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THE WOMEN'S FRANCHISE BILL

Hawthornthwaite's Great Speech—Parker Williams, Brown and Hall Supports It—no Arguments Against it, But Party Machine Votes it Down.

In moving the second reading of this Bill in the Legislature on Thursday last, Mr. Hawthornthwaite made an impressive and interesting speech which carefully covered every detail in connection with the subject. Very appropriately there was an unusually large number of ladies in the gallery, and the speech was listened to with great interest throughout.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite said: "In introducing this Bill I wish to say that I consider it one of the most important measures ever introduced in this House. I have stood up often in this House in behalf of the oppressed workers of British Columbia, and I am pleased to say with a fair measure of success, as the honorable members of both sides of the House have agreed to the justice of my demands, and after listening to the arguments brought forward have in many instances granted my request. On this occasion I rise on behalf of the most oppressed of all, on behalf of our women, on behalf of our mothers and wives and sisters. I hope this Bill will become law, but I am satisfied that whether it meets defeat or becomes law, it will receive serious attention from every member of this House. I am sure that the day has gone past when this Bill can become the subject of the jest and sneer of the self-seeking politician.

"In opening I desire to clear myself in regard to certain things in this House. I am accused of misrepresenting the gentlemen on this side of the House (the Opposition,) both on the floor of the House and on the platform in the country. I do not think, sir, that this is correct, and I think my attitude toward these gentlemen will be justified by the records of the House. If not, I must stand condemned. On this subject, I am sure I can honestly congratulate the Liberal Party both in this House and in the country on their attitude towards this Bill. I have been in this House for a number of years, and whenever this measure has been brought forward they have always given it their attention and have lined up in its support. For this reason I can shake hands with the gentlemen across the chasm which divides us—more especially can I congratulate the honorable the third member for Victoria (Mr. Hall) who unfortunately is absent today, that though I often find myself in opposition to him on labor matters, (since I find his attitude possibly from a sincere and mistaken sense of duty is that they do not need special class legislation) but in this matter of woman suffrage he has proved himself a man. Two years ago he introduced this measure and did his best to make it become law. Therefore, I sincerely congratulate him and his party for their attitude on this measure.

"Now, just a word with regard to my opponents on the opposite side. I regret to see the stand they have taken for some years past in regard to this Bill, and looking back on past records I regret to find that these gentlemen have lined up in almost solid opposition to it. I would ask them on this occasion to let the past go, and to view this subject in a new aspect and a new light and reconsider their opposition. I would point out that their attitude has not always been the attitude of their party on this matter. The other day in reading a work by Bliss, on Social Reforms, I found it was the object of the forefathers of these gentlemen to establish a great Conservative democracy, which, while preserving the capitalistic privileges of the aristocracy, sought to advance every reform which would be of advantage to the masses of the people. How far their descendants in this House have acted in that capacity will be known by the way in which they deal with this and similar measures that come before them. I would point out also that all their leaders have not assumed this attitude on this question. There is one man who has not opposed this Bill and his is a name to conjure with among the Conservatives of Canada. I mean Sir John A. Macdonald, one of the great fathers of Confederation, probably the greatest capitalist statesman that Canada has ever seen, a name that rings with hallowed memories in the ears of every true blue Conservative in this country today. I am afraid that his sons, speaking metaphorically, have, in this respect proved degenerate. I refer to the fact that in 1883 Sir John A. Macdonald introduced into the Dominion House of Commons a Bill to grant the franchise to unmarried women. That measure did not go so far as this, but it went to show that his party was in sympathy with one kind of womankind, and recognized that they were treated unfairly in this matter.

"Now, if this Bill passes this House, I desire that it shall not be passed by the efforts of any one party, but that it shall be made law by the collective effort of every member of this House who believes in absolute justice and absolute right. I should like to have seen it introduced by the Leader of the Government as the proper person to handle such a measure, and I regret that that is impossible. It is, however, perhaps fitting that it should be brought forward by a representative of that Party that stands for the relief of the oppressed workers of the world the world over, and this Bill is introduced for the relief of the most oppressed of all, of those who in the last analysis the dread yoke of capitalist exploitation and degradation really falls. It is fitting, I say, that it should be introduced by a member of that class on whom the great work of exterminating the degradation and crime of the world falls today.

"Now as to the probable results of this measure. I would be deceiving the women of this country if I told them the Bill meant their emancipation, that if it became law all their troubles would cease and the future would be all rosy and ha for them. I want to point out to this House that without economic freedom no true freedom can possibly exist. Women may obtain the franchise as the men have it already. but till they obtain economic independence they will have no freedom. For the sake of making my position clearer I may point out to this House what I mean by economic independence. Today the vast majority of the race are in a dependent position. They are dependent for the means of existence, for the right to live, upon the master and dominant class who own the machinery of production. Not until, not only this country, but other countries, have arrived at a state of civilization, in which the producers shall take charge of the means of wealth production as their own, until that condition has been brought about, true liberty cannot be achieved. I say that for one I think we have not even political freedom today. They talk of the freedom at the polls, but if that freedom is honest what is the reason for the secret ballot. It is, I have no hesitation in saying, that it is, a coward's ballot. The average individual dare not today, whether he be workingman or business man, cast his ballot openly and in the light of day. He has to take his ballot paper and sneak under cover, and mark it for the man for whom he desires to vote. And yet some honorable gentlemen still believe that on this British soil and under the British flag we have political freedom.

"It is just the same in religious matters. Take any district where the bosses commanding the machinery of production hold certain religious views, and you will find that the majority of men employed there hold the same views. Why? They know it will not do for them to hold adverse religious views to those of their masters, without whom they have not the means to live. As an instance of this want of economic freedom we have had evidence in Victoria lately in the investigation of certain charges against the principals of one of the schools here. The commissioner required certain evidence to enable him to come to a clear decision, and a certain number of teachers could have come forward in this vicinity of their own free will and given that evidence, and light would have been thrown upon the proceedings. But these women dare not come forward. Why? Because they held different views than the powers that be, and they knew that if they came forward they would lose their positions, or if they did not they would be hampered in the performance of their duties. I must insist that until we have achieved economic independence we cannot have true liberty, neither economic, religious, nor political."

"Another matter to which I would like to draw the attention of the House is that many people believe that this bill is of a revolutionary nature, and if it becomes law it will drive capital out of the country The capitalists think that their business will be destroyed, and it could not be carried on as it is today. In answer to that I would point out that in those countries where this Bill has become law, in the Australian colonies and in New Zealand, this has not been found to be the result. Even the liquor traffic, which it was thought, and many sincerely hoped would be destroyed as a result of this measure there, still continues to be carried on, and will be carried on until we have achieved that economic independence of which I have spoken. Like every other business in which there is profit, it will continue to be carried on until we have obtained absolute economic freedom and production for profit ceases.

"Apart from this there is one great reason why we should have this law. It is our duty to see that women share with us the responsibility for what is going on around us, and be placed in a position to join hands with us in devising remedies for the evils that we see about us."

Mr. Hawthornthwaite said he found that he could not bring the matter up without going into the whole question. With all our boasted civilization and Christianity, the position of women was very little advanced from what it was in the beginning of time itself. From the beginning of time, woman had been treated as a slave and a beast of burden. Many even asserted that in a state of savagery women were freer than they are today. He could not agree with that in all points, though in one respect her position in barbarous times as compared with man was better. She was his equal in physical strength and in mental capacity. That had been proved conclusively by scientists who had studied these matters; but she did more than her share of the work and was the drudge. The middle ages brought a little relief to women. We hear about the brave knights and the fair ladies and the chivalry that was practised in those times by noble lords and their knightly retainers. So far as the latter were concerned, he believed they were nothing more than a collection of robbers and thieves, who went about seeking every man his neighbor's goods. There was today many a nobleman who prided himself on his descent from these lords of feudal times, who were nothing more than a band of murderers and thieves who lived by robbing others. The condition of women in those times was worse than before. Mr. Hawthornthwaite here dwelt on the law or customs of Jus Primae Noctis, and pictured its horrors. There were a few perhaps, who differed from this, and any claim to respect they might have was for their chivalrous treatment of these women.

"What is the position of women in society today?" asked the speaker. "A number of men in this House say politics are not clean enough for woman, and she ought to be kept out of political life for that reason. The great capitalist steps in just then and says he believes that the purity of women would be sullied by contact with politics, but he finds that woman's labor is far cheaper than man's labor and if the halls of this Legislature are not clean enough for her, he finds that his factory is clean enough for her, and his machine shop is clean enough for her. Our politics are not clean enough for her; but our mines, our sweatshops, our hovels and dens of prostitution are clean enough for her! I speak plainly because there is nothing to be gained by hiding these things. They are all around us, and it is criminal for us to humbug ourselves into the belief that these things do not exist."

As evidence that women were being crowded into the industrial field more rapidly all the time, Mr. Hawthornthwaite gave some interesting and startling figures. He showed that in the United States, the figures having climbed within twenty years from 2,647,157 to 5,329,807, or 100 per cent. Women were crowding into the industrial field and were supplanting men, because their labor

(Continued on Page Three.)

ENGLISH ELECTION RETURNS

—SOUTH WEST HAM.

Will Thorne, Soc., elected	10,210
Sir J. G. Notting, Con.	4,873

—NORWICH.

G. H. Roberts, Lab.-Soc. elected	11,059
Louis Tellett, Lib. elected	10,972
Ernest Wild, Con.	7,460

—MERTHYR TYDVIL.

D. A. Thomas, Lib., elected	13,971
Keir Hardie, Lab.-Soc., elec.	10,187
R. Radcliffe, Lib.	7,776

—NORTHAMPTON.

Two Liberals elected, 4,472, and 4,235; two Conservatives defeated, 4,061 and 3,987.

J. E. Williams, Soc. defeated.	2,539
J. Gibble, Soc. defeated.	2,361

—SOUTHAMPTON.

Ivor Phillip, Lib. elected	7,032
T. E. Chamberlayne, Con.	5,754
Harry Quelch Soc.	2,146

—ABERDEEN, NORTH

D. V. Perie, Lib. elected	4,848
Tom. Kennedy, Soc.-Lab.	1,934
A. M. Barrie, Con.	931

—GLASGOW, (Blackfriars.)

G. N. Barnes, Lab.-Soc., elec.	3,284
A. D. Bonar, Lab.-Con.	2,974
A. D. Provand, Lib	2,058

—GLASGOW, (Camlachie).

A. Cross, Con. elected	3,119
W. M. Pringle, Lib.	2,871
J. Burgess, Lab.-Soc.	2,568

—GRAVESEND.

Sir Gilbert Parker, Con. elec.	3,102
Sir W. Geary, Lib.	1,413
Jack McPherson, Lab.-Soc.	873

—LEICESTER.

H. Broadhurst, Lib. elected.	14,745
J. R. McDonald, Lab.-Soc. elected	14,685
Sir. J. F. Rolleston, Con.	7,504

—NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

W. Hudson, Lab. elected	18,869
T. Cairnes, Lib. elected	18,423
Sir W. Plummer, Con.	11,942
G. Rendrick, Con.	11,223

—HAMMERSMITH.

Sir W. J. Bull, Con. elected.	5,111
G. Blaciklock, Lib.	4,562
G. Belt, Soc.	885

—BLACKBURN.

Sir W. Hornby, elected	10,291
Philiip Snowden, Doc. elected	10,282
G. Dradge, Con.	8,932

—LIVERPOOL, (West Toxleth).

R. P. Houston, Con. elected.	3,373
Jas. Lexton, Lab.-Soc.	2,592

—MIDDLESBROUGH.

J. H. Wilson, Lib.-Lab. elect.	9,271
Sir S. Sadler, Con.	6,864
George Landsbury, Soc.	1,484

—DUNDEE.

Edmund Robertson, Lib. elect.	9,276
A. Wilkie, Lab. elected.	6,833
Henry Robson, Lib.	6,122
L. Shakleton, Con.	3,865

—WOOLWICH.

Will Crooks, Lab. elected	9,026
Major Adams, Con.	6,914

—BIRMINGHAM, (Bordsley).

Jesse Collings, Con. elected.	7,763
Bruce Glasier, Soc.	3,976

—SUTHERLAND.

J. Stuart, Lib. elected	13,620
T. Sommerhill, Lab. elected.	13,430
D. Hagie, Con.	7,879

—WAKEFIELD.

E. A. Brotherton, elected, Con	2,285
D. Stanton Coil, Soc.-Lab.	2,068
J. Snape, Lib.	1,247

—JARROW.

Sir C.M. Palmer, Lib. elected	8,047
Pete Curran, Soc.-Lab.	5,093

—BELFAST, North.

Sir D. Dixon, Con. elected	4,907
W. Walker, Lab.	4,616

—LEEDS, (South).

Sir J. L. Walton, Lib. elected	6,200
A. Fox, Lab.-Soc.	4,030
H. M. Lucy, Con.	2,126

—PAISLEY.

J. M. McCallam, Lib. elected	5,664
J. A. Mackean, Con.	2,594
R. Smillie, Lab.-Soc.	2,482

—LANCASHIRE, (Accrington.)

Sir J. F. Leese, Lib.	7,209
D. Irving, Soc.	4,852
Holden, Ind.	619

Liberal majority 2,357. No change Liberal majority 1900, 592.

—LANCASHIRE, Gorton.

J. Hodge, Lab.	8,566
S. W. Royce, Con.	4,341

Labor majority, 4,225. Labor gain. Conservative majority, 1900, 520.

In addition to those reported above, labor candidates were elected at the following places: West Houghton, Walworth, Derby. North Salford, Deptford, Shoreditch, Bolton, Chatham, East Leeds, Peterborough, Preston, Stoke-on-Trent, Wolverhampton, Finsbury, Barro Birkenhead, Hanley, St. Heleos. Stockport, Gateshead, South Nottingham, Vaneaton and other places. A number of these members are Socialists. There are still about forty parliamentary divisions which Socialists or labor men are contesting of which we have no figures as yet.

...

In judging of the British elections and comparing the results achieved with those in France, Germany and the United States. it must be borne in mind that every candidate for parliament whether successful or otherwise, must contribute his portion of the official election expenses. This, in addition to candidates' campai expenses, and the necessity of praviding the labor candidate with his living, if elected, for British members of Parliament receive no sala and have made the running of Socialist candidates a most expensive luxury. Until members of Parliament are paid by the State, and election expenses out of the rates, it will be impossible for Socialists there to conduct a general campaign such as is carried on in France, Germany and the United States.

There were but 90 labor and Socialist candidates, while there are 670 parliamentary divisions for Great Britain and Ireland. Of these the Social Democratic Federation, (revolutionary Socialist) was responsible for about ten candidates. The Independent Labor Party (opportunist Socialist) nominated ten candidates. The Labor representation League, about fifty candidates—many of these being Socialists. The other twenty were trade union officials, nominated by trade unions and indorsed by Liberals and for all practical purposes can e considered Liberals. The S. D. F., elected but one of its candidates, Will Thorne, for South West Ham, with a tremendous majority, being the first clean-cut revolutionary Socialist to be elected to the British Parliament. The vote everywhere showed a large increase. Hyndman just escaped being elected for Burnbey, Northampton, also showing a very large increase.

The Independent Labor Party elected about half of its candidates, among them being Phillip Snowden, J. Ramsay-McDonald, G. H. Roberts, Kier Hardie, Old, Jowett, etc., many of these candidates were supported by the S. D. F. The Labor Representation League elected something over half of its candidates.

Unfortunately, from a Socialist point of view, the clear-cut Socialists among their candidates were not so successful as men of a neutral, unknown type,. This is undoubtedly due to the action of the Liberals who, in many cases tolerated mere trade-unionists, while they vigorously opposed any aggressive Socialist. Among the good men, and true who went down to defeat and whose presence would have strengthened the Socialist cause in the British Parliament were James Sexton, Pete Curran, J. Burgess, Tom Kenn Bruce Glasier, Dr. Stanton Coil, R. Smillie and others.

Taken altogether, however, the results are very encouraging and are a fair indication of the extent of the Socialist propaganda. Socialist representatives can only be elected by the votes of Socialists, and all attempts to get large masses of people to vote for Socialists disguised as labor candidates will, in the end, fail. In the meantime, the twelve or fifteen Socialists elected will serve as the neuclus around which will form the coming United Socialist Party of Great Britain.

WISE BUNCH OF CITY FATHERS

Montreal City Council Can Help Unemployed Only in Event of a Snow Storm. In Attacking Usury Capitalist Star Blurts Out Fragmentary Truth.

That the conditions in Montreal are ripe for a strong Socialist movement is evidenced in many ways, particularly by the many admissions that somehow find their way into the capitalist press of that city. The following from the Montreal "Star" is a case in point:

"We have not so many paupers this year as we had last year. The reason for this is that it being such an open winter, the building trades are enabled to carry on their work more extensively than a year ago."

Note the admission. The laborers are wage-earners as long as they are employed, but the moment they cannot find employment they become paupers. This is also an open admission of the correctness of the Socialist contention that wages are determined by the cost of subsistence varying above or below according to the condition of the labor market. If the demand for laborers is greater than the supply of them, that is if there are more jobs than workers to fill them, wages go up and the worker receives something more than is actually required to sustain life. That such is not the case at present in Montreal, is shown by the Star's admission that the workers become paupers as soon as they are out of employment.

When the supply of labor power in the market is greater than the demand for it, that is when there are more workers than jobs, wages will inevitably tend downward to the lowest possible notch of subsistence. Indeed, millions of our wage-workers are now receiving such small wages that they cannot replace the energy expended in their daily toil, and are practically starving to death by inches, even while in employment. This is largely the reason why so many men and women become physical wrecks at twenty or twenty-five years of age. It is also the reason that so many of our large industries refuse to employ those of over thirty-five, or perhaps forty years. It also accounts for the general deterioration in the status of the working class. For instance, in 1845, the standard of height for admission to the British Army was 5 feet 6 inches. In 1883 it was 5 feet 3 inches, and in 1900 it had been reduced to 5 feet.

A recent issue of the "Star" informs us that a deputation representing Montreal's unemployed, waited upon the city council beseeching employment. The wise "city fathers" told them they expected it would snow, and as soon as it did, they would give them work shovelling it. The consolation thus afforded was evidently sufficient to appease the gnawing of their hungry stomachs, and cause them to forget chills that played tag up and down their half-clad bodies, for a week or ten days but no more. At the end of that time they waited on the "city fathers" once more. This time the wise ones expressed heartfelt sorrow because rain had fallen instead of snow. As the water that thus fell upon the city's streets escaped of its own accord by way of the gutters and sewers, and thus in obedience to the laws of gravitation betook itself beyond the municipal limits without waiting to be shovelled, it was clearly beyond the power of the city council to come to the relief of the workless ones until such time as Providence saw fit to send snow instead of rain.

The question naturally arises, if there were no unemployed, how would Montreal or any other great city, get its snow shovelled in case such an emergency should arise The fact is that an army of unemployed is just as necessary to the successful development of capitalist property, as are the employed themselves. Take for instance, the county of Kent, England. About 80,000 persons are employed there for a week or two in each year, picking hops. These hop-pickers are drawn from the surplus, or otherwise, unemployed labor in the great industrial centers. Were it not for this surplus or unemployed labor,, hop-picking, snow-shovelling and such spasmodic and emergency calls for labor could not be met without seriously crippling other industries for the time being. It becomes thecefore, absolutely necessary to the conservation of capitalist property, that a sufficient surplus labor be at all times in the market, to not only hold the wage at the minimum point, but to also meet the requirements of any spasmodic or emergency call for laborers.

And last, but by no means least, the "Star" tells us there are "12,000 slaves in Montreal," and asks if there are 12,000 in Montreal, how many must there be in the Dominion of Canada? In making this break, the "Star" had no intention of unmasking the capitalist system of slavery and striking valiant blows for the emancipation of its wage-slave victims. It had gotten some little insight into the ways of the modern money lender, which it terms the usurer, and waxed wroth because this worthy took advantage of the necessities of the poor by loaning them small sums, taking their modest effects as security, and charging "all the traffic would bear" in the shape of interest on the loan. The reason of the "Star's" wrath at the exactions of the usurer is probably due to the fact that it is not engaged in that particular line of capitalist swindle itself.

The old-time slave masters owned the slave outright. The modern slave master (capitalist) by owning the means of production owns the job upon which the slave depends for his subsistence. It is not necessary for the master under such circumstances to hold property rights in the slave. The latter will be forced by his necessities to keep himself within easy call of the master. He will readily respond whenever the master wants to use him. In fact, his stomach will see that he does respond.

That which the wage-slave receives in exchange for his labor-power, is termed wages, and as we have already seen, is determined by the cost of subsistence, and the conditions of the labor market. According to recent statistics, the wages of the working class in the United States, totals about 17 per cent. of the wealth produced. This would leave about 83 per cent. in the hands of the capitalists, to be consumed by them and their hangers-on, or to be converted into additional capital. It is, therefore, clear that they who produce the world's wealth are the slaves of the capitalist or master class. But this is not generally known, or if known it certainly is not admitted by those who preside over the destinies of the capitalist press. Of course the "Star" was not advocating the overthrow of the wage system of which these "slaves" are the victims. But the "Star" is carrying on a campaign against the "usurers," that sort of money lenders who, it would appear, in some mysterious way, are successfully competing with the large banks, insurance companies, etc., in the fine art of financial skinning. The "Star" is evidently acting as attorney and spokesman for these larger financial pirates. The admission that they who work for wages are slaves, is by no means made in the interest of the slaves, however. It is made in the interest of the "Star's" clients, the big money lenders, who are resorting to anything and everything to crush their competitor, the "usurer," as the "Star" calls him.

Twelve thousand is an altogether too conservative estimate of the number of "slaves" in Montreal, with its population of about 267,000. It is safe to say that 80 per cent. or about 215,000 of the city's population are wage-slaves, and the remaining 55,000 or so are the "Star's" friends, big and little labor skinners, usurers, et al and who have numerous quarrels, petty and otherwise, among themselves to see which can grab the most out of that 83 per cent. of the wealth produced, and which capital as a whole claims as its pound of flesh. But neither the "Star" its friends, nor the usurers, are wealth producers, and they all stand shoulder to shoulder in spite of their petty differences and quarrels, for the purpose of holding the wage-slaves in subjection, and in ignorance of how they are robbed of the wealth they produce by the "Star's" following, with the usurers thrown in for good measure.

The "Star" is appealing to the government for legislation against the usurer, and therefore for protection for its clients—the big ones. It is worthy of note that whenever such people are in trouble they go direct to the government for protection. Let the workers do likewise, by first taking possession of the reins of government, and once in possession use its power without mercy in their own behalf. If any precedent for such action is necessary, the master class is each day furnishing it.

About 8 months ago, the writer was in Montreal for a few days soliciting subs. for the Clarion, and doing whatever he could for the good of the movement. I learned that Montreal at one time had quite a strong Socialist movement as expressed through two different organizations. It appears that both of these organizations were of a somewhat utopian nature. Apparently they disagreed although each attempted to express the political aspirations of an awakening proletariat. Their differences which at the worst were more imaginary than real, arose over a something that was wholly foreign to the genuine Socialist movement and which each was determined to annex to it, i. e., trades unionism, which these Utopians believed to be the economic side of the class struggle. In their Utopian wanderings they differed as to what particular brand of trade unions constituted this imaginary "economic wing." The Socialist Labor Party held fast to the S. T. & L. A. (now extinct) as the only trade union worthy of the name, while the Canadian Socialist League, more lenient in their views, were willing to admit any and every brand of trade unionists as worthy wagers of the class struggle on the economic field.

A Montreal comrade, Kerrigan by name, who used to be organizer for the S.L.P. and the S. T. & L. A.,

(Continued on Page Two.)

The Western Clarion

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PUTTING THEM ON RECORD.

While it is possible for a Socialist minority in a legislative chamber to push through little in the way of constructive legislation looking to the relief of the laborers from the merciless exploitation of capital, such a minority becomes a powerful factor in exposing to the public gaze the utter incompetency and impotency of the political hacks of capitalism that are boosted into public office through the credulity and ignorance of an electorate. A most striking illustration of this may be found in the case of the Provincial House at Victoria, during the last two, and the present session. Outside of the few measures introduced by the two Socialists members, nothing has been brought before the House that by the widest stretch of the imagination could be construed as in the interest of the commonweal or in any manner in line with human progress and advancement.

The measure of capitalist "statesmanship" as expressed in the Local House may well be taken from a list of the measures introduced by the present galaxy of talent both government and opposition so far during the present session. A half dozen or so proposed railway incorporations, or amendments to existing acts relating thereto, a few similar proposals relating to mining and like corporations, a little puny juggling with assessment and taxation matters; some tender legal solicitude over "Bills of Sale Acts," "Small Debts Courts," mortgage laws, Trust Corporations, "Ancient Lights," and a few other equally weighty matters relating to the petty private interests that spring up among the members of that economic class in human society that has its fangs deeply buried in the vitals of the working class, seems to be the extreme heighth to which it is possible for statesmanship of the government or opposition brand to attain.

When Hawthornthwaite's Bill to extend the "Franchise to Women," was before the House, this brilliant coterie of Conservative and Liberal statesmen, though blinking like owls in the sudden glare of the obnoxious sunlight, were discreet enough to set upon their perches and raise no hoot in opposition. But the ease and grace with which they voted it down would indicate a rare wisdom coupled with commendable caution. To do anything in the way of removing obstructions in the way of a free expression of the popular will was to them a dangerous innovation and not to be countenanced, for fear it might lead to the awful consequence of relegating themselves and the interest they serve to that oblivion to which similar bats, owls and vultures innumerable have gone before. Hawthornthwaite's Bill to reduce the election deposit from $200 to $50 passed second reading by a majority of one vote. It is safe to assume that it will receive its final quietus either in committee or at third reading, and for the same reason that the "Women's Franchise Bill" was knocked out.

While the presence of two Socialists in the House is bringing to the surface the utter incompetency and impotence of these alleged statesmen to deal with any of the larger problems that are being forced upon human society through the enormous concentration of power in the hands of the ruling class resulting from the present highly developed and perfected system of production with its out-of-date ownership and control, and is putting them on record as opposed to those measures calculated to lead up to a peaceful and orderly solution of such problems, another good is being accomplished by their presence that should not be overlooked. It is widely acknowledged that the last two sessions of the House were the cleanest ever held since the Province was born. During these two sessions, owing to the presence of two representatives of a political movement that springs from an economic program that is in itself clean and wholesome, inasmuch as it proposes or tolerates nothing that can by any stretch of the imagination be reasonably construed as wrong or unjust, or likely to work a wrong or an injustice to any person, has made it absolutely impossible for the cormorants of capitalist plunder to indulge in their accustomed saturnalia of graft and corruption, which used to be considered a regular part of the ceremonies of each session, and during which in the expressive language of a one-time member, "boodle was oftentimes passed around like pie on a plate." None of these boodling schemes that are all too common in legislative chambers, and which bring wealth and capitalist honor to the schemers and shame to the working people who tolerate a system of property that breeds such infamies and iniquities, have made their appearance at Victoria since the two Socialist members entered the House This is no doubt one good and sufficient reason why the "statesmen" of capitalism are suddenly reduced to a condition of "innocuous desuetude," or harmless dry-rot. The usual occupation of the political representatives of capitalism is to "boost" the particular schemes of their respective owners, whether such be individuals or corporations. There is but one way to "boost," and everybody now-a-days understands what that is. Once a sprag is put in their wheel by the advent of Socialist representatives, like Othello, their occupation is gone, both upon the floor of the House and in the lobby. This of course works upon the craft of politicians no inconsiderable hardship. They should be entitled to most careful attention at the hands of the "Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals."

The sessions of the House referred to clearly proves that a little Socialist leaven "leaveneth the whole lump," even although the lump itself is of doubtful quality. The ability and general worth of both Conservatives and Liberals is being clearly demonstrated by the proceedings in the House. All of these are being placed, or rather are placing themselves on record as being not only absolutely useless from the workingman's standpoint but positively harmful. They stand for nothing that can in the slightest degree tend to lessen the present economic pressure upon the men of labor, or in any manner aid them in arriving at more satisfactory industrial conditions. On the contrary, they stand for everything that makes for the perpetuation of the present system with its merciless economic masters upon the one-hand, and its vast army of wage-slaves on the other, with the former continually increasing their wealth and power, the latter ever sinking deeper into pauperism and despair.

By paying close attention to the proceedings of the House at Victoria, the workers will discover the proper course to pursue at the next Provincial election. They will return none but Socialist representatives. All others will be elected to remain at home.

THE REVOLUTION.

At no period in the history of this Western Continent has the word "revolution" been of more common usage than at present. For some reason it seems to roll from the tongue of people in all walks of life without leaving any particularly bad taste in the mouth. At one time, and not so long since, the very term was enough to conjure forth such visions of blood and carnage, rapine and slaughter, as have marked so many previous periods in the world's history. But for some mysterious reason the term has taken on a new significance, one more in harmony with peaceful progress, and less inclined to paint upon the human mind pictures of bloodshed and horror. And yet the reason for this evident change in the manner in which the revolution is spoken of, and the later understanding of its significance, need not appear mysterious if enquiry be made into the economic changes that have occurred during comparatively recent times, and the influence that such changes must inevitably have upon the minds of men.

During the past few centuries there has been effected a complete transformation or revolution in industry. The major portion of this transformation has been brought about within the last 100 years. While it is not as yet absolutely complete it has so nearly reached completion, that for all practical purposes it may as well be acknowledged as finished. This transformation or revolution in industry has substituted modern social or mass production, for the old time individual production of days gone by. As the ancient hand tools used by the individual workman for the purpose of fashioning the things needful to supply himself with the creature comforts of his time, have grown by almost imperceptible stage into the gigantic powerful and complicated tools of today, by equally gradual stages has the individual workman of old been merged into the immensely powerful and efficient battalions of labor that now carry on the processes of production not as individuals, but as a co-operative or social force. As the individual hand tool of production has been swallowed up in the giant mechanical tool of our times, so has the individual workman been swallowed up in the grand army of labor requisite for its operation.

As the revolution in industry has proceeded, breaking down step by step the previous individual process, and supplanting it with collective, or organized labor, it may be readily realized that a corresponding change in ideas, conceptions, manners and modes of thought, must, of necessity follow, among those who were thus being molded into the component parts of a new order in complete contra-distinction to the old. As the workmen were gradually drawn together into the mass production by the relentless powers of the machinery with which it was carried on, they were logically compelled by the same gradual process to abandon their previous individual method of thought and action, and think and act together. As they were compelled by the logic of events to work together, so were they compelled to abandon the individual viewpoint and consider matters from that of the collective or organized body.

As the revolution in industry was accomplished it thus carried with it a corresponding revolution in ideas in the minds of men. It brought with it new relations between the different members of society. These altered relations wese not confined to those between masters and workmen. New relationships were developed between masters as such, as well as between their employees as workingmen. The individual master lost his individuality and that of his capital in the corporation. The workman lost his individuality as such in the great organized social force of which he became a part.

It is by no means strange that this revolution in industry, which has so thoroughly and effectively organized the workers in social production, and revolutionized their ideas and conceptions of industry and all matters pertaining thereto, should in time so impress itself upon the minds of the workmen that they would recognize the significance of it all, and consciously approach the task of completing the revolution by effecting such changes in property rights in, and control of industry, as would enable the benefits thereof to be applied to all members of human society alike. This consciousness is now awakening in the minds not only of workingmen but of those in other walks of life. The approaching revolution in property rights, as relating to the means of production, is being looked upon as a logical sequence of what has already occurred. It, therefore, no longer excites any appreciable alarm, and as it becomes more thoroughly understood, will excite still less. That it will come is as certain as that the sun will rise on the morrow. If the powers that be are sufficiently wise to refrain from attempting to put serious obstacles in its way, it will come with peace and order, like a glorious dawn after the tempestuous terrors of a night of storm. If those powers are lacking in such wisdom, it will come some other way, which is, of course, quite another story.

Occasionally some lusty lunged fanatic proclaims from the housetops that the workingmen cannot fight capital with capital. Of course they cannot for the very good reason that they have none. The size of it is that capital cannot be fought in the "economic field" with anything else but capital. When a lot of empty-bellied slaves who break out in rebellion against the unsatisfactory conditions of the labor market get a notion in their heads that they are fighting capital, they should be looked after by the "lunacy commission" lest at the next change of moon they become violent and do themselves injury.

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The Attorney General has introduced into the Provincial House "An Act Respecting Distress." This Bill, however, has no reference to the sufferings of the Opposition.

A bitter fight has arisen in the United States Congress over the admission of New Mexico and Arizona to joint statehood instead of allowing each to become a state by itself. Only one set of fat offices, where two were thought to be plainly in sight? What greater justification for warfare could be needed by that gang of hungry political vultures who scan the horizon in eager search for carrion upon which to feed?

WISE CITY FATHERS.

(Continued from Page One.)

and who still has economic bees in his bonnet, said to me, "the Canadian Socialist League could not last because its members were not ground, ed on the fundamental principles that constitute a Socialist Party."

"Granted," said I, "I quite agree with you. And for the same reason the S.L.P. could not last." Its papers were filled with, and its time of propaganda spent in hurling bricks at each other and everybody else in their efforts to uphold and defend an untenable position, which some of them evidently still cling to, because they continue to spend their time in the same old way, and appear to be as yet ignorant of its untenability. Either that, or they lack the moral courage to acknowledge themselves to have been in the wrong.

Had this time and energy been spent in equipping themselves with a knowledge of the true function of capitalist property, the commodity character of labor power and the laws of exchange, and imparting this knowledge to their fellows through their propaganda meetings and the columns of their papers, the absurdity of trying to build economic organizations out of wage-slaves, who have no possible control of economic power would have been long since made apparent to many who are still floundering in the fogs of confusion on this subject. Happily for the Socialist movement of Canada these organizations are now defunct in Montreal. What has been said of them in Montreal applies to most of the large cities and towns in Eastern Canada.

I paid a hasty visit to Montreal last week, and on the afternoon of the anniversary of "Bloody Sunday," attended a meeting of Montreal Local of the Socialist Party of Canada, in the German Workingmen's Hall, 246 St. James St. This organization is perhaps but two or three months old, with 24 members, principally Germans. Most of them speak good English and all of them understand it pretty well. They read the daily Vorwaerts, of Berlin, the Western Clarion, and other Socialist papers. They explained to me that they wanted to belong to a party whose propaganda was the analysis of capitalist production and the commodity nature of labor-power, in short the propaganda of the Maexian school. With the assistance of the English and French speaking comrades, they can easily grapple with the ripe conditions that surround them and soon become a power in putting forward the propaganda of freedom from wage servitude.

The Jews have a large Local Socialist organization. They carry on their propaganda chiefly in their own language. On Monday night, Jan. 22, they had a large Jewish mass meeting in commemoration of the martyrs of Bloody Sunday. Many of them that I talked with expressed a wish for closer relationship with the Montreal Local of the Socialist Party of Canada, and a desire to work with that body. I gave them the names of the officials of the Local, and the place and time of the meetings. It is their intention to visit the Local.

C. M. O'BRIEN.

Combermere, Ont., Jan. 28, 1906.

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PLATFORM

"WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE"

We, the Socialist Party of Canada, in convention assembled, affirm our allegiance to and support of the principles and program of the international revolutionary working class.

Labor produces all wealth, and to labor it should justly belong. To the owners of the means of wealth production belongs the product of labor. The present economic system is based upon capitalist ownership of the means of wealth production; therefore all the products of labor belong to the capitalist class. The capitalist is master; the worker is slave.

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

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

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

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

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

1. The transformation as rapidly as possible, of capitalist property in the means of wealth production (natural resources, factories, mills, railways, etc.,) into the collective property of the working class.

2. Thorough and democratic organization and management of industry by the workers.

3. The establishment, as speedily as possible, of production for use instead of production for profit.

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

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

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

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

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

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Admitted to Local... ...190..

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Union Directory

When They Meet; Where They Meet.

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

Phoenix Miners' Union, No. 8, W. F. M. Meets every Saturday evening at 7.30 o'clock in Miners' hall. V. Ingram, president; W. A. Pickard, secretary.

Socialist Directory

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

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

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

LOCAL VANCOUVER, NO. 1, S.P. of Canada. Business meetings every Monday evening at headquarters, Ingleside Block, 313 Cambie Street, (room 1, second floor.) Educational meetings every Sunday at 8 o'clock p.m., in Sullivan Hall, Cordova Street.

D. P. MILLS, Secretary. Box 836, Vancouver B. C.

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

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ONE THING AND ANOTHER.

In the Winnipeg Tribune, of Monday last, Alderman Sandison gives vent to a loud wail against the wicked corporations and the cruel way in which they rob "the public." Th corporations do on a large scale just what the worthy alderman (it appears to be correct to call an alderman worthy — reason unknown) and his ilk do on a small scale, and that is grind the profit out of the bones of their employees who are the subjects of robbery. "The public" in this case means the consumer. The consumer is not robbed. If the price charged for electric power or light in Winnipeg is more than the consumer thinks fair, he is at liberty to either do without or generate his electricity himself. If he chooses the latter course he might apply to the city council or to the Provincial legislature for leave to use some of the gas liberated in such quantities at every session. It is not worth anything and he could doubtless get all he wanted for the trouble of taking it away.

* * *

When Von Mayback, of Prussia, was getting ready to nationalize the railways he was met with many objections, some of which have a very familiar sound to the Socialist. "How are you going to compensate the owners?" And "There are the widows and orphans who really own the railroads—What about them?" These objections, however, did not trouble Von Mayback any more than they bother or will bother the Socialist. He employed capitalist methods and obtained his end. To quote from an article by Charles Edward Russell in "Everybody's:" "He went quietly into the stock market and bought the control of one or two railroads. On these he instantly slashed all rates and reached out for all business. It was knife for knife in brutal fashion on the tariff sheets, but in the end the private competing company found that Von Mayback had the stronger weapon and the better nerve. He did not care for any protest about vested rights or the sanctity of dividends, but thrust his good blade right and left. The stockholders took fright at the vanishing of their dividends; with a hard brutal person like that to deal with the widows and orphans seemed to have no chance in the world and in the end, the private competition was glad to make the best terms it could with the minister."

SPARTACUS.

Mackenzie & Mann, and the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, recently got into a quarrel over the right of the former to put in a crossing over the latter's tracks down in Ontario. Cars were run upon the crossing and smashed. Barricades of steel rails were erected, and by the use of dynamite a hole 60 feet in circumference was blown out of the frozen ground, thus temporarily destroying the crossing altogether. When contending factions of laborers get into a fight over jobs, "law and order," is seriously outraged, and the strong hand of government smites the combatants and restores peace. But it seems to be different when capitalists quarrel. "Law and order" suffers no outrage whatever. The despatches say that during this Ontario war the laborers of both sides came to blows. Just what they were fighting about is not stated.

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Provincial Parliament

(Continued From Page One.)

could be bought cheaper and they were less susceptible of resisting the encroachments of capitalism. The increase in woman labor in the United States was much greater than in Great Britain, because her advent into industrialism did not commence till a later stage, but having been introduced it was found cheap and profitable to the employer, it increased with startling rapidity. An investigation had been made by a leading American paper into the condition of women employed in these sweatshops and factories, and it was asserted that in Chicago alone 500,000 women , or one-quarter of the whole population were employed in sweatshops at wages running from $37 to $200 per year, not $37 a month but $37 a year. Just think of a woman living on that, and being able to lead a decent life. Further, it was said that there were cases where such women were supporting two or three children upon a wage of 15 cents a day. Was it any wonder that in such conditions women were driven to lives of prostitution and shame. Such condition in that great country were horrible to contemplate. Many members of the House were anxious for the advancement of British Columbia, and wished to make Vancouver or Victoria a second Chicago. They should bear in mind that if they succeeded in doing so under present conditions these things of which he had spoken must follow.

"There is no reason, sir, today," said Mr. Hawthornthwaite, "for that right—Jus Primae Noctis. The master class can command it more freely today than the feudal lords of old. Just think of a woman trying to lead a life of virtue on fifteen cents a day and having to support her helpless children. If honorable members do not realise this, the day is not far distant when they will, and members in this House in obedience to their political faith are doing their best to bring it about.

The speaker then said he would have to bring up the question of religion. There was something pathetic in the way in which women clung t the simple teachings of the Nazarene, those beautiful teachings rich in their promise of the life to come. He could well understand that believing that after their sufferings here were past, they would be consoled by the thought that in a future state their wounds would be healed, and some measure of justice would be shown them, they would cling to their beliefs. In regard to that he wished to make clear his own position in the matter of religion. Recently in Vancouver, he took occasion to attack some worn-out gross superstitions, and among these was the idea of eternal torment. He had characterized the teachings of this idea as a pack of lies conjured by priestcraft and quackery to frighten people and to keep them under. The press took up his remarks and said that he and his party were endeavoring to pull down the whole fabric of religious belief, when in reality he was only endeavoring to pull away certain hideous superstitions. The reason he had spoken was that the well known revivalists, Dr. Torrey and Mr. Alexander were at that time preaching these superstitions in the old country. At present these gentlemen were in Toronto and had been teaching the same things there, and ministers there had taken the same stand and practically labelled their teachings in this respect as a pack of lies. It was impossible to believe that a beneficient Creator would after this life with all its pains was ended, re-clothe our bodies for the express purpose of tormenting them eternally. The party to which he belonged had also been maligned on matters of religion because they had agreed to accept as the basis of their actions the materialistic teachings of history.

At this point the Speaker called Mr. Hawthornthwaite to order saying that his religious opinions had nothing to do with the franchise for women which was the subject before the House.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite—Mr. Speaker, I am sorry to have to differ with you, but religious matters have a great deal to do with the position of women today. Many people take the stand that on account of their religious views women are not entitled to the franchise. Surely then, in this House I have the right to discuss one phase which has a most important bearing on the question. I have never heard that in the British House of Commons any subject was too sacred to be refused discussion.

The Speaker—I have already said that your religious views have nothing to do with this matter, and if you continue I shall appeal to the House.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite—Excuse me, I am not saying what I believe or do not believe, I have not said that"

The Speaker—Yes you have.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite—Mr. Speaker, you misunderstand me. I have said that certain religious views had an important bearing on this question. I have not expressed my own views, but I wish to explain one phase of this matter. I have not wished to hurt your feelings or that of any other member of this House, but if religion has been used in this House or country to deprive any section of the people of their rights, then in this House I will rise and dispute that contention and those views.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite continued that he was going to speak on the question of economic determinism, which meant that the mode of production in any age affected or determined the religion and views of that age. He had recently picked up a book in the library of W. P. Ashton, probably the only Canadian writer on political economy. He pointed out that no scientist can take a stand on this question without deciding as to whether this theory is or is not true. Among those who have accepted this theory is Carl Marx, the greatest authority on political economy the world has ever seen. In fact, he discovered this theory, but he never denied or affirmed a future existence.

"The Party which I represent," said Mr. Hawthornthwaite, "believe that religion is a private matter, and say that everyone has a right to express his views, but we contend that no religious views have the right to be used to deprive of their liberities, any section of the people of our country or any class. I will accept the bona fide discoveries of any scientist, but on any other deductions I have as much right as any other individuals to come to my own conclusions. I will not accept the mere deductions of any scientist, whether it is Karl Marx, Spencer, or anyone else."

"Carlyle says: 'There is no greater tragedy in the world today than that of any one man capable or receiving human knowledge, should go down to the grave without knowing something of the little we all know.' Now, we know today how knowledge of the true conditions of life is hidden from the many. This knowledge is confined to the learned circles, to colleges to which only the wealthy and great can belong. So far as the common people are concerned they learn nothing at all. At least this is true so far as the working people and the middle classes are concerned.

The speaker continued that he wished to deduct this conclusion from evolution. That theory today is believed to be true all over the civilized world, and is taught in every college as a portion of the curriculum. It teaches that man evolved to his present form of life and existence in the course of countless ages, from the lower forms of life, and this life as we know it probably had its beginning in the single cell protogoon. That is an accepted theory and I believe that theory to be true. He accepted it himself, and many who had accepted it went still further, and asserted that beyond this evolutionary point there was nothing further to the existence of man. He did not go so far as that, but suppose that it was true, and after this life is completed, all is a blank.

"Then," he continued, "I wanted to ask you in this House that if this is true, what is the position of woman in this world, if all her sufferings and miseries and degradations here are utterly lost and wasted. If it is true that all after this stage of existence is a blank, then all she has borne and suffered has gone for nothing. So far as I am concerned I repudiate that idea, but I think it the duty of this House to act exactly as if they believed that idea to be true; that we should do our duty to our mothers, wives, and sisters here, that we should treat woman kindly while we have her here, and that we shall never again have an opportunity to remedy the wrongs we have done her in this life.

In conclusion, Mr. Hawthornthwaite said he would ask the members to consider this question seriously. He hoped that the views he had uttered would have that effect, and that they would recognize the wrong that had been done our womenkind through all time.

"When members of this House," he said, "are given an opportunity to remedy these grievances and wrongs, I ask them to put aside party ties and to view this question on its merits alone. I know men in this House engaged in matters of business speculation who do not perhaps give much thought to these things, and they fear also that it may injure their business in some way by bringing women to the level of men; but in a matter of right and justice these things should not weigh. The question is whether women should have the right to vote or should not have the right. Take your own religious standard and judge it by that. You should do unto others in this matter as you would have them do towards you. I have said that I trust to receive the undivided support of the Liberal party on this question, and I trust also that I may receive the support of many members of the opposite side, sufficient at least to make this Bill become law. I am satisfied that no harm can come from it, than nothing but good shall result. We have refused by our actions to give women protection as the figures I have quoted show, and we have gone further, we have refused to allow women to protect themselves. Nay, worse, we have tied their hands and invited humanity to do its worst with them. Our conduct towards women in the past has been a stain upon our manhood, the darkest blot upon our civilization. This House is now given an opportunity to remedy this evil, and I hope that the consideration of the matter will have this effect—that every member of this House will vote solidly, collectively to have this Bill become law" (Applause.)

PARKER WILLIAMS' SARCASM AND LOGIC.

At the conclusion of Mr. Hawthornthwaite's speech there was a pause, and as no one rose, the Speaker called "Question," just before the bell rang. Then Parker Williams rose and said he had looked carefully round the House to see if he could not find some speaker who would give them the opposite side of the question before he expressed himself. Since no one seemed inclined to rise, he would say a few words, though the member for Nanaimo had covered the ground so thoroughly, that very little was left for him to do. Personally he was proud to be able to register a vote on this question. It had always been a puzzle to him why there should be any difference between men and women on the question of franchise, and as he grew older the same question still kept rising. Two years ago when this question was before the House in the shape of an amendment to the Provincial Elections Act, the Premier had suggested that all they had to do if they were in favor of it, was to take up the Hansard of the British Commons, and they would there find arguments on the opposite side that would convince them that it was undesirable. He, (Mr. Williams) did not think that was necessary as the strongest arguments for woman suffrage were to be found in the facts of every day life, but nevertheless he took up Hansard and went into the arguments of some of the gentlemen who had spoken on the subject and found they spoke mostly from a very bourgeois and commercial standpoint. One of them based his objection on the ground that women did not understand politics. He (Mr. Williams) had lived for some years in Great Britain and Canada, and he also spent some time in the United States, and if that applied to women, there was certainly the same justification for refusing the franchise to men. Another gentleman said he did not think that ten per cent. of the women would read political speeches. If they were of the quality of that gentleman's speech, he was not surprised at it. This person also said that it was opposed to the organic laws of the relationship of the sexes.

"That was out of my lattitude," said Mr. Williams," and I did not go into it. The same gentleman also said that it was opposed to the Divine order of things and in support of his contention quoted Scripture fsom Saint Paul back to Genesis, and he also drew awful conslusions of what would be the result if this right were granted, which seemed to based on the ground that anything we do not understand must necessarily be evil, and it would be followed by every disaster from a house on fire to the dissolution of the British Empire. This person was followed by another gentleman with half the alphabet before his name and the other half after it. (laughter), who said that the question had been so thoroughly covered by the gentleman before him that all he could say was that it was plainly the duty of that House to protect women from that sort pf legislation. 'A very touching way of putting it."

"What strikes me most in this matter is that women stand responsible for the rising generation. They will surround their homes for years with all sorts of good influences to lead their children in the right way, and mould their characters, and no sooner do these children get out into the world than they find themselves surrounded by another set of influences over which the mothers have no control, and they find themselves powerless to prevent all the good influences they have inculcated through long years being wrecked in one short year. And the influence of woman in the home has always been for good, and why should it be otherwise in political affairs. Certainly our own management of these affairs without women is nothing to our credit. When we read that in this hurrying age insanity is on the increase, when forgery and embezzlement are common affairs, and honesty is becoming a by-word for simplicity, my idea is that the influence of women is such that it would have a salutory effect in checking the progress of these evils. I believe that the result of calling women into our politics would make for greater purity and simplicity, and surely we should not suffer from them in this province." (Applause.)

Mr. Brown (Greenwood) moved the adjournment of the debate. On the following day he delivered a strong speech in favor of the measure.

Mr. Hall, (Victoria), who two years ago introduced a similar Bill, also made an appeal for the liberty of the women.

While four had spoken for the Bill, not one could be found to say a word against it, but the Party whip had gone round on the Government side, the Conservatives of the Liberal Party lined up with them and the Bill was defeated by 24 votes to 12, divided as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Brown, McGuigan, Evans, Tanner, Davidson, Oliver, Munro, Wells, Hall, Cameron, Williams, Hawthornthwaite.

Nays—Messrs. Murphy, Jones, J. A. Macdonald, Henderson, Paterson, Tatlow, McBride, Wilson, Cotton, Ellison, Fraser, Ross, A. McDonald, Green, Fulton, Garden, Taylor, Gifford, Wright, Young, Macgowan, Shatford, Grant, Manson.

LAND ASSESSMENT ACT.

Messrs. Hawthornthwaite and Williams oppose an amendment to the Assessment Act, proposed by the member for Fernie, to exempt corporations from taxation.

It cannot be denied that two of the most useful members of the Provincial Legislature are the Socialist members for Nanaimo and Newcastle. They exert a constant warchfulness over every measure that in any way affects the interests of the working classes. An instance of this was seen when Mr. Ross, of Fernie, introduced an amendment to the Land Assessment Act to provide that corporations dealing in land should not be subject to double taxation by first paying the wild land tax, and then, after land was sold, be taxed on income derived from the sale.

Mr. Parker Williams promptly stated that if these corporations wished to add to their oppressions by becoming land sharks, he saw no reason to exempt them from taxation in any way.

Mr. Ross said that the amount of income derived from a sale above the assessed value of the land would still be taxable. For example, if they sold land for $20 an acre that had been assessed at $5 an acre, they would have to pay income tax on the $15 difference.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite said that if land could be assessed at $5 that was worth $20, there must be something wrong with the assessment.

Mr. Ross said he only used the figures as an illustration. It could be easily seen that in a large block of thousands of acres some land would be sold above the assessed value.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite said it was well known that parcels of land held by these corporations were being sold as townsites at enormous prices though only the ordinary land tax was paid on them. He saw no reason for relieving corporations from taxation, and should oppose the amendment.

The amendment was carried on a mixed vote, but two days afterwards, Mr. Ross thought better of it. Perhaps the arguments of the Socialists were of some avail, but anyhow he said he found considerable opposition had developed to it, and asked leave to withdraw the amendment. The permission was granted without a murmur of dissent.

Taking them as a whole, the general movements of wages are exclusively regulated by the expansion and contraction of the industrial reserve army, and these again correspond to the periodic change of the industrial cycle. They are, therefore, not determined by the variations of the absolute number of the working population, but by the varying proportions in which the working class is divided into active and reserve army, by the increase or diminution in the relative amount of the surplus population, by the extent to which it is now absorbed, now set free.—Marx.

The Opposition. A term applied to that faction of the political expression of capitalism that happens to be out of office, as against the faction that is in office. This alone constitutes the sole ground of opposition, and a most serious one it is.

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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.

There's a thing—anent Comrade Hawthornthwaite's Woman's Suffrage Bill—the women would have a serious time making less use of their franchise than their "lord and master." Fancy Bob Kelly corralling 30 or 40 women up the coast and leading them to the polls with "booze" and promises of "jobs."

Mayor Buscombe—Hearst-like—has established a Civic Emp,oyment Bureau, and, as the city press says: "From the number of sturdy, likely-looking men applying for work, it is apparent that there are many men in the city in need of employment." Huge bank clearings; glorious prosperity. What a lot of chumps the workers are, anyway.

When the Empress came into port the other day, over 200 men stood anxiously by waiting, aye, begging for a chance to work a few hours to earn a meal-ticket. They were practically lined up and the slave-driver selected about 40 odd of the huskiest looking to do the unloading. Who said slavery? Some of these same damphools voted for Bob Macpherson last election and were told in Socialist meetings that they'd get just what they voted for. And now, some of these same loyal singers of "Briton's Slaves Shall Never Be," have the nerve to look a Socialist in the face, and even complain of their jobless and hapless misery. Some men think with their head; others with their stomach, The purgative may do good by next election.

John Mitchell's huge aggregation of coal miners are figuring on going on strike—as soon as the warm weather comes round. In the meantime the job-owners are getting an immense supply of coal on hand, so that as soon as their slaves refuse to work the price of coal will be advanced enough to make the dividends the same as though the slaves were at work. By the time the supply is exhausted the coal miners will have been starved into submission. And let us hope they will also have learned the necessity for political action to cope with their masters. Even after their last great strike the miners (with their leaders) voted the G. O. P. ticket almost to a man. Experience is a hard task-master; but it seems as though the workers will try everything before the right thing. Much privation, suffering, misery and despair will ensue as a result of the strike; but in the end it can only result in developing and chrystallizing the revolution soon to be. It's an awful price to pay for economic ignorance, but, like birth.pangs, such experience must come oftener and more severe until the child—the co-operative Commonwealth—is born.

W. W. Jermane, among other things, in the daily press, says: "The plans made by Japan for extending her commerce show that the militant spirit she displayed in the late war will be in evidence in more peaceful pursuits. Nothing is more remarkable about the Oriental Yankees than the quickness with which they grasp Western ideas and apply them to their own conditions. Japan is situated to the Orient as England to the Occident, and everything points to her intention to become a great manufacturing nation and a great carrying nation. Colonization and sea power leading to commercial supremacy seems to be her motto. With a large seafaring population, low wages, cheap coal and liberal government subsidies to steamship companies, the Japanese will reach out for a good share of the lucrative carrying trade of the world. Evidently, the Japanese believe that the commerce follows the flag in peace as well as war." Just so. And with the Far East supplying its own needs and requirements, not to mention being able to ship goods into America cheaper than Americans can produce them themselves — based on the present wage-scale—what will the big industrial robbers of America do with their stolen property? The only object in robbing American wage-slaves is to dispose of the "surplus" and coin it into dividends. Hence, no market, no need for robbing of the wage-slaves; no robbery, no jobs, no wages, increased under consumption—then the revolution. After which the workers of all countries will build houses to live in; railways, automobiles, etc., to ride in; make clothes to wear; food to eat, and shoes to wear. In a word, production for use instead of for a "market." Socialism. It seems but a question of months.

WORKINGCLASS "PROSPERITY" IN SEATTLE.

Says Marion B. Baxter, an editorial writer in the Seattle Times: "* * * The average well-to-do citizen would be startled could he but know the poverty that infests Seattle today! No more prevalent here than in other cities, to be sure—but not so easily relieved as in older cities, because the work of relief is yet in its infancy here. There are men in our midst who have been unfortunate, either through their own fault, or circumstances over which they have no control. They are without proper food and clothing. Long days and nights of exposure have done their work, until a strange fever lurks in their veins, and despair seizes them. * * *" But, as usual, no solution whatever is even hinted at.

TORONTO SOCIALISTS' CELEBRATION OF "BLOODY SUNDAY."

Force is Permissible Where People Have not the Rights of the Ballot, Free Speech or Free Press, Says William Mailly, of Toledo, To the Gathering.

To aid the fund to buy arms for self-defence by the Russian workingmen was the object of a collection taken up at a meeting of the Socialists in the Labor Temple yesterday. The meeting was in connection with the international celebration, held in all parts of the world, of "The first anniversary of 'Bloody Sunday,' the eventful day when hundreds of Russian workmen were slaughtered by the Cossacks of capitalism in St. Petersburg," and the chief speaker was William Mailly, editor of the Toledo Socialist.

"The Revolution in Russia" was the subject of Mr. Mailly's address, though the bulk of his remarks consisted of an exposition of socialistic ideals and a denunciation of capitalism. He complained that none of the civilized governments—not even the strenuous Teddy—had raised a hand against the Russian atrocities. "We hear nothing," he said, "except the ghastly silence which gives the lie to the theory that the civilized governmeots stand for progress." The speaker referred with gratification to the fact that the workers were waking up in England. "The capitalists of the world are beginning to tremble," he said, "If you read the morning papers you will see despatches showing dread on the part of the ruling classes of England, because during the past week there have been men who after years of lassitude and indifference have gone to the ballot boxes and elected men of their own class. (Loud applause.) Well may the ruling class of England tremble." "The revolution in Russia," Mr. Mailly declared "is only the symptom and the manifestation of a world-wide revolution. The very same forces which are at work in Russia are at work in Great Britain, in America and elsewhere."

In announcing the object of the collection, Mr. Mailly said the lack of arms was the one thing which prevented the progress and close of the revolution. "Over here," he said, "we have the ballot and the franchise and do not have to use arms. In Russia the case is different, and they are compelled to resort to arms because they are denied the right to vote or to assemble, denied the right up till recently of a free press, although now, there is a daily Socialist paper published in St. Petersburg." Where these things were not obtainable by peaceable means, then they must be secured by forcible means. "It is up to us," said the speaker, "to say whether the Russians will be successful or not. What they need in Russia is arms. They cry for arms. It is up to us, comrades and fellow-workers, to give today what we can towards this cause. At every meeting held throughout the world there will be collections taken in order to enable the revolutionary headquarters to procure arms for the revolutionists"

At the close of Mr. Mailly's address several questions were put to him on general Socialistic topics and he replied to them. In reply to one he incidentally mentioned that John Burns years ago became a renegade to the labor movement in Great Britain.

At the opening of the meeting, a Russian revolutionary song to the tune of the Marseillaise was sung by a Russian choir, and a young Russian gave a violin solo.

The collection realized $27.

CLARION QUESTION BOX.

G.W.W., Toronto. —Will try and give all information asked for in the next issue.

Two patrols, accompanied each by two detectives, visited the offices of D. R. McNaught & Company, and S. A. Anderson & Company, Toronto, recently, and seized the books, papers, and memorandums on the premises. This vigorous action on the part of the Crown authorities has come from the long series of acts of alleged extortion and deception which have resulted from the practices of money brokers in deceiving the poor and needy. When McNaught's office was raided the detectives found a man and a woman in the act of signing papers for a small loan at 84 per cent. per annum.—Daily Press. Of course the good and "prosperous" people of the Pacific Coast will be horrified to note the existence of such institutions. But right here in Vancouver, where "the freight is high," we have money grabbers who can leave the effete East sharks at the pole. It may seem distasteful and humiliating to live in a community where such a "hold-up" fraternity thrive, but certain it is, they are but the product of our social system. The few taking full advantage of the dire necessities of others. While there can be no justification for the existence of such sanctimonious scalawags, yet we pause to ask: If 125 per cent. is usury and extortion, by what mode of reasoning is 5 per cent. moral and right? Is not the same principle involved in either case even under capitalism?

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VANCOUVER LOCAL, NO. 1.

The regular business meeting of the Local, was held at the headquarters on Monday evening, Feb. 5th, Comrade Morgan presiding.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved, and warrants drawn for the following amounts:

Stationery	.25
Light	2.36
Total	$2.61

The Organizer suggested the necessity for hall for propaganda meetings. Referred to Program Committee.

Report of Programme Committee referred to New Business.

The committee on ways and means, reported progress.

Under head of new business. the Programme Committee were instructed to hire the small Sullivan Hall from week to week until more commodious quarters could be procured. "The Trust" and its bearings on Socialism to be the subject next Sunday evening, Com. Wilkinson to preside and Com. Parr to open the debate.

Under the head of Good and Welfare, the separate account for headquarters was merged into the "general fund."

The financial report for the week is as follows:

Donation by Leeds, to General Fund	$1.00
Literature	.25
Headquarters	.25
Dues	3.00
Total	$4.50

The Financial report for the month, ending Jan. 31., showed:

Cash on hand Dec. 30th., 1905,	$ 9.32
Cash received January	115.80
Total	$125.12
Cash on hand, Jan. 31st, 1906,	$ 15.53
Receipted Cash warrants, returned by Treasurer, Jan. 31, 1906,	109.59
Total	$125.12

The Local held a dance at Masons Hall, Mt. Pleasant on Tuesday evening, Feb. 6th, which was an eminent social success, despite the necessarily limited appropriations of the committee in charge. The waltzes, schottisches, two-step, three-step, quick-step, and various other steps which the writer's (culpable) ignorance of up-to-date dancing prevents him from describing, or even designating by name, was indulged in without intermission (except to eat a few sandwiches, etc.) till the "wee sma' hours."

In deference to the writer and some more of his ilk who were class-conscious enough to stand together and assert their rights, a few square dances were included in the programme, the popularity of which action was manifested by the fact that no less than ten sets of "lancers" were occupying the floor at the same time with many waiting who could not get room either at the proverbial "top" or bottom.

The committee takes this opportunity of thanking all the comrades and friends who helped to make the affair a success, and promises that the next of the kind will be held in even more commodious quarters with better accommodations and facilities for "feeding the multitude."

D. P. MILLS, Secretary.

TENINO, WASH.

Editor "News and Views."

Dear Sir,—A great deal of discussion has arisen recently in Socialistic and trade union circles by reason of the attempt made to form a new kind of trade, or wage-workers' union known as the Industrial Workers of the World.

A short time ago I enjoyed the privilege of hearing the matter discussed in a boarding house in this little out-of-the-way place by exponents of both the I.W.W. and pure and simple trade union point of view, as well as a few telling comments volunteered by a so-called political Socialist.

During the conversation, the advocate of the I.W.W.'s form of organization dwelt at some length on the evolution of the Trust and pointing out the necessity of "labor" or workmen's unions following along the same line. He laid great stress on the concentration of Capital into fewer hands and the effect it had of binding its owners together for mutual protection and advantage. The workers he pointed out, should also be bound together for mutual protection and present a solid front, then, in the event of a strike in any branch of an industry, the whole industry itself would be tied up, and thus force concessions from employers. He also expressed the opinion that such an organization as the I. W.W. was imperatively necessary to the successful taking over and carrying on of the industries under a co-operative commonwealth, even if political action was taken to "expropriate the expropriators."

The pure and simple trade union advocate's argument was not so much a defense of the style of organization for which he stood as a criticism of the disruptive motives underlying the action of the founders of the I.W.W... He seemed to take it for granted that the A. F. of L.'s policy and the policy of the affiliated unions was correct, and the formation of any organization opposing the A. F. of L. was dangerous and could only work detrimentally to the interests of "organized labor."

To the astonishment of the I.W.W. advocate, the Political Socialist took the position that the A. F. of L., was following along the line of the Trust as the I.W.W. advocate had stated workingmen's organizations should do. He said the Trust was the result of competition and so was the A. F. of L. Taking the "Standard Oil" as an illustration, he pointed out that its organization was due, not to a fight with the buyers of oil, but with competitors in the oil market. The struggle was to eliminate competition by destroying its competitors, and thus modify prices by controlling the market. So with the affiliated unions of the A. F. of L. The real fight of the sellers of the commodity labor-power, was with competitors, other sellers of labor-power, not with the buyers of labor-power, employers. The "Standard Oil" by eliminating competition controls a section of the commodity market, and can modify market prices by regulating the supply, in other words, can "charge all the traffic will bear." The pure and simple trade union by eliminating competition controls that section of the labor market in which its particular commodity, labor-power, is sold, and can modify prices, wages, by regulating the supply, in other words "can charge all the traffic will bear." In the event of a strike, the fight in every instance is to prevent competitors from selling labor-power in that section of the labor market where an effort is being made to raise the price. And here unconsciously to the vast majority of the members of trade unions, advantage is taken of the law regulating prices; "supply and demand."

Incidently, the remarks credited to John Mitchell at the convention of the U.M.W., now in session, by press despatches, that the coal mine owners could increase the wages of the miners and charge the U. S. Steel Corporation a higher price, since it could afford it, came in for a little discussion.

The P. S. claimed that this was an excellent proof of the statement he had previously made, that "the wages of the whole working class could not be raised" and that "any advantage gained by one section of the working class, was at the expense of the rest of the working class."

His explanation was: "The increased price of coal to the Steel Corporation would increase the cost of producing steel. The price being based on the cost of production the price of steel would rise; the price of steel being hibher, the cost of production of manufactured commodities in which steel is used for machinery, etc., would also be greater, hence the price would rise, and the price of commodities being higher, the cost of living had been raised, hence the real wage of the working class had been reduced, since the real wage can only be based on its purchasing power. He claimed that this holds good in all branches of industry, consequently if the different sections of the working class succeeded in raising or having their wages raised, the cost of living would grow in proportion, hence the absurd position of any kind of trade or industrial union organization in claiming to benefit the working class by raising wages.

He left the impression on my mind that wages entered into the cost of production of a commodity and that an increase of wages must necessarily mean a proportionate increase in the cost of production, and an increase in the price of the commodity. Is this the correct position?

A little information through the columns of the Clarion under "News and Views," on the relative position of wages and the price of a commodity on which the labor-power, for which the wages are being paid, is being expended, will be much appreciated by,

Yours sincerely,
DOUGLAS CAMERON.

Tenino, Wash., Feb. 1, 1906.

The cost of production to the capitalist is measured entirely by the cost of the labor power necessary to carry it on. In other words, the sole cost of production is labor cost. The only time laborers can successfully demand an actual increase of wages is when the supply of labor available is less than sufficient to satisfy the demand for it. Under such conditions of the labor market the sellers of the labor power would have a decided advantage over the purchasers, and one that could not well be offset by an increase in the price of other commodities.

When the condition of the labor market is such that there is a constant surplus of available labor in evidence, no power on earth can force the actual wages up. Any increase that may be secured by any portion of the laborers, through combination or other circumstances will be offset by an increase in the cost of living, or a cut in the wages of other workers somewhere along the line, which is, in reality, equivalent to the same thing. Under such conditions of the labor mgrket the purchasers of labor-power have a decided advantage over the sellers and one which they are by no means slow in utilizing. That such a condition of the labor market has long since become chronic every one knows.

That some sort of a conglomeration must needs be created in order to take over and carry on the industries in the event of the uprise of the working class to the control of the powers of the State, is the latest bad dream arising from mental indigestion. The workers are already organized into a powerful and efficient industrial army. They have been organized, and are held together in such organization by the modern machinery of production. From this organization they could not escape if they were so minded. In such organization they are today carrying on the industries in so effective a fashion that the markets of the world are fairly gorged with products. Huge industrial establishments change owners from time to time, and yet so efficient is this organization that not a wheel stops because of such change. When the workers become so minded as to send their own representatives to take possession of the organized powers of the State in their own behalf this powerful and efficient organization will be on hand, not only to carry on the industries, but to furnish the men to do whatever else may be necessary to render effective the mandate of labor, as expressed at the polls.

Dreamers of crazy "economic" dreams would less frequently suffer from such affections if they would inform themselves as to the meaning of economic organization and where to look for it.

The various matters touched upon in the discussion referred to by our correspondent will be taken up and dealt with from time to time in the Clarion. This will have to be deferred for a while owing to the pressure upon our columns through the publication of somewhat extended reports of proceedings in the Provincial House. Our correspondent may rest assured, however, that his "political Socialist" knew whereof he spoke.

REVOLUTIONARY HYMN.

See the blood-red banner waving!
Now the conquering legions throng,
On to victory swift, advancing,
Eager all to crush out wrong.

Law of progress, by whose power
Earthly nations rise and fall,
Lead our comrades thro' the conflict
Mete thy justice out to all.

Long have prayers for justice risen
From poor Russia's bleeding heart.
Burning towns and outraged women,
Ties of family torn apart.

Martyred heroes, blood of comrades,
Shall they call and plead in vain?
Break the chains of brutish bondage;
Break the rule of greed and gain.

Human freedom — that dear watchword
Which inflames each Russian breast,
Soon shall swell a song of triumph,
When thy wrongs shall be redressed

Blood-red banner, lift it higher,
Let the winds furl out its fold.
On to victory, Russian comrades!
Our heart's sympathy you hold.

Workers of the world, awaken!
Break the chains that bind you fast
To hard lives of toil and suffering,
To a pauper's grave at last.

Old and rotten systems tremble;
Thrones are tottering to their fall.
For the reign of greed and lucre,
'Tis the "writing on the wall."

ALEXANDER STEPHEN.

Squamish, B. C

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"The Western Clarion"

To Publishers

Of Country Weeklies:

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

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

WRITE

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Men's Winter Overcoats in plain brey oxfords; coats which have sold this season at $15; this week $10.75

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