert Parsons. The experiment is now being made on board Higgins' yacht, on a cruise in the Mediterranean, extending possibly as far as Japan, with a few friends of the diva and millionaire. Calve and Higgins want to see if their love for each other will stand the wear and tear of a usually disillusioning life. If they find they can stand each other around every day and all day, they will get married. If they don't, they won't.

SOCIALISM IN SEATTLE.

Seattle Socialists are carrying on a vigorous propaganda campaign this winter. With such resident speakers and workers as Vincent Harper, Walter Thomas Mills, Hermon F. Titus and Coms. Kennedy, Latimer, Randall, Brown and other active revolutionists, there should be no inactivity. Two mass meetings were held in Egan's hall last Sunday at 3 p. m. and 8 p. m. Over $200 was contributed to provide sinews of war for the movement. The huge increase in the Socialist vote in the state of Washington last month seems to have caused renewed vigor and unity among the Socialists themselves.

GREAT IS THE WAGE SYSTEM.

The "system" raises the cost of living 10 per cent. and then raises wages 10 per cent. and so on ad libitum, ad nauseam. As we said last month, "what profiteth it a man if he receives $10 a day in wages, if he has to spend it all, and then go in debt, to live? It isn't what you are paid; it is what you have left after paying all obligations necessary to a decent living." The "system," it "turns the damper up, it turns the damper down, but the smoke goes up the chimney just the same."—J. J. Dirks, in Typo. Journal.

MUST HAVE A MISSION.

An organization, in order to live, must have something to live for. Hence the apathy in the labor world of anything short of a revolutionary movement. There is no ground between capitalism and Socialism upon which a "labor" party can live. A "labor" party which stands for capitalist ownership of the means of living, rather than collective ownership, means nothing and cannot live. Like the old capitalist parties it lacks a policy and men alive to the present needs and requirements of labor.

A LA GOMPERS!

"All the trade unionists will have to do is to secure a majority of both parties—then they'll win," was one of the caustic remarks of Com. Mills, speaking in Vancouver last time, when referring to Pres. Gompers' policy of supporting political aspirants of both parties when favorable to organized labor.

B. C. TOUR FOR MILLS.

The B. C. Provincial Executive Committee, in compliance with the request of various Locals, are arranging a tour for Walter Thomas Mills, who is now a resident of Seattle. The dates will be some time next month. Secretaries will be notified.

PRAYER BUT NOT PRACTICE.

If church members would vote as they pray the co-operative commonwealth would be ushered in day after tomorrow.

Every male native of Austria 24 years of age or over now possesses the right to vote. Presumbaly he must take a reasonable chance of his vote not being counted so long as the master holds the ballot box.

A movement has been started by Australian organized labor for the inauguration of a six-hour work day. We sincerely hope the Clarion staff of printers will not become infected with such crazy notions.

The net earnings of the railways of the United States for the year ending June 30 last, were $787,597,877. After all expense of operation was paid this tidy little sum was left to remunerate the owners for their "thrift and industry" in owning. While some of the railway employees are grumbling because their wages are so small, they should not forget the tremendous sacrifice made by the owners in giving their entire time doing nothing for a whole year for such an insignificant recompense as mentioned above.

TORONTO NOMINATES CANDIDATES.

Toronto Local has launched out in an active winter's campaign by holding its first Sunday afternoon meeting in its new hall, Davis Academy, corner Queen and Spadina avenues, one of the most central locations in the city. Meetings will be held every Sunday, 3 p. m., at this place, the first Sunday of each month being a business meeting. The Finnish branch meets every Sunday night in the same hall. The Jewish branch still continues to meet Sunday nights at 185 1-2 Queen St. West.

On Sunday, Dec. 2, the following nominations for the coming municipal elections were ratified:

For Mayor—James Lindala, tailor.

For Board of Education — James Simpson, reporter; Phillip Thompson, journalist; W. G. Bribble, carpenter; W. H. Rawbone, street railway conductor; Emil Tigert, tailor; J. Syrjala, tailor.

The last two and the nominee for Mayor are Finnish comrades. Property qualifications kept us from nominating for Board of Control or Aldermen. A campaign fund of about $50 has been raised and about 25,000 copies of our manifesto will be circulated in the working class districts on the Saturday and Sunday before election.

Two new members were enrolled at the Dec. 2nd meeting.

Toronto comrades regret that circumstances prevented the Hamilton comrades from nominating a candidate in the bye-election for the legislature now on. The fight is between a Conservative and a Labor man endorsed by the Liberals, the leading Liberal in Hamilton being the president of the street railway company, Hon. J. M. Gibson, who hired numerous strike breakers and was the central figure in the recent class war and street railway strike. Liberal-Labor—it's enough to make De Leon vomit again.

G. W. W.

Toronto, Dec. 2, 1906.

GOEBEL AT GREENWOOD.

During the past month the interior comrades have been working steadily pushing our propaganda work and trying as far as possible to perfect our organization. Whether the provincial elections are brought on now or not until next summer, in any event they will be prepared for the fray. Comrade Geo. H. Goebel has recently made a tour of this part of the province and everywhere he went his services were much appreciated. He spoke at Greenwood on the 8th, taking for his subject, "Socialism, what it is and what it is not." That evening he spoke at Boundary Falls and tonight he goes to Grand Forks.

His earnest and practical presentation of the truths of Socialism carry conviction to every heart and by turns with witty remark, stinging sarcasm, and forceful illustration he drives the truth home. His language is simple and he at all times makes his meaning clear and is easily understood. Comrade Goebel is undoubtedly one of the best propaganda speakers in the American movement. The comrades here will give him a royal welcome if he ever chooses to visit our burg again.

Greenwood Local has decided to put a special organizer in the field in the person of the writer. The object is to attempt to organize the outlying points in Greenwood riding. This work is to be begun at once and the comrades here are working enthusiastically to the end that victory may perch on the banners of Socialism at the next election in this riding. There is a rumor that the two old parties are to unite against us, but it matters little for in any event the triumph of our cause seems assured.

EDGAR W. DYNES.

Greenwood, B. C., Dec. 10, 1906.

WOOD HUBBARD ON "DIVIDIN' UP."

They reproach us with "dividin' up," i. e., if you have 50 cents and your neighbor has no money, they say that under Socialism you would have to give him two bits; but under capitalism, if you have 50 cents and Rockefeller has one hundred billion dollars you have to give him 40 cents, and this is worse than two-bits. The farmer now produces a bale of cotton worth $250 and divides up with the capitalist by giving him $200 of it. The factory worker produces $2,450 of wealth per year, divides up with the capitalist and gives him $2,013 of it. The workers produce sir-loin steak and sow bosom. They "divide up" with the capitalist and give him the steak while they themselves eat the sow bosom. Labor produces all wealth and "divides it up" with the capitalist so that the capitalist lives in a mansion with marble steps and brown stone front while the laborer lives in a shanty built of Arkansaw pine full of knot-holes, cracks and bed-bugs. The capitalist's wife is dressed in silk and expensive furs from the frigid north, her wrists are enclosed with bracelets and her neck with a necklace of gold, and her hair bejeweled with diamonds and rich rubies, while the farmer's wife, as she crawls down between two rows of cotton, is dressed in calico rags, her neck tied up with a red handkerchief and her hair is bejeweled with cockleburs. The capitalist's wife's poodle dog eats the bread from the children of the poor till it can eat no more, then they feed it steak until it takes the dyspepsia and goes to the dog hospital. It eats candy 'till its teeth rot, and is sent to the dog denist, who fills them with gold, while the old Democrats and Republicans who foot the bill can't afford to have their own teeth filled with cement, and so they have old snaggle teeth, and if you don't believe it look in their mouths. This is dividing up with a vengeance.—Exchange.

CAPITALISM IN JAPAN.

Gigantic Factories Going up all Over the Country.

Private letters received by Japanese Socialists in Chicago show that American traders are sure to lose the profitable cotton goods business in China and Japan.

The Mitsui company of Japan will erect gigantic cotton mills at Shanghai. The factory will cost 30,000,000 yen. Its product, turned out by the cheapest labor in the world, and, according to some authorities, the most efficient, when patient and unresisting servitude is considered, will crowd out of Asia all manufactured cotton goods from America and European countries.

Othe Factories Planned.

This project is to be followed by others of the same kind. Energetic Japanese capitalists will erect all sorts of plants in China. Skilled mechanics from America and Japan will teach the Chinese how to work in modern mills and factories. Chinese laborers will live on little or nothing and the product of these factories will be sent to this country, and, as the cheapest commodity always sells first, the condition will have a serious effect on conditions here.

Japan appears to be preparing to exploit China as a nation never was exploited before.—Chicago Socialist.

Such dastardly action on the part of these impudent Japanese capitalists ought to bring down upon their heads the condemnation of every European and American wage-slave. If this sort of thing is allowed to continue unchecked the market in which the European and American labor-skinners now dispose of a large part of the hide taken from their wage-mules, will be lost. This would tend to curtail the hide-taking process, and the agony suffered by the wage-mule with no master to take his hide is well known to be unbearable. Let every wage-slave fly to arms, with the slogan: "The world's market for the hide of a well-skinned European and American proletariat.

Letter of Mr. Bernard Shaw to the London Times.

This is a terrible moment in our national life. We are not often thoroughly frightened. When England trembles the world knows that a great peril overshadows our island.

It is not the first time that we have faced dangers that have made even our gayest and bravest clench their teeth and hold their breath. We watched the Armada creeping slowly up the Channel. We wiped our brow when chance revealed the treason of Guy Fawkes. We are listening even now for the bugle of the German invader, and scanning the waves we rule for the periscope of the French sub-marine.

But until now we have faced our fate like men, with our Parliament unshaken in our midst, grandly calm as the Roman Senators who sat like statues when Brennus and his barbarians charged bloodstained into their hall. When Charles Bradlaugh, the most muscular man in England, dashed into the House of Commons to claim a seat in that august assembly, the police carried him, titanically struggling, down the stairs, deposited him in the yard with a shattered fountain pen and disdainfully set him free to do his worst.

It was but the other day that a desperado arose in the Strangers' Gallery of the House of Commons and burst into disorderly eloquence. Without a moment's hesitation the dauntless attendants hurled themselves upon him and extruded him from our Legislature. He was not haled before the magistrate; he was not imprisoned; no man deigned to ask securities for his good behavior; the British lion scorned protection against so puny an antagonist.

But the strongest nerves give way at last. The warriors of Philip were, when all is said, only men. German soldiers, French bluejackets, Guy Fawkes, Bradlaugh, and the stranger in the gallery bold and dangerous as they were, were no females. The peril today wears a darker, deadlier aspect.

Ten women—ten petticoated, long-stockinged, corseted females—have hurled themselves on the British Houses of Parliament. Desperate measures are necessary. I have a right to speak in this matter, because it was in my play, "Man and Superman," that my sex were first warned of woman's terrible strength and man's miserable weakness.

It is a striking confirmation of the correctness of my views that the measures which have always been deemed sufficient to protect the House of Commons against men are not to be trusted against women. Take, for example, the daughters of Richard Cobden, long known to everybody worth knowing in London as among the most charming and interesting women of our day. One of them—one only, and she the slightest and frailest of the family—did what the herculean Charles Bradlaugh did.

To the immortal glory of our metropolitan police, they did not blench. They carried the lady out, even as they had carried Bradlaugh. But they did not dare to leave her at large as they left him. They held on to her like grim death until they had her safe under bolt and bar, until they had stripped her to see that she had no weapons concealed, until a temperate diet of bread and cocoa should have abated her perilous forces. She—and the rest of the terrible ten.

For the moment we have time to breathe. But has the Government considered the fact that, owing to the imperfections of our law, these ladies will be at large again before many weeks are passed? I ask, in the name of the public, whether proper precautions have been taken. It is not enough for Mr. Herbert Gladstone, Mr. Haldane, Mr. Asquith and Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman to sit there pale and determined, with drawn lips and folded arms, helplessly awaiting a renewal of the assault—an assault the consequences of which no man can foresee.

It is their duty without a moment's delay to quadruple the police staff inside the Houses of Parliament. Westminster and Vauxhall Bridges should be strongly held by the Guards. If necessary, special constables should be enrolled. I am no coward, but I do not want to see a repetition of the folly that found us unprepared in 1899.

I submit however, that if these precautions are taken, we might, perhaps, venture to let Mrs. Cobden-Sanderson and her friends out. As a taxpayer, I object to having to pay for her bread and cocoa when her husband is not only ready, but apparently even anxious, to provide a more generous diet at home. After all, if Mr. Cobden-Sanderson is not afraid, surely the rest of us may pluck up a little.

We owe something to Mr. Cobden-Sanderson, both as one of our most distinguished artist craftsmen and as a most munificent contributor in crises where public interests have been at stake. If Mrs. Cobden-Sanderson must remain a prisoner while the Home Secretary is too paralyzed with terror to make that stroke of the pen for which every sensible person in the three kingdoms is looking to him, why on earth cannot she be imprisoned in her own house? We should still look ridiculous, but at least the lady would not be a martyr.

I suppose nobody in the world really wishes to see one of the nicest women in England suffering from the coarsest indignity and the most injurious form of ill-treatment that the law could inflict on a pickpocket. It gives us an air of having lost our tempers and made fools of ourselves, and of being incapable of acting generously now that we have had time to come to our senses. Surely, there can be no two opinions among sane people as to what we ought to do.

Will not the Home Secretary rescue us from a ridiculous, an intolerable, and, incidentally, a revoltingly spiteful and unmanly situation.

—G. Bernard Shaw, in London Times.

In the south of Russia the famine is so severe that the peasants have even been forced to sell their daughters as slaves and concubines to the Mohammedans. The Czar and the Grand Dukes, however, are still fairly well supplied with the necessaries of life.

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