



PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING CLASS ALONE

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483.

LABOR POWER AS A COMMODITY

While being a social product the individual produces nothing but only fractions of wealth. The collective labor of the workers is necessary to produce wealth. The individual is a mere cog in the social machine of production. Being thus unable to produce things for himself he can procure them only by buying them, unless he begs or steals them. To buy them he must first sell something. In other words, in order to procure the things we need we must give something in exchange for them.

The capitalist can very well do this because to them belongs all the wealth that is produced, by virtue of their ownership of the means of production. The workers, however, have no property in the means of production and therefore own none of that wealth. The vast majority of them has absolutely nothing to give in exchange for their necessities. That is nothing tangible. They have, however, the power to labor. In order to procure food, clothing and shelter they must then, sell their labor power. This is what working for wages amounts to. The worker is not paid for what he does, he is paid for so much labor power, just as he in turn pays the grocer for so much flour and potatoes. He is paid not for the wealth he produces, but merely for the exertion of producing it. To the wealth he produces, therefore, he has not a vestige of right of title. It belongs by right to those who bought his labor power, by means of which it was produced. Movements, therefore, that aim at a greater share of the product for the producers are thoughtless in the extreme, because when a man sells his labor power he is entitled only to the price of that labor power, and by no means to any share of the wealth produced by the exertion of that labor power. The labor power is not his for he has sold it. It belongs to whoever bought it, to whom also belongs all the wealth thus produced. To admit to the capitalist's claim to the ownership of the means of production is to admit their right to the whole of the product of labor.

Labor Power as a Commodity.

Labor power, being bought and sold, ranks, therefore, as a commodity, and is subject to the law governing the exchange of commodities.

The law governing the exchange of commodities is that they shall exchange, on the average, at their cost of production, as has been shown. The cost of production of any commodity is the social labor necessary for its production. Labor power is the physical energy of the individual. The labor necessary to produce this is the labor that is involved in producing the individual's living, according to the prevalent standard of living. The exchange value of labor power, then, is determined by the socially necessary labor involved in the production of those things that go to make up the laborer's living from day to day. And that is exactly what the workers get on the average, their living according to the prevalent standard. To get the same as they get a little more than is actually necessary for their living will bill off the other hand millions get less and are actually dying of slow starvation at their work.

Wages.

Wages are generally regarded as so much money. Two dollars a day or sixty a month. A closer examination shows two other aspects of wages before which the mere money wage dwindles into insignificance. These are the "real wage" and the "relative wage."

The relative wage is what the worker receives in comparison with what he produces. Owing to the improvements in the machinery of production the relative wage has fallen greatly during the last century and is continually becoming less. Under handicraft production the worker could produce not very much more than he consumed. Under modern machine production the worker produces far more than he consumes even if his standard of living has risen. Statistics show that the workers of the United States produce five times as much as they receive in wages on the average. That is to say that their relative wage is only 20 per cent. of their product. Which means that the surplus value, the profits of the master class, is now 80 per cent. of the wealth produced.

The Real Wage.

The real wage is what is bought with the money wage. The food, clothing, housing, etc., of the worker. It is what the workers actually receive in exchange for their labor power. While the money wage, the price of labor power may rise the real wage may at the same time be falling. Thus during the last decade, United States statistics show a rise in wages of some 20 per cent. and a rise in the cost of living of some 30 per cent. Here the money wage would be raised 20 per cent. but the real wage would have fallen 10 per cent., so that in place of receiving 20 per cent. more, the workers are actually receiving 10 per cent. less in exchange for their labor power. A rise in prices, therefore, means for the worker, not so much a rise in his cost of living as a fall in the exchange value of his labor power, this is a reduction of the standard of living.

Price.

As the money wage has been referred to as the price of labor power, a consideration of price itself would not be out of place. Price is the approximate monetary expression of the exchange value of a commodity. Money itself arises out of the inconveniences attendant upon the direct exchange, or barter, of one commodity for another. To overcome these inconveniences one commodity is chosen to which all other commodities are compared, and their exchange values are expressed in terms of this commodity.

The commodity chosen becomes in time segregated from all others and is looked upon as having a fixed value. Nevertheless it should be remembered that in reality it remains a commodity and is subject to such fluctuations in exchange value and price as are other commodities.

At present gold is the chosen commodity. In terms of gold the exchange values of other commodities are expressed. In the final analysis this is equivalent to comparing the exchange values of other commodities with that of gold. This if we say a pair of shoes is worth five dollars, we assert that the same quantity of necessary social labor is embodied in a pair of shoes as in five dollars gold. The coinage of gold merely signifying that the government certifies the coin to contain so much gold of such and such a fineness. The gold itself being the product of labor, its exchange value is determined by the labor it embodies.

Fluctuations in Price and Value.

Fluctuations in the exchange value of a commodity can only take place when changes take place in the quantity of labor involved in their production. Thus, with the development of labor-saving machinery, the production of commodities involves less labor and their exchange value decreases. Price, being the approximate monetary expression of exchange value, would necessarily follow these fluctuations. It is, however, subject to fluctuation from other causes. One of the most impor-

tant being the fluctuations in the exchange value and price of gold itself. So enormous has been the recent production of gold and so great the saving of labor in that branch of industry, that its exchange value has decreased and its price fallen more than has been the case with other commodities, which accounts largely for the so-called rise in prices of recent years.

The minor fluctuations in prices that are continually taking place are due mainly to supply and demand. In a stable market such that the supply and demand for all commodities exactly balanced one another prices and exchange values would be equivalent. But, as such is not the case, as supply and demand do not balance, prices of commodities continually fluctuate above and below their exchange values. When the demand for a commodity is greater than the supply its price rises. When the supply is greater than the demand, the price falls. But whenever the price rises anywhere a flow of commodities takes place in that direction and the price is brought down to its level and whenever the price falls, production is retarded until the normal level is resumed. So that these fluctuations, on the average, cancel one another and commodities exchange on the average at their cost of production, that is according to the socially necessary labor involved in their production.

Fluctuations in Wages.

The money wage, being the price of the commodity, labor power is subject to the same fluctuations as is the price of any other commodity. That the supply of labor power exceeds the demand at all times, and often to such an extent as to produce a veritable glut, is so patent that it may be taken as proved. This excess of supply over demand naturally gives the price of labor a constantly downward trend.

Apparently, however, wages have risen. This apparent rise is due to the fact in general that there has been a real wage by about 10 per cent., even in a period of capitalist prosperity. And now that that period is over and the industrial depression following it has immeasurably swelled the ranks of the unemployed, thus increasing the disproportion between supply and demand in the labor-power market, the money wage also has come tumbling down.

In the case of a fall in the price of other commodities this would be remedied by a restriction of production, but no such restriction of the production of labor-power is possible. The workers labor-power being his physical energy, his very life force, he must continue producing it while he lives, and he will not continue to live very long if he does not find a buyer for it, unless he can get next to a soup kitchen.

The inevitable result of this downward trend of wages is an ever increasing portion of misery and privation for the workers. In spite of the constant struggle which they have carried on in the industrial field to obtain a better price for their labor. Strikes have been fought with the greatest determination, privation and suffering have been endured with a heroism of which the working class alone is capable, millions of dollars have been spent, the unions were never so strong as during the last decade, and yet, in spite of it all the wage has fallen. Here and there, in favored localities and at favored trades, they have attained to some success, but it is but a passing success. Capitalism is the great leveller of the working class, the great abolisher of individuality. All trades are being reduced to a common level. In one line after another the skilled worker has been replaced by machine and a "hand." And locally after locally is being brought more and more within the full dominance of Capitalism.

It should be evident to the worker that they are fighting a losing fight. Attempting the impossible. At one time, when they fought against individual capitalists with no great capital, some measure of success was possible. But now the odds are against them. A monster Capitalism sits enthroned in the center of the globe, its power is growing, it has millions at their command. Out of the very rise and fall in stocks consequent upon strikes and lock-outs, the masters reap a richer harvest than they lose by the stoppage of industries. And all the powers of government are theirs to do their bidding, the policeman with his club, the thug with his revolver, the soldier with his rifle, the court with its injunction and the legislature with its laws. What after wages has been wrested from the hands of the workers will go down, into the hands of a western labor-union official, "the only remaining usefulness of the labor-union is in resisting the petty tyrannies of the masters."

It is indeed a losing fight the workers are thus fighting, for they are fighting not only against the man made laws of Capitalism, but against all the laws of economics. So long as they are fighting against a commodity they cannot better their condition. So long as they allow the capitalists' claim to the resources of the earth and the machinery of production, slaves they must remain and as slaves they must expect to be treated. Their only hope lies in their emancipation from slavery and they alone can achieve that emancipation.

THE PASSING OF THE SMALL FARMER

In the days of feudalism the tools that men used for extracting from the soil the necessities and comforts of life, were as simple as the plow. Hence man's power over nature was not very great, yet the serfs of that time could produce an existence for themselves, the warriors and servants to the masters and the clergy. Since that time the hand tool has grown into the gigantic machinery of today; increasing man's power over nature many fold, even in the farming industry, which is perhaps the most backward industry under the rule of capital.

Equipped with the machinery in use on modern sized farms, one person can accomplish as much in one day ploughing as formerly required as 240 persons could accomplish with the implements in use about 200 years ago. The machinery in use for transplanting plants has multiplied the power of the hand laborer from about 20 to 500 persons. The self binder one person can accomplish as much in one day as 50 persons could with the sickle; with the modern steam thrasher the labor of one person can accomplish more

in one day's threshing than 365 persons could with the flail.

Under the conditions are favorable for the use of a Holt caterpillar and thrasher, this machine can cut, thresh and sack ready for the market, the wheat on 105 acres in one day.

The average person on a farm today can accomplish as much in one year as two persons could accomplish in a life time under feudalism. And yet the average small farmer is not so well off as the serfs were. The small farmers work harder, have more worry and much less leisure.

The serf did not worry about notes, mortgages, freight rates, market prices, and the thousand and one other things that are constantly agitating the minds of the small farmers.

The serf did not work in unfavorable weather. They also refrained from work about 140 hot days in each year. The modern small farmer works every day, Sunday included, regardless of the weather.

Almost every thing had its origin on the farm. But in the process of

THE CASE OF FREEMAN KNOWLES

(By Eugene V. Debs.)

To those who personally know Freeman Knowles, the report that he is in jail will seem not only untrue, but absurd. If ever there was a perfectly upright citizen in every sense of the term, it is Freeman Knowles. He has every quality which commands the respect of his fellows and not one which would mar the character of the most exemplary. For years he has been a resident of Deadwood, S. D. In times past and until he became a socialist he was one of the most popular and highly esteemed citizens of that state. He was elected to congress by a large majority and served with distinction, the only criticism being that he was too radical in his policies and his tendencies. Of his own knowledge, the writer knows that during the years that Freeman Knowles has been a resident of Deadwood not one charge of an offensive character has ever been brought against him. He walked uprightly among his neighbors and about their unqualified confidence and respect.

The honesty of Freeman Knowles was and is proverbial. No breath of suspicion ever tainted his good name. He is kindly, patient, sympathetic, whole-hearted and everything that a good man should be. He never had a single evil habit. His domestic relations have always been of the purest and his home life perfectly ideal. All of this is known to the neighbors and friends of Freeman Knowles. And yet he lies in jail, like a common felon.

What crime has this good citizen, friend and neighbor committed? Surely he must have degenerated fearfully in a very few days to have fallen so low. No! It is not that, Freeman Knowles has simply progressed with his time, kept pace with events, expressed himself upon current happenings in accordance with his best known sense of duty and the result is that he is deemed too dangerous to be at large.

And so he is, if a society in which concentrated wealth rules and hundreds of thousands of suffering souls pass through life but to bear testament to a awful failure, is to be proscribed.

Freeman Knowles, who was dowered with as warm a heart as ever beat in the breast of man, saw all about him the suffering of his fellow-men and with his analytic mind and critical temperament it did not take him long to conclude that the cause of all this suffering and of the countless sins and injustices which occur daily before our eyes was due to the private ownership of the means of life and the shutting out of the many from the golden opportunities which this era holds out in abundance for all. And so Knowles became a socialist, and then there his troubles began.

Had he but his ears and eyes to the misery and wretchedness of the fellow-beings, he would have spared himself all the trouble which has since fallen to his lot. He had ability in plenty which could have easily retained his place and power by doing as others do who cater to the masters and enjoy the bounties that come to those who "crook the hinges of the knee to the thrift may follow the thrift." But Knowles had the Christ spirit of society of which he was heartless enough to do this, he would today be high, or what is regarded as high, in public estimation; would have a fortune and would be an eminently respectable citizen of his state. But Knowles had the Christ spirit. He could not shut out from his vision the things he saw, nor from his soul the things he felt. He did not deny the suffering poor, but boldly avowed himself opposed to the system of society of which they were the victims.

From that time to this our comrade has been absolutely true to himself and his convictions, has spoken out fearlessly and with the passion of

ly supply him to the extent of our intense and aroused soul. And while he has not cast aside many of his former friends, he has steadily gained in moral prestige and in that true self-esteem which clothes a man with divine attributes and enables him beyond measure, even though he lies in jail, marked as a common felon and deserted of all, even as Christ was deserted by the very ones he was dying to serve and save.

The Lantern, the weekly paper in which Mr. Knowles has been opposing the capitalist system and expressing his views on current affairs, is one of the most effective socialist propaganda papers in the country. Every line in it is written for the education of the people and for the awakening of the working class. This paper is of the kind the capitalist authorities are preparing to suppress.

For a long time Freeman Knowles has been under surveillance. He could not be bribed or intimidated into silence and no drastic measures were taken to prevent his submission to capitalist misrule, however revolting to the finer senses of a fraternalizing to the victims, is the first duty of the patriotic citizen. The Lantern has therefore been regarded as a menace to the peace and order of capitalist despotism, and so it is. And for this very reason it deserves and should have the support of every good citizen whose ideals are not tainted and corrupted by the love of money, instead of being glorified by the love of man.

All those who are in sympathy with this intrepid champion of the oppressed send their love to him in this hour of his shameless persecution. If it be only a three month's subscription it will help, but all who can afford to do so should send \$1.50 to Mrs. Knowles, at Deadwood, S. D., for a year's subscription to the Lantern. The paper is worth the price and the subscriber will be even value received. It is not enough that we sympathize with a comrade at such a time, but we must share our substance with him. Knowles has been heavily fined and will have other great expenses to meet. Besides this temporary imprisonment pending the final verdict he may be sent to the penitentiary for an indeterminate term. The persons who are intent upon suppressing his paper have determined that this shall be his fate. The comrades who have rallied to his support have, upon the other hand, resolved to unflinchingly contest the case to its final termination. The present purpose is to appeal the case to the court of appeals at St. Louis, and if decided adversely there, to go to the supreme court of the United States.

Freeman Knowles does not fear to go to the penitentiary, or even to the gallows, if it be necessary, but if he goes it will be, not as a coward, but as a warrior goes. And we, his comrades, must go with him and staunchly stand by him. Every dollar progressive will make the defense more aggressive and effective and serve at the same time to increase the public interest and to expose the shocking injustice which has been perpetrated upon a honest man for fearlessly discharging his duty to his oppressed and suffering fellow beings.

PROLETARIANS.

(New Zealand.)

On Tuesday week the failure of the Blackball strikers, caused for the non-payment of the recent arbitration fines, was sold. The miners made a holiday of the occasion, treating the whole thing as a joke; the total amount realized by the sale of bicycles, sewing machines and furniture was 12s. 6d., which does not go far towards making up 50 pounds. The Minister of Labor says that there is no co-operation about the coalitions board.

(Continued on page 4.)

The Western Clarion

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THE WESTERN CLARION Box 886, Vancouver, B. C.

Watch the label on your paper. If this number is on it, your subscription expired the next issue.

SATURDAY, JULY 11, 1908.

CLUBBING OFFER. THE CHICAGO DAILY SOCIALIST is a live 4-page daily published in the interest of the movement of labor for its emancipation from economic slavery.

Address THE WESTERN CLARION, Box 886, Vancouver, B. C.

THE SOCIALIST DIRECTORY.

If you should happen to be a member of the Party cast your eye over to the right and see if your Local's notice is in the directory column.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The least a Local could do would be to put its card in the paper, to take a bundle and send it to every member subscriber and thus make some kind of a bluff at taking a part of the burden off one pair of shoulders.

SCRIBES AND PHARISES.

There comes to us the first number of a new publication 'A Worker's Call to Itself: The Better Day of Canada,' but the title is a prohibition sheet and one of the sanctimonious sort of that. One can hardly conceive of a worker's call to himself in a way that would lead to which this bunch of plain stagers rule the roost.

JEWISH POLISH AND RUSIAN LITERATURE.

Herschman's Stationery Store, St. Lawrence-Main St., No. 408, Montreal, Que.

MORE ABOUT STOLEN THUNDER.

Dear Comrade. I have felt as much respect for Comrade Shier as when reading his letter in the Clarion of June 20th, in which he advocates the insertion of a program of 'immediate action' in the platform.

In the very beginning of Comrade Shier's letter, however, he shows he misses the point, he says he wishes the old parties would 'stand up' in English and not in their own tongue. They have stolen none of the 'thunder' of the Socialist Party of Canada and if ever they do, we may be sure we are well rid of it.

ALWAYS AT IT.

Many will remember Com. Lowrie, at one time the tireless organizer of Claresholm Local. That he is still so busy is shown by the fact that he reports having successfully preached our gospel to a fellow wayfarer during their fifty mile tramp over the ice in Montana owing to a washout.

THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION.

One of the papers of the Chicago weekly for the Clarion and a couple of months ago, the Democratic Party has evidently not yet discovered that it is paying for. Or perhaps the delegates realized that they needed praying for.

CLEAR AS A BELL.

At the Socialist convention a special committee was appointed on 'Women and their relationship to the Socialist movement.' Let us hope that the 'Texas' brought in the following inquiry which rings a note that was too seldom heard at the convention. It was defeated by a vote of 70 to 35.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

All members in good standing of Vancouver Local, Socialist Party of Canada, are hereby notified that the next regular meeting will be held on Monday, July 13th, at 8 p.m. a candidate to represent the workers of Vancouver City will be nominated for the coming Dominion election.

ITALIAN PLATFORM.

Now ready, 50 cents per 100.

DOOLEY'S DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM.

'We favor the conservation of our national resources. (Ding-dong!)' 'We favor the repertative an influenza, we will gladly yodel the same for anybody who has never been in the States. It is practical, what the government is not making cheese.

'On the subject of government ownership of railroads we have our ideas, but owing to the fact that the dilgates in Mississippi is now pointing a gun at the chairman of the committee on resolutions, we will not state them.

'I am not making a long argument, however, but would like to ask Comrade Shier how he reconciles his opportunistic letter with the following from his 'Revolutionary Paragraphs' of the same issue of the Clarion:

'A strong revolutionary movement that challenges the right of the master class to the ownership of the means of life will frighten the conservative elements in society into granting the workers more reforms than any of your mild mannered weak-kneed, white-livered, scabbling Fabian and opportunist parties will win in three the time.

WHAT WE WANT.

We are the till and doers who will do for another age: The common clod, and the rabble, stunted of brow and brain. What do we want, the gleaners, of the harvest we have reaped? What do we want, the outcasts, of the honey we have beaped?

AN EASTER NIGHT IN A RUSSIAN PRISON.

Quiet was around the jail yards of the prison so you could hear only the slow steps of the guard, a soldier who was only six months in the army, walking around and watching the prisoners. He did not think much of his duty, as all his thoughts were taken up by the Easter night.

THE SEAMSTRESS BOND TO HER LABOR.

There's a serf whose chains are of paper, there's a king with a parchment crown; There are robber knights and brigands in factory, field and town. By the white walls and the white gate to a lord of vassals; And the baron's toll is Shylock's with a flesh and blood per cent.

ROBBED AT THE POINT OF PRODUCTION—THE FARMER.

Politically, Canada is a state, in dependent so far as her fiscal relations are concerned. The state is the public power of coercion, created and maintained in human societies and their divisions into classes, and which having force at its disposal makes laws and levies taxes.

'The farmer belongs to the proletariat class and has belonged since the dawn of the centuries, through chattel slavery, through serfdom, and still belongs to the servile and wage-slave class of producers. The wage-slave is free to leave one master but he cannot leave the capitalist class.

'We hold that no nation can live that is not founded on equal privileges for none. We have had the right of the 'mother' to a longer life, but that they were intended to be.

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SOCIALIST DIRECTORY.

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MARKSIZZO in the Voice.

THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA

This Page is Devoted to Reports of Executive Committees, Locals and General Party Matters—Address All Communications to D. G. McKenzie, Sec., Box 836, Vancouver, B. C.

PRICE LIST OF SUPPLIES.

- Supplies will be furnished Locals by Executive Committees at the following prices: Charter with necessary supplies to start Local \$4.00. Constitutions, per doz. .35. Ditto in Finnish, per doz. .50. Membership Cards, each .01. Dues Stamps, each .10. Platform and application blank per 100 .25. Ditto in Finnish, per 100 .50. Ditto in Ukrainian, per 100 .50. Ditto in Italian, per 100 .50c.

LITERATURE.

- List No. 2. The attention of Locals wishing to start a lending library is called to the subjoined list of \$10.00 worth of books and pamphlets for \$5.00. By setting the pamphlets in this list the Local can get its \$5.00 back and will thus obtain its lending library free. Any other one dollar or fifty cent books will be substituted on request. 1 copy "Origin of the Family," by Engels .50. 1 copy "Socialism, Utopian and Scientific," by Engels .50. 1 copy "Communist Manifesto," by Engels and "Compromises," by Paul Lafargue .50. 1 copy "Evolution, Social and Organic," by Arthur Morrow Lewis .50. 1 copy "Socialism and Socialism," by George Plechanoff .50. 1 copy "Materialist Conception of History," by Antonio Labriola 1.00. 1 copy "Marxism," by Ernest Uerman 1.00. 19 copies "Socialism, Revolution and Internationalism," by Deville, each 10 cents. 1.00. 10 copies "Revolution" by Zetkin, each 10 cents. 1.00. 50 5-cent pamphlets, assorted 2.00. 1 Yearly Clarion Subscription Card 1.00. Total \$10.00. When ordering cut out the above list and forward together with \$5.00 to the Dominion Secretary.

FOREIGN SOCIALIST PAPERS.

- French—L'Unité des Travailleurs, Charleroi, Pa. English—The Worker, 1128 Second Ave., New York, N. Y. Italian—La Parola del Socialista, 145 Blue Island Ave., Chicago, Ill. Jewish—Forward, 183 1/2 Division St., New York, N. Y. Polish—Robotnik, 627 Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, Ill. Slavonic—Glas Svobode, 639 Loomis St., Chicago, Ill. Spanish—Bohemia, 683 Loomis St., Chicago, Ill. Swedish—Svenska Socialisten, Rockford, Ill.

NANAIMO HIBING FUNDS.

Dear Comrades: At a convention recently held at Nanaimo by the Island Locals, Comrade Hawthornthwaite was unanimously nominated to represent the Socialist Party of Canada, for the Nanaimo constituency at the impending Dominion election. Those desirous of financially assisting in carrying on a vigorous agitation during the campaign may forward subscriptions to the address below.

Fraternally yours, J. REAY, Box 170, Victoria, B. C.

CALGARY CAMPAIGN FUND.

Seeing that the federal election may be brought up as the near future, the members of the Calgary Local No. 4 are anxious to place a candidate in the field, therefore we solicit financial aid to provide the necessary funds incidental for election purposes. With this object in view I would ask all comrades and sympathizers in Alberta and elsewhere to support us in our attempt to procure legislation for the workers.

All contributions will be thankfully received and will be acknowledged in the Western Clarion from time to time. F. HYATT, Organizer, Box 270, Calgary, Alta.

FUNDS.

Box 237, Ladysmith, B. C. Dear Comrades: All those who wish to help financially the Socialist propaganda in Ladysmith and district in view of the coming Dominion elections are requested to forward

CALGARY.

The Socialist party held a special meeting last night in the Labor Hall. Quite a number of good speakers were present and quite a few ladies. Comrade Harrison occupied the chair, and said: "That to his mind his Sunday was brought about by the evil of capitalism. To a large extent there would be no need for charity. If the workers were not exploited they would have money enough to pay for their own hospital. Under capitalism the worker is compelled to accept miserable conditions."

Comrade F. H. Sherman of Taber, Alta. Pres. of the United Mine-workers of America, was then introduced, and in the course of his speech dealt with the evolution of industry. He spoke of the evolution of agricultural implements, the sickle, the scythe, etc., which had been superseded by the up-to-date machinery of to-day. He also spoke of evolution which had taken place in the mining industry; also the evolution of the machinery.

The speaker welcomed the advent of machinery. He hoped more machinery would be invented to take off the hard work that had to be performed to-day. Under socialism every worker would receive the full fruits of their labor. Machinery would help them to lessen the hours of work when the element of profit had been eliminated. The late financial panic, which is however still being felt, has brought stagnation of industry. Poor education to-day was rotten; the parliaments interested themselves in petty squabbles, and the only difference between a Liberal and Tory government was the right for the splitting up of the spoils.

Socialism was a political and industrial organization, not a religious body. Although a study of Socialism would leave a man in a much more elevated position than the average earner with knowledge was a dangerous man. True patriotism was for his fellowman, and a man to be a good man should love his race, a better world than when he came into it.

COAL CREEK.

The above Local held a grand concert here in the club hall on Saturday last, the idea being to bring ourselves in touch with the general public. We tried to let them know who we are and what we are after, the event was a grand success, the hall being packed and the concert was admitted to be the best ever held here. We were assisted by the best singers, etc. In the district, to whom our warmest thanks are due, the only regret being that we had to cut the program short on account of the lateness of the hour, 11.30, when we quit. We were fortunate in having with us the two local ministers, the Rev. Mr. Steenson and Mr. Boulton, both of whom gave short addresses, which proved that they had a good knowledge of socialism and the socialist movement, we hope to hear from them again.

Ice cream was served in wafer cones at the interval, the people were so enthusiastic that ice cream was almost necessary to cool them down somewhat. Your humble servant was in the chair, what he said and did (also what he didn't say) are matters for him to talk about, socialism was kept well to the front.

Our efforts are being held semi-monthly, our first was addressed by Comrade Shooter from Fernie, the class struggle being the subject. Comrade Shooter gave us of his best which is saying a great deal. There are some earnest comrades here who really mean to push the cause ahead, they have a splendid field to operate in and I believe Coal Creek will be worth watching. Yours in revolt, JOHN E. SMITH, Secretary.

MANITOBA.

D. G. McKenzie, Regular meeting of the Executive held June 5th and 6th, which means that Manitoba will walk up one of these days. Of course we are handicapped owing to the fact that there are not many towns of any size which can be organized; consequently Winnipeg will remain the centre of the movement in Manitoba. The English Local No. 1 with the Jewish and German branches is in a very healthy condition, owing to the fact that there is no discrimination. The local and besides the majority of the comrades are not afraid of work. The Rutherford and Polish locals in the north end of the city have accomplished great work during the past week and it can be said that Socialism has a grasp on the political situation in North Winnipeg dreamed of by the old parties.

In the north end of the province several districts are being organized, Gimli and Icelandic River. Stonevall has a strong inclination to grasp the principles of Socialism and their lack of organization is simply owing to the

fact that the syndicalists has not been very plentiful, but the future looks bright to us. W. H. S.

GRAND FORKS.

D. G. McKenzie. Dear Comrades: Things revolutionary have been rather quiet here lately. The only thing we had to be expected after about sixty of our comrades leaving town through the discrimination of the Granby Company. Comrade O'Brien arrived here on Wednesday afternoon (Dominion) and after supper we went out to a picnic which was being held about a mile and a half from town. It was in celebration of Canada's birthday, and incidentally for the material benefit of the owner of the grounds. The ranches to whom the place belonged although not a Socialist was good enough to allow us to speak there. Comrade O'Brien addressed about a hundred of those present on the picnic and its cause.

After the meeting a good patriot was heard telling another party that he didn't know what the country was coming to when a Socialist was allowed to speak. He was quite astonished in honor of the birthday of our country. Another told a lady comrade that it would have been a very enjoyable day if that Socialist hadn't spoiled it. He also replied that she thought him a poor judge. He considered it the best part of the day. Poor O'Brien has a lot to answer for. Next evening we held an open air meeting in town at which Comrade O'Brien spoke the same subject. There were about one hundred and fifty present, and although some of them were a little nervous for fear the boss might see them. The talk had a splendid effect.

We had another meeting on the same corner, and Comrade O'Brien spoke to a crowd of about 250 on capitalist production. He is certainly an effective speaker holding his audience spellbound. Interested the men who were present. He then answered a dozen questions that were handed up to him in great style. While he was answering the questions we took up a collection of which might have been doubled if it hadn't been so close to payday. O'Brien thought it an innovation, but I think after he speaks at a place for two or three nights a collection should be taken up. We distributed a number of cards and pamphlets at the meetings. I saw the Conservative candidates whom we had the pleasure of defeating at the last provincial elections—in the crowd. As he had told us upon his return that he had a "bad" chance to get back at him, that Socialism was impracticable, etc. I walked over to him and invited him to show where we were wrong and how it could do it, he would put the question to me. He was everywhere else for that matter. Of course he refused but as an extra inducement, I offered to get a nice chair for him to stand on instead of the box we were using, but it was no use.

Several persons told me that it was the best talk they had ever heard on Socialism and no doubt the meetings will bring good results. When a congress of school mistresses, "The B. C. Education Board is here?" asked he. The chairman answered: "We thought that the Manifesto of October 20, 1905, gave us the right to assemble and discuss our affairs."

"So, my Comrades!" Well, turning to his Comrades, "I see that all, they are yours."

Several of the poor girls I owned themselves afterwards. (1) General Alikhanoff, in command of a punitive expedition, came upon a congress of school mistresses. "The B. C. Education Board is here?" asked he. The chairman answered: "We thought that the Manifesto of October 20, 1905, gave us the right to assemble and discuss our affairs."

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(2) In Kuruk a procession of school children was formed to celebrate the grant of the Manifesto of October 20, 1905. Suddenly, without any warning, the Cossacks killed the children; many were killed, wounded, and trampled under the hoofs of the horses.

(3) In Tomak a peaceful assembly of school children was held to celebrate the Manifesto of October 20, 1905, was surrounded by the troops and the building was burned down. More than 200 died either by fire or under bullets.

(4) In Riga, Baltic Province, the children were beaten to death and limbs were torn out; personal instances: Karlson, Grinik, Liss, Keyniss, Krummy—Justice.

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and orderly camp, all the more so owing to the fact that prohibition rules supreme as yet. No land was being sold up to the present and squares were liable to be ejected at any time. Living is very expensive, of course, and fuel will shortly be unobtainable. The Grand Trunk Pacific Ry. Co. have inaugurated a water supply for their own use, and require the right to allow private individuals to make use of their water. Any person coming to Rupert, please note, "Don't under any circumstances drink anything but tea, coffee or boiled water." By following this advice to the letter, you are sure that the danger of fever will be to some degree reduced. Sanitary arrangements do not exist and I live in dread of a month's hot weather.

It is really very unnecessary for a Socialist to review labor conditions; but in the event of this article meeting the eye of any wage-slave as yet undecided as to his or her real position in the social world, I will explain how the market for labor-power is

I have interviewed the "Gods that be" on the subject and have it on indisputable authority that conditions are as follows: The railway companies have let the contracts to various firms, for example, Foley, Walsh & Stewart, Earl G. T. Foley, Walsh & Stewart subdivide their part of the contract into sections varying from five to two miles. This onerous duty being completed they advertise for contracts and let them to smaller contractors. Earl Foley, Walsh & Stewart, the smaller contractor, the subdivide his part of the contract and makes bargains with the small bands of slaves.

That is the sum total of the whole position. A wage-slave can get work on contracts, but of wage-work there is practically none.

By secret methods and snailish ingenuity, I succeeded in obtaining an interview with Foley Brothers' chief slave. "There is practically no wage-work in railway construction," he said to me. "Men work harder at contract work." Exploitation in its most perfect form. The chief slave was certainly courteous, and I think the G.T.P. officials as the obliging of men as one could wish to meet. Slaves obtaining a matter receive the sum of \$2.25 to \$3.00 per ton hours work. A first-class axeman, e.g. is worth \$3.00.

My advice, in short is, don't come to Prince Rupert expecting to improve your situation as a wage-slave. There are no Orientals here—those who is first of all required is cheap labor. I think Rupert will be a pretty town in time, but its climate will always be its enemy.

Your Special Correspondent.

"OUR COUSIN" THE CZAR.

An excellent letter, jointly subscribed by the Bournemouth branches of the I. L. P. and S. D. P., explanatory of a resolution sent to the King, prime minister, and others.

"So, my Comrades!" Well, turning to his Comrades, "I see that all, they are yours."

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HERE AND NOW

By Leeds. The English branch of Toronto Local is now taking a bundle of 100 Western Clarions every week.

Comrade Dan Ronald sends in a bunch of 12 subscriptions this week to help swell the list.

Reports from Berlin, Germany, say that the late socialist successes are in the most intellectual parts of that city. Sure thing.

Berlin Local drops into line with an order for a bundle of 50 Western Clarions for each and every week.

Comrade Harrington of Fernie comes along with two yearly subscriptions, and threatens to bustle up some more later.

Subscribe for the Western Clarion.

Don't let your subscription run out. By subtracting the number of the paper (which you will find on front page) from the number on the label containing your name you can always tell how many weeks more is coming to you. Don't let your subscription get any nearer than three weeks to the danger line.

Comrade W. M. Smith of Beaverdale, B. C., wants to keep in touch with the working class movement in Canada and so renews his subscription for another year.

If your name is among the following your subscription expires with this issue. You are requested to renew now: R. Hindmarsh, J. and C. Allison, Frank Hampson, P. Stubbert, Edwin Loftis, J. Plowman, G. Rothwell, W. H. Bierman.

Comrade Wilfred Gribble of Toronto is certainly a hustler. He caught eight Torontonians napping and the result is that each one of them will now receive a copy of the Western Clarion every week.

Sammy Gompers says that every honest working man was disappointed at the Republicans turning him down. I think it's the other way about. Poor Sammy's head must be a mite thick.

An empty stomach provides a man with food for thought. Before election the old-party politicians shake the workmen's hand; after election they shake him altogether.—Daily Call.

The Anti-Asiatic league in reporting on the attitude of the parties in the Provincial house towards immigration, ignores that the Socialist Party, showing that those in control of the league are either dishonest or dead.

Some people say they vote for good men, others say they vote for principles. Now the fact is every vote is cast for certain principles or conditions. As workers we can only vote two ways, either that the capitalist shall continue to own our jobs and work us to death or starve us as the case may be; or else we vote to own our jobs ourselves. If you owned a job you would not be idle unless you wished to be. Vote to own your job.

VANCOUVER ELECTION FUND.

We each have our part to play in the Socialist movement. Some of us are so situated that we can always be found on the firing line engaged in bearing the burden of organization and keeping the leaven working. Others again owing to certain circumstances cannot take an active part however willing they may be to do so.

To the latter I would say. You can do your part by supplying the active workers with the munitions of war. We must keep our proposition constantly before the workers, until conditions are such that we can win an ample campaign fund I believe we can elect a working class representative from this city next election. My next report will be on the 4th of August.

LEEDS. Care Western Clarion, Box 836, Vancouver, B. C.

WHITE-MANS CREEK, B. C.

The Western Clarion. Dear Comrades: I wish to report being well and on the voters' list, you need not call to find out my way of voting or go to any expense. Enclosed find \$1 for the Clarion, and please change my address from Johnson Landing, B. C. to White-Mans Creek, B. C. as we have a post-office at last. Yours in the fray, T. B. MILES.

MOVING

Everything that is destined to grow is small at its inception. Circumstances determine whether growth shall be slow or rapid.

The speakers class of Toronto English branch started with only two members but very long ago remained at that number some time.

Then the two members came out and showed why they could do in public, and made such a good showing they induced a number to come and from that time the growth of the class has been very rapid, so much so that there are not enough chairs to go around in the cabin in which they meet, some having to sit on the table and others on the trunk and tool chest.

The whole-hearted way in which the members of the class do business is gratifying and the talent shows surprising.

The speakers turned out so far in the last few months qualified to speak before an audience (and some more) are Comrades Fraser, Parrott, Woodhouse, Drury, Bishop, Young, Lyon and Pearson.

Some of these have had a hard struggle against the unreading, illiterate, and the way in which they have conquered that difficulty has been above all praise.

In one way unreadness of speech is a big advantage, as by the time one has overcome it he has usually studied and learnt enough to give one good stuff, while if he finds it easy to say words at the start, he is inclined to slacken his studies and, in consequence, when he appears in public he talks a great deal and says little.

There has been little tendency shown this way, however, and very little yielding to the temptation of giving a long recital of present conditions or to make the talk "attractive." The class as a whole seems to realize that though it is easy enough to amuse the crowd by ridiculing the absurdities of the present system, or by exposing the inconsistencies of capitalist greed, the thing to do is to get down to causes and instead of telling them something they know, tell them something they don't know, but ought to know, and in addition rather than amuse, though a joke is alright occasionally.

Comrade Lyon took the box for the first time on last Saturday evening. Comrade Lyon had never spoken for more than five minutes at the class and he enjoyed that about the same in the open. We sang one song to draw a crowd and only drew a very few. "Sing another," said Comrade Lyon—Oh! the water was cold. We sang another and then with a new fervor, sang the song that he started "fellow-workingsmen," in a voice that surprised us, such was his carrying power and spoke loudly, though haltingly, for the usual five minutes.

A crowd gathered and so did Lyon a confidence, and when ten minutes had gone he had got his second wind and was fairly into his stride. By the time a quarter of an hour had elapsed he had realized his power to give out the knowledge he had acquired by experience and study. There was no hesitation now, "In bold voice and clear, came fast and thick the burning words that tyrants quake to hear."

His intense earnestness gripped the crowd and he was still going strong to the end of half an hour, and bid fair to keep it up all night, when the police interfered. Though I am going to dwell on that incident now, on Sunday Woodhouse opened the meeting and gave a first-class talk, and after he had finished, Lyon took the box and showed his form of the night before was to take me, I thought the crowd from the start.

If there are any Gallians in your neighborhood, call their attention to

The Red Flag

the organ of the Ukrainian comrades. The subscription rates \$2.00 per year, \$1.00 for six months.

Address: 467 MANITOWA AVE. Winnipeg, Man.

ROSE THEATRE

James Carwright
(of Nanaimo)

WILL SPEAK UNDER AUSPICES OF Socialist Party of Canada

though he made no effort to amuse them, and held their attention right through.

There were the finest things possible to see was the unaffected delight of the other members of the class at Lyon's success.

Unfortunately we are losing this comrade, as he is going away on a number of expeditions with him.

Comrades Carlington, Cheeseman, Smith and others are coming on as speakers and we will soon get some more on the box.

A good feature is the way in which a number of members of the choir turn up promptly to open the open air meeting with singing. It is a great help to the speakers.

Comrade Drury is out at present doing military work selling books and taking suits for the Clarion and other Socialist papers. Drury's zeal cannot be commended too highly.

For what reason have I written all this about the young speakers of Toronto? My reason is "Go there and do likewise." Toronto lacks no monopoly of latent talent. It is up to the other Locals to do the same as we have done, form a speakers class, and elect a corps of well-trained men when we exchange speakers we will be saved from being nauseated by sloppy stuff, such as we have had occasionally in the past from individuals who are long on words but short on logic, bristful of sentimentality, but empty of economic knowledge, or, with a considerable knowledge of the latter, yet opportunistic. I can see no explanation of this variety of results, except the desire to please the crowd and so acquire popularity or immediate personal gain. These "W. T. Mills' worshippers get their." In the end however wide a swath they may sweep, they will be a promise any one of them who come this way a hot time from now on, so they are hereby warned.

Oh! this temptation to try to please everyone. It's strong, isn't it, at times? And that one to play to the grandstand, the desire to please, eh? And the tendency to try to reconcile the new knowledge and the new hope with old beliefs and old hopes, don't you find it hard to fight down comrade, sometimes? All through, Socialists have had to fight and win these battles, and if you want to be thorough, you must do the same. There is no royal road. Yank out that old false belief if it is worse than having a tooth on it. Usually, I don't trouble about what the crowd thinks. You know Shakespeare's advice about being true to yourself. Well, take it.

WILFRED GRIBBLE.

THE OUTLOOK

One of the hardest problems for a class conscious man to solve is the reason why the majority of the members of the Socialist Party seem to take comparatively little interest in the revolutionary program. The goal for which we are fighting is taken into consideration. This question has cropped up again and again to me and it is only lately that I have been able to get a grip on it. There are several reasons for this apparent lack of interest but the chief seems to be that most of our members, while admitting the inevitability of the revolution are under the firm impression that it will not be in our time. We do not give much space in our propaganda to this question, and wisely too, but it would not hurt for the sake of those who need a little stimulation to look at this question for a few moments.

Personally I consider that the revolution is well under weigh already and that the beginning of the end of our present system is now. As one looks over the world today there are several unmistakable signs that the observant mind will notice which show the revolutionary spirit to be very much about. Perhaps Finland will attract the attention of the friends we see conspicuously the lack of persecution and suppression; our comrades in the House of Representatives outnumber any other party and the Car of Russia has recently dissolved the house of nobles; the revolutionary and defiant attitude. At the same time it must be borne in mind that practically the whole of Russia is seething with discontent and revolutionary sentiment. What the next Finnish house will be, we do not have to imagine unless the Russia authorities tamper with the franchise which as they know from former experience, is like playing with dynamite. Politicians in every mood and condition and with the

spread of education and literature we can safely leave Russia with the feeling that something is going to happen there and happen within a very few years, too.

In every country of the European continent the movement is swinging along with an amazing impetus which, taking into consideration the comparatively small number of the movement has sprung up and the extraordinary leaps it makes every year, bids well to carry all before it in two or three more general elections.

Why is it a dream to so many of you comrades? Those whom we see have to think for the present proportions of the movement did not look on it as a dream of the future and large numbers of them have shifted off this mortal coil having practically given the best of their lives for the movement, which means freedom and justice for humanity. Why then do so many of us seem content to vote socialist and then let things take their course?

Maybe it is not wise for a man to jeopardize his job just at present, but look at the number of small ways by which we can start waves of revolutionary thought. We can drop a few words of caustic comment on present conditions in the labor newspaper, get a subscription for a paper, ask questions and in a number of small ways do our share.

One of the most encouraging signs at present is that the world is ripe for our movement. There might be the whole mass of humanity is looking for salvation and we, only we, have the means.

At the conference of the Anglican church in England a few days ago one of the bishops made the statement that the time has come for socialism and so it is. "They are taking the movement up over there in a way that bids fair to leave us behind for some time. The enthusiasm and life of the English movement seems unbounded and one of our comrades get control in any one country and show that justice and freedom for the masses is possible if they will only take it for themselves; it will be long before any other movement to spread over other countries then? It is hard to see figures when speaking of the future but why should we give this present system more than ten years longer to live? Very soon we will see the pace that events are going today. Social economy and conditions are forcing the revolutionary education of the masses in a way that compels the just and to the pace as well as the fact for the fact of the fact that society is liable to be in a condition of volcanic uproar at any time now, brought about by the development of the present industrial system and we have one serious question to ask ourselves comrades, and that is: "By the time present conditions become unbearable will we have educated the masses sufficiently and obtained sufficient influence to guide events into the right way or will nature be compelled to chastise us a little sooner?"

W. W. LEFAUX.

The Passing of The Small Farmer

(Continued from page one.)

evolution one thing after another, became a special occupation, gradually branching from the farm to the village or town. Cobbling, blacksmithing, weaving spinning, knitting, sewing, etc. The expansion of the markets by forcing the open door upon one heathen country after another, created such a demand for navigation, communication, commerce and industry that the old hand tool could no longer supply the wants of the market. I had to give way to the manufacturing system, which in turn was forced by the introduction of steam and machinery to give way to modern industry, with its slaughter and packing houses, refrigerators, creameries, cheese factories, and the like. So the sole function of the farmer is to produce raw material. And then to a success they must specialize. Mixed farming is almost a thing of the past and like every other branch of industry, to be a success it must be operated on the largest possible scale.

Each occupation that branched out from the farm took with it the most active workers and the brightest intellects, which accounts for the rapid development of these occupations into the great industries of today, and also accounts for farming being the tail end of modern industry, each industry removed from the farmer a part of his independence, until today he is among the most dependent of his class, the wealth producing class.

Now the most of these other industries have reached a climax. Many of them are standing idle. Many others are working with all the time, and very few working at full speed. Causing a great army of

unemployed, who are becoming a source of great danger to the capitalist. Hence they have raised the cry: "Get back to the land."

They first secured title deeds to enough of the land to enable them to hold the owners of the rest at their mercy. Large corporations like the C. P. R., the U. S. & C. Land and Mortgage Company, have title deeds to millions of acres. It cost the farmer nothing, the latter a promise to colonize in a certain number of years. With these titles in hand, was what they called government free land. This is the bait to induce the people back to the land. Any person under certain conditions may have 160 acres. But modern machinery cannot be operated to advantage on such a small space. The corporations have agents all over the world trying to induce people to come to the Canadian West. They remind the victim of his old dream of a stranger to locate the free land on such a vast prairie, and how indifferent the government agents are with those who cannot afford to bribe them. These corporations agree to sell the land to the farmer, but provided he buys another 160 or more acres from them, at from \$7 up per acre, according to location. One-third cash, the balance to be paid in five years at 6 per cent, interest. The farmer must have a pair of quires horses or oxen, seed, lumber, machinery, etc. If the victim can hold out the three years required to prove up on the free land, and if he is to the interest of the corporation to encourage him to buy another 160 acres, provided he buys another 160 or more acres from them, at from \$7 up per acre, according to location. One-third cash, the balance to be paid in five years at 6 per cent, interest. 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