

A BUSY WEEK IN THE LAW-MILL

Class Lines Sharply Defined on the First Two Divisions. Socialist Party Defending the Interest of the Workers and their Dependents Against Machinations of Bowser.

MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 1910.

Medical Inspection of School Children. Provincial Secretary Young moved the second reading of a Bill for this purpose. It provides that schools in organized and unorganized districts be inspected once a year, with a view to the discovery of mental and physical defects, and their proper treatment.

Hawthornthwaite criticised the Bill in some particulars, chiefly on the ground that it would give the medical fraternity more power, to which he objected, but did not oppose the second reading.

An Object Lesson in Class Government.

Coroners' Act Amendment Act. This Act provides that evidence in coroner's inquests may be taken down by a stenographer, who shall be sworn; that evidence need not be read over to the witness, but it be sufficient if the transcript be signed by coroner or his deputy, accompanied by the stenographer's affidavit.

This amendment was taken up in committee and Hawthornthwaite moved an amendment covering a suggestion he had made on the second reading, and to which the attorney-general had assented. The amendment read as follows:

"To add following as a new subsection: (2b) All material evidence submitted under oath at any inquest shall be duly taken down by the official stenographer and incorporated in the reports of the evidence."

Speaking to this, he said the reason for the amendment was that in a number of inquests the coroner had only permitted certain portions of the evidence to be taken down. In instances he knew of personally, very important evidence had been ruled out. That ought to be stopped. If witnesses were examined for evidence it was not right that their evidence should be included in the report.

Attorney General Bowser replied that when he had assented to the suggestion of the hon. member for Nanaimo during the second reading he had not anticipated it would take this form. He would not dictate to the coroners as to what evidence should be taken down. They must let the coroner have control of his own court. If he does not see fit to report certain evidence, he is the sole judge. Under this amendment it might be possible to keep the coroner's court sitting for months, and he found it was impossible to consent to it.

Parker Williams sees the Ethiopian in the Wood-pile.

Parker Williams said that the admission by Bowser that the coroner was the sole judge of the evidence was the ground of complaint. His experience had been that the coroner had not all the wisdom. As things stood the nature of the reports depended on what evidence the coroner decided should be taken down. The real reason for Bowser's refusal was his objection to laying bare the causes of these matters. If the provincial secretary had charge of the Bill they would get fair consideration.

Hawthornthwaite.—The coroner was an officer of the Crown and it was an untenable position to take that the House had no power to dictate. In the Act as it stood the House had laid down the rules of inquiry. Coroners often allowed the evidence of corporations, and refused that given by relatives or obtained by their counsel. The absolute refusal of the attorney general to amend this anomalous state of affairs he hoped the House would not support. He had modified his amendment to read "all material evidence." That meant "essential" evidence.

Bowser.—Who is to decide?

Hawthornthwaite.—Let the coroner decide. As the position stood it was practically impossible to get evidence given by others than officials embodied

in the reports. He could cite cases, in which the Western Fuel Co. and the Pacific Coast Coal Co. had been involved, in which all evidence produced by himself and counsel had been cut out. Such arbitrary powers were not in the interests of justice, and the amendment should be accepted.

McBride contended that the Act as it stood provided ample scope for carrying the amendment. To take down all the evidence would be ridiculous. The member for Nanaimo had referred to cases in which the Pacific Coast Coal Co. and the Wellington Colliery had been involved.

Hawthornthwaite corrected him. He had no complaint to make as regarded the inquest held in Ladysmith. He had said the Western Fuel Co., not the Wellington Colliery Co.

McBride accepted the correction. The Government had never been backward in supplying all necessary assistance and believed they could not be too cautious, painstaking and careful in these investigations. The amendment was tantamount to asking a judge of the Supreme Court to have all evidence down.

Hawthornthwaite characterized the Premier's reply as specious and persuasive, but he could not accede to it. Sometimes when it had been necessary to apply to the Government he had been met fairly and had succeeded in getting the facts down, but the Premier might not always occupy that position and it was unsatisfactory to rely upon and be at the mercy of an individual. The Coroners' Act did not cover his amendment. Only evidence admitted by the coroner was regarded as legal. The actions of some corporations involved in these cases were anything but creditable. Persons who attended these inquests were generally aware of the facts and when evidence was given that would give a foundation for civil or criminal action, the witnesses often "left" or were spirited away. To have justice done it was most important to have their evidence taken down. The amendment was moderate and his reason had been produced for voting against it.

Bowser contended that his own amendment would have the same effect as Hawthornthwaite's. The coroner must have control of his own court, and in many cases he thought the coroner's gave too much latitude. An inquest was only a preliminary inquiry for placing the responsibility, if any, under criminal law. He quoted from his own amendment to the effect that the stenographer after extending his notes into longhand would have to swear to them.

Jardine (L.) said that was not the point under discussion. The question was, "How much evidence should be admitted?" The whole of the evidence should be admitted. The amendment of the member for Nanaimo made the Act more explicit and put the coroner's duty beyond all doubt. He drew attention to the fact that the signing of depositions by witnesses was abolished by this Bill.

Hawthornthwaite took up the last point as another innovation of Bowser's. Formerly the evidence had first to be shown to the witness, but that was to be swept aside, and he was not to be allowed to see it. Stenographers were not perfect and mistakes were bound to be made. In Nanaimo they had only two, absolutely capable. Under the circumstances evidence most vital and important might be left out and incalculable harm done. An inquest should go further than laying the foundation for a criminal proceeding, or the object of the inquest would be defeated. Under the Bill a coroner may suppress evidence. The Crown should be represented at all inquests or they should cut the inquests out. The attorney-general's bill did not meet

his (Hawthornthwaite's) amendment. The Bill said that the evidence or any part of it may be taken down. "May" did not mean "shall." It could do no harm to have all material evidence taken down. The original Act did not provide for it. He had raised the point to a coroner and the reply he had received was that he had no power. If it was true that he had the power the Government had not done its duty in securing competent coroners.

McBride defended the coroners as an efficient body of men who managed the inquests in accordance with the Act. If the Extension inquiry had not been in accordance with the Act, reports should have been submitted to the Government. Neither Parker Williams nor Hawthornthwaite would have been likely to allow the coroner to be derailed in his duty. There was no justification for an attack upon all coroners in B. C.

Hawthornthwaite replied that he refused to be put in a false position. He had made no such statement or charge. He had uniformly met with courtesy from the coroners, especially at Ladysmith where the inquiry had been full and searching and he had been successful in getting all the evidence down. It had not been so in the two subsequent cases. There the coroner had refused to have the evidence given by the injured taken down and incorporated in his report. The coroner had taken the position that he had no power to do so. If that happened under such an efficient officer what must the condition be in other parts of the Province?

McPhillips blunders on to the Truth.

The member for the Islands (Con.) said that the amendment would create great difficulty for coroners. Who was to determine the materiality of evidence. The coroners were not often lawyers, and lawyers were the only people competent to judge on that point. The purpose of an inquest was to determine the approximate cause of death, and that did not need a legal mind. As a matter of fact this was an attempt to make the coroner's inquiry a stepping stone for an action for damages, and that was not the intention of the Act. There was another process to be taken to accomplish that. An inquest was only held to elicit the facts surrounding the death.

Brewster (L.) said he had listened to the previous speakers to find out the real meaning of the amendment, and had been unsuccessful. He could not see how the coroner's duty could be defined more correctly by the amendment than it was in the Act as it stood.

Parker Williams Again.

The member for Newcastle said that it had become very plain that the Socialists represented the victims and the other side the opposing interests. If an individual killed another with a club the coroner could bring the crime home to him. The laughter of workmen by corporations out for profits must not be investigated in a manner to lay the responsibility on the corporation because it would leave the way open for damages. By what process would the Government justify that position? The attorney general was fighting to prevent the coroner's court from extracting evidence that could be used in a suit for damages. Judging by the statements from the Government side a coroner's court is only an institution for deciding that when a man is dead he is dead for a long time—if he was a working man.

Bowser.—You have a jury.

Hawthornthwaite.—You mean YOU have a jury.

Parker Williams.—The attorney general's Bill did not provide for what should be considered material evidence or not. If the act said that the business of the corporations should be conducted in a certain way the coroners had sufficient common sense to deal with matters properly. The core of all the objections to Hawthornthwaite's amendment was that it would make it easier to get at the bottom of accidents for which corporations were responsible.

The member for the Islands seemed to think that the amendment would provide for future suits for damages against corporations, and that damned it. The inquiries were instituted for the purpose of eliciting all the facts. What harm would be done by eliciting facts, even if they did lay the foundation for civil or criminal action? The corporations were always well represented and equipped at these inquests for the purpose of preventing evidence being submitted which might result in damage suits. If it was proposed to deprive people of legal counsel and have material evidence suppressed at these inquiries they were in a very serious position indeed. He requested the attorney-general to reconsider his position and further amend the Bill to cover the deficiencies; he had the ability and experience to do it.

Bowser said that the Coroners' Act was similar to the Imperial Act. A presiding officer was necessary and he must have the deciding voice in matters of evidence. The amendment put the House into the position of dictating to the coroner that he "must" take

(Continued on Page 4)

PAYING THE TOLL

Mind how we rushed on the Great White Trail
Women, children, an' men,
Stark staring mad in the wild stampede,
The gold-rush of nine-ten.
God! How we fought for the pay-dirt there,
An' most of us were sold,
There was brazen chunks of the brimstone of Hell!
In the rainbow pot of gold.

Ain't it fair hell, mate? Them sloppy streets
Where the siren voices are?
An' th' crazy music of Commerce beats
In the rush of the tramway car,
An' th' giant machines that grind an' roar

Where industry works for it keep;
An' rattle of chains in th' pavement tread,
When slaves their masters seek.

There was gaunt an' grim-eyed starving men
Lined th' trail as we passed by,
The human machines displaced by steel
An' thrown on the scrap heap to die,
"Profit"-cursed heaps of bones an' blood
Rot under the Upas Tree,
They're paying th' toll on this cursed trail
The Revolution will free.

There was women un-sexed for motherhood
In the mad race working their way,

Or the gold-lust-stealed, to the sodden slime
—A harlot stalks her prey.
Hounded by wolf-bred bastard men
While th' trade-rat blinks his eyes
Can women be women and pay the toll
Where th' bloody trade flag flies?

An' little children worked in the gloom
Where flickering lights did flame
Robbed of childhood on the trail of greed
The Indian blushes to name.
Little bodies crimped, an' shriveled an' torn
Where a master's lash did fall.
Paying the toll to the lords of the trail
While the gold-lust gripped us all.

In the eyes of men is glint of steel
From the fierce volcano of hate,
Stored for ages 'neath an iron mask.
They drink to the Day, and wait,
Till the gold-lust wanes in the fevered host
An' they line that bitter road
Where its class against class—the weak pays the toll;
For such is the trail's stern code.

Wage-slaves! By yellow leaders led
Like sheep to the slaughter pen,
Chasing a job in the wild stampede,
The gold-rush of nineteen-ten,
Will you sell your freedom for the pay-dirt there
Or stand with your class an' fight?
To win what gold can never buy,
"Workers of all Lands Unite."
CHAS. MACDONALD.

BUSINESS IS BUSINESS SO IS SALVATION

How the Capitalists, Practicing the Thrift They Preach, are not Missing any Bets, and so have made the Missionary the Advance Agent of Commerce.

Some time ago the Laymen's Missionary Movement was organized. Its advent was heralded by a blare of trumpets on the part of the press. It was said, "Give us \$25,000,000 and we will evangelize the world in this generation." Well, the movement got down into the harness to capture that bunch of "tin."

Now, we had all been quite well acquainted with sundry missionary societies—the Old Woman's Missionary Union and Sewing Circles where the ladies of the congregation made aprons for the "poor dear heathen that never heard the beautiful story about J-e-s-u-s (this should be prolonged). Also Mission Bands where we were given "mite boxes" and told to put our pennies in there for the "Lord's work." (Remember how we used to slyly open the box after we had deposited a few coins for the heathen, and hike for the nearest candy shop? And then the blisters we got when our parents discovered our theft of the "Lord's money"? Happy childhood days!)

Well, the new missionary movement was to be entirely different from anything we had ever experienced before. Decidedly so! Nothing old fashioned or modest about this! Not on your life! Why, even Big Billy Taft was interested, to say nothing of Saint John D. and sundry other of the Lord's anointed. We don't remember whether Teddy of Big Noise fame and Harry Kendall Thaw were on the board of directors or not, but we presume they were. Anyhow, the evangelization of the world (in the interests of American capital) under the wise and benevolent administration of the new movement, goes merrily on.

The other day this new organization met in convention in New York, hence this screed. Now, I have habitually taken with a grain of salt any and all statements made by persons who claimed to be followers of the meek and lowly, etc., as a matter of principle. Truth is one of the virtues with which they are at "outs." But there was one fellow at that convention who has won my lasting admiration and gratitude.

He is George Sherwood Eddy, a Yale man who has spent several years as a missionary to the poor, dear Hindus. Did it at his own expense, too. He addressed the meeting on "Missions as an Investment." Ah! I can see the representatives of Big Business smack their chops over that!

Georgia, etc., Eddy said, "In an ideal investment we seek good security and large returns. (Oh, a trifle of 125 per cent. or so will do!) In these two respects missions present a gilt-edged security (Me for the mission fields!). Nothing is so sure and nothing yields larger returns! (George should have been a mine promoter or real estate shark.

"When Japan went to the English money market to finance the Manchurian Railway the money was spent in the United States, amounting to some \$50,000,000. (Now, I begin to smell a mouse!). The Japanese government spent the English money in the United States because the Japanese engineers had been educated in this country at the expense of American missionaries. (That mouse is growing! I believe it is a rat!).

"A hundred years ago we sent the first missionaries to China. Our trade with that country now totals nearly \$50,000,000 annually and is rapidly growing." (How that mouse does grow!).

And finally Georgie (he resembles his namesake of hatchet fame) says, "Where can we find another investment that will yield an hundredfold in this life and in the world to come—eternal life?"

Georgie has bluntly and brutally told the truth. The roster of the Laymen's Missionary Movement contains the names of America's most prominent big business kings. And they are in the movement because they can see dollars that will be diverted their way by their activity. They are after foreign markets. They aim to send out a large corps of business agents in the guise of missionaries. It will be the duty of these business missionaries to teach the poor, dear heathen that it is decidedly immoral in them to walk around naked—they must wash themselves (use Ivory soap) and don a new suit of (Stanfield's unshrinkable) underwear. They should also buy cloth of Grab 'em, & Co., and have a Prince Albert made to order immediately. And houses—Hully Gee! the poor fellows live in mud huts! Never do! Decidedly not! Write Slicker & Skineem, architects, of Chicago, for a five-room model house!

And do you mean to tell me that you fellows haven't any banks! What! The Lord 'll never bless you! Come on, J. P., here's a job for you! And here the poor fellow wears wooden sandals! Why, my dear heathen brother you must have a pair of (Douglas) shoes, at once! And we must have a canal, and moral line extending from Brobdignag to Alerinois, also. And so it goes on.

Under the guise of philanthropy and brotherly love these big business men propose to advertise their wares abroad. They wish to show the "heathen" how benighted they (the heathen) are, and show them the advantages that will accrue to them when they have come under the dominion of American financial pirates. And then, you know, their solicitude over the welfare of the souls of the poor "haythen" will give them the best of standing among all good "bredren and sistern" at home. It will help whiten the few black marks in the shape of illegal rebates, false scales, etc., that have been chalked up against them. On the whole it's a first class business proposition.

Comrades, let the professional soul-savers blaze the trail. Let them invade the uttermost parts of the earth in the interest of the big business. Let them hang cards on the North Pole setting forth the beauties of Sunlight soap. When they have marked out the way; when there is a well defined trail and they have captured the earth for capital, we will take a hand. We, the horny-handed sons o' guns, who do the world's work, will step in, take and enjoy. If they interfere we will give them a first-class, one-way ticket to the "pearly gates" in which they are so intensely interested. So here's to capital, the blazer of trails to industrial democracy! Here's to the omnipotent god of the earth. May he grow, expand, and quickly reach the zenith of his career. And may his downfall be speedy and un mourned. Prepare, oh, workers, to chant a requiem for the repose of his soul!

ROSCOE A. FILLMORE.

MANITOBA ELECTIONS.

They are "revising" the voters' lists in Manitoba so the fight will be on shortly. Hurry up with the ammunition. A B. C. comrade offers \$100 to the Manitoba organizing fund on condition that the rest of B. C. makes it \$500 right away. Every Local should do what it can and send the money to W. H. Stebbings, 316 Good Street, Winnipeg, Man. As soon as he gets \$400 from B. C. he can call up this office for the other \$100. Get busy.

Victor Grayson's defeat was much more of a victory than the election of Keir Hardie, who was swung in on the tail end of a Liberal.

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THE CLASSES.

The class struggle is not a theory, it is a living fact. And it is to-day the one fact above all others that matters.

These classes are the working class and the capitalist class. At this juncture the capitalist defenders generally step forward and point to the fact that many capitalists "work" very much harder than many workers—indeed, that some of them actually break themselves down with work.

The difference is not that one class works and the other does no useful work, but that the one is exploited and the other exploits it.

The term "useful" is also badly in need of definition. We are too prone to assume that much of the labor performed to-day, such as advertising, etc., which could be done without in a Socialist society, is useless and waste labor.

In the sum total of the wealth produced in society is crystallized the sum total of society's productive effort. Each individual who has expended any effort in production has labor, to that extent, roughly, crystallized in the sum.

To-day, at the two extremes we have the billionaire and the pauper. Each a living demonstration of the fact that exploitation exists. Between these two extremes the two classes are graduated down and up towards one another till they meet and the class line is confused and lost in what is called the middle class.

Between these two classes is the class struggle. A struggle between any two contestants must necessarily be a struggle for supremacy, and so with the class struggle. The exploiting class seek to retain their supremacy, the exploited class to overthrow it.

It is notable, also, that it is from the ranks of the "middle class," who are on the No-man's-Land, between the two armies, that reforms mostly emanate.

ests at variance with either class. Certainly they are not interested in a revolution. Reform that would make them the beneficiaries of exploitation and protect them from the exactions of the greater capitalists, is their medicine (but it is medicine they will never taste).

The mass of the revolutionary army must and will be drawn from the wage-workers and the proletarian farmers. For them, before all others, is easiest the consciousness that they have nothing to lose but chains.

ARE WE ANTI-CHRISTIAN?

That Socialism is anti-Christian has been repeatedly asserted by its enemies, and as frequently denied by its friends. Perhaps they are both right. It all depends.

Our enemies, who have denounced us as anti-Christian in the first place, were not deeply concerned as to whether the charge was true or false. Enough for their purpose that it should be to our discredit.

At any rate our alleged anti-Christian proclivities were intended as a taint upon our character, but we might very well turn round and claim them as one of the chiefest of our merits.

Occasionally some well-meaning individual will deplore the irreligious tone of the Clarion. With very much more occasion he might well deplore the irreligion of the Church. The Clarion is possibly the most religious paper published. In fact, if a correct estimate of the character of the Nazarene carpenter is to be formed from the Bible story, he would be today in at least quite as bad odor as we are, and would certainly be very much more militant anti-Christian.

You who believe in Him and profess to follow in His footsteps, tell us frankly what, think you, of his approval you would earn? Look at your Church. Look at it. Is it not a lovely spectacle? Its ministry—a profession which men enter as they would the legal profession. Requiring, as does the latter, years of training to sufficiently distort the mind of a common youth that he may become something abnormal and apart.

To enable to preach sermons earnestly on nothing in particular, and to devoutly believe they are about something highly essential. The while his congregation listens more or less attentively—and pays no heed whatever. They pay his salary, that is enough. They pay it to him to tell them what they wish to hear, and he is carefully trained to do just that. They demand of him round-toned, sonorous, pleasing eloquence. Vehement denunciation of sins of which they strongly suspect their neighbors. Earnest exhortations to righteousness, to which they know they have attained. Prayerful advice to the All-Wise on the management of the universe. No wonder a halo of sanctity and a veil of awe is necessary to conceal the humor of the situation.

Call us irreligious? Well, the Clarion may not always tell the truth, it may not always know it, but it is never deterred from telling it when it is to its financial disadvantage. Does your Church do that? The Clarion stands for the weak against the strong. The exploited against the exploiter. The oppressed against the oppressor. That is what you say your Christ stood for. But does your Christianity? Why, every other labor-skinner from America's greatest oil king to Vancouver's latest laundry-owner, is an accepted and acceptable member of the Church. And the higher his standing in the Church, the lower the pittance of his slaves. They grind the bones of men, of women and of children into profit, and the Church with eager hand takes of that profit and blesses and glorifies the giver. They drive the men to the bar-room, the women to the brothel. Does the Church denounce them? Or does it not denounce the depravity of the victims? Slaves herd like swine in fetid, rack-rented dens, children go rotten in rags. And the Church—? preaches that "cleanliness is next to godliness"—and takes a share of the rent.

Call that a religion? If such is Christianity, we are anti-Christian and proud of it. We will be the death of it. Never mind telling us of your faith in the future and your salvation to come. We are interested in the things of THIS world. You have some beautiful formulas, but your practices are revolting.

Nevertheless, we are by no means in agreement with the ultra-scientific among us who insist that one may not be a Socialist and hold the Christian faith. In that they are very unscientific. True, their logic is incontrovertible. But science has abandoned logic in despair and taken unto itself the dialectic, whose watchwords are experiment and observation. And there have come within the circle of

phenomena of our personal observation, those who hold devoutly to both the Christian faith and the Marxian fact. They may not be consistent in this, but inconsistency is one of humanity's most remarkable achievements. Anyway, there they are, and they don't seem to worry over the irreligious tone of the Clarion, either.

FAR AWAY FIELDS LOOK GREEN.

Clearwater, Idaho, Jan. 31st, 1910.

Western Clarion Dear Comrade:

I wish some information that I can depend upon. Things are getting so bad on this side, that a good many of us Socialists think it would be to our economic advantage to move on to the frontier to keep away from the modern struggle for existence. Not that we expect to or wish to evade our share of the fight for freedom, but if there is a chance to better our economic condition by moving on, we believe in the interest of our families we should do so.

We have got some advertising matter booming Fort George as another Spokane in the near future, and the surrounding country, as larger and better than the Inland Empire, now we wish all the information you can give us about that country, as we know you will tell us the truth as you see it. If there is a local at Fort George, I wish you would give me the secretary's address, or that of some Socialist who is acquainted with that part of the country. An early reply will be appreciated. Find enclosed 50c, for which send me the Western Clarion for what time that will pay.

Yours till freedom shall perch upon our banner, C. W. Perry.

Say "Spartacus," what was that you were telling us about forsaking your B. C. stump-ranch for the Elysian fields of Idaho, where conditions were so much better and a man could make a ranch yield him a living, instead of him having to work in a saw-mill to keep the ranch up?

Seems to be the case all over that, wherever you are, somewhere else is just a shade better. But it's no use. Go where you will, capital will get you and will grind the surplus value out of you. You ranchers are in the same boat with us wage plugs. We can, by moving round, change one master for another and you by moving on can do exactly the same thing. If you tire of paying rent, profit and interest to Idaho capitalists, you can come over here and pay the tribute to B. C. Capitalists. It isn't as much of a change as it looks even, for it is the Capitalist class that exploits you, and mayhap products of your sweat and toil, whether in B. C. or in Idaho, will flow into the very same coffers. Capital is international and omnipresent.

We don't know a thing about Fort George. Don't even know where it is, and it doesn't matter. Wherever it is and whatever it is, we are dead certain it is no good for ranchers, or for slaves of any other breed. A real estate artist has got to lie a little so he might as well lie a lot. He would paint you glowing pictures of a quarter section in the fourth dimension if he could locate it on a map.

The very fact of Fort George being so widely advertised in Idaho, carries a suggestion that the proposition is so raw that it won't even catch suckers nearer home.

To the slave, one place is like another. He is on earth to yield up profit to the master class first, and, incidentally, to remain on earth if possible. The advantages of one place are beautifully compensated by disadvantages. What the transportation companies don't get, the irrigation companies do. Where the soil is fruitful, the seasons are unkind. Where the crops are abundant, there is no market. Where the land is clear, the price is prohibitive. One way or another the land slave gets it in the neck. That is his condition of existence. He must surrender his product to the hands of capital. His portion, if he is lucky, is a subsistence.

However, if Comrade Perry is determined to buy him a ranch near Ft. George, we strongly advise him to entrust us with the buying of it. We undertake to do our very best to get a share of the commission.

DARE TO BE A DOGMATIST.

"A dogmatic perisher," the more I thought the term over, the less I liked it. I changed it around, a perishing dogmatist, no, worse than before, there it was, and I had to swallow it, albeit I took small comfort thereof. My I. L. P. friend had handed me the cold and slimy jeer and there was no help for it. Yes, I suppose I am a dogmatic perisher as will appear hereunder. This question of religion is in my mind now and I cannot longer remain silent. What, may I ask, is Christian Socialism? Have we not had enough of religions? Has not human kind been saddled with some mystic cult through which the master class had held the "herd" in subjection long enough? Are we never to be free? Comes a wall from Toronto that cer-

tain villains have attacked religion. Horrible, indeed! Blatchford says that we need a new religion, a new religion forsooth! What we need is to understand what we want and how to get it. We need an intend to have ownership over the means of production—the co-operative commonwealth will satisfy us and no less. Beware my lord of religion; it is the green eyed monster that devours the hand that feeds it.

All time enough you say, but what is the stand Socialists take upon religion? Get busy and explain; after all some comrades are Christian Socialists, take it how you will. Here, then, is my view of the case. First what is religion? The worship of God says our Christian who sublimely puts out of count all other Gods but his one. However what or who this God of the Christians is no one can explain. A Heavenly Father (poor old mothers right) a divine creator, three in one, etc.

Now, it seems to me that Socialists know that all religions are the mental reflex of given economic conditions. If you cannot agree to the Materialist conception of history, the S. P. of C. is no place for you. Indeed it seems to me that when you sign your application form you have declared for the class struggle and is not this death to all known forms of religion? What is the class struggle? The workers on one side and the masters upon the other. The former trying to wrest political power from the latter, the latter trying to retain their grip. This I understand as the class struggle; A. M. Lewis, notwithstanding.

It follows, therefore, that all forces found in the masters camp are enemies of the workers and must be looked upon as such. The Christian Church—Catholic and Greek—are hand in hand with the master class to-day, hence their teaching is opposed to ours. Class privilege, that is their rock bottom. We are out to destroy this. Resignation to economic conditions, however horrible, is their advice, nay command, to the workers—we have declared war upon these conditions, hence are opposed to this teaching. At all points our creed clashes with theirs—where then is your Socialist Christian to stand.

As a matter of fact the man who calls himself a Christian Socialist betrays a profound ignorance of both Christianity and Socialism. He is one of those mental magpies who constitute a danger to our party. Some Comrades there are, who will not take a firm stand upon this matter. In talking to Christians, they will dodge the question: Is Socialism anti-Christian? Some go as far as to say that Socialism is a kind of revised edition of Christianity; others write clever pamphlets upon "The Message of Socialism to the Church," "Socialism and the Bible," etc. It seems to me that the message of Socialism to the church is "hands off!" I cannot help but think that this "you scratch my back and I will yours" policy is a menace to our work.

Let us for any sakes state our case plainly. We, the Socialists, are opposed to religion, in that religion as we have known it, is a stalking horse for the master class. We know that with given economic conditions religions have risen and then those conditions changed and religion changed also. We know that to-day economic conditions are changing rapidly, religions are changing too. Freedom of thought is all right to-day, while a few years ago men were burnt for the same. To-day the churches stand empty for the Church has no more a voice with the workers. The Dives and Lazarus story is worked out. The fact that Dives went to Hell just because he was Dives and that Lazarus went to heaven because he was himself. The idea of the rich man musing his Sunday clothes crawling through a "needle's eye" falls to comfort the worker any longer. The S. P. of the World will bring about a revolution in economic conditions, therefore, as religions with these conditions, Christianity as we know it today will fade away—hence Socialism is the enemy of Christianity.

Let us state the matter plainly Comrades, from platform and in print, don't double shuffle, speak out plainly, yes, Socialism is anti-Christian, and explain why. If the man you are talking to prefers treasures in heaven, to comfort on Earth, let be, he will get his heavenly treasure, perhaps. Certain, if he is a worker he will get no comfort on earth. If he—more from a fear of hell than from a pope of heaven—cannot join the Party, he is better outside.

And above all don't jaw about right and wrong, moral and immoral, justice and injustice, these are terms which mean nothing; right, morality and justice to one are the reverse to another. It is right to the master class that the workers dwell in poverty. It is moral to our present rulers that the disgusting sex relations prevalent today continue, and he is an immoral beast who would alter them. War and exploitation are just, right, and moral. Study your Historic Materialism, and remember that only might is right. See to it that you are the Mighty.

ALFRED BUDDEN.

Socialist Directory

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

DOMINION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. Meets every alternate Monday, D. G. McKenzie, Secretary, Box 436, Vancouver, B. C.

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. Socialist Party of Canada. Meets every alternate Monday, D. G. McKenzie, Secretary, Box 436, Vancouver, B. C.

ALBERTA PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. Socialist Party of Canada. Meets every alternate Monday in Labor Hall, Eighth Ave. East, opposite postoffice. Secretary will be pleased to answer any communications regarding the movement in the province. F. Ostoby, Sec., Box 647 Calgary, Alta.

MANITOBA PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. Meets first and third Mondays of every month, Jubilee Hall, corner of King and Alexander. The Secretary will be pleased to furnish any information and answer any correspondence relative to the movement. S. Cummings, Organizer; W. H. Stebbings, Sec., Suite 7 Lydia Court, Winnipeg, man.

ONTARIO PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. Meets in Finnish Hall, 214 Adelaide St., Toronto, on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. Organizer, W. Gribble, 134 Hogarth Ave., Toronto. P. C. Young, Secretary, 940 Pape Ave.

MARITIME PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. Socialist Party of Canada. Meets every second and fourth Sunday at Comrade McKinnon's, Cottage Lane. Dan Cochrane, Secretary, Box 13, Glace Bay, N. S.

LOCAL VANCOUVER, NO. 1, S. P. OF C. Meets every Tuesday evening at headquarters, over Edgott's Store, 151 Hastings St. W. F. Perry, Secretary, Box 536.

LOCAL VANCOUVER, S. P. OF C. NO. 45. Finnish. Meets every second and fourth Thursdays in the month at 151 Hastings St. W. Secretary, Wm. Myntti.

LOCAL VICTORIA, NO. 2, S. P. OF C. Headquarters and Reading Room, Room 1, Eagle Building, 1319 Government St. Business meeting every Tuesday evening, 8 p.m. Propaganda meetings every Sunday at Grand Theatre. K. Thomas, Secretary.

LOCAL WANAIKO, NO. 3, S. P. OF C. Meets every alternate Sunday evening in Foresters Hall. Business meeting at 7:00 o'clock sharp. Propaganda meeting commences at 8:00 o'clock. Jack Place, Rec. Secy., Box 826.

LOCAL FERNIE, S. P. OF C. HOLDS educational meetings in the Miners' Union Hall, Victoria Ave., Fernie, every Sunday evening at 7:45. Business meeting first Sunday in each month, same place at 2:30 p.m. J. Lancaster, Sec., Box 144.

LOCAL GREENWOOD, NO. 9, S. P. OF C. Meets every Sunday in Miners' Union Hall at 7:30 p.m. Business meetings, 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. G. H. A. Herbert, Organizer; K. J. Campbell, Secretary, Box 124.

LOCAL VERNON, S. P. OF C. NO. 28, S. P. OF C. Meets every Friday night at 7:30 in Timmins' Hall, cor. of Seventh and Tronson Sts. Business and propaganda combined. Edgar Smith, Secretary, Vernon, B. C.

LOCAL PRINCE RUPERT, S. P. OF C. NO. 25, S. P. OF C.—Meets every Sunday in hall in Empress Theatre Block at 8:00 p.m. Angus McIver, Secretary.

LOCAL MARA, S. P. OF C. NO. 34, S. P. OF C. Meets first Sunday in every month in Socialist Hall, Mara, 2:30 p.m. Cyril Rosoman, Recording Secretary.

LOCAL PORT MOODY, S. P. OF C. NO. 41, S. P. OF C.—Business meetings first Sunday in each month. J. V. Hull, Secretary, Port Moody, B. C.



WANTS TO KNOW.

Dear Comrade:—As I have changed my habitation from Enderby, B. C., the gateway to the famous Okanagan Valley, to Morse, Saskatchewan, I wish you to send my paper here. I was in Enderby for the last election, and am proud to see that the Socialists are now the Opposition Party in B. C. Legislature, having seen an account of Mr. Jardine, taking Jim Hawthorthwaite as his leader. Well Jim can lead pretty good, but it leaves Brewster the sole survivor of a once large and happy family of Parasites. Say, Mac, give us an article on the way money makes money. Yours truly has forty-seven cents saved up and I want to have it make money for me as all our Local Capitalist papers say that money makes money. I'd like to get an explanation of how the trick is done. Please answer soon as it may have to go for grub. Yours for the revolution, JAS. G. ROBERTSON.

Land For Sale 100 acres in N. Enderby district, Okanagan Valley. Finest agricultural land in the province. The best to be obtained for fruit hay and vegetables. In blocks to suit at \$40 per acre, nat. 1/2 mile from new railway station, 1/4 mile from school. River frontage. Enough dry wood on property to pay for clearing. Socialist neighbors. For full particulars apply to Bernard Rosoman Enderby B. C. 572

LOCAL REVELSTOKE, S. P. OF C.—Propaganda and business meetings at 8 p.m. every Sunday evening in the Edison Parlor Theatre. Speakers passing through Revelstoke are invited to attend. B. F. Gayman, Secretary. W. W. Lefebvre, Organizer.

LOCAL LADYSMITH NO. 10, S. P. OF C. Business meetings every Saturday 7 p.m. in headquarters on First Ave. 1st Cor. Williams Sec., Ladysmith, B. C.

LOCAL MOYER, B. C. NO. 30—MEETS every Sunday 7:30 p.m. in McGee's Hall (Miner's Hall), Mrs. Thornley, Secretary.

LOCAL ROSSLAND, NO. 25, S. P. OF C. Meets in Miner's Hall every Sunday at 7:30 p.m. E. Campbell, Secy., P. O. Box 474. Rossland Finnish Branch meets in Finlanders' Hall, Sundays at 7:30 p.m. A. Sebby, Secy., P. O. Box 766 Rossland, B. C.

LOCAL NELSON, S. P. OF C. MEETS every Friday evening 8 p.m. in Miners' Hall, Nelson, B. C. P. O. Box 10. Organizer; I. A. Austin, Secy.

LOCAL PHOENIX, NO. 3, S. P. OF C. Meets every Sunday at 8:30 p.m. in Miner's Hall. Matt Halliday, Organizer. H. K. MacInnis, Secretary.

LOCAL CALGARY, ALTA., NO. 4, S. P. OF C. Meetings every Sunday at 8 p.m. in the Labor Hall, Barber Block, Eighth Ave. E. (near postoffice). Club and Reading Room, Labor Hall, D. A. McLean, Box 647. Secretary, A. McDonald, Organizer, Box 447.

LOCAL BELLEVUE, ALTA. NO. 12, S. P. OF C. Meets every first and third Sunday evenings, Bellevue Town Hall. J. Oliphant, Secretary.

LOCAL COLEMAN, ALTA. NO. 3, S. P. OF C. Meets every Sunday night in the Miner's Hall and Opera House at 8 p.m. Everybody welcome. Socialist speakers are invited to call. H. J. Smith, Secy.

LOCAL EDMONTON, ALTA. NO. 1, S. P. OF C. Headquarters 622 First St. S. Business and propaganda meetings every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. sharp. Our Reading Room is open to the public free, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily. F. Blake 649 Athabasca Ave. Secretary, C. Young, T. Bissett, 322 Fourth St., Organizer.

LOCAL WINNIPEG, S. P. OF C. HEADQUARTERS, Kerr's Hall, 107 Adelaide Street, opp. Roblin Hotel. Business meeting every Sunday morning 11 a.m. Propaganda meeting Sunday evening 8 p.m. Everybody welcome. Secretary, J. W. Hilling, 270 Young St.; Organizer, D. McLaughlin, 442 Jarvis St.

LOCAL TORONTO, ONT. NO. 24, S. P. OF C.—Business meetings 2nd and 4th Wednesdays in the month, at the Labor Temple, Church St. Propaganda meetings every Sunday at 3:45 o'clock at the Labor Temple. Speakers' class every Sunday at 8:00 o'clock in Labor Temple. J. Stewart, Secretary, 62 Seaton St.

LOCAL OTTAWA, NO. 2, S. P. OF C. Business meeting 1st Sunday in month, and propaganda meetings following Sundays at 8 p.m. in Roberts-Allan Hall, 78 Rideau St. A. G. McCollum, 68 Slater St., Secretary.

LOCAL COBALT, NO. 9, S. P. OF C. Propaganda and business meetings every Wednesday at 8 p.m. in Miner's Hall. Everybody invited to attend. Arthur L. Botley, Secy., Box 416.

LOCAL SHELLE, ONT. NO. 4, S. P. OF C. Meets every second and fourth Wednesday evenings, at 8 p.m., 55 King St. E., opposite Market Hotel. H. Martin, Secretary, 61 Weber St. E.

LOCAL GLACE BAY NO. 1, OF S. P. OF C. Business and Propaganda meeting every Thursday at 8 p.m. in Macdonald's hall, Union Street. All are welcome. Alfred Nash, Corresponding Secretary, Glace Bay; Wm. Sutherland, Organizer, New Aberdeen; H. G. Ross, Financial Secretary, office in D. N. Brodie Printing Co. building, Union Street.

A. F. Cobb Merchant Tailor Okotoks, Alberta

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THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA

This Page Is Devoted to Reports of Executive Committees, Locals and General Party Matters—Address All Communications to D. G. McKenzie, Sec., Box 886, Vancouver, B. C.

PLATFORM

Socialist Party of Canada

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

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

So long as the capitalist class remains 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, under which is cloaked the robbery of the working-class at the point of production. 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 programme 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, railroads etc.) into the collective property of the working class.

2. The 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.

NELSON, B. C.

Western Clarion:

On Tuesday evening, January 25th, Miss Gurley Flynn, of Spokane, addressed a large gathering of the working plugs in Nelson, along lines of industrial unionism, and she is certainly a fine speaker. The only regret the Socialists have is that we realize, or think we do, that we should have her speaking for Socialism. But after all, if she can teach the worker to organize industrially, he is in a fair way to become Socialized, for he learns his true relation to the employing or robber class, and the lessons the I. W. W. have received at the hands of the governing class in Spokane, should teach them that there is not much of the identity of interest between the two classes. We often wonder how much more of the police club diet it is going to take before the other fellow will give some club diet in return, but if a man gets what he votes for, he really has no kick.

I. A. AUSTIN.

BRANTFORD, ONT.

Gerald Desmond lectured twice here the other week. His first lecture was on "Are the Workers Robbed?" Comrade Baker took the chair and introduced the speaker and subject, in a manner that surprised some of the old timers. Desmond showed the capitalist skin-game up in good working class language. His audience had no doubts as to the reality of the robbery when he was through with them.

On the following night his subject was: "What is the Cause of Poverty?" The chair on this occasion was taken by Comrade Fogal, who, in his opening remarks, pointed out the folly of the workers expecting any relief from any but their own class organizations. Fogal is a labor unionist of many years standing, and his knowledge of industrial conditions, together with his revolutionary political attitude, makes him a force to be reckoned with in the class struggle in this locality.

In treating his subject, Desmond brought out the fact that it is not drink that causes poverty among the workers. "Even if you do spend some of your money on drink, you are poor anyway, even if you kept all your money you would still be poor." Desmond dealt with the cause of the poverty of the workers, the class ownership of the means of production, and also showed the remedy.

Although these meetings were well advertised, the attendance was, as

usual, "small, but interested." More interested than usual, to judge by the sales of books and literature of all kinds. The zero weather, coupled with the fear of the boss, caused the small crowd. Our previous propaganda and vigorous pushing of literature, caused the big sales of printed matter.

W. D.

CAUSES OF LUNACY.

Expert comments on the causes of lunacy contained in the annual report of the Lancashire Asylums Board are given an additional significance by the alarming increase in lunacy in the county, the five Lancashire asylums having their accommodation taxed to the utmost.

One of the most striking passages in the reports of the medical superintendents at the respective asylums is the statement of Dr. Frank Percival, superintendent of Prestwich Asylum. There are few things, he says, that have not been named at one time or another as a cause of insanity, from changes in the moon down to perverted ideas of religion. But the actual conditions at present existing conducive to the production of weaklings subject to insanity are not far to seek. "This country and others have become dominated by a system of commercialism by which wealth and power are so unevenly distributed that for thousands of persons permission to live, even on the borders of starvation, is only granted upon conditions of labor to which the lot of the old negro slave was princely. The greatness of a nation now is judged by the amount of its exports and imports rather than by the happiness and welfare of its people. And so we have little children working in the factories, and women, to get back to work, neglecting their duties of motherhood.

"The inevitable result is the production of a large proportion of candidates for the asylums." Dr. Percival adds that he feels convinced that poverty is the great cause of alcoholic intemperance.

Dr. Gommel, superintendent of Whittingham Asylum, says that it may be stated in general terms that many criminals belong to the degenerate and mentally defective class, and are often insane when convicted, and for this reason a medical examination of certain types of prisoners, more especially habitual offenders, should always be made as a matter of routine. —Wolverhampton Chronicle.

PRICE LIST OF SUPPLIES

Supplies will be furnished Locals by Executive Committees at the following prices:

Charter (with necessary supplies to start Local)	\$5.00
Membership Cards, each	.01
Dues Stamps, each	.10
Platform and application blank per 100	.25
Ditto in Finnish, per 100	.50
Ditto in Ukrainian, per 100	.50
Ditto in Italian, per 100	.50
Constitutions, each	.20
Ditto, Finnish, per dozen	.50

MAKE YOUR CHOICE.

The reformers and sympathizers wonder why we stand for our complete freedom from the economic chains which bind us. They seem to think all our agitation should be centred on getting the workers educated up to the point of begging from their masters a few palliatives which they think will go towards benefiting them permanently. It is greatly to the disadvantage of all revolutionary Socialists that these pests should meddle with the movement at all. Our attention has got to be concentrated on the workers, we have got to show them that just so long as they are forced to sell their labor power for wages, their position in society cannot be improved to any great extent, and whether they sell that labor power for eight or ten hours a day they will still face that everlasting struggle for existence which is becoming more acute in the same ratio that the machine gets more productive.

Apparently the reformers who are members of the Socialist party do not attach any significance to the platform which they sign before being allowed to become dues-paying members, either that, or else after getting over the excitement of joining the Party they realize that the platform is not to their liking, and straightway commence scheming and bringing disruption among the ranks of the members by their agitation for a long platform with a string of catch-vote reforms. The most surprising part of the business is that these reformers and sentimentalists don't start an independent labor party of their own; that is the only logical place for them. I will attempt to increase their membership by forwarding them the names of one or two traitor reformers from this district, who will advocate any old reform providing they can get a following.

Well, boys, I suppose it had to be, so let us get it over. We would be told to go and sit down unless we were up to date like the other countries, with their reformationists. But we who recognize the fallacy of reforms have no time to waste; too long have we watched our own flesh and blood ground into profits for the benefit of a parasitic class; for years we have stood by and seen members of our own class sink to an early death under this mad struggle for existence. At last we are beginning to realize all this and for that reason refuse to beg for anything from the ruling class. We refuse to whine for an eight-hour day, old age pension, or any of their reformation schemes; none of these reforms will stop the robbery of the workers which is the cause for which we are organized.

Of what use is an eight-hour day to us if we still leave it in the hands of our employers to speed us up two or three more miles an hour? How much can be said in favor of old age pensions when we are pushed to an early death by the grinding toll in the sweatshops and mines? How much ought we to be thankful for when, after creating values all our useful life we are rewarded with the princely sum of about one dollar and twenty-five cents per week, so that we can indulge in all the working class luxuries, namely, a ham bone, bread, and a drink of pure rye water.

Then, in regard to the reforestation schemes, what problem are they intended to solve? The unemployed problem? Not on your life! It is easily to be seen that no matter if our earthly saviours intended to reforest the whole world there would still be unemployed at the factories to keep us in our places, we would only do harm to ourselves by underating the strength of the ruling class, they would make pretty certain that there was sufficient surplus of labor power lying around before they undertook any of those kind of schemes. Our employers are well aware that the unemployed are just as essential for the continuation of this system, as his Satanic Majesty is to our theologians.

Another plank that our reformers would, no doubt, append to their plat-

form and then flatter themselves that they had at last done something for the benefit of the workers, would be that great vote-catching plank entitled, "Exclusion of Asiatics," they evidently failing to notice that it makes no difference whether the Asiatics come here to compete with us, or stay in the land of their birth and produce there and avail themselves of the fine transportation service and ship their finished product here to do the competing. The only difference there can be is the fact that we would not be bothered by their presence, that is, if you regard that as bothersome.

All reformist schemes all over the world have been found wanting, and equally so have the advocates of reforms been found to fall shy when the time arrived for them to stand pat. They have one ambition, seemingly, that is to get a big following and elevate themselves on a pedestal.

We Socialists who understand why that we signed a revolutionary platform are concerned with one thing, that is the ending of this wage system under which is cloaked the robbery of the workers. We have a beacon ahead of us on which is written the word Socialism, and from which we refuse to be sidetracked by any promises coming from the mouthpieces of our robbers. We will not be contented until we have destroyed the last remnant of this decaying capitalist chaos and ushered in the co-operative commonwealth.

Not only have we our own propaganda, but we have great economic forces working with us. Already we see signs of this system tottering; every week its foundation is being undermined and rumbling noises are heard which denote an earthquake. Are we ready for it? That is the point. Or are we to be carried along with it and hurled into a state of industrial despotism? Remember that Socialism is not inevitable because this capitalist system is doomed. Socialism will only come if we take it, and by pandering to any patchwork tactics on this system we cannot be ready in time. That is why we stand for the total abolition of wage slavery. We intend to use during our march onwards a red flag with no streaks of yellow on it. So choose your side.

A. W. BAKER.

DOWN WITH MEAT.

It's all settled. All settled. Nothing more to do. Just wait and watch developments.

For we're going to boycott meat. The prices are too blamed high. It is a holy wonder that the merchants' consciences don't trouble them when they charge such "exorbitant" prices for meat. (One time I ate too much meat, and my stomach—not my conscience—troubled me for a week.)

But we're going to quit buying meat. From now on until the boycott is removed, by order of the New York American, no more meat for ours.

Of course, I don't mean the working class. They always boycott meat. They never eat cow meat or pig meat. Canned horse meat, cow's liver, wild-cat stew, or skunk broth is good enough for them. And that's all they'll get as long as capitalism lasts. They deserve it. If they wanted anything better, they'd vote for it.

But the capitalists (at least that part of them with the "big head, and nothing in it") are going to stop. Yes, sir. No more "sow belly" for them. Long enough have they been robbed as consumers (ain't that right, Ernest?). The great majority of capitalists have for ages paid tribute to that small number engaged in the meat business. Besides, the greedy farmers are getting rich on it. They are buying automobiles and riding to town, sandwiched in between a law-breaking chauffeur and a barrel of spuds.

"Is it right?" ask the unhappy captains of industry, "is it just that we should spend our days in useful labor (working the workers) and then be robbed by these Reubens?"

Is it right? The Salvation Army can answer, not us. What do we care? Let them sell the meat for five dollars a pound if they can (and the greedy devils would do it quickly enough). We lose nothing. As the Scotchman says, "All that's coming to us is the price of our stall and fodder," so we have nothing to lose—but our chains, and God knows they're not unkind enough to take them from us. We don't care whether the rent of the manger or the selling price of the oats is much or little, it makes a difference to our masters, as individuals, but not to us. They can't rob US as consumers; they can't get blood out of a turnip.

All the New York daily papers (but the Call), and all the Chicago daily papers (but the Socialist) are turning out news items and "red-hot" editorials by the gallon, and all about the price of meat. What should they care? They are as safe as the rest of us. Hot air is a commodity just the same as labor-power. And the capitalist press throughout the United States and Canada (clear down to the tail-end at Moncton) joins in the chorus. "Unite," is their motto, "unite, and force the merchant pirates to reduce their price; refuse to buy meat of any kind till the boycott has had its effect." It is to laugh.

Energetic fools are tramping the streets with a pledge half a mile long, persuading people who don't know any better to promise not to buy the flesh of any bird, beast or fish.

And we feel just a little sorry for the capitalists, especially the she-robbers among them. Mrs. John Jacob Astor, for instance. (It used to be Mrs. John Jacob Astor, but since the five-minute divorce, it's Mrs. John Jacob Something-else.) Well, Mrs. John Jacob Somebody,—to think that she can eat no more deliciously roasted and differentially served turkey, till the boycott is removed. And Hetty Green, the richest woman (beg pardon, lady) in the world. And Miss Anne Morgan, of striking shirtwaist makers fame. And Mrs. Evelyn Nesbit Thaw. And Alice Roosevelt Longworth. They'll all have to sacrifice their sirloin steak and tenderloin steak and all other "—join steaks." And what can they eat in the place of it? Perhaps Mrs. Thaw can live on love, but there's some doubt about the rest of the clique. They'll have to eat something. Will it be some of Charlie Post's products. (If Jim Jeffries quits drinking beef tea, he might try "Postum." We will guarantee it to secure the championship to the negro race forever and anon.)

But to return to the "ladies." How about Post Toasties," made out of peanut shells and other things? Tastes quite a bit like hay (but WE have to eat horse meat, and that's made out of hay). Or, better still, "Grape Nuts." "There's a reason." Let Post exploit you as consumers, ladies. See if you can't reduce the price of meat and boost the price of Grape Nuts. How would Evelyn Nesbit Thaw and her class like to give up tenderloin steaks for granulated fence stakes (commonly called "Grape Nuts").

The society ladies, now that they can't eat meat, will have nothing to amuse themselves with but their children (the aristocratic cats and dogs), and gossip, divorce news, etc. But that's what they like, anyway. They can stand it for a while. It is only a little martyrdom, and all for the cause. Isn't it worth while to starve themselves a few months in order to get meat dirt cheap next fall?

William Howard Taft is another guy who will suffer as a result of the prohibition of meat. Taft, it will be remembered, was elected president of the Standard Oil company's real estate department at the meeting of the shareholders' last Republican convention. Taft can't eat pork now, because cannibalism is agin' the law—and the boycott on meat will probably cause him to lose another ton in weight. Since his accession to the throne, Taft has given up boozing and has joined the W. C. T. U. (Poor Bill!)

But to think that Back-from-Elba Roosevelt will have to quit eating meat! Too bad, too bad. "This was the most unkindest cut of all." He has spent a year in the wilds of Africa, protected by a hundred armed niggers, and has shot 9,999 elephants, hippopotamuses, rhinoceroses, etc., after they had been killed by the obliging natives. (Later a man was sacrificed in a fight with a wild beast in order to satisfy Theodore's lust for human blood.) But all for nothing. He cannot enjoy his summer by walking every day (per Pullman car) from New York to Oyster Bay, and sitting down to a magnificent feast of his half brother, the murdered monkey, and his first cousin, the baby elephant. All his time wasted. Unfortunate trust-buster. Roosevelt will have to amuse himself by means of his harmless and elevating pastime of shooting flying Spaniards in the back.

No more fish for Catholics on Friday (for fish is meat). If that will send them to purgatory, they'll have to spend eternity there. The orthodox Jews have done right in prohibiting the eating of pork. Good! Better go a step further and include mutton and horse meat in the list.

No more turkey as a Christmas gift from your benevolent employer. No more lobster for millionaires. No more sliced dog for the workers. No more fly soup for the boarders at the bum hotel.

If the boycott is successful (which it won't be and can't be), the result—The masters will still exist, the slaves will still exist, the capitalist system will still cure the earth with its presence, the standard of living for the working class will be slightly reduced, more bread will be substituted for liver, heart and kidneys, the worker will be exploited just the same, only more so.

Hurrah for the boycott, CLARENCE V. HOAR.

Here and Now

By

In order to overcome as much as possible the usual lying reports of the doings of the Opposition at Victoria, which are just now being circulated in the capitalist press, it is up to every Local to wake up to its opportunities, and by a widespread circulation of the Clarion to pave the way for early victory for the slave class. Make your future work easier by doing a little now.

Comrade Jas. Garden, Standoff, Alta., while renewing his sub., writes us as follows: "I cannot speak too highly of your paper. It gives me great pleasure to read it, and I always give my copy away after I have read it, hoping it will help along the good cause."

The registrar of voters wants to see you.

Nelson loses no time in sending in its quota of subscribers that were donated by the W. F. of M. mentioned in last issue, per Comrade Frank Phillips.

Local Berlin pays up for bundle.

"The unpatriotic Irishman," Revelstowe, B. C., drops in with a pair.

And Comrade J. Harrington makes three undesirables put up for the dope.

With a promise of more-a-comin', Comrade Albert Gill, Moyle, B. C., rustles three more readers, two for Moyle and one for Cranbrook.

Don't forget that the Clarion's existence depends on the receipts from new subs. Get in line with the following comrades and send in a single to keep the pot boiling.

R. Towarystwo, Phoenix, B. C.; Bernard Rosoman, Enderby, B. C.; R. A. Chamberlin, Deep Creek, B. C.; Archibald Hogg, Halls Prairie, B. C.; G. Pratt, Vancouver, B. C.; G. Brown, Vancouver, B. C.; H. C. Bartlett, Fitchburg, Mass., U.S.A.; R. W. Northey, Olalla, B. C.; F. J. Parkes, Revelstoke, B. C.; J. H. Matthews, Nelson, B. C.; J. Gemmill, Hillcrest, B. C.; J. Cunningham, Guelph, Ont.; H. Collingwood, North Battleford, Sask.; Mary C. Cavin, Victoria, B. C.; Walter E. Hadden, Grand Forks, B. C.; T. H. Dunne, Arrowhead, B. C.; James Young, Nanaimo, B. C.; E. Welsby, Vancouver, B. C., and Tordiff, Lestor, McVety and Smith.

A preacher in a nearby state was obliged to give up his pulpit, having been charged with too much familiarity with several of his young lady parishioners. He was bitterly opposed to Socialism.

The cheers which last November accompanied every reference to "Our Prosperity" have now given place to a cringing appeal for the abolition of the poll tax. Prosperity, which kicks at a paltry tax of something less than one cent a day, is as real as British liberty.

If the number on your address slip is 567 your sub. runs out next week.

The British workman is as poor as wise now to the cause of his poverty as he was before the elections, thanks to the practical (?) Socialists of Britain.

Tariff reformers do not explain how they are going to make the foreigners "pay for it" by shutting out his goods.

Guess the idea of owning the meat trust never strikes those silly meat fasters.

The increased cost of living is not due to Halley's comet or spots on the sun, but to the enormous production of gold which causes it to fall in value as compared with other commodities. Investigating committees please note.

In a local paper recently appears an announcement of the dedication of two new churches in Vancouver, and almost in the same paragraph is a request from the chief of police for an increase in the force.

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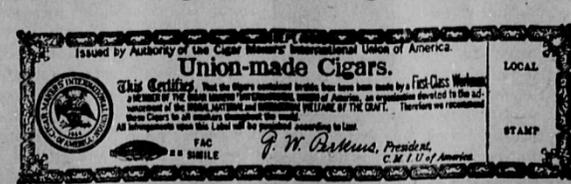
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Which Stands for a Living Wage

Vancouver Local 1357.

A Busy Week in The Law-Mill.

(Continued from Page 1)

down all evidence and inquiries would be prolonged for weeks. They should not forget that there was a jury of the common people of the same class as the sufferers. The inquiries must be left in the hands of the presiding officers, and if necessary the department of justice could act on his report. Inquests were not held for the purpose of eliciting evidence to be used in a civil suit for damages.

The amendment was then defeated and the attorney general's amendment to the Act passed third reading.

Hawthornthwaite's amendment was supported by himself, Williams and Jardine, only Brewster voting with the Government against it. This being the first division of the session it excited considerable attention, and remarks were passed to the effect that it was an awkward fact for the Government that it should be on a labor measure, earnestly desired by organized labor all over the Province.

It would be interesting to ascertain what the working class voters of Grand Forks think of the action of the man they have sent back in the place of John McInnis, in voting with the Government on this matter so vital to their interests, and also what they think in Cranbrook of their "Conservative-Labor" spokesman, Gavin in his similar action. Both sat as dumb as the proverbial oyster throughout the debate and never raised even a mild protest against the action of the Government in refusing to allow such a provision for ordinary decency in the methods of inquiry into the fearfully frequent and horrible deaths of members of our class. Corporation tools they have sent to Parliament and they are doing their duty as such, and who is to blame but the voters? It is to be hoped that before this session is finished the workers of these two ridings will have so much reason to regret the return of these two capitalist flunkies that they will never again commit the same mistake.

It is necessary to ask them how they think Jack McInnis and Fitch of Moyie would have voted on this amendment? If not, then who can understand the process of their minds which led them to send these two agents of their masters to Victoria? Do they never think of those dependent on them? Let them think of how this amendment will affect their wives and children if they are killed.

Tuesday, February 1st.

As space in the Clarion will not permit of anything like a full report of the Socialist members speeches in what promises to be a very busy session for them, all that is possible to present here is the matter that the capitalist press do not consider advisable to print. A comprehensive summary of the occurrences day by day, as brief as possible, is what will be aimed at, although at times it may be advisable to cut even that out and give as full a report of our members' speeches as possible on occasions when class lines are sharply drawn, as in the debate on the Coroners' Act and Factories Act. On such occasions readers may find that only one or two days proceedings in the week will be dealt with, and will have to rely on the capitalist press to get an idea of what has happened in the interval. They will not be far wrong if they assume that both capitalist parties are speaking the truth when they accuse each other of corrupt practices, and deliberate deception.

Most of the afternoon session was occupied by the second reading of the Public Schools Act. Brewster (Lib.) criticised the Bill and McBride made a lengthy reply, followed by Parker Williams, who objected to the provision for manual training on the grounds that it was the answer of the employers to the action of the trades unions in limiting the number of apprentices, and that the school agenda was already sufficiently crowded for the brief time the children were able to continue at their studies. If the government were going to increase the curriculum, the school age should be raised from 14 to 15 or 16. He again bitterly denounced the government for their treatment of rural schools in using them as mere training grounds, or really experimenting grounds for school teachers, to the great disadvantage of the children. He traversed again the line of argument he had used in the debate on the address, with increased bitterness, pointing out that janitor, constables, attendants in the lunatic asylum, and horse doctors were paid better by the government than those entrusted with the education of the farmers' children. Even Dr. Robinson, the superintendent of education, who was supposed to know all about

the children's education, received \$50 per month less than Mr. Babcock, who was supposed to know all about salmon. He advocated the progressive increase of salary if earned by efficiency and experience, as in the Civil Service, as the best method to induce good teachers to stop in the rural districts. Until those same districts had the same educational advantages as the towns, the settlers would continue to drift to the cities.

The amendment to the act dealing with the appointment of notaries public brought down by the Attorney-General, was fought in Committee by the combined Opposition. At present the appointments are in the hands of the provincial judges, who are themselves appointed by the Dominion Government. Bowser, continuing the process of building up the Conservative political machine which he has pursued since he first occupied the office of Attorney-General, by centralizing all opportunities of distributing political patronage under his own hand, proposed to take the power of appointment away from the judges, and put it where he could handle it.

Brewster opposed the Bill, and was followed by Hawthornthwaite, who said that neither the member for Alberni nor yet the premier had disclosed the real motives underlying respectively, their objection and their advocacy of this bill; in the case of Mr. Brewster, the county judges were as a rule appointees of the Dominion government, which is Liberal; while the Attorney-General naturally preferred that the appointments should be in the gift of the Conservatives. So far as the Opposition was concerned, it made no difference how appointments were made so long as they were removed as far as possible from the arena of politics, and the therefore moved, as an amendment, that applicants for appointment as notaries public should be required to pass an examination before the civil service commission.

The Socialist arguments against the Bill were summarized in.

Parker Williams' Criticism.

The member for Newcastle said he perfectly understood how these conditions came about, and the original conditions were better than any changes that had been made. The appointments were made by Dominion Government through the judges and the two governments did not love each other. If the judges had granted certificates to incompetent men they were unsafe men to handle important business. The Attorney-General had brought a grave charge against the judges when he said that.

The statement was made that the judges made inquiry into the character of the candidates. If the appointments were put into the Attorney-General's hands they would certainly fall into capable hands, if the election card that had been produced by Brewster was to be taken as a sample of the process of inquiring into the character of an individual. No supporter of the government would believe them if they protested that it was impossible to ascertain the politics of applicants or that they would deal with it from a non-political standpoint. If the antics of the government during the last election could be published they would hear no more of the justification of a big majority for the things they had done. All departments of administration that could not be led into the Attorney-General's office were going to the Lieutenant Governor in Council. It had happened in the licensing business and now they had it here. It was the process of moulding all the public departments into the Conservative machine. The Bill then passed.

Wednesday, February 2nd, 1910.

Public Schools Act.

Hayward (Con.) said he had been under the impression that the education policy was for the benefit of the scholar, but from the speeches of the opposition one would judge it was for the sole benefit of the teachers. To overcome the difficulty of obtaining competent teachers for the rural schools he would not raise the salaries, but would offer temporary certificates to teachers from Great Britain who held first-class certificates.

Hawthornthwaite (S.) denied that such action would remove the difficulty. He went on to refer to the great strides that had been made in Europe in all branches of education, particularly in Germany, and he laid stress on the fact that the advances of Socialist thought in that country was coincident with the spread of education, until now they mustered over 3,000,000 votes out of a total of 7,000,000.

Reverting to Hayward's proposal to import cheaper teachers, he said it would only cheapen the price of a brand of labor-power that was already

too cheap. Why did he not go further and ask the government to bring in Chinese to teach, who would do it cheaper still?

The curriculum of the schools should take in economics, art and music, and the glorification of Kings, Queens and slaughter should be eliminated.

The second reading carried unopposed.

(Bowser "Puts The Boots" To Labor.)

Chapter 15 of the statutes of 1908 is hereby amended by inserting after section 48 the following section:

48a.—The Inspector during his tenure of office, shall not be competent to give testimony in any civil cause, matter or proceeding with regard to anything which he has seen or done, or with regard to any information he has obtained, opinion he has formed, or investigation he has made in the discharge of his duties as Inspector; and during said tenure of office he shall not be competent to give testimony in any civil cause, matter or proceeding as an expert witness with regard to any subject or matter whatsoever."

The above amendment to the Factories Act passed in 1909 was brought before the House for second reading this afternoon by the Attorney-General, Bowser.

Hawthornthwaite objected to the Bill in every shape and form. It was impossible to remedy it. They had heard the Attorney-General that afternoon state that by the request of the Trades and Labor Council in Vancouver he had appointed an Inspector and now he proposed to muzzle him. What objection was there to the Act? The House had passed the Workmen's Compensation Act, giving the dependents of those killed or injured compensation to the extent of \$1,500, when it had been an accident and not a breach of common law involved. In some cases this compensation was insufficient, as for example in the disaster at Extension where \$1,500 could not be called adequate compensation for a widow with a family of children to provide for. In an action under common law the relations could get compensation of \$5,000 or \$10,000, but it was necessary to show a breach of the law. This Bill would prevent relations obtaining compensation. If they passed it they went right back on the Workmen's Compensation Act. These applications for damages were a nuisance to employers, and they wanted the Act wiped out. They could not do that—the government dared not do it, but they were trying to prevent actions for compensation under common law, and this Bill if passed, would add difficulty to relatives or victims applying for compensation. Where was the equity and justice of it? In what other portion of the British Empire had this step been taken? Why should they exempt inspectors from ordinary duties of the sort? Why should they not be allowed to give evidence as to the truth? It was a most extraordinary position to take and he would vote against it.

Hawthornthwaite then insisted on a division, McBride being obviously unwilling, and the second reading passed on a straight Party vote, the Socialists and Liberals voting against it.

Conservatives absent: McDonald, Shafford, McPhillips, Thomson, McGuire, Young.

Apologists for the present order of society are fond of accusing the Socialists of fomenting class-hatred. In this best of all possible worlds, affairs are gradually evolving to a higher plane, in thought, in charity, fellow-feeling, and the sense of each man's being his brother's keeper is gaining recognition. Those who point to the other side of the case and seek to probe deep are, if sincere, but defeating their own ends by arousing a feeling of resentment against a condition of affairs that if left alone, will disappear in the process of a general moral uplift. The agitator, who insists that all history proves governments to be but the tools of the class who possess all the means of social activity in the production of wealth, and that it does not shrink at any means to ensure their undisturbed possession of their advantage, is deliberately and mischievously disturbing the tendency towards the adjustment of social ills, and should be punished, or if that is not advisable ostracised in the press, and excluded from the peaceful Eden of the "best" people. Such are the theories of those good people who, because their God is in his heaven, say that all is well with the world.

Those others, unknown, largely unheard, who toil and die in the industrial hells outside that peaceful Eden, have no theories about the moral uplift, highmindedness, and all the rest of the fine sounding phrases. They are up against the facts. Exploited and tortured, maimed, killed, degraded physically and mentally, crucified on the cross of exploitation from youth to old age, it is impossible for them long to retain false teachings. They see too many facts in their daily lives that prove things are not developing along that line. It would be impossible for any worker with an ounce of red blood in his veins to attend the sittings of this legislature and watch the process by which he and his class are being rapidly stripped of the concessions they have wrung from their masters by long years of agitation

and struggle. To sit in the galleries and hear his representative voicing his needs, fighting every inch of ground, in the face of overwhelming odds, and then to watch the cold indifference of the capitalist henchmen to the arguments they cannot answer, the pitiless use of their majority to enforce the demands of the profit-mongers whose tools they are, it would be impossible to look on at all that without contracting a deep, abiding, and growing sense of hatred towards that class and all its institutions.

Thursday, February 3rd, 1910.

The Act to amend the Notaries Appointment Act passed Third Reading.

An Act to Amend the Assessment Act 1903 was moved for second reading by the Attorney-General, who referred to it as the fulfillment of promises made by the Premier during the campaign.

The Socialist Party have for years been advocating the abolition of the poll tax of \$3 yearly, on the ground that the time had passed when there was any excuse for it, and in view of the large surplus accruing to the government this year had again referred to it and forced it upon the attention of the government.

Attorney-General Bowser, went into it at some length and proved to his own satisfaction, if not to that of the workers of the Province, that the government could not afford to lose it. He admitted that there was no scientific reason for the tax, and the government would do away with it if possible but it was peculiarly adapted to the conditions of this country. They had a large floating population coming and going all the time, who received the benefit of the roads, trails, etc., and it was only right that they should not escape paying for the use of those facilities. It had been suggested that it should only apply to Orientals. In round numbers there were 10,000 Chinese, 6,000 Japs, and 3,000 Hindoos in the Province, a total of 19,000. From that they would have to deduct forty per cent as exemptions (women, children and old men), leaving a taxable number of about 11,400, and out of that number some could not be reached. The greatest possible estimates of returns from that source did not exceed \$26,163. The present receipts from the poll tax amounted to \$200,000 and more, which was too much to lose.

Referring to the complaints made by Parker Williams as to unfair assessments, he said that last year the assessors sent out by him had met and compared notes as to the methods they used in respective districts, and he had arranged that they should continue to do so, to avoid repetition of those complaints.

Parker Williams, criticising the Bill, said that the Attorney-General had demonstrated to his own satisfaction that the changes he had made were of a fair character, but he (P. W.) did not see it that way. The Attorney-General had twice asked the House to consider what these reductions in taxation meant. He (Parker Williams) thought it meant that the Attorney-General was in close touch with the owners of large incomes than with the owners of the small one. The methods of ascertaining the incomes of the different classes differed. If they wanted to find out the incomes of the employees of large corporations, they only had to ask to see the corporations payroll (the only occasion on which they ever seemed able to get a look into these concerns' books, by the way), and then they rubbed it in. To the big man they go with hat in hand and ask him if he will please give them a few particulars as to his income. They had a saying in the United States that more people go to a hotter climate than this by pejury as to their liability to taxes than by any other route, and he saw no reason to doubt that the Canadian capitalist averaged up the same. The richest people did not always pay on their real income, but if a working man was fortunate to cross the exemption line the government got the facts from his employer. The Attorney-General had said that the Bill placed the taxation on an equitable basis, but that had been said every year for the past seven years, and they now proceeded to amend it. It only went to show that they were as fallible as ordinary men.

As to the Poll Tax. The attorney-general's reference to the poll tax had shown that he was completely out of touch with the political economy of capitalism. If, in a mill employing 100 men, the wages were too small to allow of the accumulation of property, where would the taxes they collected there come from—from the sky or from the men? If the worker paid no taxes, it was because he was skinned too close. He was the one and only man, and his class was the only class, that in the long run, produced all the taxes. The attorney-general had exposed the weakness of his position when he said that the poll tax was an aid to education. That was the excuse provided for all objectionable taxes, and they used it to gain their end when there was no other way. He (P.W.) asserted that it went to maintain the attorney-general's department. It was dropped in to the consolidated revenue fund, and

it would puzzle anyone to pick out a poll tax dollar out of 100 just like it. Nothing in the Bill affected the municipalities nor afforded them any relief.

In conclusion, he declared himself in favor of the wiping out of all direct taxation.

The debate was adjourned by Hawthornthwaite.

Medical Inspection of School Children.

The House spent the balance of the sitting considering the details of this Bill. Hawthornthwaite endeavored to have an amendment made to Clause 4 of the Bill that allows the Provincial board of health to appoint inspectors in certain contingencies who are not duly qualified medical practitioners. He reiterated the expressions of approval of the Bill expressed by the Socialist Party on the second reading and their desire to see it carried out, and this was the only clause to which they took exception. If the children were to be examined as to physical and mental defects, how could it be done by other than qualified men? British Columbia was unfortunately the dumping ground for medical students who had finished their hospital course, and care needed to be taken to secure competent men for the positions.

The Provincial Secretary replied that the clause was necessary to meet the exigencies of the case in British Columbia. It would allow health officers to have trained nurses to look after girl pupils, etc. The officers of the board of health had always performed their duties satisfactorily. He could not accept the amendment.

Hawthornthwaite replied that his point had not been touched. The duties of the inspector as outlined in the next clause—to find out the general health of the children and report on the same to the board of trustees—should be, and were, the duties of a qualified medical man. He insisted, in the interests of the children, that none other should be employed. There could be no more important duty than that. No suitable reason had been advanced for the rejection of the amendment.

As the provincial secretary refused to be convinced, the member for Nanaimo returned to the charge, and without acrimony, insisted that the clause exposed the children, especially in rural districts, to grave risks. As a medical man, the provincial secretary could surely realize that. He asked that the section be allowed to stand over so that the members could consider it, and deal with it later in the afternoon, to which consent was given.

Still At It.

Hawthornthwaite again drew attention to the danger of allowing any but first-class men examining children for defective eyesight, hearing, throat and teeth, as outlined in Clause 6. This should be the work of specialists. In view of the growing tendency to use the knife, there was a danger that some would take the opportunity to use a free hand. The child should be protected from experiment to the last possible degree. Children often recover from physical defects without operation. All these matters deserved serious consideration, and he asked that further consideration of the Bill be postponed to allow the parents an opportunity to discuss it with their members.

The premier said he could not assent to that, and criticized the stand taken by Hawthornthwaite.

Parker Williams considered the Bill the best that the government had brought down, but he feared that the rural districts would get the worst end of the deal as they usually did, and that was the reason he would support the amendment. If the department officials were to be allowed to do the "best they could," the best they did for rural districts would not be as good as the best in the cities or settled districts. Expense was not considered in capturing a "whisky Indian." If they allowed the Bill to stand over, it would become better known and more popular.

Hawthornthwaite said that it was the most important Bill that would be dealt with that session, not excepting the Railway Bill, and the Socialist Party knew their duty to the children and would do it and do it well. Why not select two or three thoroughly competent men and send them through

the province for this duty? (Applause.)

Further consideration adjourned.

Friday, February 4th.

Bowser introduced his Juvenile Courts Bill, and Jardine and Brewster led off in approval. For some minutes the air was filled with "capitalist exploitation," "economic conditions," "environment," etc., etc., until McBride looked dizzy.

Parker Williams said he was in agreement with Jardine in a general way. The Bill was an acknowledgment that the type of social disease that was eating the heart out of the European countries and the Eastern provinces and states was established here. Many explanations had been sought, but he thought that the real reason was the failure of the boy to discover any relation between what he was taught in church and school, and the conditions of the world when he started out. There he found that the possession of wealth alone determined the social standing of an individual. His mind rapidly loosens up from his previous training and travels in the opposite direction. That was the crux of the matter. The prevalence of juvenile lawlessness might be explained in another way as far as Vancouver particularly was concerned. There their chief progress was being made by selling real estate (laughter), "and God help the man who gets left, I say." (Laughter.) The result was that house rent had gone up enormously (in some cases \$40 a month for a house of 7 rooms), and the ordinary working class family had to put a lodger in every room, keep the cellar and attic for themselves, and let their children play on the streets, which was not a good place, as a rule, for training a child. The attorney-general had drawn such glowing pictures of these juvenile courts that they might be excused for thinking that the best thing for a child to do was to find his way there as quickly as possible. (Laughter.) The Bill was necessary legislation, no doubt, but it dealt with effects only, and the cause was not affected, and they still had that to contend with. Those causes would continue with the same results until the economic system was radically changed. J. H. B.

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