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**TO PULL OR
NOT TO PULL**

WHETHER IT BE BETTER TO PULL A HORSE AND GET THE MONEY OR FLY TO THE WOODS AND PULL A SAWED-OFF

The incomprehensible part of the whole thing is that some systems of dishonesty are counted honorable and meet with the approval of the gang; while others, more manly if more dangerous, are voted dishonorable and punishable by law.

Take a case like this for instance. Suppose an alleged horse puller pulls off at Hastings, and a bunch of skates from south of the 49th parallel are fixed to peddle around the track and come in according to arrangements. Some fellows who are onto their job run the books and make the arrangements. Rubes clothed in white pants and innocence bet on the favorite, and the white bookmakers get the money. But the work is exceedingly coarse—so coarse that a park policeman can see it; so the judges take official cognizance of the job and rule the jockey off.

Of course the jockey's price has nothing to do with the main case, but it transpires that all he got for his pull was sixty plinks, which is not far together too cheap a chechawka to be allowed scope. Sooner or later a boy of this kind might put in with an Englishman and give some industrial bookmaker a good chechawka (which would be a measly shame). Such jockeys are a menace to legitimate sport and should be ruled off.

So the jockey goes to the barn and the bookies keep the lithographs. It is so happen that there be others with an ambition to get their hand on a piece of easy money, but they lack the science to frame up a proper "bone." And furthermore they are not in on the track privileges. But one of them has a job and the other rudies a sawed-off, and with the sleeves of a sweater to pull over their physics they meander down the back trail to a secluded spot in the primal forest, about 40 rods from the brewery, there to lie in wait for the men with the moon. When the bookies come along they are separated from their roll in Arizona, in less time than it took to pull the horse.

And then commences the merry-go-round. The horse-puller, who will later take refuge behind technicalities, temporarily take refuge in the forest's deepest shades. Policemen arrive on the scene and the two-handed gang members are pursued to the limit of the law. And the newspapers get out special editions; the robbery becomes the leading excitement of the day.

In the grand finale it is a good even bet that somebody will study geology in Kamloops, and the chances are it will not be the bookies.

But the funny phase of the moving picture is that the law and its minions protect the gang who pull the horse; and the same law and the same minions pursue the gang who pull the artillery.

In the classic lining of the Bawalmic Chinaman, "Wha for?"

Charlie Wilson and John Houston are exchanging amenities. The point of friction seems to be that "Wilson is the appointed leader of the conservative party but lacks the force to act, while Houston has the force but lacks the appointment. In the meantime McBride has an attack of the habas.

The Rossland Miners' Union is being used in the Victoria case for conspicuity because the men quit work at the Centre Star at the time of the strike. The case is now a three-year-old and will probably become a sensation before it goes through the phases of the British Columbia courts, but it is worthy of note that in the indictment the men are charged with having caused great loss to Gooderham, Blackstock, et al. by refusing to fly the drill in their mines.

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In other words, it was the days' works, not the mine, that the promoters figured to make the money racket.

Lord Dundonald quit a \$5,000 a year position as the minister of militia projects and politics, in the manager has paused briefly to cogitate he might have taken a tumble that the principal mission of the military is to maintain the peace, and that part of the broad of convenience which he dubs "politics." Dundonald should have been a writer, if less honest, gent. to hold a job.

The "accidental" shooting of war correspondents within the Russian lines seems to occur pretty nearly on schedule time. The time is when a newspaper man happens to get where he can procure a few items of news. By carefully arranging for such accidents the Russians are proving to the world that their strategy board and the official censor are working hand in hand with a full appreciation of the fact that dead correspondents are important to add to the power of the press.

If the story that Bill and Dan have sold the Canada Northern to the Grand Truck Pacific be true, it would be interesting to learn who represents the European Societies, especially those of the 1,200 miles of railway the people's parliament built for these gigantic grafters, and what per cent went for their pull at Ottawa.

THE CHURCH AS AN OBJECTOR TO SOCIALISM

A writer in the April number of the International Socialist Review, warns our Party against committing the mistake that has been made by the European Socialists, especially those of France, Belgium and Germany, in allowing the movement to become anti-clerical, in consequence of which Socialism in Europe fails to find any real support among the masses of population that holds allegiance to either the Catholic or Protestant church. The writer truthfully points out that the vast majority of the people of the United States are either active or nominal Christians, and, if a propaganda should be pursued by socialists that would tend to arouse the antagonism of the great ecclesiastical institutions to our movement an insuperable barrier would be raised in the minds of the mass of the people against the acceptance of the program of Socialism would thus be indefinitely delayed.

All of which is undoubtedly true, but whether we court it or not, a life and death struggle between the forces of clericalism and of Socialism seems inevitable. The defenders of Capitalism and the forces of the bourgeoisie possible use of this admirable weapon that lies so near at hand. In the immediate future we shall find the influence and prestige of the church (both Catholic and Protestant) lined up in opposition to the army of industrial emancipation. Commercialism is the all-powerful force in the industrial and political world. Commercialism subsidizes the press, perverts our educational system and determines the actions and public utterances of many trade union officials into sane and conservative channels.

Such being the case it is futile to suppose that the church, the capitalist church, the church of mammon, whose edifies are built and whose preachers are paid by contributions almost exclusively from wealthy donors, will remain neutral in this mighty struggle between the forces of vested interests and those of industrial freedom.

In addition to the promulgation of views concerning events after death, and our relation to the Supreme Ruler of the Universe, the church, and more especially the Catholic church, actively promotes reaction in all its political and social tendencies. It is not the result of an accident that the Socialist Parties of Europe are anti-clerical to the core, and that Socialism is weak wherever the church is strong. The explanation is not hard to perceive. The clergy and especially the Catholic priesthood, are a privileged class, living in luxury and ease, and giving no useful equivalent to society for the wealth they consume. The members of the clergy, as a profession, and more especially the higher dignitaries of the church, come, almost exclusively, from the more wealthy classes, and naturally view the Socialist ideal in the most unfriendly light. Then again the churches themselves are business undertakings, their incomes largely derived from land and other investments. Investment, Good old gold! Such a respectable, high-sounding name to cover fraud and robbery!

Thus the church is conservative in its views of property and industrial relations. It should occasion no surprise that men like Father Sherman, to say nothing of Archbishop Corrigan, are trying to stop the progress of Socialism by shameless slanders on its teaching. What is done today by a small minority of the clergy will tomorrow be imitated by the overwhelming majority. Honest, fearless men, like Fathers McGrady and Haggerty, who sympathize too strongly with the cause of labor, will be quietly elbowed to the outside. From motives of sympathy as well as of self-preservation, the

church must fight Socialism. It will be capitalism's last and most formidable line of defence. The material interest of those gentlemen, who profess to guide our footsteps to the better land beyond, are wrapped up in the rule of capital, and will here bid now.

The reforms of the world have come in spite of, and not through, the influence of conventional religious faith. The few even within the fold who have tried to tell the truth, have had their utterances gagged and ultimately have been forced either into silence or ostracism.

A large number of good meaning persons, both inside and outside the pulpit, are endeavoring to cultivate friendly relations between the church and labor; so far with very little success. In their last analysis the institutions of the world are dominated by those who provide the sinews of war. The rich subscribe the funds to run the churches.

In my own personal recollections, covering twenty years of the Socialist movement, its anti-clerical tendencies have become more pronounced both in Europe and America. Men like Robert Blatchford and Professor Herron, who commenced their career by attempting to reconcile the claims of Christianity and Socialism, now take a decidedly hostile position to traditional religious conceptions. What has happened in Massachusetts and Milwaukee where the whole power of the Catholic clergy was actively thrown against Socialist candidates, will happen in every locality, whenever our strength becomes sufficient to menace the strongholds of the political puppets of capitalism. Of the ultimate result no student of history can be in doubt. The power of the church in the control of the whole of the world. Clericalism has power only to delay our final victory.

We may regret that so much of our time and energy in the future will have to be spent in the barren fields of theological discussion, but this is inevitable. Political and industrial freedom can never be made permanent while the human mind is bound by the superstitious fetters of its own creation. Progress may be slower, but it will be all the surer if we achieve intellectual freedom along with our industrial liberty.

All things tend for the best, and the linking together of the destinies of the church and capitalism may be a part of the plan of the Supreme Being, in life, in death they shall not be divided. All hail the co-operative commonwealth in which we shall behold a free man, grown to full physical and mental stature, no longer haunted by the fear of poverty in life, death or the idle terror of tortures in a life to come. ERNEST BURNS.

TESTIMONIAL (?) DINNERS.

John Mitchell, president of the United Mine Workers and District Secretary William Dodds have gone upon a European tour in the interest of their organization. Before leaving they were banqueted, which means dining and dined in right royal manner by the operators at the Henry hotel in Pittsburgh, Penn., and were "presented with diamond mementoes of the esteem of the operators and miners." Upon this auspicious occasion the campaign of Francis L. Robbins, President of the Pittsburgh Coal Co. for the United States Senate, was ably launched by Mr. Mitchell. Robbins eulogized them both with flattering unctious.

We learn, from the current number of the Locomotive Fireman's Magazine, of another testimonial (?) dinner which took place at New Haven, Conn., recently. The recipient of the honor upon this occasion was a Bro. A. P. Kelly, who has been for seven years master of Elm City Lodge, No. 284, B. L. T. This "function" was attended by President Mellen and other chief "labor-skinners" of the "New Haven" road, who poured out the fragrant flattering unctious upon the deserving head of Bro. Kelly. The gent also was the recipient of a diamond memento, all the same Mitchell and Dodds, in the shape of a ring.

Why this friendliness, almost bordering upon love, betwixt so-called labor leaders and high chief labor skinners of the Robbins type, or slave drivers like Mellen and his bunch? There can be but one answer, and that is because these labor leaders (?) are faithfully served, not the interests of the workers, but the interests of the masters. The interests of a master and slave, were never identical, and could therefore, under no circumstances, be served at one and the same time. No man can serve two masters. With this action, and with the approval of one, the other

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has been betrayed. When a Robbins lauds Messrs. Mitchell and Dodds or Mellen pours out praise or flattery upon Kelly, Arthur and Sargent, no better testimonial could be required to the efficiency of these "labor-leaders" in holding their duped followers in meek submission to the skinning process of capital.

The union man is often warned against the wicked Socialist, who may perhaps speak plain truths, as a dangerous person. We in turn warn them to look for danger nearer home. Mention is made elsewhere of the refusal of the Siberian exiles to accept amnesty at the price of enlisting for the Manchurian campaign; Word has recently come that in consequence of the terrible hardships exacted as a penalty for such refusal, a body of the exiles in the province of Yakutsk provided themselves with food and arms and barricaded themselves in a house while they sent one of their number to the governor, who refused to grant and concessions. The house was surrounded by troops and police, and fusilladed, until "more than a score were killed." The balance are supposed to have since been executed.

A strike is on at the Issaquah mine in the state of Washington, resulting from the refusal of the manager to allow the men to take turn about at the work, so that each might be able to earn something on which to live. The sheriff reports it unnecessary to appoint deputies, as good order prevails. This would indicate that the business element is conducting itself in a very unusual manner.

The Great West Optical Manufacturing & Supply Co., Ltd., eye specialists, will make an original prescription in The Clarion next week. If your eyes need attention write them, or read further particulars next issue.

While engaged in dragging a cannon around on Dominion Day one of the sailors fell and was run over. Happily, however, the cannon was uninjured.

**THE BRITISH COLUMBIA
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DIVIDEND No. 12.
Notice is hereby given that a dividend at the rate of EIGHT per cent. per annum has this day been declared on the Permanent Stock of the Company for the half year ending June 30th, 1904, and that the same will be payable at the Head Office of the Company, No. 321 Cambie Street, Vancouver, B. C., on and after July 15th, 1904.

By order of the Board,
Thos. T. Langlois,
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Vancouver, July 8th, 1904.
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GAS, COAL DUST AND THE LAW

Dangerous Explosives May Be Safely Handled Under Certain Circumstances.

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When an explosion occurs in a coal mine the question at once arises as to the cause of it. If it can be proven to be a gas explosion there is more than a fair chance of placing the responsibility upon the Almighty, in which case cash is not forthcoming. If, however, it can be proven to be a dust explosion the responsibility may be fixed upon the owners, and cash payment for resultant damages be demanded. Hence the success or failure in the recent Fernie cases depended upon whether the explosion at the Fernie mines was caused by gas or dust. Judgment was rendered in favor of the gas theory so the Almighty must shoulder the responsibility and the Crows Nest Pass Company is saved the pain of cash payment. The following from the text of the decision in Leadbeater vs. the Crows Nest Pass Coal Company, with the subjoined communication is recommended to the careful consideration of WESTERN CLARION readers:

In support of the second charge the plaintiff advances the theory that the explosion was essentially one of coal dust; while in answer to that the defendant company insists that it was a gas explosion, substantially and essentially, though admitting that as in every mine of this nature, dust may have participated in it to an immaterial and unascertainable extent.

The next fact to be determined is, was it a dust or gas explosion? In arriving at a conclusion on this vital point wherein science plays so great a part, the court is very largely in the hands of experts, and in determining what weight shall be attached to their testimony, will be guided by their apparent competency and disinterestedness. Applying, then, the opinions of these witnesses to requisite facts, which have proceeded to the conclusion that this was essentially and substantially a gas explosion; and of such a nature and extent that, quite apart from any possible augmentation by dust, it was alone sufficient to cause, and consequently must be held to have caused all the results which the plaintiff necessarily assumed the onus of attributing to a dust explosion. In this relation it is proper to say that I accept as substantially correct the defendants' contention as regards two facts of paramount importance; viz: (a) the state of affairs at the overcast; and (b) in the main entry generally; and largely as a consequence thereof, the fact that the explosion passed through that main entry; though if the dust theory be accepted, that is the place of all others throughout the length of which it must have passed in the condition of that mine. There is nothing in my opinion, in the conclusion of the Coal Dust Committee (second report, 1894, p. viii) which, having regard to the circumstances of this case, conflicts with this view; though it is apparent that there is still much to be learned on this interesting and important subject of dust in coal mines.

Such being the opinion I have arrived at, it is not necessary to consider any other matters, which become immaterial, nor to refer to the conclusion, because on the above facts so found no negligence can be attributed to the defendant company.

To the Editor of THE WESTERN CLARION:

I would like to get space in your paper to make some explanation in regard to the coal mine disaster at Fernie two years ago last May, and also the trial at Nelson in behalf of the widows, orphans and other relatives of those who were slaughtered for profit. I enclose the judge's decision clipped from the Nelson News. Now, Sir, I have heard you on the platform refer to the workers labor power being a commodity, the same as cabbage, onions, molasses, etc., but this trial has opened my eyes wider than ever they were before. It was proved at the trial that the men and boys who were slaughtered were insured for one hundred and fifteen thousand dollars for the company's benefit. The more of them killed the more profit for the company. It was credibly informed by our lawyers that all concerns of any size in Canada or the United States insure all of their goods and chatties in the shape of men, so they are a source of profit either dead or alive. About fifty thousand dollars fixed up the mine after the explosion, so the company had sixty-five thousand dollars clear profit. This ought to be enough to make every workingman think.

About the mine inspectors of B. C. One of them, James McGregor, who is now inspector of quartz mines in the Kootenays, was inspector at Fernie before Archie Dick, who is a protégé of Dunsmuir's. McGregor wrote the Minister of Mines that the Fernie mines were in a dangerous state and he wanted the minister to back him up to do his duty, but instead he was removed and Dick put in his place. Dick's first report to the minister was that the mine was very dusty and dangerous. His next was that the mine was damp and improved. It was brought out in open court that Dick was getting three hundred dollars per month from the company. Of course he made a lame denial, but the defendant company's lawyers did not call Stockett, the manager, into the witness box, as Mr. Taylor would have made him answer that question among others.

About the danger of dust. Ten years ago a commission was set up to enquire into the danger arising from coal dust, etc. It was proven at that time that dust was more dangerous than gas, and that all big explosions were caused by dust. The very men who gave this evidence before the Dust Commission were brought from England—one from the United States named Beard—by the Crows Nest Pass Coal Company to assist in proving the Fernie explosion to have been caused by gas, and not by dust. To the credit of one of these parties, named Galloway, it may be said that he did not go upon the stand although brought for that purpose. Ashworth and Beard, however, gave evidence entirely against their own statement before the Royal Dust Commission. These are the "disinterested" parties referred to in the judge's decision.

The law in British Columbia and in most of our mining countries is that dust shall be cleaned out of mines, a thorough system of sprinkling of haulage roads with water shall be made, and no shots fired until the dust has been cleaned back sixty feet from the face of the coal and the space sprinkled. The evidence for the widows and orphans showed that this was never done at Fernie, and this was the truth as I can vouch. The experts gave evidence two years after the explosion, although in the mean time the mine had been fixed up with the fifty thousand dollars' blood money. I am informed by the miners who were at the trial that Mr. Thos. Morgan, who was sent to Fernie—thanks to

Hawthornthwaite and Williams, who got the change made—has notified the company recently that no more shooting is to be done in the mine, as he won't allow it, so if the miners cannot make enough by the ton, the company will have to pay day's wages, to make up what they lose by not shooting.

The lawyers for the defence tried to make a huge joke of the whole business. What about it to them? It was merely a hundred and thirty old miners put out of the way, and there was profit in it. I am going to give you the names of the witnesses, as I remember them for our side: Mr. Robb, not interested, likely to lose his job; James Wallace, not interested, fired two years ago for giving his evidence at the inquest; Sam—not interested, was told he need not come back; Mr. Connors, not interested, will lose his job; Thos. Davis, not interested, lost his job; Tom Lecher, not interested, lost his job; Mr. Blakemore, first manager for the company, gave expert evidence. Witnesses for the defence were: Mr. Drinnen, risen from mine superintendent at coal creek to be general superintendent of all the company's mines, since the explosion; Tom Graham, much interested as he was pit-boss and was blamed for the explosion; Mr. Colville who rose from rail track layer to be mine superintendent; Archie Dick, interested through the three hundred dollars per month; Mr. Ashworth, expert English capitalist and mine owner; Mr. Beard of the Scranton, Penn., School of Mines, and under the pay of the company. Of course, we all know the lawyers are well paid.

If this will only open the workers' eyes it will do good, though the case is lost to the widows and orphans left without bread-winners. How long, oh, Lord, how long must these things continue before the working mules understand where they are placed.

I remain, Yours Truly,
HUGH DIXON.

MINE MANAGER MAKES THREAT

Smuggler-Union Mines Will Remain Closed Unless Workers Vote As Directed

The Smuggler Union mines in the Telluride district, Colorado, have been closed down. In announcing the closure of the operation, Manager Bulkeley Wells, of military fame, says:

"As far as the Telluride district is concerned the struggle remains the same of mine policy of the Western Federation of Miners has been won."

"It only remains for the people to declare at this fall's election that the type of socialism which is so archly, shall no longer attempt to paralyze the industries of the state, and that the essentially American right of man to work when, where and for what wage he will, shall not be denied him by any labor organization. The Smuggler-Union mines will resume operations. If they do not, the Smuggler-Union mine will remain closed indefinitely."

Having won in the struggle against the "rule or ruin policy" of the W. M. U., the Smuggler-Union owners inaugurate a rule or ruin policy of their own. Unless they whose living depends upon the working of the mines conform to the wishes of the mine owners in their political future shall be put on. Their sustenance shall be cut off indefinitely by the mines remaining closed.

Daniel Webster once said that he controls your bread controls your ballot." The Smuggler-Union owners are trying to make good the assertion. Those dependent upon the mines for their daily bread are very plainly told that they must vote the absolute control of economic power into the hands of the present owners. They should have no say in it, it should be clear to every person that the key to the situation lies in the ownership of those things upon which the people depend for their bread, viz., the resources of the earth and the tools of wealth production.

With the capitalist class in control of the machinery of government these threats may be safely made and

carried out. With a working class administration in control the contrary would be the case. The momentary industry closed by the leader of the capitalist owners, it would be opened up by the power of the state and continued for the purpose of enabling those dependent upon it to provide themselves with the necessities of life.

The only "Socialism" which means anarchy is the Socialism now in control in Colorado. It is the Socialism of the mine owners which spells capitalism. The other sort means the contrary of the present anarchy in Colorado. It means peace, order and liberty. It means to labor that it shall enjoy the full product of its toil, a right that shall no longer be denied, as at present, by any capitalist or Smuggler-Union mine. The latter being too expensive, therefore, wasteful, is relegated to oblivion.

The concentration of capital into large masses means the organization of industry to fit the requirements of gigantic production and exchange. The enormously productive power of labor armed with the giant tools of modern industry cannot be economically exercised, except under a management corresponding in power to that of the tool itself.

To arrive at the greatest efficiency of every part of the modern system of industry must work in conformity with all other parts. The production of goods and steel can not be carried on independent of the transportation service, the textile industry, agricultural industry, leather industry, coal industry, building industry and so on and the same is true of each and all branches of industry. All must come under one management so as to make up a whole of the greatest possible economic efficiency. This is the work being carried out by and through the concentration of capital, which causes the owners of "obsolete rubbish" to cry out with the greatest of eagerness. That which goes on under the hands of the great capitalists of the day, makes for the more perfect, because more economical, organization of industry. It is, therefore, strictly in line with human progress and all attempts to circumvent it will prove of as little avail as were the efforts of the old line owners to keep the machine from superseding the hand tool. With the advent of the machine the hand tool became the "obsolete rubbish" to be swept aside. Now complete the sweeping, with its attendant masses of capital, the smaller establishments with their lesser capitals become the "obsolete rubbish" to be swept aside and the labor of the worker (big capital) is, therefore, strictly in line with human progress and all attempts to circumvent it will prove of as little avail as were the efforts of the old line owners to keep the machine from superseding the hand tool. With the advent of the machine the hand tool became the "obsolete rubbish" to be swept aside. Now complete the sweeping, with its attendant masses of capital, the smaller establishments with their lesser capitals become the "obsolete rubbish" to be swept aside and the labor of the worker (big capital) is, therefore, strictly in line with human progress and all attempts to circumvent it will prove of as little avail as were the efforts of the old line owners to keep the machine from superseding the hand tool.

MEAT WORKERS' REBELLION

The strike of the meat workers in the great packing establishments of Chicago and other cities, has already involved many thousands of workers. It bids fair to be of considerable duration, and of far reaching consequences, not only to those directly involved, but to thousands of others. Whatever suffering and privation it may entail, will fall exclusively upon the shoulders of the working class. While it is true the revenue accruing to the masters may be interrupted, or entirely cut off while the strike is pending, when it is over they will occupy the same point of vantage as before. The plants will still be their property, out of which they stand to recoup themselves for any loss sustained. The loss to the workers and those who assist them, is forever lost. The money spent in the struggle and the loss in wages which would have been otherwise earned, can not be regained. These struggles result in nothing to the workers, other than a waste of both time and money, unless it be something learned by the experience.

As nearly a century of disastrous failures has not yet taught the workers the futility of such struggles, it seems as though education by experience is a slow process. The public will be treated to the usual stock of stuff about justice, liberty, and a "fair wage." The ultimate result will, however, be the same. The men will sooner or later be compelled to return to work. The masters will still be masters, and the slaves will remain slaves. While this farce lasts the price of meats will advance, thus adding a greater load to the almost intolerable burden of the poorest paid and most helpless among the working class. Hatred towards each other will be fanned to flame among the wage slaves, and the spirit of class war will be applied. The longer it lasts the more appalling and far-reaching the consequences. As the defeat of the workers is inevitable, the sooner it comes the better for all concerned. To prolong the struggle, but prolongs the agony. Later—the word comes that the strike is to be speedily adjusted, as there are prospects of arbitration. This is as good a way as any to avoid a useless and disastrous struggle.

THE CONCENTRATION OF CAPITAL

To Check It Is Reactionary and Against Human Progress.

LABOR AND THE CAPITALIZATION OF INDUSTRY

The Meaning of the Many Different Movements Taking Place in the Industrial World.

The rapid concentration of capital so particularly noticeable during the last few years has excited more or less alarm among those who have directly felt the crushing power of giant concerns. It is quite natural that those who experience evil effects from any change in human affairs that may occur should make complaint, and finding themselves unable to ward off evil effects single-handed, call most piteously for assistance.

In the early days of machinery, workers, more particularly in England and France, in their alarm at the danger which threatened them by the introduction of the machine into the workshops, destroyed the machines, thus hoping to escape the threatened evil. The folly of such action can be readily seen. The advent of the machine marked an increased productive power of labor, and was, therefore, distinctly in line with human progress and advancement. The attempt to prevent it, no matter by what means, was reactionary and, therefore, contrary to the highest and best interests of mankind. The forces which make for progress are greater than those which work against it, and the efforts of these misguided workmen failed in consequence. The more powerful the machine becomes the larger must become its field of operation. This expresses itself in the concentration of capital, which is going on throughout the world. The machine makes possible the mobilization of economic power. The concentration of capital effects the mobilization and directs it in the way of sweeping the field of obsolete and worthless rubbish from small production. The latter being too expensive, therefore, wasteful, is relegated to oblivion.

The concentration of capital into large masses means the organization of industry to fit the requirements of gigantic production and exchange. The enormously productive power of labor armed with the giant tools of modern industry cannot be economically exercised, except under a management corresponding in power to that of the tool itself.

To arrive at the greatest efficiency of every part of the modern system of industry must work in conformity with all other parts. The production of goods and steel can not be carried on independent of the transportation service, the textile industry, agricultural industry, leather industry, coal industry, building industry and so on and the same is true of each and all branches of industry. All must come under one management so as to make up a whole of the greatest possible economic efficiency. This is the work being carried out by and through the concentration of capital, which causes the owners of "obsolete rubbish" to cry out with the greatest of eagerness. That which goes on under the hands of the great capitalists of the day, makes for the more perfect, because more economical, organization of industry. It is, therefore, strictly in line with human progress and all attempts to circumvent it will prove of as little avail as were the efforts of the old line owners to keep the machine from superseding the hand tool. With the advent of the machine the hand tool became the "obsolete rubbish" to be swept aside. Now complete the sweeping, with its attendant masses of capital, the smaller establishments with their lesser capitals become the "obsolete rubbish" to be swept aside and the labor of the worker (big capital) is, therefore, strictly in line with human progress and all attempts to circumvent it will prove of as little avail as were the efforts of the old line owners to keep the machine from superseding the hand tool.

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there to enjoy the supreme pleasure of looking for a job. It is little wonder they howl at the prospect, but howling will not avert their doom. They must find a way to get out of the workers when the machine ousted the hand tool.

Capital is the term applied to wealth (resources) used for the production of goods (machinery, etc.) used for the purpose of exploiting labor, or making a profit out of it. As the means of production, land and tools, one time the personal property of the individual who used them, are transformed into capital, these things are said to be capitalized. In the

Capitalization of Industry

there arises much confusion in the public mind because the real nature of the process is not readily discovered. It is not so hidden behind a mask of pretense and deceit, that it appears to be what it is not. If carefully examined it is found to be the very contrary of that which it appears to be. The expression of the process is that some certain capitalist concern vests its property too highly. It may perhaps be a railway company capitalized at \$100,000,000. It is readily seen that its plant and equipment might be duplicated for a much smaller sum of money. To the average person it occurs that the company is guilty of reprehensible conduct in placing its capitalization at such an enormous figure, and it may even be accused of downright swindling. It would appear at first glance as though at least some valid grounds for such suspicion existed. These accusations and suspicions arise because of a lack of understanding as to the thing of real value which is capitalized. While it appears to have been the track, bridges, buildings, locomotives, cars, etc., and as these things are of no real value, they should not be capitalized. The real value which is capitalized would therefore pay no profit upon any capitalization whatever, it becomes clear that these things are but the mask behind which lies hidden the thing of real value, the thing usually measured by the capital stock of the company.

Suppose our road to have actually cost \$50,000,000, and the normal interest rate of profit upon investments to be ten per cent. The road supplies a use value to the community in the way of service. This service is performed by working men, not by stockholders. The community pays for the service in fares and freight rates. The service is always worth the price charged for the service, and the stockholder is never paid for his person or goods in no other way, not so cheaply. If the staff of workers employed by the road can perform the service, and the adjacent community furnish the material, so that the revenue will meet the 10 per cent of all expense in the nature of wages, supplies, repairs, betterment, etc., at the end of the year a balance of \$50,000,000 road would be worth the \$50,000,000 as the balance of profit left at the year's end would be the normal ten per cent. The road then stand capitalized to that amount and its stock will sell in the market at par. Suppose that the year following the road is increased by \$50,000,000, which is twenty per cent on its capitalization, or double the normal rate of profit. The road then worth \$100,000,000 will sell at that figure as an average capitalist investment. Its stock may be "washed" up to that amount and still remain at that value in the market. All of this happens without a single cent outside dollar having been added to the original cost of the road. Labor alone has produced the revenue by which the road is worth so much more than it is the thing capitalized. The mask behind which it is done.

The actual worth of capitalist concerns is determined solely by the productive power of the workers whose services it may be able to command. When the working man reads of a United States Steel Corporation, or of an immense capitalization, or any other concern, he should understand that such valuation lies solely in the hide and carcass of the army of slaves owned by the concern, and the means of production (mines, mills, factories, ways, etc.) are merely the title deeds to this slave property.

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VANCOUVER, B. C., JULY 16, 1904.

ARBITRATION

In these days when it is becoming quite the fashionable thing to be a devotee of the theory of arbitration between the capitalist and the worker it would be well to know just what the issue is and whether it were possible to settle the differences by such a method. If arbitration is to be successfully applied in the matter of differences arising between two or more parties, certain conditions must first exist: First, there must be something to arbitrate. Second, it must be capable of settlement by arbitration. Third, the parties to the arbitration must be on an equal footing as to the selection of the arbitrators and the enforcement of the award.

Is there then anything to arbitrate between Capital and Labor? The owners of capital purchase the commodity labor power in the market just the same as they purchase any other thing they desire. The worker sells this commodity just the same as any other is sold. The capitalist buys and the worker sells to the best advantage possible. The one has the right to refuse to purchase, and the other the right to refuse to sell, unless the price or other conditions of sale or purchase be satisfactory. Fancy the buyers and sellers of shoes, clothing, cabbage, sausages, or any other commodity even suggesting a resort to a court of arbitration to fix prices. The very absurdity of the proposition would at once strike the most obtuse person. Even he would recognize the entire absence of anything to arbitrate, and would laugh the proposition to scorn.

The capitalists are masters by virtue of their ownership of the means of production. The workers are slaves as a result of such ownership. Under such circumstances the condition of the market determines what the capitalists must pay, and the workers must accept for the commodity labor power.

Granted for the sake of argument that the price of labor power were to be fixed by arbitration at any given time, would anything have been permanently settled? Most decidedly not, as the conditions of the market would be subject to the same changes as before, and similar fluctuations in prices would inevitably follow. As nothing could, therefore, be permanently settled, the whole thing would resolve itself into a farce.

Do the capitalist and the worker stand on an equal footing in the matter of appointing arbitrators and enforcing an award? The power to set up boards of arbitration and provide for the enforcement of its awards must of necessity rest with government. As this power rests entirely in the hands of the capitalist class, it will be readily seen that the workers are in no better position than prior to the setting up of an arbitration policy. Upon the other hand the capitalist is in a much better position, as the appointment of arbitrators and the enforcement of awards rest entirely in his own hands through his own government. Therefore the capitalist and worker do not stand on an equal footing.

To sum up, there is nothing to arbitrate. There never was anything to arbitrate between master and slave. So long as the master holds the reins of power he will remain master, and

any arbitration necessary will be applied as at present under the lash of the law.

When Labor discovers anything to arbitrate it must of necessity be its freedom from slavery. To arbitrate this requires that Labor seize the reins of power and make and enforce its award.

The only court of arbitration worth while is the reins of government. Workers of the world, by the exercise of your political rights, take possession of it, and wipe out the wage system.

CONFISCATION.

An individual is occasionally met with who really believes the Socialist to be a person who advocates some scheme of confiscating property. Nothing could be further from the truth, however. The Socialist is the only person on earth who is unalterably opposed to confiscation. The capitalist system has for its fundamental basis the daily confiscation of the products of Labor in toto. Not a shred of the product is left to those who produced it, the workers. Surely no advocate of confiscation would propose a more complete scheme than that. The mills, shops, mines, railways, etc., all that goes to make up the modern machinery of industry, is the product of the labor of all the generations of workers that ever lived upon the earth. They could not, therefore, in decency, be claimed as the property of anything less than the whole people. To declare these means of wealth production to be common property would in no sense of the word be confiscation. It would be merely abrogating the power now possessed by the capitalist class, to confiscate the products of Labor daily. It would in no proper sense be confiscation of property. Restitution to the rightful owners can not be construed as confiscation. Restitution in this case means future confiscation impossible as with the means of wealth production under its own control Labor will produce things for its own use, instead of as now for the profit and aggrandizement of a robber class.

Capitalists approve of, and practice confiscation. Not only do they confiscate the products of labor from the workers, but do their level best to confiscate this ill-gotten swag from each other. The saying, "there is honor even among thieves," does not always hold good.

Socialists repudiate confiscation, and call upon the workers to rise en masse and forever put an end to it, by taking possession of the earth, which belongs to them, because they are the only ones who make at least decent use of it.

PIGMIES SQUEAL.

In Everybody's Magazine for July, Thomas W. Lawson gives his story of the Amalgamated Copper Company, in which he purports telling to the world how "thirty suicides" were caused, "twenty once respectable men made convicts, and more than \$100,000,000 of hard earned saving swept from the public into Standard Oil vaults," as the price of its flotation. The first installment is merely in the nature of a promise as to what future chapters will set forth. There is nothing in it to suggest other than another "squawk" such as Ida M. Tarbell recently put up in McClure's, on the struggle for supremacy between the "Independent Producers" and the "Standard Oil" crowd. These howls coming from the throats of "small fry skinnners" because they have been beaten at their own game are strongly reminiscent of the child who having been soundly spanked, with pucker lip, tearful eye and lusty lung solicits sympathy. The pucker, tear and howl are usually so out-of-proportion to the merit of the case that humor is aroused rather than sympathy.

"Small fry skinnners" forced to surrender the small patches of hide they have flayed from the backs of the workers howl most lugubriously. They have no sympathy to waste upon the working class whose toil and sweat form the very basis and ground-work of their petty exploitation, as well as the gigantic exploitation carried on by the Standard Oil crowd and other capitalist giants. This struggle between giants and pigmies in the arena of plunder is of no interest to the plundered workers. However fierce the fight waged be-

tween plunderers over the division of the spoils the workers should not allow themselves to take sides. Though this warfare among the plunderers should leave the field in its wake strewn with corpses of the combatants, no tears need be shed by the plundered "proletariat." Let the workers but rise in the attempt to stop being longer plundered and giant and pigmy will be as one in their repression.

It is true that Mr. Lawson in his preliminary statement hints at the "system" being at fault and not persons. This has led some of our exchanges into the belief that the system hinted at is the capitalist, or wage system. From reading Mr. Lawson's article we are convinced that he does not have the wage system in mind. He evidently refers to the particular system followed by the Standard Oil giants of capital in squaring down the pigmies such wealth as the labor may have already stolen from the working class. This he calls "Frenchie Finance."

Capitalists of either the giant or pigmy type are the enemies of the working class. While they are snarling and fighting among themselves like hungry dogs over a bone, the workers should be equipping themselves with the knowledge of how to get rid of both.

Should the further development of Mr. Lawson's story show that he has the wage system in mind, and demands its overthrow, we shall at once acknowledge ourselves in error as to his meaning at the present time.

PROPHCY AND CONFIRMATION.

In the Western Clarion of June 18, under caption "Austrian Labor Party," appeared the following: "As the Australian Labor Party appears to be following no well defined course, has evidently no conception of the revolutionary program of the international working class, and therefore, no point in the social warfare by which to steer, it will inevitably become water-logged, founder, or drift upon the rocks of opportunism."

From late Australian exchanges we learn that the Labor Party, through its Prime Minister, Watson, has made overtures to the Liberal Party to effect a coalition, and agree upon a joint program of "progressive legislation," which would be mutually satisfactory. Having come into control of the ministry by chance and with no class interest of labor to guide it, and by which to stand or fall, it accepts the only alternative of soliciting the embrace of one of the legitimate parties of capital. By so doing it publishes the fact of its own illegitimacy as a Labor Party. As its overtures to the Liberal Party were turned down, presumably it will now pay court to the Third Party. It is to be hoped it may succeed in being "taken in" by its nearest kin, such Labor Parties have "taken in" working people altogether too long. The lively of labor may be used to serve capital, but sooner or later the fraud will be exposed. Like the ass in a lion's skin, "it will betray itself at the first opportunity."

When the Clarion indulged its prophetic soul to the extent of the modest prophecy above alluded to, it scarce expected such speedy confirmation. After reviewing the following picture of the "heart," the social emblem of English middle-class society, drawn by the hand of E. Belfort Bax, one is almost forced to acknowledge it to be a fairly accurate picture of the "heart" of the same delectable tribe on this side of the water. "Respecting the throne and the altar we have not much to say in the present article. It is with the bulwark of social life, the hearth, otherwise expressed with modern family life, that we are here chiefly concerned. We refer more especially to the family life whose architectural expression is the suburban villa. This is the ideal of the middle-class family of a "lower," i. e. poorer degree, while in those of a "higher," i. e. richer degree, its characteristics are exaggerated into the rank luxuriance symbolized in the brand-new country mansion. "Let us consider briefly the characteristics of the suburban villa in its daily life, and surroundings, much as we would that of some ancient people, as thus:—1. Household ways; early morning (item 1), prayers, (2) breakfast, (3) departure of paterfamilias and sons to

business. Journey beguiled by morning papers and conversation resembling for the most part undigested leaders from same. (N.B.—The modern Journalist is, as it were, the cook who boils down and seasons up into a presentable entree the most choice of middle-class prejudice.) (4) At home the wife and daughters, after a possible feint at domestic duties, prepare for "shopping." (5) "Shopping," the main occupation for the day for the women of the middle-class being the means of calling for the most recent afternoon tea. (6) Return of paterfamilias, more or less wearied with his daily round of laboriously endeavoring to shift money from his neighbor's pocket into his own, wearied, i. e. and degraded with doing no useful work whatever. (7) Evening taken up with sleep, or conversation on the affairs of the family, together with its relations and connections, varied with the indifferent performance of fashionable music and the perusal of current literature. (8) Bedtime.

"The above we contend is a fair picture of the type toward which the daily life of the average English middle-class family gravitates. We have said English inasmuch as the commercial system has been the means of making the English domestic life than on that of any other European people; but the same tendency to vapidity, inanity, pseudo-culture, which is the worst form of lack of refinement, obtains in one form or another wherever a commercial class exists."

The many strikes of the late year have led army officers to direct their inventive skill to the devising of a bullet that will be not more deadly to armed mobs, but much less dangerous than the one now in use. As the bullet of the present rifle will pierce eighteen inches of pine at 500 yards; the human body has only a resistance of three inches of this wood. The Ordnance department has therefore devised what is now popularly known as the "cartridge," but which the department euphemistically terms multi-ball cartridge, calibre 30." The cartridge is composed of a service case charged with a full charge, about thirty-four grains of smokeless powder, and a round ball held in the neck of the case by cannular at the lower end and a crimp at the upper. The balls are made of a mixture of lead and iron in the proportion of sixteen to one, and are slightly coated with paraffin. The diameter of the ball is .308 inch, and the weight is forty-two grains. The cartridges have sufficient accuracy for effective use at 200 yards, at which a slight elevation is required. At 100 yards it is necessary to fire point blank.—Scientific American.

We note that the recommendation of J. B. Osborne for a place on the reserve list of National Organizers was "turned down" by the State Committee of the Socialist Party of Colorado by the vote of 6 to 2. We have listened to some of those who now hold positions as organizers for that party, and we have read the utterances of many of them. We have also read the utterances of Osborne, which he was in B. C. recently. We are forced to the conclusion that Comrade Osborne was not turned down because of any lack of knowledge of the revolutionary movement of the working class, or the ability to set it forth, but because he does possess both such knowledge and ability. As the bunch now holding such positions possess neither, we infer that to be the necessary qualification required, Comrade Osborne should feel flattered by the turn-down.

One of the most amusing "critters" in existence is the chap whose photograph comes along occasionally in the form of a notice from his postmaster bearing the word "refused." Too stupid to read the letters he possesses reasoning facilities, and with a hollow in his cranium that he evidently fears might become filled with something more valuable than mud, he forwards to the offending publication a photo of his narrowness, and the contents of his skull through the medium of his postmaster and the word "refused." It is by such narrow Bigot's reasoning that the age has so often been made possible. This particular type, now happily nearing extinction, has been zealously cultivated by every tyranny or despotism that has yet existed in human history. And yet in his humble way this narrow-between the eyes is not altogether without value. He becomes a living example to the folly of "casting pearls before swine."

SOCIALIST PARTY OF B. C. PLATFORM

We, the Socialist Party of British Columbia, in convention assembled, declare our policy and our support of the principles and program of the international revolutionary working class. Labor produces all wealth, and to labor it should justly belong. To

Socialist Directory

Local office of the Socialist Party of B. C. should run a card under this head. \$5.00 per month. Secretaries please note.

Socialist Party of British Columbia. Headquarters, Vancouver, B. C. Provincial executive committee: A. R. Stebbings, John Duberley, L. T. English, P. Pettipiece, E. G. King, Victoria; E. S. Embrace, Greenwood, Ernest Burns, treasurer; B. Merrill-Burns, secretary, Box 836, Vancouver, B. C.

Local Association, S. P. of B. C., No. 1. Business meetings every Wednesday evening at 8 p. m. at headquarters, Ingleside Block (rooms 1 and 2) floor 333 Cambie street. Educational meetings every Sunday evening at 8 p. m. (3rd floor), Sullivan Block, Cordova street. Secretary: O. P. Mills, box 836, Vancouver.

the owner of the means of wealth production belongs the product of labor. The present economic system is based upon capitalist ownership of the means of wealth production, therefore all the products of labor belong to the capitalist. The capitalist is master, the worker is slave. So long as the capitalists remain in possession of the reins of government all the powers of the state will be used to protect and defend their property rights in the means of wealth production and their control of the product of labor.

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

The interest of the working class lies in the direction of setting itself free from capitalist exploitation by the abolition of the wage system. To accomplish this necessitates the transformation of capitalist property in the means of wealth production into collective or working-class property. The irrepressible conflict of interests between the capitalist and the worker is rapidly culminating in a struggle for possession of the power of government—the capitalist so hold the workmen to secure it by political action. This is the class struggle.

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

- 1. The transformation, as rapidly as possible, of capitalist property in the means of wealth production (mineral resources, factories, mills, railways, etc.), into the collective property of the working class.
- 2. A thorough and democratic organization and management of industry by the workers.
- 3. The establishment, as speedily as possible, of production for use in lieu of production for profit.

The Socialist Party, when in office, shall abolish all everywhere until the present system is abolished, make the answer to this question its guiding rule of conduct: Will this legislation advance the interest of the working class and aid the workers in their class struggle against capitalist exploitation? If not, they will not do it; if it will not the Socialist Party is absolutely opposed to it. In accordance with this principle the Socialist Party pledges itself to conduct all the public affairs placed in its hands in such a manner as to promote the interest of the working class alone.

Union Directory

When They Meet; Where They Meet. Should run a card under this head. \$5.00 per month. Secretaries please note.

Vancouver Trades and Labor Council. Meets first and third Thursdays in each month, at 7:30 p. m. President: Geo. Dobbin; vice-president, Wm. George; secretary, C. T. Hilton; financial secretary, J. L. Lilley; treasurer, A. N. Harrington; sergeant-at-arms, J. C. Kerr; statisticians, W. Post, and Gracie; W. B. O. Box 66; trustees, John Watkins, Messrs. Pound, Cross and Thompson; executive committee, Messrs. George and Gothard.

Vancouver Typographical Union, No. 226. Meets the 4th Monday in each month at Union hall. President: Ralph Wilson; vice-president, H. Hubbard; secretary, W. H. Hunt, P. O. Box 66; treasurer, John Watkins; sergeant-at-arms, Jas. Webster; executive committee, A. McKay, W. Post, and Gracie; W. B. O. Box 66; delegates to Trades and Labor Council, R. P. Pettipiece, W. F. Farrow, George Bartley, George Wilby.

United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners. Meets every second and fourth Wednesday in Union hall, Room 2. President, Lummer; secretary, W. H. Barratt; Wm. Chaplin, 2800 Manitoba street. Delegates to Building Trades Council: B. McMurdo, and Taylor; alternate, Greenwood and Salfrey; Delegates to T. & L. Council: G. D. Dobbin, J. McLaren, L. C. DeWolfe, G. F. Adams and A. E. Coffin.

Greenwood Miners' Union, No. 25. W. F. M. Meets every Saturday evening in Union hall. J. R. Ritchie, president; Ernest Mills, secretary-treasurer.

Phoenix Trades and Labor Council. Meets every alternate Wednesday. John Riordan, president; Edward Brown, vice-president; H. L. Lacasse, secretary; W. H. Bambury, secretary-treasurer; P. O. Box 198, Phoenix, B. C.

Phoenix Miners' Union, No. 8. W. F. M. Meets every Saturday evening at 7:30 o'clock in Miners' hall. W. H. Barratt, president; John Riordan, secretary.

Nanaimo Miners' Union, No. 477. W. F. M. meets every Wednesday from July 2. Alfred Andrews, president; Jonathan Isherwood, P. O. Box 259, Nanaimo, B. C., recording secretary.

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VICTORIA NEWS NOTES

Comrade Harold Burnett, of Victoria, says under date of July 17th:

A successful meeting was held at our regular propaganda meeting last Sunday, the speaker of the evening, Very Rev. Thomas C. Wiswell, of Seattle, once a Congregational minister, now a workingman. His subject was "Why every workingman should vote and work for the Socialist program." He gave a resume of the Revolutionary war of 1776, when New England fought and England lost political liberty, and declared that political liberty was not so essential as industrial liberty. He intimated that the capitalist class always worked in their own interests, and it was high time the working class began to take a humble to themselves and voted and worked for their own interests, instead of in the interests of the capitalist class. The so-called Labor Party must ultimately ally itself with the Socialist Party. The time is not far distant when the workmen of British Columbia and Canada will have only two parties to choose from, the Conservative Party and the Socialist Party. The Liberal Party, like the Democrat Party in the United States, was in a state of dismemberment and disintegration. The speaker referred to the negro question in the south, and said the negroes must settle it themselves, the whites will never do it.

Comrade Waters is expected back soon from Chattanooga, Tennessee, where he was sent as a delegate to the convention of the Bootmakers' Hiders' Union.

Light is rapidly breaking in upon Russian darkness. Three thousand soldiers drawn recently from Poland and Finland refused to continue for Manchuria, and when a squadron of dismounted Cossacks were ordered to act against them they refused. When "an active battalion" is called out for coercive duties, they overawe the reserves, or to fire upon the mob it is now necessary to eliminate from its ranks all the Jews, all ex-slaves, and every working man who can read, and the illiterates who may be depended upon to fire at the word of command. A military establishment is only made possible through the ignorance of the very class against whom it is to be used, and from whose ranks it must be recruited. An army, whether regular or militia, and liberty are not compatible.

These are cheering signs from Russia. May they continue and become more numerous until the oppressed slaves shall be truly free.

A striking proof of the uncertain and shifting nature of employment under the present system is furnished by the large number of notices from postmasters coming to this office with the words "removed," "address unknown." From the postmaster at Camborne we received notice that 8 out of a list of 12 subscribers at the time of "The Clarion's" suspension had disappeared during the time intervening between that time and the resumption of publication. We have just received 12 regular notices from Kaslo and Sandon. We are told that Socialism would destroy incentive. Capitalism surely cultivates incentive to look for a job.

Men have been strung up by the thumbs by the militia in Colorado but pens for the purpose of extorting confession implicating themselves as outlaws. Two of the victims now in the hospital at Pueblo must suffer the amputation of their arms, blood-poisoning having been set as a consequence of such treatment.

Fold a one dollar bill several times and carefully press it. Unfold it and count the creases. Put the creases in your pants and send the dollar to this office to pay for one year's subscription to The Western Clarion.

POVERTY IN VANCOUVER

"One need not go outside the city of Vancouver to find poverty and distress. Even the daily press occasionally deigns to mention some particularly aggravated case that falls to its notice. In doing so, however, it makes mention of it merely as a news item. If persistence it refrains from casting reflections upon the suffering ones, it at the same time, carefully avoids any reference to the causes which force poverty and misery upon an ever-increasing number of human kind. The News-Advertiser of July 15 in an eleven-line item, mentions a "sad case of poverty and destitution" has been discovered in an alley near Westminister avenue. A Mrs. Downey and children have been found for several days with "very little to eat." Five of the children are very young, and the sixth one is "feeble and sick." This feeble and sick one was the family's "only support." It may be readily imagined what sort of a support it would be possible for a feeble and sick child to provide for a total of seven persons. The case has been placed in the "hands of Mrs. Raymond, the Matron of the City God, who will be glad to receive contributions to aid them." What a cheerful prospect confronting this unfortunate mother with "very little to eat," some one not entirely dead to all feelings of sympathy for those in distress, may come some food, perhaps articles of cast-off clothing, but at the very most, enough to provide for their necessities but temporarily. After that the same old prospect of want and misery. The same old despairing struggle for existence. The same old disappointments, despair and heartache. The little ones as rapidly as they reach an age making it possible, will be sent to the workhouse in search of employment to assist in providing sustenance for the family. With all of the brightness crushed out of their young lives, they must be sacrificed to the demands of a sordidly cruel system of property that is based upon the grinding of profits from the flesh and blood of labor.

From what class in human society are these "miserables" recruited? From the ranks of the only useful class, the working class. The class which produces all the wealth of the world. The class which alone makes civilization possible.

Where one such case comes to light there are thousands never heard of. It is safe to say that plenty more exist in Vancouver. They would not be difficult to find, were it not for the search made. It should not be expected, however, that such search would be made by the beneficiaries of the system that lives on their backs. The search would be made by the slave class alone which must deal with this matter. By the exercise of its political power the working class must overthrow the wage system of slavery which grinds out such a horrible grist.

It has been commonly supposed that John Bull was at least "some pumpkins" but the delusion has been rudely shattered. It was recently discovered in the House of Commons that the telephone between Padstow and Hawkers Cove was no longer workable. Upon inquiry it was ascertained that this line was a very necessary part of the life-saving service of the coast, being the only means of rapid communication with Hawkers Cove where the only steam lifeboat on the Cornish coast was located. The interruption was caused by a certain landowner, over whose lands the line crossed, removing the wires because they interfere with his "partridge shooting." As John Bull was thus held up by a single individual and forced to seek some other route for his telephone wires at an expense of much delay and a considerable chunk of public funds, it can easily be seen that J. B. instead of being "some pumpkins" turns out to be "small potatoes."

The social revolution is bound to come. It will either come in full panoply of law, and surrounded with all the blessings of peace, provided the people have the wisdom to take it by the hand and introduce it betimes; or it may break in upon us unexpectedly, amidst all the convulsions of violence, with wild, dishevelled locks, and shod in iron sandals. Come it must in one way or the other. When I withdraw myself from the turmoil of the day and dive into history I hear distinctly its approaching tread.

According to statistics recently compiled, the number of workmen in the various industries mentioned who are idle each day in the year is as follows: Cigarmakers, 22,000; brick and tile workers, 51,000; mill workers, 15,000; boot and shoe workers, 12,000; leather workers, 10,000; lumber workers, 268,000; workers in the industries controlled by 183 industrial combinations, 108,000; printers, 17,000.—Typo. Journal.

Judge Baker of Albuquerque, N.M., enjoys the machinists on strike at the A. T. and S. F. shops, not only against picketing but from talking with the so-called strike breakers as well. Another proof that law is merely power.

"A fool in revolt is infinitely wiser than a philosopher engaged for learning learned apologies for his chains." —Kossuth.

WORKING-PROGRAM FOLLY

In the recent Belgian elections the Socialists lost eight seats in parliament. These were gained by the liberals, who adopted certain planks from the Socialist platform which appealed to the less revolutionary element among the workers. These temporary set-backs will inevitably occur so long as platforms are attempts to straddle a revolutionary and a reform program at the same time. The something now dreamer is still in evidence, and he is bound to follow in the direction most likely to bring it. As between two political parties making similar promises, he will be bound to choose the one which in his opinion stands the better show of winning. Evidently many Belgian voters followed this course at the recent election.

Reform, patchwork, or palliative demands are as much out of place in the political platform of a revolutionary proletariat, as would be revolutionary demands in that of the capitalist class. The class interest of labor demands the overthrow of the rule of capital, by the abolition of the wage system. To accomplish this is purely an act of revolution. To incorporate reform or palliative measures into the program, is to deny the necessity of revolution, by repudiating it. Could patchwork and reform be made effective in bringing relief to the workers under capitalism, the necessity of abolishing the wage system would vanish. The economic pressure removed, the revolutionary appeal would fall upon deaf ears.

Political parties are often accused of stealing parts of the paraphernalia of others. Such accusations are, however, improper, because untrue. Whenever anything is lifted from the platform of one party, by another, it is proof positive it did not belong there, and the party lifting it did so because it recognized it as its own property.

If the Liberal Party seized certain planks, or demands, from the Belgian Labor Party, it merely took its own property out of the hands of those to whom it did not belong, and who, in consequence, were making improper use of it. In so doing the Liberal Party, unconsciously, perhaps, were doing the Belgian proletariat valiant service, by removing from its revolutionary program, the contaminating presence of reactionary makeshifts, palliatives and reforms.

A useful lesson may be drawn from the experience of our Belgian comrades. As a rule we are not prone to learn through the mistakes of others. It were better for us, however, were this not the rule.

While 5000 millers and macaroni workers are on strike at Lorge, Anzani, Italy, the soldiers divide up their regiments with the women and children of the strikers. The soldier of the highly-civilized Anglo-Saxon tribe has not as yet manifested any inclination toward, such an soldier-like conduct.

As the result of a large majority vote, the Socialist Party of Italy refused to sanction a dual organization of the party in various centres into reformers and revolutionists. The former are now seceding from the party. This is as it should be. Reform and Revolution can not mix. Reform is an unthinkable proposition to a class conscious proletariat.

They say, "Work hard and you'll get rich. But that evidently is not so. For we notice the ones who do no work. Get away with most of the "dough."

It is recorded that a Mr. Noah at one time held a transportation monopoly several thousand years ago, which again goes to show us that monopoly is no new thing.

Roosevelt, the republican, and Parker, the democrat, are to play the Two Dromios of Capitalism on the American stage this season. Needless to say, the production of Shakespeare will be tame in comparison.

"One of England's chief exports is the "remittance man."

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Drop a silver dollar on the table and you will notice a ring. Keep the ring or give it to your girl, but send the dollar to us to apply on your sub to The Western Clarion.

When Johnny was asked by his Sunday school teacher "Why Adam and Eve were turned out of the garden of Eden," he promptly replied: "Because they couldn't pay their rent." This goes to show that Johnny was an observant youth.

Justice being blind is forced to depend largely upon the sense of "touch."

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA Permanent Loan and Savings Company

DIVIDEND NO. 12. Notice is hereby given that a dividend at the rate of EIGHT per cent. per annum has this day been declared on the Permanent Stock of the Company for the half year ending June 30th, 1904, and that the same will be payable at the Head Office of the Company, No. 321 Cambie Street, Vancouver, B. C., on and after July 15th, 1904.

By order of the Board, Thos. T. Langlois, President.

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