

The Western Clarion

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Saturday . . . January 6, 1906.

"A SPREADING DEGENERACY."

"And if we do not take pains to re-establish the old simple spirit of instinctive honesty, our commercial civilization will go down like a pack of cards. If we are to become a community of thieves awaiting opportunities, we can do about as much business as a pack of brigands."—Montreal Star.

In an editorial under the above caption, the Montreal Star recently cites the case of Ouniffo, the express clerk who stole \$100,000 from his company, and when captured, said that the temptation was so great that he could not resist it. The Star rather deprecates the existence of circumstances under which one person should be tempted by another's money or other possessions, and appears to instinctively feel that such circumstances are in some way part and parcel of our present "commercial civilization." Without making any inquiry as to why such circumstances exist the Star arrives at the somewhat doubtful conclusion stated in the words above quoted.

Some people seem to look upon honesty as an accomplishment to be acquired by education, and a lack of it to simply denote a lack of schooling in this particular. The "honesty is the best policy" of the old-time copy book was not only used as a means of teaching the youngster to become master of the chirographical up-stroke, down-stroke and curve, but also to impress a worthy precept upon the youthful mind. If there is any one thing that is particularly drilled into the minds of the young, it is the virtue of honesty. In so far as mere teaching goes there is every reason to expect that honesty should be at least one of the chief human attributes. But in spite of all teachings, there seems to be a marked lack of honesty in connection with the daily affairs of life. The papers are daily filled with accounts of trickery, deceit, fraud, embezzlement and outright thievery involving sums ranging from millions of dollars down even to pennies. Not only does education along the lines of honesty and upright dealing, but also the strong arm of the law with its multitudes of punishments, appear powerless to successfully cope with it. It is continually on the increase, which has caused the Star to refer to it as "A Spreading Degeneracy."

If there is a "degeneracy" in this respect there is no doubt a good and sufficient reason for it, and if that reason can be ascertained, it might be possible to check the "degeneracy." It stands to reason that it could not be checked unless the cause be discovered and the axe laid at its roots.

The present or capitalist system of property is essentially dishonest. It has for its fundamental basis the exploitation of labor. From this basis it reared the superstructure of its commercial civilization. The entire

that is the temptation to seize, when opportunity offers, enough of the material things of life to escape the hell of wage-slavery and ward off the assaults of surrounding thieves engaged in the same quest, and for like purpose.

Ouniffo made the mistake of not realizing the odds against him. He was evidently ignorant of the safeguards that had been erected by the big thieves to protect their hoards and honorable calling against invasion by "tin-horns" like himself. Hence he came to grief, and is no doubt by this time in genuine penitential mood. But the thieving does not stop and dishonesty is on the increase. The plundering of the working class daily in the field of production affords a rich "swag" around which swarms a "community of thieves awaiting opportunities" to seize as much as possible, each for himself, and the "devil take the hindmost."

The "old simple spirit of instinctive honesty," finds no abiding place under any system of property based upon human slavery whether it be chattel, feudal, or the wage form. Capitalist property, based as it is upon the robbery of labor, is essentially dishonest. It can breed nothing but dishonesty. Every institution that rises up in its defense is equally dishonest because it draws its sustenance from the same dishonest source. Whether the Star is aware of the fact or not, it has suggested a perhaps unpleasant truth. Modern society is a "community of thieves awaiting opportunities," and it can do about as much business as a camp of brigands," the reason for which is obvious.

"That 'our commercial civilization will go down like a pack of cards,'" is a prophecy that even now shows signs of fulfillment.

THE RUSSIAN OUTLOOK.

From present advice it would appear that the uprising of the Russian workmen is gradually being suppressed. Probably no other outcome could be reasonably expected under the present stage of development in that country. While capitalist production has been fairly well established in the great cities it is undoubtedly a fact that the country districts are still in a backward stage of development from the true capitalist standpoint. The peasant must be first converted into an outright wage-slave before he can be expected to act in conjunction with the city worker in establishing a working class mastery of the means of production.

While much discussion has been evidenced among the soldiers and numerous mutinies have occurred, it seems that this tendency was not sufficiently strong to cause any considerable number of troops to cast their fortunes with the workmen in their struggle for a greater freedom. At the last moment true to their brutal instincts the troops were ready to crush the uprising without mercy. From all accounts this is now to be followed up by an even more ferocious war of extermination than that practiced upon the Parisian proletariat after the fall of the Commune of 1871.

While the absolutism of the Czar has undoubtedly been broken and government in Russia will now take on a form more suitable to the needs of capitalist development, the Russian workmen will find themselves still at the mercy of unscrupulous and conscienceless masters, who will leave no stone unturned to wring the last ounce of profit from their toil and sweat. Against these constitutional masters the workers will be once more compelled to engage in death struggle in order to attain that freedom of which they are just now beginning to get a glimpse.

The crushing of this uprising will take time. Crushed in one spot, it will break out in another. But it is certain the Russian ruling class will not discontinue the work so long as they can command a soldiery to carry it out. It will be carried out to the bitter end, and the capitalist world will look unmoved upon the slaughter. Whatever assistance the revolutionists are getting comes from their fellow workers of other lands. That assistance should be generously forthcoming for the battle they are fighting, is the battle of the

It is gradually getting to light that the Chinese boycott against American goods has been instigated by the Japanese, and with true Oriental cunning, Japanese commercial pirates are thus securing for themselves commercial advantages that the American labor admires though they had a "lead-pipe clack" on. This is terribly aggravating and should arouse the ire of every patriotic Yankee, more especially of the "working man" variety. China is a promising field in which to dispose of much plunder taken from working men under the wage process of capitalist brigandage. If this field, or any considerable portion of it, should be denied to the American brigands (capitalists) they might be compelled to curtail their plundering operations and some of the mules would lose their jobs. And a wage-mule without a driver is a most pitiable object.

It seems that the wonderful Miss Roosevelt, while on her recent Asiatic junketing tour with the Harriman tribe, received many valuable presents from Oriental crowned heads and similar chief pirates, to whom she was presented during her travels. The daily press states that the duty upon this junk amounting to \$1,100 has been paid and the stuff forwarded to the Washington customs. Some of the Socialist papers are impatient enough to assume that this truck was passed through the customs at much less than its real value in order not to tax the presidential purse too heavily. This impudence is entirely uncalled for. The tariff scheme never was anything but a thorn's contrivance anyhow. It is illogical to expect foot-pads to use the same degree of energy in sand-bagging themselves or their retainers, as they would upon those whom their contrivance was intended to compel to stand and deliver. Of course the tariff thieves have to make something in the nature of a bluff.

Commissioner of Immigration, Robert Watchorn, states that New York City is the centre of the white slave market of the world, and that there is a greater traffic in young women in the city at the present time than there ever was before. Well, what of it? Is not the United States the greatest capitalist country on earth, and easily taking the lead in the world's trade and commerce? Such being the case, her great metropolis is entitled to the distinction of being the centre of trade in all its branches. The traffic above referred to is just as clean as any of it. The world's boasted trade and commerce is but the traffic in human flesh and blood, and this, in itself implies that every virtue must be included in the transaction.

One thousand four hundred and seventy-six of Uncle Sam's soldier boys were convicted by court-martial last year for desertion, being an increase of 440 over the previous year. This gain in business for the court-martial was due to the increased reward paid to civil officials for the apprehension of deserters. How many escaped altogether is not stated. 2,559 men were dishonorably discharged during the year. It is great to live in the land of the free and the home of the brave, but it seems the soldier's life is not quite as fashionable as it used to be. It is to be hoped the common plug will in time acquire some enough to keep out of it altogether. Let those who own the country do the fighting.

A young sailor recently committed suicide on board H.M.S. Formidable under the public degradation of a flogging. According to the King's regulations this punishment is inflicted on the bare breast by the ship's police, in the presence of the executive officer, medical officer, two or more petty officers, and all the "boys." As this interesting ceremony is merely an expression of the majesty of the Royal power, the sailor in question must have been especially thin-skinned to have felt that any humiliation was attached to the part he played in it. Such touchy people are entirely unfit for military or naval service.

A chap by the name of Stuenkelberg was blown up by a bomb at Boise, Idaho, on Dec. 30. He was governor of that state some few years since, and attained considerable of a reputation as the inventor of that revered American institution known as the "bull-pen." The bomb had been carelessly left, presumably by some Russian revolutionist, in the gateway leading to the Stuenkelberg habitation. Such carelessness should be frowned down. The gate was completely wrecked.

With the Typographical Union engaged in a continent-wide contest with the Typothetae, The Iron Moulders of Philadelphia upon the brink of a rupture with the employers, which, if it occurs, will probably spread at least to the other large cities, and with another huge coal strike practically assured in the Pennsylvania anthracite districts during the coming summer, 1906 bids fair to prove a strenuous year, though perchance not altogether a happy one to large numbers of the working people.

A new cartridge has been invented which throws as a bullet, a cigar-shaped cylinder of bronze which revolves during its flight at the rate of 3,600 turns per second. At 900 yards it will have sufficient power to penetrate a mass equivalent in bulk and resistance to six men standing behind one another. What a glorious achievement.

It is stated that there is likely to be a compromise between the Free and United Free Churches of Scotland, the Free Church surrendering \$25,000,000 of the \$37,500,000 which it acquired under the decision of the House of Lords. Somehow this spiritual food business takes on a grossly material aspect when measured in dollars and cents.

The Province of Luxembourg, Germany, a few winters since was so infested with wolves as to cause serious alarm among the inhabitants. The authorities were, however, able to cope with the situation by using the soldiers for the purpose of killing off the wolves. Thus was one pest used in exterminating another.

A severe famine is said to prevail in the northwestern provinces of Japan. There is also much destitution and suffering in the big cities of the Empire. This is some of the aftermath of the war, and is one of the penalties the workers have to pay for allowing themselves to be used as the tools of capitalist tyranny in just for exact and additional power. Fully acquiesce awful penalties from they who worship at her shrine.

United States District Judge Kohl-saat, at Chicago, recently sentenced Daniel Garrigan, a city fireman, to three months' imprisonment for having jerked at a "scab" during the teamsters' strike. Served him right. Any one who is so devoid of decency as to indulge in such ridiculous "horse-play" is not competent to run at large with safety.

A special to the Montreal Star discloses the startling fact that the Queen has ordered a new hat. Just imagine the envy it is likely to cause in the neighborhood.

J. EDWARD BIRD, A. C. BRYDON-JACK, GHO. E. MCCORMAN, BIRD, BRYDON-JACK & MCCORMAN, BARRISTERS, SOLICITORS, ETC., 226 Hastings Street - Vancouver, B. C.

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PLATFORM



WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE

SOCCIALIST 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 we engage 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-widening 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 educating the public in the powers for the purpose of settling 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, land, mines, 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 relations 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. While this legislation advance the interests of the working class and aid 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.

hereby apply for membership in THE UNDERIGNED, 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 or enforce any political party, and pledge myself to support by vote, vote and all other legitimate means the ticket and the Socialist Party.

Union Directory

When They Meet; Where They Meet.

Phoenix Trades and Labor Council Meets every alternate Monday. President, M. J. Gillis; Vice-President, J. Leisner; Sergeant-at-Arms, T. B. Congrove; Secretary, Treasurer, Webster Rogers. P. O. Box, 198, Phoenix, B. C.

Phoenix Miners' Union, No. A. W. F. M. Meets every Saturday evening at 7:30 o'clock in Miner's hall. W. Ingram, president; W. A. Pickard, secretary.

Socialist Directory

Every Local of the Socialist Party of Canada should run a card under this head. \$1.00 per month. Secretaries please note.

SOCCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA. Headquarters, Vancouver, B. C. Dominion Executive Committee, A. Stebbins, John E. Duhon, Ernest Burns, C. Peters, A. Leach, A. J. Wilkinson, treasurer; J. O. Morgan, secretary, 551 Bernard St., Vancouver, B. C.

LOCAL VANCOUVER, No. 1, S.P. of Canada.

Business meeting every Monday evening at headquarters, Inglefield Block, 318 Cambie Street, (room 1, second floor). Educational meetings every Sunday at 8 o'clock p.m. in Sullivan Hall, Cordova Street.

D. P. MILLS, Secretary, Box 836, Vancouver, B. C.

LOCAL TORONTO - Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays

Temperance Hall Bathurst St. F. Dale, Secretary, 41 Henry street, W. G. Gribble, organizer, 180 Hogarth Ave.

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