





A WORD TO THE MORALISTS

Our moralists are very modest people. Even if they had devoted the Diogenes of work, they are not quite clear as to its influence upon the tranquility of the soul, the elevation of the spirit, and the healthy functions of the nerves and the rest of the organs. They wish first to test upon the masters, to make the experiment in "anna vasa" (upon a lower soul) before they apply it to the capitalists; for it is the mission of the moralists to excuse and to defend as virtuous the views of the capitalists.

But ye philosophers at five cents a dozen, why then so torment your brains in working out morality, the practice of which you do not recommend to your lead givers? Do you wish to see your Diogenes of Work (did you say?) means for benefiting yourselves, scorned and damned? If so, turn to the history of the ancients, to the writings of their philosophers and law givers: "I cannot say," writes the Father of History, Herodotus, "if the Greeks copied the Egyptians in their disdain for work, because I find the same contempt spread among the Scythians, Persians and Lydians, in a word, because among most barbarous nations it is those who learn trades and even their children are regarded as the lowest of citizens." \* \* \* All Greeks, especially the Lacedaemonians, are educated in these principles.

"In Athens only those citizens who occupied themselves in the defence and administration of the community were real nobles, like the savage warriors, from whom they traced their descent. As it was essential for them to have free disposal of their intellect and physical powers to caring for the interests of the Republic, they assigned all work to the slaves. Thus in Lacedaemon the women were not allowed even to spin or weave for fear of degrading their noble rank. (Bot: De Labolition de l'esclavage ancien en Occident 1846).

The Romans recognized but two noble and free callings: agriculture and military service. All citizens had the right to live at the expense of the State Treasury and could not be compelled to depend for a living upon one of the "sordid arts" (which arts as they termed the trades) which by right fell to the lot of the slaves.

When Brutus the Elder wished to incite the people, he accused Tarquin the tyrant, in particular of converting free citizens into artisans and masons. (Titus Livius, book 1).

The ancient philosophers struggled over the origin of ideas, but when it came to the horror of work they were unanimous. "Natura," writes Plato in his utopian society, in his ideal republic, "has created neither shoemaker nor smith; such occupations degrade the people who practice them; low workers, miserable nameless beings, who by their position are already debased from political rights. The tradesmen being accustomed to lies and deception will be considered only as a necessary evil in the community, the citizen who degrades himself by committing such shall be punished for such transgression. If convicted, he shall be sentenced to one year in prison. For every repetition of the offence his punishment shall be doubled." (Plato: The Republic, book 3).

In his political economy, Xenophon writes: "The people who devote themselves to handicrafts are never promoted to higher positions, and rightly. Compelled to sit all day long, they endure a continual fire, the majority of them cannot prevent their bodies becoming deformed, and it is hardly possible that this does not also reach up to the mind."

"Can anything honorable come out of a shop?" declares Cicero, "and can commerce bring forth anything lofty. Everything called shop is unworthy an honorable man." \* \* \* Since industry can make nothing without lying (and what is more shameful than a lie?), therefore the calling of those who sell their labor and skill must be considered as low and vulgar; for whoever gives his work for money sells himself, and places himself upon the same plane as the slave." (Cicero: "Duties," I, ch. 8, chapter xviii).

"Proletarians, made stupid by the Diogenes of Work, do you see the lineage of these philosophers, which is hidden away from you with jealous care? A citizen who gives his work for money lowers himself to the rank of slaves; he commits a crime that deserves a whole year's imprisonment!"

The Christian hypocrisy and capitalist utilitarianism (creed of usefulness) had not yet corrupted these philosophers of ancient times; as they lectured for free honors they uttered their words without bias. Plato and Aristotle, these giant intellects, to whose knees even our fashionable philosophers could not reach, even if they were to stand on their heads, desired that the citizens of their ideal republics to enjoy the greatest leisure,

So long as the capitalist class is left undisturbed in possession of the reins of government it is a foregone conclusion that they will conduct their economic affairs as best preserves their interests. They will play the cheaper labor against the dearer irrespective of the color of the workingman's hide. And why should they not do so? It is only through working class ignorance that this power is placed in their hands. The workers have no reason to expect to retain such a cargo of ignorance without paying for it.

In discussing the recent attack upon the Japanese quarter, Baron Ishii said to have quoted a Japanese proverb which was, in effect, that "if you visited a friend's house and his dogs barked at you it is not necessary to lay anything upon your friend, on that account." This might be construed as rather cutting, though to tell the truth, it is not altogether inappropriate to the occasion.

Take notice that I, Claude Fisher, Director of Vancouver, intend on day after day, to apply to the Hon. Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works for permission to purchase the following described lands, situate in Bowen Island, New Westminster District, starting from the N. E. corner of Lot 1148, thence South about 30 chains, thence North about 25 chains, thence West and South to point of commencement, conforming to the boundaries of Lot 1148, containing about 45 acres or less.

August 20th, 1927. CLAUDE FISHER.

Take notice that I, E. L. Kinman, of Vancouver, occupation, lumberman, intend to apply for a special timber license over the following described lands in Rupert District:

11-1-27.

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2. B. Commencing at a post planted about 2 miles south of the S. W. corner of Sec. 23, T. 8, S. 14, marked Imperial Timber & Trading Co's N. W. corner, thence North 160 chains, thence West 160 chains to point of commencement. E. L. KINMAN. August 10th, 1927.

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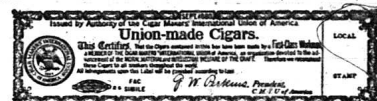
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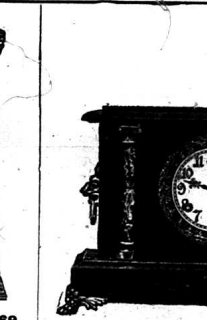


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Eight day, hour and half-hour strike. It is handsomely finished in either light or dark mahogany and is a perfect timekeeper, and to give perfect satisfaction.

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# SOCIALISTS OF ONTARIO HOLD PARTY CONFERENCE

(Continued from page 1.)

Comrade Peters moved in amendment that the appointment of the committee be left to Toronto local.

Comrade Simpson supported the motion on the ground that the names of absent comrades would be submitted and they should be consulted before the appointments were made.

Comrade Civalo then introduced the following resolution from the Italian branch of the Toronto local:

"Whereas, the struggle for the advent of Socialism develops upon two factions, the political through the conquering of the public powers and the economic, through the trade and craft organization, and that it is most important that both must go hand in hand if we don't want a useless waste of energy, and

"Whereas, here in Canada there are in existence two labor organizations with an entirely different programme, that is, the American Federation of Labor, which has as a programme the class collaboration or better, the harmony or identity of interests between capital and labor, and is not Socialism on the other hand there is the Industrial Workers of the World, which has as a programme the class struggle, or better, the Socialist programme.

"Whereas, the Italian branch asks the conference of the Ontario Socialists if they think it sound to use our energy for the development and success of the Industrial Workers of the World, which is an organization of class-conscious workers that are working with our pains and hopes; and as a first step we think it important that workmen of said organization be employed on the party press."

Comrade Rosenblom said the motion was opposed to the principles of International Socialism.

Comrade Griddle opposed the motion on the ground that the Socialist party did not interfere with the right of its members to choose their own economic organization. He pointed out that the Socialist party could endorse the abolition of the wage system which was a part of the I. W. W. programme, but it would be unwise to endorse the organization.

Comrade Zalkind said that the conference had no right to decide the question. It was purely the business of the convention of the party to change the principles of the party.

Comrade Wrigley said the party as a whole could not take any decided stand on the matter.

Comrade Peters said he thought the party could leave the I. W. W. alone the same as they leave the Socialists alone. He opposed the resolution.

Comrade Wrigley moved that the Socialist party continue the class struggle upon the political field. The motion was adopted.

Comrade Zalkind moved that the question of organization be taken up. The motion was carried.

Comrade Quirnbach of Berlin favored allowing smoking when Comrade Wrigley objected.

Comrade Griddle said he was a smoker but knowing it was objectionable to some, he favored no smoking.

"It was decided to prohibit smoking."

The question of organization was taken up and Comrade Griddle said he would sooner have half a dozen armed, methodical comrades than five hundred, indifferent ones. He held up the Finnish local as a model for order and system. In referring to the Central Com-

mittee of the Toronto local, Comrade Griddle said that good work was being done, but not as good as he desired to see. The great fault was in the disregard of the comrades for punctuality.

Comrade Farley said that the Finnish local could keep a paid organizer in the field he did not see why the Provincial Executive could not support an organizer.

Comrade Wrigley said he had been in Montreal and while there was little work being done among the comrades there, the movement was growing. He favored arranging for outside speakers and the interchange of such speakers by the different locals, and suggested that one big propaganda meeting be held each month. He moved that the Provincial Executive be instructed to take up this matter as early as possible.

Comrade Peters said the idea was a good one, but he would suggest that instead of sending a speaker out each month, it would be better to concentrate the speakers upon one place for about a week at a time. He referred to Comrade Grayson's election in England and pointed out that there were as many as sixty speakers in the constituency at one time.

"That is a matter of detail and does not effect the motion," said Comrade Wrigley.

Comrade Treadler said the conference should take up reports from the different branches on organization, and that order of business was taken up.

Comrade Martin spoke of the progress in Berlin and said that the local was increasing in numbers and were carrying on effective propaganda work.

Comrade Cunningham of Guelph reported that the steady work of organization and propaganda was being kept up with good results.

Comrade Griddle for the English speaking branch of the Toronto local, stated that there was a very promising winter ahead of the branch. There was an increasing class consciousness among the comrades, but a few of the workers had been taking a rest this summer, but would be in the fight during the winter. He knew of at least twenty who would be in the party before Christmas.

I believe that next summer we will have a corps of speakers that will enable us to have big meetings on the street corners," said Comrade Griddle.

Comrade Treadler for the Jewish local said that two years ago there was only eight members, but now there are 65 members in good standing. They had a library of 300 books, which were being loaned to about 100 readers. The income from dues, lectures and literary evenings was \$624.00, and the expense for all purposes was \$460.25, leaving a balance of \$163.75. As to propaganda, the branch met at 185 1-2 Queen Street West, and met most every evening. In the summer time open air meetings were held every two weeks in the ward. The members took an active part in organizing trades unions among the Yiddish workers. They had been enabled to do work that others could not do along this line. The Jewish Socialist Agitation Bureau was doing good work for organization and propaganda. The bureau had shown that more could be done by several locals uniting than by individual locals. If a sample was obtained from propaganda meetings it was forwarded to the bureau and if there was a deficit the bureau met it. There were good chances for the development of some able speakers in the branch.

"I think we can take a leaf out of the

Jewish Branch's book," said Comrade Farley. "When they can show a revenue of \$600 it shows that something has been done."

Comrade Civalo for the Italian branch, said they were only born last spring, yet the work was very promising for them. The English branch had helped them financially. There were nine charter members. How did it happen? Many of the Italians came from the north of that country and all they had to do was transfer their cards from the Italian local to the Toronto Branch. To-day there were over 40 members, 37 of which could be depended upon. There were many Socialists engaged in Canada. Foundry Company and it was surprising to find that they were well versed in the class struggle. Prospects were bright for a good library and a reading room would be opened in the Italian colony. They expected about 20 books from Rome.

"If the Italian local gets growing at that rate they will have something to say at the next conference," said Comrade Farley.

Comrade Wrigley said there were about 105 comrades in the Finnish branch and they had invested in a very valuable property. They were doing their business irregularly by paying their stamps direct from the Dominion Executive.

Comrade Griddle supplemented Comrade Wrigley's statement by saying that the Finnish branch had a hand that feared assistance at Socialist entertainments.

"We must confess that the other branches are ahead of the English branch," said Comrade Griddle.

Comrade Wrigley stated that as near as could be possibly calculated there were 100 day-paying Socialists in the Province, which would bring a monthly revenue of from \$15 to \$20 to the Provincial Executive. He suggested that it be a recommendation to the Provincial Executive that if an organizer could be placed in the field for two or three months, such action taken.

Comrade Griddle, being a carpenter, might take up the work.

"I believe a local can be formed in both London and St. Thomas," said Comrade Wrigley.

The suggestion offered by Comrade Wrigley was adopted.

It was moved by Comrade Wrigley that the Provincial Executive be asked to take up the question of printing a monthly Socialist paper.

He thought that a paper about the size of the election manifestoes could be produced in the interests of the movement.

"With regard to that," said Comrade Griddle, "it should be a monthly paper, and should be published on Western Clarion on a paying basis before we start a paper here. What hopes have we to make a local paper when we can't make the Clarion pay. The publishers of the Clarion will hand over the paper to the party when it is on a paying basis."

"In view of Comrade Griddle's remarks I will withdraw my motion," said Comrade Wrigley. "There is no paper printed in the English language that serves the support of Ontario Socialists more than the Clarion. A paper is needed three or four months before election time."

Comrade Quirnbach of Berlin said there was a kind of feeling among Galt and St. Thomas comrades because of a feeling that Toronto local wanted to control the movement. He would like to see the Toronto local not use too much force in its appointment of the Provincial Executive Committee.

There being no more business before the conference, Comrade Farley expressed his surprise at the success of the conference. He had not expected to meet many representatives from such different localities. The conference had been a revelation to him.

Comrades Quirnbach and Peters referred to the necessity of the comrades using the Socialist button so that they could be recognized anywhere, and the Provincial Executive was asked to take the matter up.

"There were about 60 members of different locals at the conference, including Toronto, Galt and Berlin."

JAMES SIMPSON, Secretary.

GERMANY.

The Social-Democratic party organizations in Saxony recently held their annual conference. The chief interest of the proceedings centered round the new proposals of the Government for the Suffrage to the Saxony Landtag or State Parliament. Despite the fact that Germany has been unified, it remains a fact that the most important departments of state are responsible for their policy not to the central or federal government, but to the various Landtags or Parliaments of the individual States, and any attempts which are made by our comrades to bring any of these questions under the supervision of the Federal Parliament or Reichstag is rejected by the bourgeois parties as an unconstitutional interference with the rights of the individual States. Naturally that was not always so. At one time the National Liberal party, for instance, were

keen advocates of centralization, but the more the Social-Democrats have won power in the Reichstag the more vehement did the bourgeois find it to use the individual Landtags as a buffer to Socialism, which was the more possible as in Prussia and Saxony, which have practically all the industry of Germany, the workers are practically excluded from the Landtag. Now, the Landtag has to deal with the railways, education, and a variety of other questions which directly affect the workers. The situation has, so far, its compensation in the South German States, in which the Landtag is elected directly by the people, and manhood suffrage prevails, the democracy acquires a more direct influence on the Governments, which are thus made more Liberal; that is notably the case in Wurtemberg, where the congress has just been held. But that only shows the economic backwardness of these States, that the class antagonisms are not yet developed, and that the small bourgeois methods of production are still predominant. Where in Germany capitalism has really developed the class war has taken on a sharp form, so that nothing but the iron discipline of the workers, and their resolution not to yield to the provocation of the employers prevents the spectacle of a bloody massacre, the equal of which has never been seen in a modern industrial State. There is no doubt that that is what the capitalists aim at—the fear what Bismarck called "the damned legality" of the German Social-Democrats, and would like to get up a mass-strike movement for the purpose of some years, as the bloody suppression of the Commune temporarily hindered the growth of Socialism in France. That it would only be a very temporary cure at best is no objection to the men who would bring a mass-strike movement, who know that their days are numbered, and only seek for any desperate means to stave off the evil day.

That is, briefly, the situation in Germany, and it is the party of the workers in Saxony and Prussia find that with the growing strength of the labor movement, and with the State finances of Saxony practically bankrupt, they at least after the struggle and make it at least a sham concession to the workers. The consequence has been in Saxony one of those complicated measures which endeavor to take back with one hand that which is given with the other. The bill divides into various categories and also gives the big vote to nominate members of the Landtag—naturally that means the small clique who elect the municipalities—in the hands of the workers are most dignified with this inauspicious measure, and the Conservatives find that it is a most dangerous concession to the enemy.

The fight between the workers and the Government in Saxony and Prussia for the suffrage in the municipalities is more important than the intrinsic value of the possession of any suffrage. It has revolutionary importance because a victory would mean that the organized forces of the proletariat had overcome the resistance of the most powerful organized force which stands at the disposal of a capitalism which is now one of the most wealthy as well as the most despotic and unscrupulous in the world.

It would mean that the Government, which is now the head and front of the reactionary Governments had been obliged to capitulate before their own proletariat.

At the German party congress, at Essen, the papers will be read by Comrade Wurm on the alcohol question. The chief attraction will, however, be, in all probability, the speech of Bebel on the present political situation in Germany. The congress has additional interest in that it is being held in the capital of Krupp's kingdom, the realm of the great gun King, who so long understood how to make it impossible for any of his employees to join either the trade union or the party, and where, in consequence, both party and trade union were non-existent practically. This was achieved by a system of spying and denunciation which made the workers afraid of their very lives, and by a system of "charity" pensions which demoralized them. With time, however, the workers saw through this charity, and found, moreover, that very few workers lived long enough, or even if they lived, generally got the sack just as they were almost old enough to get the "charity" pensions for which, by the way, they had paid themselves, and they preferred to risk the "sack" and to join the union and the party. Now the party is very strong in Essen.

The Oklahoma State Federation of Labor at a recent meeting adopted a resolution in favor of woman suffrage, and proposes to take a test-question of this extremely vital issue at succeeding elections. The Federation is to be congratulated for possessing such a thorough conception of the labor problem as to see the need of this step.

It is other labor bodies would but follow this up by making similar drastic action, the capitalists and other pestiferous vermin that are now sapping the substance of labor would take to the tall timber in sheer terror.

## ARE GETTING THERE.

81 Willow Avenue, Toronto.

The usual parade took place here on Labor Day. It was considerably smaller than usual, a hopeful sign. The workers are realizing there is nothing to be gained by walking behind the "Eagles" of the Mayor and other capitalist benches, even as the captives of the Roman generals used to follow the chariots of their conquerors.

These prisoners of old could not throw off the fetter, but the workers of to-day are fast getting rid of their mental chains and these fool processions will soon be of the past.

Toronto local is doing well just now. The British branch is coming into line fast. Regular meetings are being held weekly outside of the City Hall. The police have interfered on two occasions. This fact vouches for the quality of the propaganda. Comrade Mance of Chicago has spoken on several occasions and has caused many to wish we had a few like him in the branch. We all regret he is shortly to return to Chicago.

To-day (Sunday) at our regular business meeting we admitted nine new members, all men on the sunny side of the fence, ranging from 34 to 19 years of age.

Six of these are from the Carpenters' Unions and there are more to follow from the same quarter.

Next Wednesday (we are having a general meeting of the local to elect a Provincial Executive) Keep your eye on the East then, you Western fellows. You may have to turn that trumpet on the Clarion the other way. Oh! we are stirring 'em up here and no mistake. The Rev. Hazelwood, a well known preacher of Toronto Junction, has poured out the vials of his wrath upon our street corners and he is not to be taken overlooking the fact that they run to logic and not to oratory. But that is an incident. The reverend gentleman plainly invited a challenge and his bluff has been promptly put down by one from Comrade Peel, who was appointed by the branch for the duty, and what Peel will do to his reverence, if he has the temerity to accept, will be a sin and a shame.

The fact that the Massey people are putting up a big sum for the weekly (?) guides club has nothing to do with his attitude towards the Socialist party. Oh! no, certainly, not. Perish the thought.

A list word to all comrades. Up with the circulation of the Clarion. My experience has been that readers of the Clarion are more apt to become party members than readers of any other Socialist paper and they are good when we need them. A very little sum, if sent in by all party members and the Clarion will be where it should be, of a paying basis, and then, comrades, it becomes the property of the party; ours, yours, and mine.

WILFRED GRIBBLE,  
81 Withrow Avenue, Toronto, Ont.

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**GRAND THEATRE**  
Sunday, Sept. 22nd. 8 p.m.  
**COMRADE C. M. O'BRIEN**  
having just completed a tour of the Dominion will speak on the  
**Progress of the Movement**  
UNDER THE AUSPICES OF  
**Socialist Party of Canada**