

The Western Clarion

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SATURDAY ... Aug 13, 1906

COSTLY EXPERIENCE.

The late Chicago Teamsters' strike affords a splendid illustration of the terrible cost of the brutal conflicts that ignorance will plunge workingmen into. From press reports it appears that the strike lasted for 106 days, involved 4,020 teamsters, and necessitated the employment of 2,300 policemen and 3,400 deputy sheriffs for strike duty. This extra protection cost the city and county \$406,500. Twenty-one persons were killed and 415 injured during the strike. It cost the unions \$850,000 for strike benefits and the teamsters lost \$700,000 in wages. It cost the employers \$9,000,000 to break the strike. The loss caused by the disturbance to business is beyond the possibility of computation.

Besides the enormous loss in both life and property, there has been a far more serious loss to the working class in the hatred and animosity engendered in its ranks, and the tearing asunder of ties of class solidarity that ought to bind its members into one harmonious, united and invincible army of emancipation, to break the chains of wage slavery, and usher in the days of labor's freedom.

In view of the terrible cost of this Chicago and other strikes, and the practically unconditional surrender of the strikers, what lesson is to be drawn for guidance in the future? That action in the future must be taken in view of the fact that the cause that impelled the workmen to rebellious action in this Chicago and other affairs are still in existence, and as such causes have forced action in the past so will they inevitably do in the future.

If the line of action followed by the workers in the past has led to defeat and disaster, and the history of their struggles all down through the years of capitalism proves that it has, then it would be the part of wisdom to avoid suffering further defeats by refusing to longer pursue the old suicidal policy.

The Chicago strikers went up against a labor market that was fairly glutted with that peculiar commodity upon the sale of which the workman, no matter what the industry he follows, depends for his existence, i.e., labor power. Out of a market thus glutted with labor power, all sorts of strike-breakers and other needful things from the standpoint of capital could be readily recruited. In the face of such circumstances, there could be no possibility of winning their strike.

The labor market is an adjunct of capitalist property. It belongs to capitalist property. The one could not exist without the other. In order to insure its own existence capitalist property must needs protect and defend its labor market by insisting that, every one entering its portals, shall be unmoleted in offering his wages for sale; shall exercise perfect "freedom of contract," with his employers as may desire his services. It is the business of the capitalist state to preserve such a status of the labor market, and, if need be, it will perform the service by means of its courts, policemen and deputy sheriffs.

So long as a capitalist property rules, the labor market must still remain, and the conditions within its baneful precincts continually grow worse. The lesson should be learned by this time that the workers can gain nothing by the strike along the old line. Such action is purely rebellious. It has no definite purpose other than to obtain at the most, but a temporary relief, because the workers have not gained anything by their persistence with.

The only way in bringing permanent relief to the workers, the only way in which human society, must

be revolutionary, inasmuch as it involves the overthrow of the rule of capitalist property, and the destruction of the labor market by setting free the means of labor, (resources of the earth, and the machinery of wealth production) to all members of society upon equal terms. As that is a "commutation devotedly to be wished," it is well worth fighting for, no matter how great the cost. The lesson to be learned from strikes is that they are all loss and no gain. It is time that such fully concerted, and the attention of labor was directed towards the abolition of the wage system and the inauguration of the era of industrial peace.

SINCERE REPENTANCE.

The Editor of the Western Clarion pleads guilty to the charge of having travelled across the gulf to the City of Nanaimo on July 31, 1905, and there upon that date engaged in an alleged debate with one, John Z. White, of Chicago, Illinois, a person selected with a form of mental aberration, now happily exceeding rare, known as single-tax on the brain. The aforesaid editor pleads guilty to the further charge of having repeated the offense by again engaging in most ridiculous controversy with the afflicted White in the City of Victoria on the 4th day of the present month.

One of the most pronounced evidences of freakish tendencies is an inordinate appetite for debating, or in common parlance "chewing the rag." The aforesaid editorial person is, as a rule, the very embodiment of sedate, dignified and sombre wisdom, that could not well be expected to unbend to the extent of even inviting adverse criticism. The only excuse the guilty wretch can now offer for having descended to the level of "chewing the rag," just like a common ordinary every-day freak, is that he was in the hands of his friends, and they immolated him upon the altar of spectacular public discussion, for the amusement of the unwashed mob that usually foregathers when there is promise of anything like cheap sport to be had.

There is little to be said of the debate, for in fact there was none worth mentioning, as the Chicago gent with the single-tax wart on his brain had neither argument to offer nor point to make.

Some chunks of single-tax wisdom relating to matters economic, were thrown out by Mr. White as follows: "It is not the capitalist that absorbs the product of labor, but the landowner."

"There is no such thing as social labor."

"It is the consumer and not the producer that puts value into commodities."

"Working men do not sell their labor power. They sell the things they produce."

"There has been no slavery on this Western continent since Abraham Lincoln freed the blacks."

"He who is forced to work for another is a slave."

In the face of such clichers, it may be readily seen there was little room for argument by the opposition.

Mr. White, with much articulate merit erected numerous "straw men," such as socialism would destroy "individual liberty," and it wouldn't work because everybody would want the best jobs, and so on, ad lib, and then very neatly tore them to tatters.

Take it all in all and Mr. White's put-up was about the clumsiest effort ever made to draw a "red herring across the trail," in order to confuse the scent of capitalist game that the proletarians are now getting fixed in their nostrils.

Of all the ridiculous schemes set forth for the purpose of conjuring away the rising spectre of Revolution, that is frightening the ruling class of the world into catatonic fits, the single-tax scheme is the most ludicrous. Time is worse than wasted in bothering with any scheme that is so devoid of a foundation upon which to build that after a half century of effort it can command neither a following nor a hearing.

It is to be hoped the Clarion editor will in the future refrain from allowing his freakish tendencies to get the upper hand to the extent of indulging in the unseemly spectacle of "rag chewing" over nothing, with nothing and about nothing. It is time for repentance, and it should be sincere.

SEES THE POINT.

When a thousand workers go on a strike and a thousand other workers from capitalism's reserve army come along and attempt to take the jobs the brickbats begin to fly and the "revolutionary counter-revolutionaries" get busy. And they tell us this is a class struggle with the workers on the one hand and the capitalists on the other. It is a struggle between 2,000 workers over 1,000 jobs. There is, however, a class struggle, and the extent of its intelligent expression is shown when the votes are counted. I may be dense, but I cannot see how the workers are fighting capitalism when they are throwing brickbats at one another. The workers are unemployed army always ready for action and ever increasing in numbers, the hopelessness of combating capitalism on the economic counter is so apparent, that I cannot see how any intelligent man can fail to realize it. — From Richardson's "Hot Cinders."

Looks the same way to us, comrade. We are doubtless also dense. But, for Heaven's sake don't blurt out these hollow truths, for fear you might "antagonize" somebody who is "coming our way." Keep mum, we pray thee.—Editor Clarion.

NOTE AND COMMENT

According to the Kansas City Star a number of the big producers in the Kansas oil district backed out of the project to build a pipe line to compete with the Standard Oil Company. Some single-tax middlehead should have been on hand to explain to them the beauties of free competition and the glories of individual liberty, and then encourage them to take some of both.

The navy yard machinists at Washington, D.C., got it in their silly heads that they ought to have a Saturday half-holiday during the heated term. The Secretary of the Navy very properly turned the proposition down. The silly chumps then had the audacity to propose to go to the only Teddy with their tails of woe. He refused to bother with them, or rather he bothered by them. Just why these free American workingmen object to breathing the hot air of the workshop on Saturday afternoons is by no means clear, inasmuch as they appear during campaign times to be especially fond of it, and to take it like mother's milk.

FREEDOM'S WARRIORS IN TRAINING.

We learn from the Socialist Voice, that the Oakland, Calif., comrades appear to have the best of it so far as their struggle against the city officials to maintain the right to hold public meetings in the city streets. In the first case used an appeal was secured. Several subsequent actions resulted in a disagreement of

the juries. This looks good in the face of the fact that the city ordinance forbidding the holding of such meetings without a permit from the Mayor, and in the case of our comrades such permit was refused, and the meetings were held without it. A petition in boots was to visit the city council on Monday last and demand the repeal of the objectionable ordinance. The outcome of this has not yet been reported. The Oakland comrades are to be congratulated for their stubborn determination to maintain at least some semblance of that boasted right of free assembly and free speech that is supposed to be the constitutional right of the American "sovereign." We have remarked upon occasion that a right can only be determined by the power to make good, and we are of the same opinion still. The Oakland happenings are even now furnishing valuable corroborative evidence. Keep at them, comrades. Remember that that which is worth having is worth fighting for, and the liberties you have in view can only be attained through long, bitter and uncompromising struggle. Every petty act of repression at the hands of the ruling class and its lickspittle, tools and henchmen, only serves to strengthen the fibres of manhood among the warriors of emancipation, and steel them for the shock of battle that in the near future will sweep capitalist society from its foundation. Let the good work of interference and repression go on. It is just what the doctor has ordered for the purpose of putting increased energy and new life into the wage slave wherewith to fight his way to freedom.

A GOOD IDEA.

The suggestion made by Comrade Weston Wrigley, of Toronto, that the Western Clarion should be made a medium for the publication of the various parts of the Dominion, is a very good one, and should be acted upon by the various Locals of the Party, or by individuals who are possessed of sufficient zeal for the cause to make the effort. The Clarion is primarily an educational or propaganda sheet, but its value in this particular would be greatly increased were the usually dry columns of economic discussion broken by an occasional word relating to the daily happenings in the various localities where the wage slaves do congregate.

The Western Clarion enjoys the distinction of being probably, the only Socialist paper in this Western continent that neither begs for support nor indulges in any schemes to obtain it. Those responsible for the paper's existence believe it can at least accomplish something towards spreading the ideas that the proletarians must grasp, or can strike an effective blow for their deliverance from capitalist bondage.

Locals as well as individuals who feel likewise can assist in making the paper more readable and instructive by sending in matter for its columns relating to local happenings and current events. The only reason why such communications are not sent in at least from the larger centres of population, is that of mental shiftlessness. Events at Nanaimo, for instance, have been occurring for the past two months or more, of the utmost importance to every wage-earner in the country and yet the Clarion has been favored only with such reports as come by way of the capitalist papers, and knowing the unreliability of such sheets it has been forced to practically remain silent in the matter.

The idea suggested by Comrade Wrigley is indeed a good one, and if acted upon would be of invaluable assistance to the publishers, and besides it would cost nothing beyond a little effort. The Clarion's columns are open for such purpose to any reasonable extent.

SOCIALIST COMBINATIONS.

(Editorial from New York Tribune.)

The capitalist and captain of industry in these latter days has set himself to demonstrate that the theories of the Socialist are sound. After some centuries of adherence to the principle that individual competition brings the best results and the greatest progress for the individual and society, suddenly many thousand employers and capitalists rush out of business, give up the positions they occupy and the plants they own in order to avoid competition, and set themselves to prove that society can be best and most cheaply served, and the workers and managers from highest to lowest can get better returns, if all productive work in that branch is performed by a single centralized body controlling prices and wages at pleasure, appointing agents and middlemen, restraining by no competition and responsible only to society as a whole. If this theory is true, does it not follow as a matter of course that society as a whole might better take possession of the plants and control the business and thereby share the profits of production or the gains by cheapening production, at its pleasure?

The philosophy of the competitive period in human development has been sustained by the most rapid and healthful progress ever known thus far, but the Socialist answers that better yet is attainable. Grant that this past stage of development was necessary, its best fruition is a higher stage, in which the costs and losses of individual competition can be avoided, and in each branch of service all can freely do their best for the benefit of all. A world of equal competition, driving each to seek the latest inventions and the best methods, has already been secured. Take from traders and manufacturers the intense pressure of fast against each other, and give all the same profit for a regular service to society. Let the middle class of employees be also emancipated from the tyranny of competition, which closes some works and drives others to reduce wages, and let them all have their regular pay for service to society, increased by the elimination of the losses through competition. When experience proves, as the

last street corner agitator is leading the atrocious life. And yet the desert of his tribulations is not altogether unbroken by an occasional oasis of refreshing humor. Organizer (George Breiel of the Socialist Party, was arrested at Lima, Ohio, while addressing a street crowd of several thousand people. He was followed by a mob of men in the jail and asked my such a hub-bub that the police were compelled to turn him loose and request him to quiet the mob. A few drastic lessons are needed just as a gentle reminder to officious policemen who are rather too prone to meddle with citizens in the exercise of their supposed rights.

LOCAL VANCOUVER.

LOCAL VANCOUVER, No. 1, B. P. of C. Business meetings every Wednesday evening in the headquarters, Ingold's Block (room 1, second floor), 318 Cambie street. Educational meetings every Sunday morning at 8 o'clock in the Sullivan Hall, Cordova street. D. P. Mills, secretary, Box 806, Vancouver, B. C.

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LOCAL REVELSTOKE, No. 7, H. Selgrist, secretary, P.O. Box 208, Revelstoke, B. C.

LOCAL NANAIMO, No. 3, Daniel Livingston, secretary, Box 452, Nanaimo, B. C.

LOCAL VANANDA, No. 22, Edward Upton, secretary, Vananda, Texada Island, B. C.

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So-called Socialists will prove, that the greatest progress is made under conditions far attained are not comparable to those to be attained by abolishing competition, then no man need an idiot who questions the wisdom of society as a whole taking control of all the processes of trade and industry, and the harmonious adjustment of all, with power to direct the entire industry in such a way as may serve the general welfare.

If the modern combination proves that competition is no longer a benefit, but a curse, that individual struggling for success is no longer needed to evolve the best inventions and devices among men, then the wisdom of the Socialist program can be more deeply and at the same time more wisely and ably in handling many establishments of different kinds for equal and under different circumstances, than the individual owners who have created them, that it can prevent the frequent stoppage of such enterprises, while the strong element of society as a whole taking control of all the processes of trade and industry, and the harmonious adjustment of all, with power to direct the entire industry in such a way as may serve the general welfare.

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ANOTHER STRIKE.

Some three hundred laborers of a paper manufactory in the province of Tientsin have struck. The manufactory has suspended its work for two weeks, owing to the inundation of the River Tientsin during the rainy season, and had not paid the wages for those days. The strikers agreed to have their wages paid, but the manager refused it. So the strike lasted on the night of the 6th inst. The laborers of the day-shift assembled before the gate of the factory and gave a signal by a loud cry. The night shift responded to them and at once withdrew from the factory. They all assembled on the street led of the Tientsin, shouting and shouting among the burning bonfire, "Down with the manager!" "Down with the manager!" They were dismissed in this plight the next morning, taking their wages. On the 7th inst. the strikers, some 200 of the neighborhood tried to effect a compromise and the manager had to go to Tokyo to consult with the head office. The strikers promising that if he could not persuade the head office to pay the wages, he would at once resign the position of manager. The laborers remained at work at 9 p.m. of the 7th. We will report the result in the next issue.

Union Directory

Where They Meet, Where They Live

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Chapter from "Socialism"

(By William Scholl McClure.)

Capitalism and Labor Legislation. The governmental function of the state, as distinct from the administration, is closely bound up with our present system. So long as each man for his own immediate interests for some check to the propensity of individual selfishness cannot be escaped. As a result of our false system of economy, merely to keep things enduring, it has become necessary to place the hands of government legislation and obnoxious power, regular and defining individual action every direction. In the inevitable conflict of interests arising from a system of private property, which drives the people into exploitation and the State, in the balance of equity, it holds only for unfortunate. It is the fact that in the warfare of classes those who hold or can control the political power use it to the advantage of those who are opposed to them, and for the furtherance of their own. Labor legislation today is delusive and ineffectual because there is no organization to back it; and to force it is not to the interest of the capitalist class which holds the political power.

With the establishment, through socialism, of an identity of interests, the antagonism would cease to exist, and with it the occasion for governmental interference, or coercive power of representatives limited to administration. Thus through socialism alone can the liberty of the individual be safely realized, and to the fullest extent.

Capitalism and the Class Struggle. Engels clearly states it: "By law becoming actually the representative of the whole social body, the State renders itself impotent. Soon as no longer there are any class to be kept down; as, together with class rule, the individual struggle for life, and in the previous anarchy of production, the conflicts and excesses that issued therefrom have been removed, there is nothing more to be repressed, and rendering necessary a special power of repression in the State. The first act, wherein the State appears as the representative of the whole body social, is the means of production in the name of society—is also the last independent act as State. Interference of the State in social relations becomes superfluous in the domain after anarchy, and falls itself into desuetude. The government over reasons is taken by the administration of things, the conduct of the processes of production. The State is not 'abolished'—it dies out."

It is not the socialism that is in force, but the monopolies that are that are destroying individual enterprise and initiative. And the result of the selfish scramble in which we are compelled to engage, is but little respect to the natural development of one's better individuality. That man, who, for 10 hours by day, has to sacrifice the best that is in him to the exactions of commercial life, is a man of business and has little else. The dull level of mediocrity, so often prophesied of socialism, is painfully apparent here, and now to those who have eyes to see.

The evils from which society suffers are almost wholly traced, not to the degradation of the masses consequent upon their wage-slavery, and the impoverished class, but to the selfish class, which result from it, or to the subversion of all moral ideals to the irresistible force of the competitive struggle. The commercial spirit, which measures success by the bank account, benighted never touches, and snarls at that rises above its own vain selfishness. Liberty, Fraternity, once the watchwords of great hope, are such a mockery to the present conditions as to become mere targets for a shallow cynicism; regarded only as the old language of deluded idealists, commercialism, while giving mouth to labor, holds the laborer to a slave, and labor has become a mark of bondage. Labor is no longer divine, but slavery, never has been fought in this country to prove its incompatibility with the institutions. Let care be taken lest another be necessary.

The "Dead Level" of Socialism. In the often expressed fear lest socialism should reduce all to the level of the workers, there is an unconscious recognition of the evil conditions they have to endure, that in its justification of their revolt

politics the assertion of the equal right of the people in the management of affairs. It is, therefore, a principle that should appeal to the workingmen with peculiar force. A plutocracy in a republic is a monstrosity—Industrial democracy is the logical complement of political democracy. No change in human nature was required to establish the political ideal. So with the other. Through the process of social ideal, it may be well under way long before we become conscious of the wings.

For differences of opinion there will be room in plenty. Many questions may arise that experiment alone can settle, and mistakes undoubtedly will be made. But with a basis of justice and right we may be well assured that the resulting conflict of minor details will be simplicity itself as compared with the unsolved complications in which the present system is involved. Such, for instance, as the tariff question, argued over and over, and experimenting with for a century at least, is far from settlement as ever.

Socialism is fast becoming the all-absorbing topic of the day. It permeated the whole intellectual field. The magazines and papers are full of it. It is invading the pulpit, and will be next in the schools. To the workers it is as a religion, a vision of the Kingdom of Heaven come to earth. And it has become the inspiration of all who look to the making of life something better than a soul-crushing struggle for animal existence.

Contemptuous silence, ignorant abuse, active repression, all alike have been powerless to check its steady progress. It is useless to oppose it. One might as well fight the tides. The progress of economic evolution cannot be stopped. Capitalism is but its latest phase. Born yesterday, tomorrow it must pass away. To socialism belongs the future. In some form it is inevitable. But whether it shall come as a tyrannical plutocracy, an autocratic plutocracy, or a fraternal democracy, that is for the intelligence of the people to decide.

And now the Los-shoremen are after their head chief O'Keefe, "horfoot" because of his notoriety as a member of the Civic Federation. At the recent convention at Detroit considerable of a row was kicked up over the matter by some of the delegates, but all record of the row was expunged from the records by the O'Keefe machine, with the hope of keeping the rank and file in the dark as to the eruption. It is scarcely possible that this will succeed, however. Like murder, the changes of labor states and deceptions, will out."

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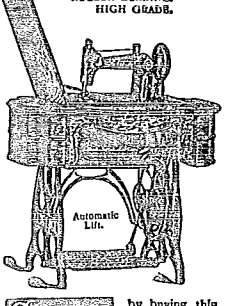
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PLATFORM OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA

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

Labor produces all wealth, and to labor it should justly belong. To the owners 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 class. 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 to hold the worker to secure it by political action. This is the class struggle.

Therefore, we call upon all workers to organize under the banner of the Socialist Party of Canada with the object of conquering the public powers for the purpose of setting up and enforcing the economic 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, railways, etc.) into the collective property of the working class.
2. Thorough and democratic organization and management of industry by the workers.
3. The establishment, as speedily as possible, of production for use instead of production for profit.

The Socialist Party, when in office, shall always and everywhere until the present system is abolished, make the answer to this question its guiding rule of conduct: Will this legislation advance the interests of the working class and add the workers in their class struggle against capitalism? If it will the Socialist Party is for it; if it will not, the Socialist Party is absolutely opposed to it.

In accordance with this principle the Socialist Party pledges itself to conduct all the public affairs placed in its hands in such a manner as to promote the interests of the working class alone.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA

I, the undersigned, hereby apply for membership in _____

Local _____ Socialist Party of Canada.

I recognize the class struggle between the capitalist class and the working class to be a struggle for political supremacy, i.e. possession of the reins of government, and which necessitates the organization of the workers into a political party, distinct from and opposed to all parties of the capitalist class.

If admitted to membership I hereby agree to maintain and enter into no relations with any other political party, and pledge myself to support by voice, vote and all other legitimate means the ticket and the program of the Socialist Party of Canada only.

Applicant _____
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