

## WHY SO HOT, AND THEN SO COLD?

[Note—The People is in receipt of six letters from the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Labor Party of Canada, with a request that they be published full. Four of these letters are from Ernest Neye of Fernie, British Columbia, to the Canadian National Executive Committee, and one from the same individual to Section Vancouver, B. C., with Section Vancouver's answer thereto. To publish all these letters would require too much of the much-needed space of The People, and it is not essential that this should be done, as the point of the whole correspondence lies mainly in the last two letters. The first of the other four letters contain E. Neye's application for membership in the Canadian S. L. P.; a statement of his connection with the Canadian "Socialist" party, and his reason for leaving the same, which was "that the S. P. of B. C. has no excuse for its existence when there is such a clear cut party as the S. L. P. already in the field." The other three letters contain an acknowledgment of the receipt of Section Vancouver's address, protestations of the writer's fealty to the principles of the S. L. P., his irrepresible desire to travel in order to propagate the same, his request for credentials and literature, and the favorable impressions made upon him by the organizer of Section Vancouver. His sudden change of attitude—his blowing cold, after blowing so hot—and Section Vancouver's answer thereto, follow below.—Ed. The People]:

### I.

Vancouver, June 11, 1904.

Mr. Griffiths,  
61 Powell Street.

Dear Comrade:—I am in receipt of another letter from the N. E. C. of the S. L. P. of Canada, advising me to join Section Vancouver. But I am sorry to say that I have changed my mind to a certain extent and I cannot conscientiously identify myself with the S. L. P. on account of its trades union policy. At first glance the premises of the S. L. P. did not seem contradictory as they do now since I have looked into the matter more closely.

As a political organization I have nothing against the S. L. P. As far as Comrade De Leon is concerned, I am only sorry that I cannot side in with such an intellectual giant; I have the highest respect for him; indeed I must say that I have learned much from him; but he has failed to convince me on the S. T. & L. A. proposition.

The chief reason I must sever my connections with the S. L. P. is that I cannot refrain from agitating and since the S. P. of B. C. has no trades union policy which I would be called upon to defend I must again cast my lot with that party.

You may accuse me of being fickle and a demagogue, but all I can say in my defence is that I am following the dictates of my conscience. Hoping that we will all stand on a common ground, I remain your comrade in the struggle.

Ernest Neye,  
262 Keefer Street,  
Room 2, City.

It's because I consider the cause worth it, and not that I consider myself of any importance, that I inform you of my change of mind.

E. N.

### II.

Vancouver, B. C., July 22, 1904.

61 Powell Street.

E. Neye,  
262 Keefer Street,  
Room 2, City.

Dear Sir:—Your letter of June 15th received, and same brought before Section Vancouver, Socialist Labor Party of Canada, who have instructed me to reply to same.

At the outset you state that you have changed your mind relative to joining Section Vancouver, Socialist Labor Party on account of its trade union policy, and you inform us further on, that you have allied yourself with that conglomeration known to history as the British Columbia Socialist party, on account of its "having no trades union policy for you to defend." Probably not being able or willing to defend trade union "policies" yourself, you can show us wherein the trade union policy of the Socialist Labor Party is at fault, for we are ever ready to rectify any mistake that we may make, but in your letter you fail to marshal any facts against our policy, which Socialists and scientists require.

Again you say that the chief reason you have for severing your connection with the S. L. P. of Canada (to which you never belonged), is on account of your inability to refrain from "agitating for Socialism," so you therefore throw in your lot with the B. C. S. P. in

which, to say the least, shows your lack of logic, and also of the first principles of organization, which is the kernel of Socialist philosophy.

As to the S. P. of B. C. they never are taken seriously by any sensible man, composed as they are of grafters and fakirs with a goodly sprinkling of mental misfits, otherwise known as freaks; those men who laid any claim to reasoning power at all, have long since left the organization in disgust. No doubt you think the above adjectives impolite or abusive, but they can all be made good at any of our street meetings you may attend.

That they have traitorously gone back on the principles for which they claim to stand, is amply demonstrated by their actions at the last election, when they fused with the Independent Labor Party in direct violation to Section 14 of their own constitution, to say nothing of the actions of their representatives in the House at Victoria, supporting the conservative party in every measure, and again the Socialist party of British Columbia is purely and simply a local affair, and it is up to you or them, to show how the workers can emancipate themselves locally. Why it is directly in conflict with Marxian Socialism, and enough to make their long eared brethren laugh down the back of their neck to see such logic.

Now, in conclusion, should you require more facts against the S. P. of B. C. attend our meetings and you shall be accommodated.

Respectfully,  
William Griffiths, Organizer.  
Section Vancouver,  
S. L. P. of C.