

WESTERN CLARION

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THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA

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[Monthly 5c.

While Uncle Sam may be "too proud to fight," or else disinclined because he imagines that he can "lick creation," nevertheless, conditions as existing at present have given him furiously to think. A League to Enforce Peace may be irresistibly inviting to a Professor President speaking on behalf of suffering humanity and in the name of the common good, but it yet remains a delicious pipe-dream without basis in fact.

One can well understand dear lean and lanky Uncle desiring to inflict the Monroe Doctrine upon other nations, even though its imposition necessitates war. Already Europe's baboonish belligerents are tightening the lines, making ever firmer existing alliances and strengthening these with still newer ones. As it appears to us at the moment Japan and Russia (erstwhile enemies) are preparing to jointly "conserve" such interests as may exist in China and its contiguous territory, so much so, that this alliance will be fairly able to "manage" the Orient, while England, France and Russia are laying the basis for concerted action in the Near East, and in Western Europe, with all the trade routes that are involved. Uncle Sam, perched majestically in splendid isolation with his Monroe Doctrine, looks in vain for any potential ally of sufficient size, strength, "honor," and financial stability, who is not separated from him by at least 3,000 miles of briny deep. With the mastery of such briny deep in other hands, al-

liances would have merely paper value, a thing dear Uncle seems to be specially constituted to deal in. If, therefore, other nations could be persuaded with moral arguments to disarm, how much nicer things would look; how easily Isaiah's lion and lamb could render their age-long expected duet. And Uncle Sam would then be relieved of the terrible anxiety of having to fight in defence of the marvellous wealth which has accrued to him through Europe's exceptional exigencies.

If—that problematic conjunctive adverb; if this were possible under a system where goods are produced to sell, might not Capitalism, indeed, be the bourne of human-kind, the be-all and end-all of human activities. But, no! While pacifists may plead, and humanistic presidents indite lengthy epistles, economic forces now rapidly advancing take no stock in such delirious drool. Industry throughout capitalism's wide domain must centralise; wealth must inevitably concentrate in fewer and fewer hands, and the child of the machine, the modern proletariat, increase relatively in numbers and in strength. With the growing consciousness of class position in the minds of the world's workers will also arise an understanding of the historic mission of the working class. With the final triumph of this enlightened proletariat will come the disappearance of "property," of classes, and consequently of class rule with its vile concomitants of wretched poverty in peace and wretched destruction in war. Herein lies the solution of the problem—the

guarantee against future wars. Let us then allow no specious reform to sidetrack our endeavors. The only hope for world peace—in fact, for continued human existence—is Socialism.

"By two-headed Janus," as the immortal Bard of Avon said, "nature hath framed strange fellows in her time." But stranger, still, apparently, are the economic conditions in their ceaseless movement which bring these strange fellows into yet stranger combinations.

Exempli Gratia, what of the following choice couples?

Lloyd George and Lord Milner, the latter once referring to the former as a "vulgar person," to be met with the retort of "puppet"; Arthur Henderson, champion of labor and Lord Curzon, whose regime in India was whole-heartedly condemned by the Labor Party; Sir Edward Carson (King Edward the First of Ireland) and George Nichols Barnes, pompous, pot-bellied, parliamentary leader of labor; Lord Devonport, on whose account Ben Tillet in 1912 supplicated Jehovah's throne of mercy, that he might be struck dead, and John Hodge, new labor minister and now devout advocate of that deplorable policy of "protection."

Thus advancing capitalism ranges "labor's friends" along with "democracy's implacable foes" so that wage-slavery's galling bonds might be riveted more firmly to labor's limbs.

W. A. P.

MODERN BUCCANEERING

ALL Street is the home of the American Stock Exchange. Wondrous tales are told of this enchanted locality. Charwomen, messenger boys, decrepit old newspaper vendors, have dug up a life-time's hoarding amounting to almost one hundred dollars, bought a few shares of **Bethlehem Steel**, or **Baldwin Loco**, and reaped their hundreds of thousands.

In the old days of the Spanish Main, bold buccaneers, quite a crowd of them, armed to the teeth, would descend upon a town, storm its immense fortifications, and get away with a few million dollars. They invariably left a few of their number behind, dead or dying. As fortunes went in those days, the booty was enormous, and the risk amply compensated. But the method of collecting was lamentably crude and vulgar. Besides, it was laborious, dangerous and uncertain; conditions which excluded senility and business acumen whether in the person of John Dee Rockebuilt, his office boy, or his charwoman. Different now! You see the entire game has been reconstructed. Wealth is no longer stored in vaults, behind deep moats, and high walls, as it was in the Dark Ages. Nowadays it lies strewn from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from Pole to Pole, accessible to all. No one will molest it. Everyone is "honest." And anyway, generally speaking, it is too heavy to pack away and forbye you couldn't use it if you did.

But down in this **Wall Street** I spoke of, there falls a shower of stocks and bonds, the possessors of which are entitled to a more or less generous share of the country's wealth. There the spoils are divided.

Attention is at present focussed on **Wall Street** and its doings, through a spectacular "killing"

By J. HARRINGTON

which occurred there on the 21st of December last.

It will be remembered that on this date the latest of President Wilson's notes was made public property. Since then the "note" and **Wall Street's** activity have rivalled war news in front page head lines of the daily press. A near panic took place, and in the excitement some favored few cleaned up approximately six million dollars.

In a letter to Congressman Wood a mysterious person by the name of A. Curtis, characterizes this as a "most unsavory scandal." The facts, according to the letter, are as follows:

While the note was not officially delivered until the 20th and not released for publication until the 21st, a stockbroker by name, Baruch, was cognizant of its contents on the 9th, although it was dated the 11th (official copies dated 18th). Baruch had been observed dining with one, Tumulty, President Wilson's secretary, and was credited with having made a "killing."

Since this, Congress has been "inquiring" into the matter, and so far has failed to place the blame. Obviously the cleaning up of sixty millions is not a matter for Congressional inquiry. Many of the big railroads and **industrials** manage to do that annually. **Our own** C. P. R. comes close to it; and no one calls it scandalous.

Whence and wherefore the tears? Briefly thus: After this harvest had been carefully gathered, a band of pirates, armed with inside information, descended on the honest harvesters and took it away from them.

You see, it's like this. **Wall Street** is infested with a bunch of people designated as **Bulls, Bears and Lambs**. We will not consider

the **Lambs**. Bears sell stock which they do not possess when prices are high, and when prices fall they buy and deliver them. This is called selling **short**. For example: If I sell 100 C. P. R. shares which I do not possess, I am said to be short 100 C. P. R. **Bulls** buy when prices are low and wait for a rise to sell and reap a profit. By the above example I would be 100 C. P. R. **long**. Now, I do not put up the amount of cash which this transaction represents. If I go in **short** (sell shares I do not possess), I merely deposit with my broker enough to protect the transaction in case of a further rise in the market. Should the price advance, it will readily be understood that my broker stands to lose on the deal, and will sell my shares in the rising market, take his commission, pay the state tax, and hand me the balance, if there be any.

I have a chance to save my venture, however. I can pay up some more cash to cover the advance in price. This is called giving more **margin**, and the entire transaction is what is commonly spoken of as gambling on a **margin**.

Suppose, however, the market does not advance; suppose, happily, it falls. I then buy in at the low price and make a more or less handsome profit. If I am in **long** the case is reversed. Now let us suppose I have positive information that the German navy will be destroyed and the Dardanelles opened for traffic by the 1st of March. This would bring the price of wheat down owing to the large quantities of that commodity stored in Russia. I would proceed to sell short on wheat at \$1.80 per bushel, and after the 1st March buy in at possibly less than \$1.00. It must also be noted that including the natural fall in price owing to the increased bulk of wheat, all those **Bulls** who were **long**

and waiting for a rise in price, would be forced to sell at once to save their hides, thus greatly accelerating the decrease in price.

This is exactly what happened on the 21st of last December, minus the supposed war news. Those wise guys who knew the harmless nature of Wilson's note, started to hammer the market by selling in large offerings; the market had been **Bullish**, that is, buying had been the rule, and prices were high. The excessive selling caused people to ask questions, and when Wilson's note was published, in which he stated that the U. S. Government could see no moral difference between the warring groups and suggested a peace conference, coupled with Secretary Lansing's speech, a panic ensued. The **Bulls** commenced to sell, and once started, nothing could avert the crash. So-called "War Brides," that is companies engaged in the production of war munitions fell considerably, some almost reaching their pre-war prices. Our friends, the fortunate **Bears** cleaned up their sixty million. From whom? The **Bulls**, of course! Now **Bulls** as a rule do not toil, neither do they spin, they get their dough from those who do. Consequently, when some of their own tribe, who happened to have the bulge on them, trimmed them good, Congress is called upon to investigate the "scandal."

We might note here one extra feature. Away across the Pacific the Japanese Stock Exchange was forced to close its doors to prevent a general panic. If a threat of peace (threat is correct too!) will thus disturb the basis of civilization what will the actual coming of peace do?

Some other items may also be noted. Lawson, of frenzied finance fame, in answer to a question put during the "inquiry" as to who allowed the contents of the "note" to "leak," stated that he was not sure whether he cleaned up five hundred thousand or five million dollars. He does not have to sneak away and bury it on a desert island either. It

is said that piracy on the high seas has vanished because of a higher moral concept; likewise chattel slavery. Well, maybe. But who in Europe would want to be a pirate, or a chattel slave owner either in the face of these little winnings?

One more item let us notice. Only in those factories and other sources of production engaged directly in war materials was the great decline felt. Railroads, coal mines, etc., remained firm. **Marginal** transactions were not greatly attracted by these stocks. And no great displacement of slaves from these industries was imminent. Consequently, their value was to that extent safe-guarded and secured. When the slaves produce, the value is there. When they do not the value disappears.

Even the unemployable of the panic days, those shameless creatures who did not want work are now engaged in toil, resulting in unheard of quantities of surplus values, and undreamed of stock market killings.

To continue our items. While it is no concern of ours as to who got the sixty millions or why, in view of this bunch of wealth so easily won and so quickly lost lying around loose, it ought to be of interest to all who work for wages to find out where it came from. A study of Marxian Socialist literature and the "**Western Clarion**" will reveal the source. So if you are a new reader drop a line to this office. We will supply you with a list of short and interesting pamphlets and books.

J. H.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

T. Grogan, Spokane.—If you have Capital, Vol. I, chap 2, on **Exchange** it will give you desired information re **Use Value**.

Transportation might be considered as a commodity itself, bought and sold, rated at so much per mile per ton, according to circumstances. In this case its value is transferred to the finished commodity, in your ex-

ample to the shoes, in the same way as the value of the machinery is carried over, during a period of time to the finished article. In any case transportation is different to the "work" of the small storekeeper, who is a more or less useful agent of distribution for the manufacturer, or of the merchant, who places the manufacturer's goods on the market, since he cannot, for reasons which space forbids us giving here, measure the market himself. These are expenses of circulation, payment for which is made by the manufacturer, out of his **surplus value**. Write us again.

Ed. Clarion.

SUBS. RECEIVED.

Local St. Catherines	11	2	9
Local Vancouver, No. 1	7	6	0
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Ed. Haugen	3	4	
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F. Vindeg			5
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Wm. Erwin	4	1	
J. Reid	2	1	
John Peacock			2
Local Ottawa			2
M. L.	1	1	
Local Victoria			2
J. Waters			3
A. J. McCabe			2

49 30 9

Dollar Singles: W. Mulholland; J. Turon; N. Mayer; P. Wallgren; A. T. Kalmar; Columbia University Library; Lee Wilson; P. F. Olsen; G. R. Dafoe; M. Loveng; Geo. Paton; W. B. Durham; A. Reinis; A. Fraser; A. Isaacs; A. Paterson; W. A. Brown; J. W. Dargie; Minneapolis Civic and Commerce Association; J. Wood.

Fifty cent singles: A. Hams; J. M. Jenkins; Longshoremen's Hall, Vancouver; Organiser of S. P. U. S.; J. R. Knight; W. H. Meade.

One hundred and fifteen new readers! Going up! Shall we get that 200 for March? Now, all together—pull!!!

The Eastern Canadian Proletariat

The City of Montreal is the financial, commercial and industrial metropolis of Canada. With its immediate suburbs, the population tributary to the city cannot fall far short of a million. Of these people two-thirds must be French and Catholic.

Before the industrial revolution, initiated in Canada by the building of the first transcontinental railway and the change from low tariff to high protection under the National Policy of 1879, the natural advantage of its site gave the city dominance in finance and commerce and placed it on an equality with other places in regard to the petty manufacturing industries which vegetated in a country where the population was distributed on a geographical pattern characterized by length without breadth.

As an industrial site Montreal is not badly placed to-day. For prime movers of the mechanical order she has access to the Nova Scotia coal fields through ocean going carriers of largest tonnage, and to keep the coal barons tame through competition, she has, tributary to the city, and linked up by transmission lines, hydro-electric developments of over 500,000 horse-power.

In her working population drawn from the Western Europe racial stocks she should be neither at an advantage, nor a disadvantage, were it not for certain local factors which come into play. The French and Catholic element of the population which must necessarily furnish the major part of the working force is peculiarly amenable to the discipline which is so necessary and desirable from the viewpoint of industrial management.

French Canada was organized and settled under the feudal system. The seigneurs were possessors of the high

By Barton.
Part I.—Origin and Development.

and low justice and even of the right of the first night. It necessarily followed that by use and wont, habituation and sophistication, the French Canadian was well disciplined to servilely accept the coercive will of his betters. Since the buying out of the seigneurs, near the middle of the last century, the church which retained, by law, all its feudal privileges and ultramontain ideals, has exercised its authoritative and coercive dominance in full flower and fruitage.

In fact the church is more powerful to-day than in the days of the old regime. Whenever troublous times have appeared in Canada, the hierarchy has been suspected of shrewdly fomenting the insubordinate spirit of her people and then bargaining for new privileges and advantages in return for allaying the unrest which they themselves had helped to create. Certain it is that as the result of secret diplomacy with the political powers, the church has lost nothing in influence, in privilege, nor in authority. It goes without saying, therefore, that the French Canadian whose education is directed by the church, not only to supply him with such profane knowledge as is good for one in his condition, but also to supply him with standards of faith and morals, and social and political ideals as well, becomes, and is, a particularly docile and tame wage-slave, well disciplined to submit to coercion and authority.

From the standpoint of efficiency as viewed by the business man of industry, these aforesaid facts are all to the good, but there is a reverse side to the shield. The requirements of the technology of the machine process call for other qualifications

besides those of docility and subordination, in the personnel of its units, which, if not present in normal degree, will continuously militate against progress in the industrial arts. Industrial workers who have for long periods of time been disciplined, through use and wont and habituation, to the machine process of industry, come at last to apprehend all the phenomena around and about them as impersonal, opaque, materialist facts, and manifestations of physical forces in contact with inanimate matter. The whole drift of things as comprised in human relations and activities comes to be conceived as a great mechanistic sweep of successive phenomena in casual sequence. In other words, the logic and discipline of life comes at last to give all the facts of life, a materialistic and mechanic coloring. Such workers are instantly prepared to seek for a material cause for all obstacles in the working out of the processes and to seek expedients of a physical or mechanistic character to overcome all difficulties which arise. If, on the other hand, the worker apprehends the facts of nature and the relations of life in magical, spiritual or animistic terms, or if, as he has been taught, the vulgar facts of life and of his work are of secondary importance to God, to the priests and to all good Catholics, then, to him, the material facts of life are ignoble, and to devote great energy to industrial efficiency or to pre-occupy his mind with worldly affairs, must appear to be unseemly, if not positively sinful, from all of which it follows that a working force recruited from such a population must fall short in all such matters as require initiative and resource, which are the factors necessary to enable a national industry to at least keep abreast of its competitors. As is to be expected

from the working out of this animus the French Canadians have not taken that place in either business or industry which their numbers or their activity would warrant.

(Part II. follows in next issue)

INTERNATIONAL NOTES.

By Man—Ed.

Britain.

Scarcity of foodstuffs seems to be in order in Britain as in other countries. Seed potatoes are being religiously looked after by the State. Meanwhile the small business man is becoming more and more separated from his small business, not only through advancing economic conditions, but also by the active participation of the State. Everything in the garden is lovely, and things are blooming delightfully.

Arthur Henderson, notorious labor-bleeder and political shyster, just a few days prior to Asquith's resignation, made a public appeal for support to Mr. Double-aitch Wait-and-see, stating that he was, for the empire, the one man indispensable. Now, just after the formation of the War Council, of which he is a member, he whines just as sickeningly for support to his "new" boss, St. George.

The Joint Committee on Labor Problems After the War has been engaged in the problematic business of considering demobilization of the army and munition workers now pursuing the noble art of scientific destruction. The committee estimates the number now maintained by Government funds who will be discharged after the war as between six and eight millions—seven-eighths of them men. This is nearly half the wage-earning population of the Kingdom.

France.

Gustave Herve, one-time rabid anti-militarist, anti-patriot, anti-political actionist, etc., etc., has again been belching forth sulphurous verbiages on behalf of 'his' masters.

When you hear talk of premature peace, says he, invoke your dead. Sure! why not have a few more dead so that we can do little extra invoking. Also, this avenging apostle of the "Class Struggle" bleats pathetically about an "entente" between Capital and Labor, after the war.

Aristide Briand, present premier of France and "Father" of the General Strike, recalled, in a speech made recently, the sitting of the National Convention of the 18th June, 1793, when the famous clause 4 of the Constitution was passed. At that time France was invaded from all points. Conde and Valenciennes were besieged by the Austrians. Spanish troops had penetrated the Roussillon; the delicate situation around Mayence placed Alsace in continual danger; revolt smoldered in Lyons; the Vendee rebellion ragged and Paris itself was torn with factional strife. Clause 4 states that "the French people does not make peace with the enemy still on its territory." Briand thus falls back on the power of tradition, but it might be in order to remind ourselves of the intrigues of Thiers with Bismarck, and the consequent making of peace in the early days of 1871, when the Prussians were already in Paris.

Germany.

The minority (Spartacus) group in Germany are still hot-foot after The Executive of the Social Democratic Party. At a recent conference in Berlin strenuous discussion was the order of the day, the minority refusing to pay dues or to support "Vorwärts" which, it was stated, had become a mere government organ.

Dr. Franz Mehring, the aged and eminent Marxist, is the latest victim of Prussian police oppression. Held under preventive arrest for having carried on agitation considered detrimental by the authorities, he has been refused even the privilege of communicating with his counsel, either verbally or by letter. This matter caused a violent discussion

in the Reichstag, one member being called to order for retorting to the Chancellor's reply, with the word "Cowardice."

On account of the physical condition and age of Dr. Mehring, the Berlin military authorities have stated their willingness to grant his release on condition that he promises to refrain in future from conducting the agitation which caused his arrest.

Hungary.

So grave is the situation here that riots occurred during the coronation of the present Emperor, Karl. Various factions are conducting open campaigns against the Government, and, despite the fact that a little relief was expected, owing to the capture of foodstuffs from Rumania, there appears to be no hope for any change as far as the working population is concerned.

Australia.

Too much stress ought not to be placed upon the defeat of the Conscription Bill, as indicating any great knowledge of the situation from the working class standpoint. It now transpires that the Roman Catholic Church was actively engaged in opposing the measure, on the ground, it is asserted, that its passage would make a similar move easier for the British Government with respect to Ireland.

One labor union placed itself on record as favoring conscription because William Henry Hughes was a Welshman, and they were Welsh. Is it any wonder that the masters can put things over so easily?

Strenuous efforts are being put forth to stamp out any semblance of discontent that may manifest itself. Men are being sentenced to jail, one receiving "fifteen years." This in a land of "democracy!"

Colonel Roosevelt is planning a trip to the Fiji Islands to visit the extinct volcanoes. Birds of a feather will flock together.—Nashville Southern Lumberman.

The Western Clarion



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The business interests of the American continent are, to-day, in a healthy condition. The wholesale destruction of lives and commodities on the battle-fronts of Europe has no terrors for the American capitalist. As a matter of fact, the further the war theatre extends, and the more remote the possibility of peace, the greater the harmony that prevails among the exploiters of labor in this part of the world. Enormous as the profits of the master class have always been in the various branches of industry, those of the past year have easily eclipsed all previous figures. In such departments of trade and production as manufacturing, mining, transportation, and finance 1916 has been a banner year.

In the department of railroads alone the net profit, the amount remaining on the right side of the ledger after all expenses, including taxes and bad debts, have been wiped out, stands at considerably over one billion dollars. A tidy sum to be certain. A return on money invested that the mind of the worker engaged in such an enterprise can form no conception of. Little wonder that rumors of peace prove so embarrass-

Editorial Page

ing to the owners of railroads. Where this billion dollars actually comes from is a problem that neither the railroad employer nor the political economists of the class to which he belongs can properly solve. All that they can figure out in regard to the transaction is that the difference between receipts and expenses for the year, has been one billion dollars. Where it comes from remains a mystery. There are, of course, superficial reasons to submit that suffice so far as they are concerned. The increased volume of business due to the war, the greater concentration of capital and consequent removal of competition; the improved methods of management, and other factors, are continually harped upon as being the active agents in accomplishing such a satisfactory result. These speculations, however, do not bring us to the source of profits. We can arrive at this point only through a knowledge of the Marxian theory of surplus value. By a study of this theory, a theory that has often been assailed but never shattered, we find that this one billion dollars in railroad profits has been derived from no other source than the hides of the workers engaged in the railroad industry. It represents the difference between what the workers produced and what they received back in the form of wages. We have no authentic statistics at present to reveal the number of hands engaged in the different railway systems of this continent, but were such information available, we could demonstrate in cold cash what each individual has been worth in the past year. At any rate, we are safe in the assertion that at no previous period in the history of the race has the wage-worker, the feudal serf, or chattel slave been so productive as is the working animal of to-day. The owners of slaves in previous systems

would, indeed, be astounded could they have learned what a surplus, over and above what it cost to keep him, the slave of a future society would yet be capable of producing.

With all this plethora of wealth, however, the capitalist class of the continent, instead of displaying greater generosity to those who produce their wealth, have become even keener than ever in their thirst for profits. Every attempt on the part of the railway employees to secure an increase of wages, or better conditions of employment, has been met by a determined resistance on the part of the owners. They have no intention of conceding a point. Thoughtful, and farseeing captains of industry that they are, the present prosperity, they assert, must eventually give way to a period of depression following the war. What a pity that the armed hosts of Christendom will find it necessary to quit at all. The inevitable cessation of hostilities will have such a detrimental effect on the American capitalist. What the workers' position will be after peace is declared does not seem to worry anyone, not even the workers themselves.

During the past year when the employees of the railway train-service made an effort to secure the eight hour day, every possible obstacle was thrown in their way by the employers. The labor market, due to abnormal causes, was in their favor and the Democratic Party, on the eve of a national election, seeking the support of labor, came to their assistance. By a superficial survey of the situation it really looked as though the employees had won. The eight hour day in train service was granted and a commission appointed to observe its workings. The election over, and labor's "friends" victorious, a changed situation presented itself. The Socialist theory

that a political party of any importance must be the expression of some economic interests was now to assert itself. The President's message to Congress recommending compulsory investigation, and report, before there can be any tie-up in transportation clearly demonstrates the interests which he obeys. Labor's "victory" is now turned into a dismal failure. Indeed, its short lived advantage, instead of being conducive to its welfare, has only had the effect of more securely uniting its opponents. A new "National Industrial Conference Board" of 15,000 employers with a capital of \$3,000,000,000 was organized, not, of course, as a challenge to labor but, as their chairman stated "to restore the power of speech to the American business man." Worthy object! Poor capital has been trodden under foot long enough. It is only reasonable that it should demand a few "rights" anyway. As for the outcome, we shall watch it with interest.

J. A. McD.

The grotesquely artful apologist for the present order never seems to tire of informing all and sundry that Socialism is a pig philosophy, and that Socialists are horrible materialists. Of course, a moment's reflection would convince any but the most rabid objectionist to Socialism that the real gross materialist is he who attends Bible Readings, Pleasant Sunday Afternoons, and Church Bazaars occasionally, but continually draws sustenance from the most horrible exploitation of human labor, both male and female, aged and youthful. On the other hand, the Socialist, engaged in his business of enlightening the exploited, cannot refrain from severe denunciation of such exploitation; together with the periodic outbursts of vicious repression indulged in by the minions of

the law, at capital's behest, whenever members of the working class, at any place, object too strongly against the unbearable conditions in which they find themselves. He, though a materialist, thus appears as the most extreme idealist.

There is not one accusation hurled at the advocates of collective control of society's means of production but can be returned a hundred-fold against modern capitalism. All the crimes with which they charge us have already, a thousand times, been laid at their own door.

But we are cold, adamant, mechanistic materialists, by whose conception all phenomena is reduced to metallic mathematical formulae, whose calculating vision makes futuristic pictures of nature's unadorned loveliness. The charms of the female form divine are witnessed by us only through the microscope of precise science, woman's well rounded and beauteous lines being made to conform with rigid exactitude to the demands of a two-foot rule and a pair of calipers, her exquisite anatomy only judged and stated in terms of pounds avoirdupois. The lilting love lyric of the lark catches not our materialistic ear; the delicious aroma of the sun-kissed bloom cannot enter our gross olfactory orifices; the majesty of mountain peaks and the grandeur of a golden hued sunset pass by our inglorious vision. And yet, withal, we are visionaries, impractical dreamers clutching vainly at a will-o'-the-wisp, vaguely imagining that we can impose our wishes upon society and finish with a gigantic dividing up of all wealth in the country, from the black rod and the monkey up the stick which appear regularly at every opening of the Federal Parliament, down to the Buck-brand overalls and skinny oxen of the work-sodden, yet patriotic, homesteader whose stamping ground, perchance, is many miles north of frigid Edmonton.

We are materialists; we admit the soft impeachment. We realize that no explanation of societal change

can be made from any other viewpoint, but we are, notwithstanding, also sublime idealists. Our idealism, however, belongs to the future, springing from the ever urgent needs and requirements of the present. Our master's idealism belongs exclusively to the past, springs from the past, and breathes the putrid air of the past like poisonous fumes. The dead hand of the past is merely galvanized into the semblance of a living reality, by virtue of the fact that tradition is the most powerful mental opiate by means of which the common herd can be fooled. For us we must go forward, with our knowledge of the present guiding us as to the future, leaving the mental corpses and intellectual bankrupts with the scriptural mandate: Let the dead bury their dead. W. A. P.

AN ECHO OF THE LIBEL ACTION.

Eckville, Alta.

Jan, 15th, 1917.

Dear Comrade: My lawyer informs me today that the Crown has withdrawn the charges against me, and that I will not have to appear with my witnesses at the next assizes.

I take this opportunity of expressing my sincerest thanks to all comrades and friends who lent a helping hand and gave the necessary assistance financially and otherwise.

Your comrade in revolt,

Alfred Isaacson.

* * *

The Alta. Provincial Executive Committee informs us that since the libel action against Isaacson, et al., has been dropped, that, as soon as the bill for the case is received from Robertson, the lawyer who handled the case, an auditing committee, appointed by Local Edmonton, will go over all receipts and disbursements and present a balance sheet of the Reid Defence Fund. Isaacson's case, arising directly out of Reid's prosecution, will have its expenses met out of this fund. Secretary D. E. C.

Our Bookshelf

AN ECONOMIC INTERPRETATION OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES. By Charles A. Beard, Associate Professor of Politics in Columbia University. Pp. 330. The Macmillan Company, New York. \$1.00

Reviewed by W. A. PRITCHARD.

When a reviewer takes up a work so uniformly good and so rigidly precise as the one now being discussed, he is often at a loss just what to emphasize and what to leave alone. This work, published in April, 1913, is one which the propagandists of the Socialist Movement, especially those upon the North American Continent, cannot possibly afford to ignore. It is, as its name implies, an **Economic Interpretation**. The work, while acknowledged by the author in his Preface, as "frankly fragmentary," abounds with documentary evidence of the assertions and claims made by those who subscribe to the Marxian Conception of Historical Development.

* * *

In his Preface, Prof. Beard gives the student the sources of his information. Besides informing us that he made full use of the suggestive work already done by Prof. Turner, Drs. Libby, Ambler, and Schaper, he tells us that:

The records of the Treasury Department at Washington, now used for the first time in connection with a study of the formation of the Constitution, furnish a field for many years' research, to say nothing of the other records, printed and unprinted, which throw light upon the economic conditions of the United States between 1783-1787.

While recognising that much more could be said; in fact, that he has, himself, merely furnished a fragmentary study of the subject, he states the motive for the publication of a work which might be called premature, in the following words:

Accordingly, I print it in the hope that a few of this generation of historical scholars may be encouraged to turn away from barren "political" history to a study of the real economic forces which condition great movements in politics. (Emphasis reviewers.)

The first chapter, dealing with "Historical Interpretation in the United States," is as delightful a piece of reading as any Socialist could desire, particularly when we consider the standing of the author. Many interesting works useful to the Marxian, have resulted from the labors of University professors in the United States during the past few years. This is, in a way, a very healthy sign. It indicates that, despite the erstwhile contemptuous ignoring of the vast compilation and logical presentation of facts made by Marx, Engels, and their successors, the Socialist view is beginning to permeate even the high places of learning. Not that Prof. Beard claims his presentation to be that of the Marxist, but since he gives an accurate interpretation from the documents he has perused, it cannot fail but coincide with the views of those whose conception of history alone properly explains the long period of man's many activities.

After dismissing, for reasons that are obvious to the student of The Socialist Philosophy, the interpretation of American history associated with the name of Bancroft, as also that known as the Teutonic School which "Without distinctly repudiating the doctrine of the 'higher power' in history.....finds the secret to the 'free' institutional development of the Anglo-Saxon world in innate racial qualities," (p. 2) he refers to the third school of historical research which "is not to be characterized by any phrase." (p. 3.) Of this latter school he says p. 5:

It is marked... by an absence of hypotheses. Its representatives, seeing the many pitfalls which beset the way of earlier writers, have resolutely turned aside from "interpretation" in the larger sense, and concerned themselves with critical editions of the documents and with the "impartial" presentation of related facts.

On page 6 he points out that, with one or two exceptions, the hypothesis that economic elements are the chief factors in the development of political institutions, has, with respect to American history, been

treated with scant courtesy, and has not received the attention from historians which its significance requires.

With incisive logic he presents the problem in a nutshell on page 8 for we read:

In the absence of a critical analysis of legal evolution, all sorts of vague abstractions dominate most of the thinking that is done in the field of law. The characteristic view of the subject taken by American commentators and lawyers immersed in practical affairs is perhaps summed up as finely by Carter as by any writer. "In free, popular states," he says, "the law springs from and is made by the people; and as the process of building it up consists in applying, from time to time, to human actions the popular ideal or standard of justice, justice is the only interest consulted in the work.... The law of England and America has been a pure development proceeding from a constant endeavor to apply to the civil conduct of men the ever advancing standard of justice." In other words, law is made out of some abstract stuff known as "justice." What set the standard in the beginning and why does it advance? (Emphasis reviewers.)

He clearly sets forth (p. 12) that most of the law is concerned with property relations, and that, as society becomes more settled and industrial in character these property relations increase in complexity and subtlety. He further quotes James Madison, father of the Constitution and later President of the Union, as saying that "the most common and durable source of factions has been the various and unequal distribution of property. Those who hold and those who are without property have ever formed distinct interests in society" and that "the regulation of these various and interfering interests forms the principal task of modern legislation....." Of this Beard states (p. 15):

Here we have a masterly statement of the theory of economic determinism in politics. Different degrees and kinds of property inevitably exist in modern society; party doctrines and "principles" originate in the sentiments and views which the possession of various kinds of property creates in the minds of the possessors; class and group divisions based on property lie at the basis of modern government; and politics and constitutional law are inevitably a reflex of these contending interests. (Emphasis reviewers.)

The summing up of this chapter is a fine sample of impregnable logic. After reasoning that had those with great property interests which would be conserved by the adoption of the Constitution opposed it, or had those without such interests or with interests that would have been damaged by its adoption worked and voted for it, then practical experience would have disproved the hypothesis of economic determinism. With a fine and skilful hand he demonstrates that practically the reverse was true and concludes his first chapter thus:

.....It does not follow that the vague thing known as "the advancement of general welfare" or some abstraction known as "justice" was the immediate guiding purpose of the leaders.... The point is, that the direct, impelling motive.... was the economic advantage which the beneficiaries expected would accrue to themselves first, from their action..

* * *

Space forbids an extended survey of the other chapters in which detail in full measure is worked out. The bibliography of the work is extensive; its presentation of points lucid; the chapter (No. VII.) dealing with "The Political Doctrines of the Members of the Convention" is particularly interesting reading and a veritable mine of information. From it I take the following quotation made by the author from Alexander Hamilton, he who desired that the hand that held the purse strings should rule the country, and eulogised the British House of Peers, as a noble institution. Of him Beard says (p. 199):

Doubtless his maturely considered system of government was summed up in the following words (Farrand Records, Vol. 1, pp. 299 ff.): "All communities divide themselves into the few and the many. The first are the rich and well born, the other the mass of the people. The voice of the people has been said to be the voice of God; and however generally this maxim has been quoted and believed, it is not true in fact. The people are turbulent and changing; they seldom judge or determine right. Give, therefore, to the first class a distinct, permanent share in the government. They will check the unsteadiness of the second, and as they cannot receive any advantage by a change, they therefore will ever maintain good government.."

The author's method of taking two quotations from Chief Justice Marshall is not only enlightening but amusing, his opinions as an historian being in direct opposition to his opinions as a jurist; and these two divergent views are set down side by side on p. 299. In the former capacity Marshall is seen drawing a picture of the economic groups which fathered and nurtured the Constitution; while in the latter (in McCulloch vs. Maryland in 1819) he perpetrates the piffling moonshine of the average bourgeois apologist by pointing to the Constitution as an instrument made by all, for the benefit of all.

Prof. Beard's conclusions, briefly set down at the end of the book, are a study in themselves, like the footnotes in Marx' Capital

Of these two quotations will suffice. First:

The Constitution was essentially an economic document based upon the conception that the fundamental private rights of property are anterior to government and morally beyond the reach of popular majorities.

And second:

The Constitution was not created by the "whole people" as the jurists have said; neither was it created by "the states" as Southern nullifiers long contended; but it was the work of a consolidated group whose interests knew no state boundaries and were truly national in their scope.

Altogether the book is invaluable to the student and propagandist. As a work giving an insight into Constitutional History it is rather to be recommended, for our purposes (that of explaining changing political forms by advancing economic forces) than Baker's "Fundamental Law." It should take a place alongside Jenk's "History of Politics" and De Gibbons' "Industrial History of England."

Compulsory military training is popular among those above the age of liability.—Wall Stret Journal.

On one occasion we opined that the Vancouver "Sun" was the "most dis-EFFEMINATE" graceful apology for "WORLD," a newspaper ever perpetrated upon a gullible public." We have, however, good reasons for changing our mind on the matter. At that time we had not very diligently perused the most notorious mote in the local public eye, the Vancouver "World." We are now convinced; and the valued "Sun" is removed by one notch from its previous invidious position in our opinion.

The climax in inverisimilitude was reached, as the best sellers might say, when, in the January 22nd, 1917, issue, the "World," editorially commenting upon H. G. Well's ridiculous prophecy that future wars can be averted by Britain increasing the size of her "tanks" along with their quantity, sets this aside brusquely and sagely concludes:

"It is rather, we think, by the enlightened efforts of the present Entente Powers that the future peace of the world will be ensured. **If they decide there shall be no more war they can enforce their will on every other country.**" (Emphasis ours.)

Very simple! Aye, idiotically simple!

But might we enquire just how this Entente combination will "force their will on every other country?" Obviously, either by waging war or threatening to do so. And thus the problem is most brilliantly settled.

The editor of the Vancouver "World" would appear, to use the oft repeated words of a now dead eminent politician, to be suffering from a diarrhoea of words and a constipation of ideas.

On second thought, though, it might be advisable to add that even persons afflicted with constipation have a movement once in a while. Therein they differ from the "World's" profound editorial scribe.

Our Letter Bag

LOGIC AND LANGUAGE.

To the Editor, Western Clarion,—

Will you please recommend through the columns of the "Western Clarion," text books on Logic and Language suitable for a student of Life and Human Relations, who is just beginning to do his own thinking and who therefore wishes to become familiar with the tools and instruments of "Thought," so as to avoid as far as possible making mistakes in his thinking. I am already in possession of most of the works of Marx, Engels and Dietzgen published by Charles Kerr and Co., but think that I could understand them better if I had special books on Logic and Language. If you or any of the writers on the "Clarion" can help me out you will greatly oblige.

W. B. Durham.

In recommending works on "Logic" it must be emphasized that as a "tool or instrument of thought" logic has little practical value. Man exerted his reasoning faculty for untold ages before the Science or Art of Logic was formulated. And indeed many of the brute animals exhibit that "God-given faculty," while lacking the medium of language, or the assistance of Logic. I am making no wild assertion in stating that "Logic" is the most fruitless "science" ever elaborated. It is not entirely worthless when utilized as a course of discipline to the mind, and understood to be for that express purpose. But when "Logic" is studied as a means to promote "correct thinking" then a task is assumed which is at once difficult and unprofitable.

Bacon says logic and rhetoric make a man "able to contend." One versed in the use of logical forms may make a good "rag-chewer," as can be seen in the questions and answer of Socratic argument; but with all their boasted wisdom, their un-

doubted intellect, their ten centuries of domination over the human mind, and their tremendous labor, we possess nothing which we are justified in crediting to the logicians, as such. Englishmen, and even Germans, have added to the sum of human knowledge; so have Logicians, but not because of these characteristics, which to use logical terms are accidental, not attributive, to discovery.

Dietzgen says: "Logic aims to teach you the proper use of the intellect" and points out that ancient logic attempted to operate apart from the world of fact. But our logic, he says, teaches that "you must not search for understanding by cudgelling your brain, but only in connection with experience, with the inter-relation of things." Such logic is only found in **Socialist literature**. There are, in formal logic, three laws of thought. First, the law of identity—what ever is, is. Second, the law of contradiction—a thing cannot be and not be. Third, the law of excluded middle—a thing must either be or not be. Simple and true enough, but we can perform all the functions of thinking and never learn of their existence. Just as we can express our thoughts in language and not know a noun from a verb. However, outside of Dietzgen, whose logic is not "logic," to paraphrase Feuerbach, for an interesting and understandable work on logic I would recommend Swinburne's "Picture Logic," published by Longmans, Green and Co. Any bookseller would secure a copy if the work is still in print.

It is written in novel style. Two students, intent upon passing their examination, are under a private tutor. One is brilliant, the other, dull. The latter asks just the questions a plug would be likely to ask, and gets very satisfactory answers. Ideas are pictorially illustrated, and the pictures are appropriate and illuminating. On the title page is a lion—human understanding, tangled in ropes—logical knots, at which a mouse—

illustration, is gnawing. Another illustration is an ancient and ragged dame, heavy and forlorn, seated on a park bench with a basket on her knees containing the "results of logic as a science" and "the results of Logic as an art." These pictures are apt and somewhat humorous, and while the reader gets an understanding of what it's all about he is not left with an exaggerated idea of the value of logic. The book closes with mild sarcasm. After having successfully passed his exams the dull student (our author) becomes the cock of the debate walk, and when unable to floor his opponents by reason flattens them out by assertion that such a proposition as "a flagrant instance of violation of the principles of constructive, conjunction, hypothetical syllogisms" and he concludes "this produces a dead silence at once" and let me add, of such is the science of logic. If the student desires to go further than this primer, he could tackle Mill's **System of Logic**; same publishers, in which there is a mine of information, apart from the subject.

Concerning books on language they are legion and easily obtained. But a good dictionary used continually while reading is the best means to attain proficiency in expressing one's thoughts. If a cheap and inferior one is used, upon turning up "bourgeois" you are liable to find it means "a kind of printing type," which will leave you rather confused as to the relation between printing type and wage-slavery. Even Webster so defines it, and unblushingly confesses ignorance as to the type acquiring the name of Bourgeois, and as the cockney said of the French word for "bread" they don't even pronahnce it right. Nuttall's is considered a standard in the British Empire.

However, "The Verbalist" by Alfred Ayres, published by D. Appleton and Co., goes into the right and wrong use of words in detail, and gives examples of wrong uses and explains why.

But whatever books are used it is necessary for the student to write down the ideas obtained, from whatever book he may read, in his own language.

One must also always remember that language is constantly undergoing modification. Words are constantly changing their meaning. It is good policy, therefore, when meeting with terms not readily understood, to consider the year or age in which they were used. This will very often prevent confusion. For example, dialectics in a book written a few centuries ago would have the same meaning as logic; half a century ago it would mean the art of discovery; but to-day, and especially in **Socialist Literature**, it means a certain method of looking upon and inquiry into natural phenomena.

J. H.

Farmers' Forum.

"PATRIOTISM AND THE FARMER."

Fearsome statements have been made and frightful deeds executed by that highly respectable body of people called patriots.

Without going back into ancient or even modern history; without even hinting of Poland, of Belgium, or of Greece, this primal fact will be generally admitted.

It is doubtful, however, if history tells of anything in the way of "talk-fests" to compare with the words poured forth from the food-traps of the horny handed sons of soil who infest the farms of the snowclad prairies of Manitoba in this year of their Lord, 1917.

Brandon was the scene of the oratorical orgy, and F. J. Dixon, a Winnipeg member of the Legislature the near-victim.

The ruling class of this fair land of "theirs" recently decided to register the man-power of the nation in order that they might be able to

economically beat Germany by adopting methods made in Germany. Dixon, who is a "Radical-Free Trader," and somewhat of a fighter, did not like this and participated in an agitation of protest against it.

As the farmers saw in National Service a method of getting cheap labor for their farms they got peeved at their erstwhile champion and branded him a traitor of various kinds.

Dixon was to address the Grain Growers' Convention on January 12th, but the executive of the Returned Soldiers and Army and Navy Veterans strongly objected to having him in their loyal city and served notice that if he spoke they would raise hell, just to show, I suppose, that they were above all, defenders of Liberty and Freedom.

In moving the resolution telling Dixon that he was not to speak, one liberty-loving yeoman, named Dutton, from Gilbert Plains, recited some of the results of capitalist patriotism, and the papers tell us that his voice shook and tears were in his eyes. He is in part quoted in the Press as follows:—

"A man gets up supposed to be a Britisher and says, 'I am not going to die for a myth. The Allies must show us why they entered the war.'" Mr. Dutton raised loud cheers when moving his resolution. "Are the Belgian horrors a myth, the Lusitania, the Serbian horrors? And are we going to listen to a man who tells us, who have given our sons and daughters, that all these things and the British ideals are a myth?"

"No," yelled over a hundred voices.

The hundred voices evidently changed their tone, however, because Dixon has gone, has spoken, and is once more back in Winnipeg. The returned warriors worried him not, and Dixon gave out his usual line of free trade piffle which his patriotic farmer supporters on that subject think means cheap everything but wheat and farm produce.

The riot act was not read and although Dixon was invited to sing "God Save the King" all he said was "What about the people." The result of all this was that T. W.

Knowles, of Emerson, another democratic liberty-loving yeoman, got mad as the devil, and refused to be a member of the 1917 Executive of this progressive organization for the encouragement of cheapness.

He is quoted as follows:—

"Gentlemen," he concluded. "Don't be carried away by sentiment but do your duty as Britishers." He had investigated, he said, and found the very large percentage of anti-registrationists were pure alien enemies."

The phrase "pure alien enemies" makes one wonder what an impure alien enemy would look like. Maybe, "Damaged Goods" eh!

* * *

Before leaving the Grain Growers' Convention, however, it is well for us to look over their list of resolutions because there is only one section of society which for "resoluting" can compare with the Grain Growers and that is a Trades Congress. Yet the following will show that the farmers are the most logical.

A resolution was brought forward strongly protesting against any move to fix the price of grain in the west. Frank Simpson, of Marquette, thought it would be a great shame for the commandeering of wheat this year.

J. L. Brown said they had gone on record as supporting the government in war measures and now they wanted to hinder the government if it found it necessary to take over the wheat.

On the suggestion of President Henders the motion was withdrawn amid applause, he pointing out that nothing should be done to hinder the government in its war work.

The opposition of the Labor movement to National Registration, after passing a resolution pledging to help in any way possible the winning of the war by the Allies, shows a lack of logic that the farmers have certainly not equalled in their convention.

A delegate who was not named in the papers suggested that efforts be made to bring in Oriental labor. He said "Japs were at work in France." Hence why not here? Especially as they are supposed to be cheap!

To show what this bunch of cheap jacks, known as Manitoba farmers, really think of Liberty and all the

other ideals for which our conscript and volunteer brothers are supposed to be fighting in Europe let us read the Manitoba Free Press of January 11th, 1917:

FAVOR CONSCRIPTION OF FOREIGN LABOR
Manitoba Horsebreeders Pass an Important Resolution—Stallion Enrolment Act Discussed.

Brandon, Man., Jan. 19.—The Manitoba Horse Breeders Association to-day after the formal business of minutes and reports, the question of labor came up and was very fully discussed, and the feeling strongly in favor of some form of conscription of labor that would compel the foreign element especially to work for something like reasonable wages instead of the present hold-up of \$5 and \$6 a day and board. Many of the members took occasion to express their firm belief that the time had come for full conscription and each man to go to the work he was best fitted whether to fight or produce.

Finally a resolution was passed instructing the executive to confer with the Grain Growers and together formulate a resolution to offer to the federal government some suggestions as to how this labor problem can be dealt with.

Among those who spoke in favor of full conscription were G. H. Malcolm, M.P.P.; J. Graham, M.P.P.; W. H. English, Wm. McKirdy, John Dutton, A. C. MacPhail, and many others.

Where men are getting those fabled wages of \$5 and \$6 per day and board is not stated, although we all know that for his produce the farmer is getting double what he got when harvest wages were \$2.50 per day and board; and if the "justice" they prate of were applied, according to their own estimable logic, would not wages in the very nature of things be double the old rate.

Those men represent the comparatively wealthy farmer—the man who, having the necessary machinery, has been able to make thousands out of this war owing to cheap labor and high prices. More than that, they represent the dirtiest exploiters of labor that this country knows—the class who used to do the ignorant "foreigner" from Britain or Central Europe out of his harvest money on the meanest and foulest of pretexts. A few more conventions, a little more publicity, and the small laboring producer on the farm will begin to realize that it is not in

Grain Growers' Associations; not in Non-Partisan Leagues; not in Free Trade; no, not even in cheap labor that his salvation lies.

With that knowledge as a ground work he will then be ready to study his position in society and line up with the other members of the slave class in that "Last Great War"; the war which will for ever abolish class rule and all its concomitant evils of a cheap and nasty type; aye, verily even unto that cheap and nasty member of society called the Manitoba farmer.

PAT.

THE S. P. OF C. IN THE SPOT-LIGHT.

It is not often that the S. P. of C. has the honor of being noticed by great writers in high places, but there are exceptions to all rules. In a book entitled "American Socialism of the Present Day," by Jessie Wallace Hughan, Ph. D., with an introduction by John Spargo, can be found an instance.

This book was published in 1911. It is confusion and piffle from beginning to end. To give an idea of how much this Doctor of Philosophy knows, I will quote a few passages. Dealing with the Materialist Conception of History (she makes use of the term "Economic interpretation") she says, page 58.

"As economic determinism the theory sometimes becomes a genuine fatalism. Arthur Morrow Lewis, whose popularizations of science are widely influential among working men, going so far as to oppose it both to religion and the doctrine of free will. Mr. Lewis is almost alone among American leaders, however, in voicing these oppositions, and Spargo is typical in repudiating vigorously the charge of fatalism."

Speaking of the Class Struggle, page 65:

"Without exception the Socialist leaders affirm the necessity not only of acknowledging, but of emphasizing the class struggle in propaganda. Even Victor Berger, United States Congressman and acknowledged head of the constructive forces in the party, maintains that emphasis upon this point is both desirable and necessary, since it would be foolish and wrong to deny the existence of economic classes."

The attempt made by the author to analyze the law of value is confusion worse confounded. Eventually she gives it up, and decides that a knowledge of the law of value is not essential to Socialism. Summing up, page 254:

"A certain responsibility as to the future of Socialism in America rests with the cultural institutions of church, press, and university. Hostility on the part of these forces tends in general to weaken the influence of the 'intellectuals' and the Christian Socialists, to harden the party organization on the lines of the class struggle, and to render the revolutionist the dominant Socialist type. If the movement is ignored by the higher intellectual forces, on the other hand, there is danger that Socialism, encountering in controversy only the ignorant and unscientific may rest satisfied with the unrevised economies of the last century and win the support of the people by superficial propaganda and specious promises of a millennium."

The above quotations give a fair idea of the contents of the book, also the ability of the author to doctor philosophy. Note the alarm expressed at the possibility that the revolutionist may become the dominant Socialist type. So great is her horror and hatred of the revolutionary type of Socialist, that while writing a survey of the American Socialist Movement, she sees fit to go out of her way and wander off up into British Columbia to take a slap at the Socialist Party of Canada. On page 238 she says:

"Perhaps the most extreme form of proletarian and anti-religious revolutionism exists across the Canadian border in British Columbia, where the Socialists have declined representation in the International Socialist Bureau on the ground of the admission to that body of the British Labor Party. Their organ the "Western Clarion," occupies the extremist position at every point, and their attitude toward reform is illustrated by the following passage."

"We have every cause to congratulate ourselves over the results which our clear-cut uncompromising revolutionary program is producing. Reformists are few and far between, and are principally to be found outside the party, a position which they occupy either from choice or discretion, mostly discretion, as we have less 'use' for them than for capitalism, which is saying much, and that strongly."

A foot-note states that the passage quoted was taken from an article entitled "The Situation in British Columbia," which appeared in the International Socialist Review of Feb. 1910, but does not give the name of the writer. It does not make any difference anyhow, as I don't suppose the extreme proletarian anti-religious revolutionary "ruff-necks" of the S. P. of C. will go back on it anyway, no matter who wrote it.

But what I wish to point out is if the S. P. of C. does not watch itself, some great Doctor of Philosophy, male or female, will expose its sins and iniquities as they deserve to be exposed. Now will the S. P. of C. be good?

F. J. McNey.

THE KAISER'S GRIM JOKE.

God Almighty's grown up brother, crazy Bill of Potsdam, has made an unique reputation for himself by claiming privileges as the lone mouthpiece of divine revelation in these modern materialistic times. Of course, we know that he speaks with pompous and religious phrases, not for things ethereal, but for things exceedingly mundane. In short, he is a figure head in modern capitalism and speaks on behalf of German capitalist interests usually.

The message quoted below was given by this lordly puppet to the warriors of Krupp Co., et al., when Germany made her famous peace overtures. Further comment is unnecessary, but the emphasis is ours:

In agreement with the sovereigns of my allies, and with the consciousness of victory, I have made an offer of peace to the enemy. Whether it will be accepted is still uncertain. Until that moment arrives you will fight on.

BALANCE SHEET, DEC. 31st, 1916.
Western Clarion, Dominion and B. C. Provincial Executive

Committees.

Accounts Collectable		D.S. C.
Western Clarion		
Local Edmonton	\$10.00	
Local Montreal	11.26	36.88
Local St. John's, N. B.	2.60	
Local Winnipeg	2.00	
	\$25.86	\$36.88

Accounts Payable.

Western Clarion

W. W. Lefaux (on Multigraph).....	\$220.00
D. E. C.	
Geo. Whitehead (on loan)	\$80.00

CASH ACCOUNTS, 1916.

Receipts.	Disbursements	
B. C., P. E. C.,	\$305.55	253.55
Dom. Ex. Com.	526.45	685.00
Western Clarion	1137.85	1307.45
C. M. F.	262.05	
Cash Balance Jan. 1, 1916	36.34	
Cash Balance Dec. 31st, 1916.		22.24
	\$2268.24	\$2268.24

CASH BALANCES DEC., 1916

B. C. Exec. Com.	26.10	
Western Clarion	46.30	
Dom. Exec. Com.		50.16
Cash Balance in total		22.24

BALANCE SHEET, 1916.

Accounts Collectable:—	Assets	Liabilities
Western Clarion	\$ 25.86	
Dom. Ex. Com.	36.88	
Accounts Payable:—		
Western Clarion		220.00
Dom. Ex. Com.		80.00
Office Equipments	110.00	
Literature	135.00	
Party Supplies	91.30	
Mailing List and Machine	85.00	
Dues Stamps	152.00	
Multigraph	240.00	
Cash Balance Dec. 31st, 1916	22.24	
	\$898.28	300.00
	Net worth \$598.28	598.28
		\$898.28

Prepared by W. A. Pritchard

Audited and found correct:

F. Parsons, W. W. Lefaux, Auditing Com.

"SCRAPS OF PAPER" IN HISTORY

CYRUS AND BABYLON

By W. A. P.

WHEN the Babylonian Empire was at its zenith, with its capital city, Babylon, out-rivalling in architectural and sculptural grandeur the world's modern capitals, its area being one hundred and forty four square miles with mighty walls surrounding it, from which arose some two hundred and fifty towers, and in which could be found sixty picturesquely molded bronze gates, while canals and reservoirs, indicating high engineering skill, for that time, existed for the purpose of irrigation, its ruler was by name Nabonidos. Many of the population were of foreign birth, having been forced into captivity by previous Babylonian emperors and there was consequently, more or less disaffection among such a mixed people, during his reign.

Just previous to this time new powers and new combinations began to appear, threatening more and more, as time passed, the now somewhat weakening Babylonia. On Babylon's frontiers were four distinct nationalities; the **Manda** population, a barbaric race sprung from the Scythian invaders; the **Medes**, who had settled northwards towards the Caspian; the **Elamites**, living in the eastern mountain ranges; and the **Persians**, settled on the shores of the Persian Gulf. Astyages was the sovereign ruler of the **Manda**, and Cyrus was King of the Elamites.

Cyrus and the ruler of Babylon, Nabonidos were on friendly terms and both considered Astyages a powerful rival for empire, and, therefore, a deadly enemy. Legend has it that the emperor of Babylon had a dream and was inspired by one of his gods to attack the **Manda** people. Guided by this "providential" intervention he completed an alliance with Cyrus and both together attacked and completely routed Astyages. Thus gods played their little part of "defending the right" in the early times of civilization, even as in the present days.

Immediately following this Cyrus was able to unite under his rulership both the Manda and Persia. This, along with his original territory, Elam, made him an exceptionally powerful sovereign. It at once became apparent to Nabonidos that his friend had become too powerful to remain an ally, and that he must, sooner or later, consider him a foe. The "scrap of paper" grew weaker and weaker as these new conditions developed, and Nabonidos was about to form a new alliance with Croesus, sovereign of Lydia, in order to prepare for the crash when Cyrus probably understanding the nature of the move, descended first upon Lydia and with Croesus out of the running, marched forward and completely vanquished his former ally.

We are not here concerned with the economic aspect but just desire to briefly record a few historic instances when "sacred treaties" were ruthlessly converted into "mere scraps of paper."

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The two following excerpts are taken from the same issue (Jan 2nd, 1917) of the "Winnipeg Telegram," personal organ of the Hon. "Bob" Rogers. Comment is unnecessary; but we advise readers of the "Western Clarion" to paste them in their hats. They might make handy references at some future date.

Mr. Rogers said, with registration and an inventory of the man power of Canada, it would be impossible for any individual to escape the pressure of public opinion in his community. He turned to the question of providing work for the returned soldiers and said, "With whatever weight and authority attached to the position I hold in the government I can say there will be nothing too good for the men who have done what you have done and come back maimed and disabled."

CAN YOU FIND A PLACE FOR THIS WAR HERO?

J. Haire, 409 Ferry Road, St. James, a returned soldier, is destitute and greatly in need of help. The help he asks for is light work to keep body and soul together until he regains in some measure his former strength. . . . Haire left with the Third Field Ambulance first contingent in the first month of the war. He was wounded with shrapnel at Ypres, April 1915, sustaining injuries that brought on meningitis on account of which he has undergone 13 operations. He was working for a few days at a local store during the Christmas rush, but his head troubles him yet if at sustained work at writing or figuring. . . . He is married and self and wife are not getting enough to eat and are right up against it now that the few dollars he earned before Christmas have gone.

Can any reader of The Telegram find a place for this boy who has "done his bit"?

We have received a resolution from Vancouver Local No. 1, briefly informing us that they do not take very kindly to the article "boosting" the "Christian Science Monitor," which appeared in the last issue, No. 788.

While all that is stated in the article may be true, nevertheless, they aver that it is no business of ours to boost any particular sheet, especially one connected with a mystic religion.

We admit the insertion of the article in the form in which it appeared was an unfortunate indiscretion. The wording should have been materially altered, or, at least, a qualifying editorial footnote appended. The only motive, as far as we are concerned, for its insertion was to give such of our readers, and especially the studious element, the benefit of any information that could be considered reliable. Also the article was in reality intended more in the nature of a review.

Ed. Clarion.

Socialist Party Directory

- DOMINION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**
Socialist Party of Canada, meets every alternate Monday 8 p.m., Socialist Hall, N. E. cor. Pender and DuDlevy Vancouver, B. C.—W. A. Pritchard, Secretary.
- BRITISH COLUMBIA PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**, Socialist Party of Canada, meets same as above.
- ALBERTA AND SASKATCHEWAN PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**.—Secretary, Mrs. S. I. Johnson Knight, Box 785, Edmonton. Phone 4803.
- NEW BRUNSWICK PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**.—A Taylor, Secretary, East St. John, N. B. For Party literature and information on organization matters, etc., write to above address.
- LOCAL ALHAMBRA, No. 74 (Alta.)**
S. P. of C.—P. O. Peterson, Secretary, Horseguards, Alta.
- LOCAL CLAYTON, No. 83 (B.C.) S. P. of C.**—John T. Ddempster, Secretary, Clayton, B. C.
- LOCAL CRAWFORD BAY, No. 72 (B.C.)**, S. P. of C.—J. E. McGregor, Secretary, Crawford Bay, B. C.
- LOCAL CUMBERLAND, B. C., No. 70.**—Business meetings every first and third Sunday in the month, at 10:30 a.m., Economic classes every Monday and Friday, at 7 p.m., in the Socialist Hall opposite P. O. Regular Propaganda meetings at every opportunity. C. Walker, Box 312, corresponding and financial secretary.
- LOCAL ECKVILLE, No. 58 (Alta.), S. P. of C.**—J. E. Lundberg, Secretary, Eckville, Alta.
- LOCAL ENDERBY, No. 65, S. P. of C.**—Business meetings first Sunday in each month at 2:30 p.m. Propaganda third Sunday in each month at 2:30 p.m., in the Theatre, Main St. Everybody welcome. J. Pilkington, Secretary, R. R. No. 4, Armstrong, B. C.
- LOCAL EDMONTON No. 1, S. P. of C.**—Free reading room and headquarters at 715 Second St. Propaganda meetings every Sunday in the Bijou Theatre, First St., at 8 p.m. Business meetings every Tuesday at 8 p.m. J. L. McKenzie, organizer. E. H. Flegg, secretary, P. O. Box 785.
- LOCAL ERSKINE, No. 32 (Alta), S. P. of C.**—A. A. McNeill, Secretary, Erskine, Alta.
- LOCAL FERNIE, S. P. of C.**, hold educational meetings in the Socialist Hall every Sunday at 7. Business meetings third Sunday in each month, 7:30 p.m. Economic class every Sunday afternoon at 2:30. Osear Erickson, Secretary, Box 505.
- LOCAL FLOWERDALE, No. 71 (Alta.), S. P. of C.**—Mrs. J. R. Macdonald, Secretary, Richdale, Alta.
- LOCAL FERGUSON FLATS, No. 85 (Alta.)**.—O. L. Fuller, Secretary, Ferguson Flats, Alta.
- LOCAL KINDERSLEY, No. 10 (Sask.)**
S. P. of C.—W. K. Bryce, Secretary, Collins, Sask.
- LOCAL LETHBRIDGE, ALTA., No. 13**, S. P. of C.—Meets every Sunday at 3:30 p.m., in Miners' Hall. Secretary, W. Shaw, 624—14th St., S. Wm. Devoy Organiser.
- MEDICINE HAT (Lettish) Local S. P. of C.** Meets first Sunday in the month at 528 C Princess Ave., J. R. Kalnin, Secretary.
- LOCAL MARKERVILLE, No. 31 (Alta.)**, S. P. of C.—S. E. Baldwin, Secretary, Markerville, Alta.
- LOCAL MONTREAL, No. 1, S. P. of C.**—Headquarters, 98 City Councillor St. Open every evening. Business meetings Wednesdays at 8 p.m. Smoker last Saturday in each month.
- LOCAL ROSSLAND, No. 25, S. P. of C.**—Meets in Miners' Hall every change Sunday at 7:30 p.m. Will Jones, Box 125, Secretary.
- LOCAL SUNDIAL, No. 70 (Alta), S. P. of C.**—Mrs. A. Thorburn, Secretary, Sundial, Alta.
- LOCAL SILVER LEAF, No. 101 (Alta.)**
S. P. of C.—Ed. Haugen, Secretary, Baraca, P. O. Alta.
- LOCAL ST. CATHERINES, No. 30 (Ont.)**
S. P. of C.—D. Thomson, Secretary, 9 Mary Street.
- LOCAL ST. JOHN, N. B., No. 1, S. P. of C.**—Visiting Comrades welcomed. Secretary, Stanford E. White, 24 Main St.
- LOCAL TRAIL, No. 37 (B.C.), S. P. of C.**—D. Wilson, Secretary, Box 531.
- LOCAL TRAVERS, No. 55 (Alta.), S. P. of C.**—W. A. Brown, Secretary, Travers, P. O., Alta.
- LOCAL VANCOUVER, No. 1, S. P. of C.**—Business meeting every Tuesday evening. Economic Class every Sunday at 3 p.m. Education Class every Wednesday at 8 p.m. at Headquarters, Socialist Hall, N. E. cor. Pender and Dunlevy. Miss H. Harvey, Secretary.
- VANCOUVER LETTISH LOCAL No. 58**, S. P. of C.—Business meeting every first Sunday of the month and propaganda meeting every third Sunday at 2 p.m. Open to everybody, at Socialist Hall, N.E. cor. Pender and Dunlevy. Secretary, R. Amat, Box 667.
- LOCAL VANCOUVER, B. C., No. 45**, Finnish. Meets every second and fourth Wednesdays in the month at 2215 Pender St. East, Ovia Lind, Secretary.
- LOCAL VICTORIA, No. 2, S. P. of C.**—Headquarters and Reading Room, 1424 Government St., Room 8. Business meetings every second and fourth Tuesday in the month. Secretary, Fred Harman, 1424 Government St.
- LOCAL WINNIPEG, No. 11, S. P. of C.**—Headquarters, Room 7—540 Main St. Secretary, J. Waters.
- LOCAL OTTAWA, No. 8 (Ont.) S. P. of C.**—Secretary, A. G. McCallum, 276 Laurier Ave.

PLATFORM

Socialist Party of Canada

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

Labor, applied to natural resources, produces all wealth. 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 its property rights in the means of wealth production and its control of the product of labor.

The capitalist system give 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 setting itself free from capitalist exploitation by the abolition of the wage system, under which this exploitation, at the point of production, is cloaked. To accomplish this necessitates the transformation of capitalist property in the means of wealth production into socially controlled economic forces.

The irrepressible conflict of interest between the capitalist and the worker necessarily expresses itself as a struggle for political supremacy. This is the Class Struggle.

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

1. The transformation, as rapidly as possible, of capitalist property in the means of wealth production (natural resources, factories, mills, railroads, etc.) into collective means of production.
2. The organization and management of industry by the working class.
3. The establishment, as speedily as possible, of production for use instead of production for profit.

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