

THE WOMEN'S FRANCHISE BILL

Hawthornthwaite's Great Speech - Parker Williams, Brown and Hall Supports It - no Arguments Against it, But Party Machine Votes it Down.

In moving the second reading of this Bill in the Legislative Council...

...in opening I desire to clear myself in regard to certain things in this Bill...

...I am afraid that his speech, speaking metaphorically...

burden. Many even asserted that in a state of savagery women were freer...

"What is the position of women in society today?" asked the speaker...

ENGLISH ELECTION RETURNS

Table with 2 columns: Party Name and Votes. Includes sections for SOUTH WEST HAM, BARNWELL, MERTHYR TYDFIL, NORTHAMPTON, ABERDEEN, GLASGOW, GRAVESEND, BIRMINGHAM, LIVERPOOL, WOLWICH, HIRINGHAM, SUTHERLAND, WAKEFIELD, and BARNWELL.

Labor majority, 4,225. Labor gain. Conservative majority, 1900, 22,000. In addition to those reported above, labor candidates were elected...

WISE BUNCH OF CITY FATHERS

Montreal City Council Can Help Unemployed Only by Enacting a New Scheme in Attacking Unemployment - Shows Out-Fragrant Truth.

That the conditions in Montreal are ripe for a strong Socialist movement is evidenced in many ways...

The reason of the "Star's" wrath at the exactions of the master is probably due to the fact that it is not engaged in that particular line of thought...

The Western Clarion

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SATURDAY, FEB. 10, 1906.

PUTTING THEM ON RECORD.

While it is possible for a Socialist minority in a legislative chamber to push through little in the way of constructive legislation looking to the relief of the laborers from the merciless exploitation of capital, such a minority becomes a powerful factor in exposing to the public gaze the utter incompetency and impotency of the political hacks of capitalism that are boosted into public office through the credulity and ignorance of an electorate. A most striking illustration of this may be found in the case of the Provincial House at Victoria, during the last two, and the present session. Outside of the few measures introduced by the two Socialist members, nothing has been brought before the House that by the widest stretch of the imagination could be construed as in the interest of the commonweal or in any manner in line with human progress and advancement.

The measure of capitalist "state-ship" as expressed in the Local House may well be taken from a list of the measures introduced by the present galaxy of talent both government and opposition: so far during the present session. A half dozen or so proposed railway incorporations, or amendments to existing acts relating thereto, a few similar proposals, relating to mining and like corporations, a little puny juggling with assessment and taxation matters; some tender legal solicitude over "Bills of Sale Acts," "Small Debts Courts," mortgage laws, Trust Corporations, "Ancient Lights," and a few other equally weighty matters relating to the petty private interests that spring up among the members of that economic class in human society that has its fangs deeply buried in the vitals of the working class, seems to be the extreme height to which it is possible for state-ship of the government or opposition brand to attain.

When Hawthorthwaite's Bill to extend the "Franchise to Women," was before the House, this brilliant creature of Conservatism and Liberal state-ship, though thinking like owls in the midday glare of the overhead sunlight, were discreet enough to set upon their perch and raise no objection. But the case and grace with which they voted it down would indicate a rare wisdom coupled with commendable caution. To do anything in the way of removing obstructions in the way of a free expression of the popular will was to them a dangerous innovation and not to be countenanced, for fear it might lead to the awful consequences of relinquishing themselves and the interest they serve to that oblivion to which similar bats, owls and vultures innumerable have gone before. Hawthorthwaite's Bill, to regulate the election deposit from \$200 to \$50 passed second reading by a majority of one vote. It is safe to assume that it will receive its final quietus either in committee or at third reading, and for the same reason that the "Women's Franchise Bill" was knocked out.

While the presence of two Socialists in the House is bringing to the surface the utter incompetency and impotency of these alleged statesmen to deal with any of the larger problems that are being forced upon human society through the enormous concentration of power in the hands of the ruling class resulting from the present highly developed and per-

fect system of production with its out-of-date ownership and control, and is putting them on record as opposing to those measures calculated to solve such problems, orderly and in a peaceful manner, another goal is being accomplished by their presence that should not be overlooked. It is widely acknowledged that the last two sessions of the House were the cleanest ever held since the Province was born. During these two sessions, owing to the presence of two representatives of a political movement that springs from an economic program that is in itself clean and wholesome, insuring that can be by any stretch of the imagination or be reasonably construed as wrong or unjust, or likely to work a wrong or an injustice to any person, has made it absolutely impossible for the corruptor of capitalist plunder to indulge in their accustomed saturnalia of graft and corruption, which used to be considered a regular part of the ceremonies of each session, and during which in the expressive language of a one-time member, "boodle was often-time passed around like pie on a plate." None of these hoodling schemes that are all too common in legislative chambers, and which bring wealth and capitalist honor to the schemers and shame to the working people who tolerate a system of property that breeds such infamies and iniquities, have made their appearance at Victoria since the two Socialist members entered the House.

This is no doubt one good and sufficient reason why the "state-ship" of capitalism are suddenly reduced to a condition of "inaneous domestic-ude," or harmless dry-rot. The usual occupation of the political representatives of capitalism is to "boast" the particular schemes of their respective owners, whether such be individuals or corporations. There is but one way to "boast," and everybody now-a-days understands what that is. Once a spring is put in their wheel by the advent of Socialist representatives, like Orbello, their reputation is gone, both up the floor of the House and in the lobby. This of course works upon the craft of politicians as no inconsiderable hardship. They should be entitled to most careful attention at the hands of the "Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals."

The sessions of the House referred to clearly prove that a little Socialist leaven "leaveneth the whole lump," even although the lump itself is of doubtful quality. The ability and general worth of both Conservatives and Liberals is being clearly demonstrated by the proceedings in the House. All of these are being placed, or rather are placing themselves on record as being not only absolutely useless from the workingman's standpoint but positively harmful. They stand for nothing that can in the slightest degree tend to lessen the present economic pressure upon the men of labor, or in any manner aid them in arriving at more satisfactory industrial conditions. On the contrary, they stand for everything that makes for the perpetuation of the present system with its merciless economic masters upon the one-hand, and its vast army of wage-slaves on the other, with the former continually increasing their wealth and power, the latter ever sinking deeper into pauperism and despair.

By paying close attention to the proceedings of the House at Victoria, the workers will discover the proper course to pursue at the next Provincial election. They will return none but Socialist representatives. All others will be elected to remain at home.

THE REVOLUTION.

(At no period in the history of this Western Continent has the word "revolution" been of more common usage than at present. For some reason it seems to roll from the tongue of people in all walks of life without leaving any particularly bad taste in the mouth. At one time, and not so long since, the very term was enough to conjure forth such visions of blood and carnage, rapine and slaughter, as to make many previous periods in the world's history. But for some mysterious reason the term has taken on a new significance, one more in harmony with peaceful progress, and less inclined to "paint" upon the human mind pictures of bloodshed and horror. And yet the reason for this sudden change in the manner in which the "revolution" is spoken of, and the later understanding of its significance, need not appear mysterious if enquiry be made into the economic changes that have occurred during comparatively recent times, and the influence that such changes must inevitably have upon the minds of the people.

During the past few centuries there has been effected a complete trans-

formation or revolution in industry. The major portion of this transformation has been wrought through the last 100 years. While it is not as yet absolutely complete it has so nearly reached completion, that for all practical purposes it may as well be acknowledged as finished. This transformation or revolution in industry has substituted modern social or mass production, for the old time individual production of days gone by. As the ancient hand tools used by the individual workman for the purpose of fashioning the things needed to supply himself with the creature comforts of his time, have given by almost imperceptible stages into the gigantic powerful and complicated tools of today, by equally gradual stages has the individual workman of old been merged into the immensely powerful and efficient battalions of labor that now carry on the processes of production not as individuals, but as a co-operative or social force. As the individual hand tool of production has been swallowed up in the giant mechanical tool of our times, so has the individual workman been swallowed up in the grand army of labor requisite for its operation.

As the revolution in industry has proceeded, breaking down step by step the previous individual process, and supplanting it with collective, or organized labor, it may be readily realized that a corresponding change in ideas, conceptions, manners and modes of thought, must of necessity follow, among those who were thus being molded into the component parts of a new order in complete contra-distinction to the old. As the workmen were gradually drawn together into the mass production by the relentless powers of the machinery with which was carried on, they were logically compelled by the same great process to abandon the previous individual method of thought and action, and think and act together. As they were compelled by the logic of events to work together, so were they compelled to abandon the individual viewpoint and consider matters from that of the collective or organized body.

As the revolution in industry was accomplished it thus carried with it a corresponding revolution in ideas in the minds of men. It brought with it new relations between the different members of society. These altered relations were not confined to those between masters and workmen. New relationships were developed between masters as well as between their employees as workmen. The individual master lost his individuality and that of his capital in the corporation. The workman lost his individuality as such in the great organized social force of which he became a part.

It is by no means strange that this revolution in industry, which has so thoroughly and effectively organized the workers in social production, and revolutionized their ideas and conceptions of industry and all matters pertaining thereto, should in time so impress itself upon the minds of the workmen that they would recognize the significance of it, all, and consequently approach the task of completing the revolution by demanding such changes in property rights, in and control of industry, as would enable the benefits thereof to be applied to all members of human society alike. This consciousness is now awakening in the minds not only of workmen but of those in other walks of life. The approach of revolution in property rights, as relating to the means of production, is being looked upon as a logical sequence of what has already occurred. It, therefore, no longer excites any appreciable alarm, and as it becomes more thoroughly understood, will excite still less. That it will come as certain as that the sun will rise on the morrow. If the powers that be are sufficiently wise to refrain from attempting to retard the progress of the way, it will come with peace and order, like a glorious dawn after the tempestuous torments of a night of storm. If those powers are lacking in such wisdom, it will come some other way, which is, of course, quite another story.

Occasionally some lusty lured fanatic proclaims from the housetops that the workmen cannot fight capital with capital. Of course they cannot for the very good reason that they have none. The size of it is that capital cannot be fought in the "economic field" with anything else but capital. When a lot of unemployed slaves who break out in rebellion against the unsatisfactory conditions of the labor market, get a notion in their heads that they are fighting capital, they should be kept after by the "lunatic commission" at the next change of moon, they being violent and do themselves injury.

The Attorney General has introduced into the Provincial House "An Act Respecting Distress." This Bill, however, has no reference to the sufferings of the Opposition.

"A bitter fight has arisen in the United States Congress over the admission of New Mexico and Arizona to each to become a state by itself. Only one set of rat offices, where two were thought to be plainly in sight? What greater justification for warfare could be needed by that gang of hungry political vultures who have the horizon in eager search for carrion upon which to feed?"

WISE CITY FATHERS.

(Continued from Page One.)

and who still has economic bees in their minds said to me, "The Canadian Socialist League could not last because its members were not grounded on the fundamental principles that constitute Socialism, as you have stated," said I, "I quite agree with you. And for the same reason the S.L.P. could not last." Its platform was filled with, and its time bricks were each other and everybody else in their efforts to uphold and defend an untenable position, which some of them even continued to spend their time in the same old way, and appear to be as yet ignorant of its untenability. Either that, or they lack the moral courage to acknowledge themselves to have been in the wrong.

Had this time and energy been spent in equipping themselves with a knowledge of the true function of capitalist property, the commodity character of labor power and the laws of exchange, and imparting the knowledge to the masses through the columns of their papers, the absurdity of trying to build economic organizations out of wage-slaves, whose power would have been long since made apparent to many who are still floundering in the fogs of confusion on this subject. Hence these organizations are now defunct in Montreal. What has been said of them in Montreal applies to most of the large cities and towns in Eastern Canada.

I paid a hasty visit to Montreal last week, and on the afternoon of the anniversary of Bloody Sunday, I attended a meeting of the Montreal Local of the Socialist Party of Canada, in the German Workingmen's Hall, 246 St. James St. This organization, which has two or three months old, with 24 members, principally Germans. Most of them speak good English and all of them understand it pretty well. They read the daily Vancouver Clarion and the Western Clarion, and other Socialist papers. They explained to me that they wanted to belong to a party whose propaganda was the same as that of the Communist Party, in short the propaganda of the Maexian school. With the assistance of English and French speaking comrades they can easily grapple with the ripe conditions that surround them and soon become a power in putting forward the propaganda of the Communist Party. The Jews have a large Local Socialist organization. They carry on their propaganda chiefly in their own language. On Monday night, Jan. 22, they had a large Jewish meeting in commemoration of the martyrs of Bloody Sunday. Many of them that I talked with expressed a wish for closer relations with the Montreal Local of the Socialist Party of Canada, and a desire to work with that body. I gave them the address of the Vancouver Local, and the place and time of the meetings. It is their intention to visit the Local.

C. M. O'BRIEN,
Combarbore, Ont., Jan. 28, 1906.

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PLATFORM



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 control 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-increasing 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 holds 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, and to use all the powers of the state 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 interest of the worker the guiding rule of conduct. Will this legislation advance the interests of the working class and aid the workers in their class struggle against capitalism? If it will not, the Socialist Party is absolutely opposed to it.

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

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Socialist Directory

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

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROVINCIAL Executive Committee, Socialist Party of Canada, meets every Saturday evening at 8 o'clock in W. H. Flowers, Secretary, R. S., 222 Prior Street.

DOMINION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, Socialist Party of Canada, meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday in the Month. J. G. Morgan, Secretary, 251 Bernard Street, Vancouver, B. C.

LOCAL VANCOUVER, NO. 1, S.P. of Canada. Business meetings every Thursday evening at 8 o'clock in Richards St., 7. The Secretary, 41 Hastings Street, W. G. Grisham, Educational meetings every Sunday at 8 o'clock p.m., in Sullivan Hall, Cordova Street.

E. MILLS, Secretary, Box 806, Vancouver, B. C.

LOCAL TORONTO—Meets 2nd and 4th Thursdays. Temperance Hall, 417 Dundas St. W. The Secretary, 41 Hastings Street, W. G. Grisham, organizer, 120 Hogarth Ave.

WANTED: by Chicago wholesale house, agents representative for W. F. M. Meets every Saturday evening at 7.30 o'clock in Miners' Hall, V. Ingram, president; W. A. Pickard, secretary.

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