

THE B. C. FEDERATIONIST

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"Unity of Labor: the Hope of the World"

FRIDAY..... January 5, 1917

AT THE election of 1903 the socialists of Ladysmith and vicinity elected Parker Williams as the member for Newcastle district in the provincial parliament at Victoria. At the same time J. H.

SANDPAPERING A WELSHMAN.

Hawthornthwaite was elected by the socialists of Nanaimo. These two were re-elected and served together in the house for succeeding terms, down to about 1914, when Hawthornthwaite resigned his seat in order to attend to private affairs of his own. As long as Hawthornthwaite remained a member of the house, Williams consistently posed as a socialist, and by following the lead of Hawthornthwaite, did no violence to the Labor movement, as interpreted by that particular school of thought. Those who have followed the career of Williams, who have listened to his speeches, both inside of the house at Victoria and elsewhere, have long been painfully conscious of the fact that he possessed a limited economic knowledge, and in consequence of this, it was a matter of no surprise that even the best of his speeches never rose above the level of fretful complaining against the lesser evils of the present order of society.

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As soon as Hawthornthwaite left the house, Williams commenced to wobble upon his unsound and unstable political legs. A matter of less than twelve months ago he wobbled into the Liberal camp, where he has since officiated as one of the chief boot-lickers to a job-lot assortment of the cheapest and most mediocre tinhorn politicians that ever appeared upon the Canadian political stage, and that is surely the limit. The final act in the boot-licking line was recently pulled off at the Hotel Vancouver, in this city, when Williams did earnestly and tonguefully endeavor to remove the last vestige of filth from some very suspicious Liberal shoe leather. It is not for The Federationist to even insinuate that this distinguished contortionist received his recent appointment under the Compensation Act, as a reward for the artistic work done with his tongue. It is far better that Williams be left to paint his own picture, draw his own moral and adorn his own tale. The following is offered as authoritative, as it evidently is Williams' own estimate of himself. It was addressed to Joe Knight of Lethbridge, Alta., during the election of three years ago:

"Ladysmith, B. C., April 7, 1913.

"Comrade: I read in the last issue of the Fernie Ledger that a 'Labor-Liberal' candidate is being nominated in the effort to prevent the workers of Lethbridge electing a socialist, yourself, to the legislature. In British Columbia, until recent years, whenever the workers' candidate seemed to have a fighting chance, the Liberal party nominated no straight party candidate. Instead of this, with the cunning of the fox, and the unscrupulousness of the hyena, they

agency spy, scab or harlot, that lends himself to divide the workers on election day by masquerading in the garb of a Liberal-Labor candidate, all are the shameless tools used by the house of plunder.

"Friend, as a Welshman, I am going to ask you a favor. If there is any bitterness, any caustic in your tongue, quit socialist economics long enough to sandpaper the Welshman who would sell his own class.

"'Plowing the sand' is the figure of speech used to denote useless labor, but 'Plowing the sand' is no more hopeless or useless than looking for good results from a scheme born in treachery.

"With hope for your success,
"Fraternally yours,
"PARKER WILLIAMS."

It appears to The Federationist that the reference made to a possible "Judas" in the above production is exceedingly timely and well worthy of serious consideration at the present moment. It might even be suggested that should ever such a "Judas" disclose himself "in our own ranks," he be given a short piece of rope and requested to be decent enough to follow the eminently commendable example of his scriptural prototype. If he should follow the advice and go and hang himself, he would at least escape the rather uncomfortable experience of observing during the rest of his life that every time his name was spoken in the presence of decent persons, their nostrils would be violently assailed.

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And how compelling and caustic is that reference to "the unscrupulous amongst us * * * who sell themselves to the devil * * * in the hope that as a price for their perfidy they may be assisted to climb out of the pit." The first Judas got "thirty pieces of silver" for his. Since then, it appears that the price of perfidy has gone up, although the quality is much the same. But what is the use in wasting time in sandpapering a Welshman? It is far better to let him do it himself, especially when he has such a thorough knowledge of his subject as has Williams. And who could draw his own portrait with greater fidelity than this same Welshman? Who could more completely sandpaper the cuticle of a modern Judas right down to the quick and the raw, than he? The Federationist makes no pretense of being either capable of painting the portrait or sandpapering the hide of any Judas, either ancient or modern, but merely attempts to faithfully chronicle the achievements of real artists in those lines. And by no means the least of these is the subject of this brief mention.

WHILE DUE allowance must always be made for possibly exaggerated statements in time of war and the general disturbance of mental equilibrium and poise incidental thereto, it is not at

ALONG THE HORIZON OF WAR.

all difficult to read between the lines that are appearing in the ordinary news channels, that the end of the great European holocaust is well within sight. The venture along the line of a suggested peace conference that has recently been made by the autocrats of Germany conveys to the world an unmistakable message of impending defeat and disaster for the side that proffers the olive branch. Either that or we are entirely at a loss for an explanation of such conduct upon the part of they who profess to be assured of the certainty of victory. It is not a matter of record that he who is getting the better of the enemy in battle is the one from whom first comes the suggestion of the desirability of a peace parley. That applies as truly to nations as to individuals.

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