

REFLECTIONS OF AN ACITATOR

The Effect of Propaganda That is not Founded Upon a Clear Understanding of Capitalism and the Part the Wage Slave Plays in Human Society.

During the past seven weeks I have visited 28 cities and towns in the Province of Ontario in the interest of the Socialist Party of Canada. Local Toronto assumed the responsibility of the expense of the trip. A great deal of what is termed Socialist propaganda has been carried on for some time through the older and better settled parts of the Province. They were the B. L. P. and C. S. L. had organizations in most of the larger places. Local Toronto was desirous of knowing to what extent such propaganda had afforded its readers a knowledge of how labor is robbed of its product, and how far such knowledge could be counted on to have impressed them with a consciousness of the correct line of action to follow in order to redress the grievance and as a result as possible erect safeguards against its continuance. A survey of the field fully warrants the assertion that these earlier propagandists have themselves been floundering in the wilderness of economic fog and confusion. They have evidently not been fired with the revolutionary spirit and, have consequently not been qualified to cut their propaganda with the accuracy and requirements of the proletarian cause. My conclusions are that much of the propaganda hitherto carried on in the name of Socialism has not only been without value from a propagandist standpoint, but has been detrimental to the cause which can accomplish its purpose only through the complete abolition of capitalist property and the wage system.

To the average propagandist, capitalist and capitalist property appear to be unknown quantities. These are made, as a rule anonymous with private property. The individuals that constitute the capitalist class are referred to as monsters whose inhumanity to man "makes countless thousands mourn," and thus accounts for the misery and degradation of the working class. He appears to believe that the fact that the capitalist is merely the creature of his capital and must do what his property interests dictate. Some who have been guilty of the abuse of abusing individual capitalists as the cause of human misery, still cling to the idea that private property is the thing that exploits the workers. They are evidently not cognizant of the difference between private and capitalist property. In dealing with such persons, when the attempt is made to point out the difference I usually have my attention called to the fact that the capitalist is merely the creature of his capital and must do what his property interests dictate. Some who have been guilty of the abuse of abusing individual capitalists as the cause of human misery, still cling to the idea that private property is the thing that exploits the workers. They are evidently not cognizant of the difference between private and capitalist property. In dealing with such persons, when the attempt is made to point out the difference I usually have my attention called to the fact that the capitalist is merely the creature of his capital and must do what his property interests dictate.

Much of the propaganda indulged in throughout the Province of Ontario has led to the belief that the consumer is the fellow who has been exploited or robbed. This sort of stuff must be gotten out of people's heads before they can entertain any correct conception of the fact that the worker's property lives and thrives solely by robbing the class that produces wealth. The working class, I have seen stated during my travels, do not understand that the wage system is a device to exploit the worker. They would fight the socialist battle for the worker, but they do not understand that the wage system is a device to exploit the worker. They would fight the socialist battle for the worker, but they do not understand that the wage system is a device to exploit the worker.

serious consideration by either man or woman. While the movement in the east is not so far advanced as in the west the pressure of events is forcing it to the front and the time is not distant when the voice of labor demanding its own will be heard in the legislative halls of western provinces as well as in British Columbia.

C. M. O'BRIEN, Cambourne, Ont., June 10, 1906.

THE ISLAND GOAL CITY

The Brechin mine closed down last week, and about 150 men in Nanaimo are now waiting the streets, many of them waiting until it suits the convenience of the Western Fuel Company to pay their wages, in order that they may clear out of the city and go to some centre in the hunt for a master. Previous to the shut-down, which is explained by the company as due to a lessened demand for coal caused by the "Prisco disaster, there was a scarcity of labor and the men were temporarily enjoying a good time. When the announcement was made that the Brechin was to be shut down, one of the bosses in the mine (a wage slave surely, but one getting the extra crumbs and in consequence troubled with a capitalist mind), said to the men working under him, "Now, it's our turn," and already with a surplus army of workers on the market, the capitalist has commenced to intensify his search for a new source of coal. The men have been "howling" coal hitherto for the princely remuneration of \$2.60 per day. The company alleges that there has been some loafing and now insist on this work being done by contract at the uniform rate of 35 cents per ton, regardless of unequal conditions existing in other parts of the mines, and the company will, no doubt, come out ahead on this deal.

DISTURBANCE AT WASHINGTON

Caused by the Exposures of Filth and Rotteness in Connection With the Packing of Meat Products by the Beef Trust.

Last week the writer stated that the inspection of meat, or for that matter, the inspection of almost anything else, was not to be relied on because the majority of inspectors cannot resist bribes and the honest inspector will sooner or later be ousted. In this statement should be considered the warning of a Socialist fanatic there is quoted below corroborative evidence taken from the Winnipeg Telegram of June 13th. Upon Sinclair, in the current number of Collier's places the greater part of the credit for the present activity in reforming the filthy police activities of Washington to having the courageous Teddy in the judicial chair. He is wrong, as the quotation below will prove.

WASHINGTON IS DISTURBED. The Washington Journal in its best scandal continues the only topic of conversation in official circles. President Roosevelt and James Wilson, Secretary of Agriculture, did not need a sensational headline to announce the necessity for a reorganization of the meat inspection service of the bureau of animal industry in western Washington. It is not the best scandal continues the only topic of conversation in official circles. President Roosevelt and James Wilson, Secretary of Agriculture, did not need a sensational headline to announce the necessity for a reorganization of the meat inspection service of the bureau of animal industry in western Washington.

Under date of February 2d, 1906, Dr. Milnes wrote to Mr. Roosevelt as follows: "Mr. President, the situation is exactly this: Had I sacrificed my manhood and stooped to do dishonorable things, by violating my oath of office, by assuming a particeps criminis, as it were, to conceal the truth, in alluring graft, and many other things, I would still be a member of the bureau and in good standing." - Winnipeg Telegram, June 13th.

It is not strange that the food factories owned by some of the "best men" of the United States, "prominent citizens" and "good society" should require to be inspected to protect them from selling poison for food? It is any wonder that the inspectors themselves are "good society" of course the pillars of respectability on the side of the line are better than the other. Why, of course, still it would be better to have a "good society" of the lumpy-jawed and otherwise unattractive cattle and spotted meat. Of course such stuff is not sold for food. Perish the thought!

There is not the tinnest atom of pity coming to the poor dear consumer except in the case of the Socialist who knows the cause and sees the remedy, but by preventing by the stupidity of the "great public" from applying it. There is also a side of the shield about

"When shall we get our money?" It was rumored last week that wages would be paid on the 15th and many who were contemplating leaving for other places were rejoicing at the prospect of not being kept waiting. It was on the 15th morning it was made known that wages would not be paid until the regular pay day (about the 7th of July).

At this number set out to interview the magistrate (who happens also to be the company's lawyer), and were politely told that he could do nothing; they had better consult a lawyer. Saturday afternoon the men went in to the office to demand their money, but the manager "had gone out shooting," and although they kept the office staff busy for a couple of hours nothing could be done with the clerks, and in the meantime the police had been fetched, and as the men were not seeking trouble, they dispersed, after deciding to demonstrate in front of the manager's house in the evening. In the evening, however, they were either hoaxed or scared, and been busy, for they were informed that notice was posted at the mines stating that they would be paid on Sunday. Monday arrived, but the pay did not come, and a few who do not wish to lead around here for the company's convenience consulted a lawyer, and this morning received from him the message that the company will pay them, the 10 per cent. lawyer fee, collection fees, which meant one day's pay from every man, and a tidy haul round for their board bills, and other expenses. Others are still loafing around, hoping that their board bills, and other expenses, will be paid for them. Some day a few of the "wise ones" are suggesting that perhaps a visit by Ralph Smith and McKenzie King might have some result.

Socialists can stand by and watch the conscription amend some of the "pure and simple" with some amusement. The latter thought the fight here last year settled matters, but today the men are seeking shelter from the crowd of men seeking shelter. Some day they will learn their lesson. Yours fraternally, J. T. S.

PICKED UP ALONG THE ROUTE

Comrade Austin Lewis of California Writes Impressions Received During his Recent Trip From Vancouver Through the Wilds of the Interior.

By Austin Lewis. A limited tour gives few opportunities for generalizations, that is, one is at all particular about his generalizations, and is not merely anxious to make copy. Still, I saw enough in the course of an eight day's trip from Vancouver through the Boundary District to convince me of the question of the day in British Columbia is -SOCIALISM. The Revolution is the acknowledged Socialist, and the attention of proletarian and capitalist alike. One heard it on the railroad car, in the hotel, at the union headquarters and practically everywhere where men congregated. It was no nebulous, sentimental, municipal ownership, either of which men spoke. The clearest of the issue was more manifest than I have ever known it, in the territory where the movement has claimed my interest and adherence. Even the staid old Church of England in its Diocesan synod in the Kootenay district was rocked in the Kootenay district, discussion, and many reverend gentlemen have gone back to their parishes by no means sure as to the side on which they should be settled in the matter as to whether they ought to put their money on the proletarian horse as a stayer. Socialism and the proposed visit of Hawthornthwaite - these were the two absorbing subjects.

At Revelstoke, after a drive through that over-long borough in a hotel bus, I find myself without breakfast and without socialist acquaintances. The former I remedy by waiting an hour after the regular breakfast time and the hotel management politely but firmly declined to consider my appetite. The Socialist friends I found in the following manner, the one a likely looking workman, I asked him if he knew any Socialists in town. He had heard of some, but did not know any. I went quite at home with him. His intelligence of the matter was with painful accuracy of the sort of thing which I had struggled with in the South of England in earlier and more enlightening days. Finally, a gleam of triumph flashed across his wrinkled physiognomy and pointing to his driver he told me that there was the local depository of Socialist information. I brought him to the driver, and he put me through a sort of preliminary examination upon the essential difficulties between Socialism and anarchism. I brought him to the driver, and he put me through a sort of preliminary examination upon the essential difficulties between Socialism and anarchism.

After passing this to his evident satisfaction he gave me a free me of the guide, so I met Comrade Siegfried and from him learnt much of value with respect to the locality and its possibilities. As the Comrade pointed out, and as the very first meeting in the evening showed, Revelstoke is a hard town to organize. The political influence makes the personal activity of local men somewhat difficult, if not practically impossible on a steady basis. Revelstoke is a sort of small Sacramento, just as Nelson is, and its possibilities are not great. The struggle for the conditions lies in bolstering up the voters from the outside. The town of Revelstoke should be nursed by the Provincial Secretary and Socialists in literature should be the first to it by unflinching persistency. In that way the local comrades would be encouraged and, when the election comes, they will be ready to support the party. The reformers have no party campaign would be manifest. If I, a mere visitor, might be pardoned the suggestion, I would recommend the comrades of Revelstoke to subscribe to the Central Campaign Fund, and to make it their duty to afford and have them made generally to the inhabitants of their town. That the field is not unprofitable appeared very clearly from the audience which collected gradually, with that diffidence and charming modesty which regard a quarter to nine as the correct time for appearing at an eight o'clock lecture. But so the audience was in gathering it left little to be desired, except perhaps in point of numbers. It was quick to see the point, and had an appreciation of the speaker's words, and more pretentious audiences do not possess. In fact I have appeared before many so-called Socialist meetings which had much less real comprehension of the

which "the consumer" does not stir himself, the side of the men and women and children who have to work in the filthy dens of the beef trust at such a pace that they have no time for anything to say against the brutal treatment by foremen to which the women must submit or lose their jobs before they are dismissed. The whole capitalist system must be overturned before embled best, adulterated food, shoddy clothes, poverty, misery and degradation can be abolished. Only when the workers own the means of production, and, therefore, own the product, can this be done. Speed the day.

SPARTACUS.

Socialist point of view. There is no question that the social conditions of Revelstoke have been well treated by me, but all through the country they have been exceptionally well treated. I heard some of that kind of talk, but that sectarian balderdash which so often offers the name of the movement. They may not even the tendency in superior religion, or a matter of fact political issue. There is no doubt, that the course charted properly and it will require very steady handling and will probably require a long time to do so. Philosophical discussions as to whether one might have two gods, and will be a Socialist, or the burning question as to whether personal relationship with a woman is a matter of course or a matter of fact, did not once crop up. Somehow I missed them for a week or two before, these or truly equal questions were with me, but I had been laid before me with definite, immediate solution. On the whole, Revelstoke, though a difficult town, is a promising one. The question was, however, recently raised all along the route if it were possible to have a flourishing organization at Kamloops. (Continued Next Week.)

SOCIALISM IN 1906.

A cable from Paris last Sunday says much public concern is felt over the prediction of Jules Guesde, the Socialist leader, that France will be under the domination of the proletariat. This concern is not unfounded by the fact that Guesde is not satisfied to let France as it is. "The French laboring people," he says, "must look forward to the abolition of the social position of not later than 1910. Three millions of French votes will be behind the program of capitalist appropriation by the proletariat. At that time, if not earlier, the domination of middle class government whatever kind will no longer be permitted. Matters will have arrived at such a pass that the government itself will be driven to the wall. That will provoke an immediate struggle, for naturally the government will be determined to resist to the last when the order to fire comes the army will revolt and not a gun trained in the direction commanded." - The Crisis.

In referring to the work of the United States Congress a news despatch says: "Organized labor has succeeded in its requests of the present session to Congress to the extent of securing the enactment of what is known as the 'wage-earners' liability bill.' This enactment is a new basis for an enterprise to secure damages for his injury notwithstanding his own negligence may have been in part responsible for that injury. The delightful vista of possibility that is thus spread before the worker's man's vision is sadly marred and thrown out of perspective by the enormous improbability that looms in the foreground.

For the Campaign Fund.

Having been authorized by the publishers of the Western Clarion to receive subscriptions at the regular rate - \$1.00 per year - and apply one half of all money received to the Central Campaign Fund, you are earnestly requested to assist in spreading this fund by sending your subs direct to me. Either forwards or new subs. to be taken for a period of not less than one year.

Years for a generous Campaign Fund which means a vigorous campaign. D. G. MCKENZIE, Prop. Sec. Box 836, Vancouver, B. C.

