







LONDON LETTER

Our war scare still continues unabated over here and it is fact heightened by the offer of Lord Plunkett, governor of New Zealand, on behalf of the colonies to supply our more Dreadnaughts to the British navy to repel the threatened (2) German invasion of the British Isles. This offer was a day or two later rejected by the government of New South Wales, and also the British party feels jubilant over the prospect of an early conflict in which these monstrous fighting machines will be used to blow the workers of another country to atoms. The same thing is going on in Germany, and there, is some talk of the British Labor party conferring with the Social-Democrats in the German Reichstag as to the best course to pursue in face of all these hostile preparations, which is very good, though effective plans would have undoubtedly been made between the workers of the two countries long ago if we had a Socialist Party in our House of Commons. As it is, not much can be expected from the Labor party members, most of whom are half-baked Socialists, and still think the Liberal party will aid them to better the condition of the British workers.

During the past week two bills have come before the Commons that might have been of some good. One was presented and backed by a revolutionary party, but, as they are, they merely represent that much waste of time.

The first of these to come up was presented by Mr. Churchill and is known as the Anti-Trust Bill and proposes to alleviate the horrors of that system in only certain industries, and it's ten to one, if it ever gets through both Houses, it's own father won't know it. This bill aims to establish minimum rates of pay and hours in the various industries and trades, but just why only certain trades should be singled out in which to prevent sweating passes my comprehension. Surely if sweating is bad in one trade it is just as bad in another, and just because one trade may have a greater number of sweated victims engaged in it, there is no reason why a smaller number of sweated persons in another trade should be neglected. The whole of the labor is all capitalistic labor legislation, and it is meant to make the workers in the world that the capitalists wish to do.

Some good, while in reality it is only meant to deceive them. Mr. J. O'Grady (Labor M.P.) was allowed a short time during the latter part of the week to introduce his bill calling for a tax of a penny a pound on all land values, and it is estimated that this measure, if adopted, would affect about £5,000,000,000 of real estate and return a revenue to the exchequer of about £21,000,000 per annum, which in turn would be expended on the war and give employment to thousands now out of work. As only a short time was allowed for the discussion of this measure, not much has been said about it except that it notices one or two dafties saying that if a man like this was raised by a land tax, how nice it would be to use it to build more Dreadnaughts instead of using it on public work for the benefit of the unemployed.

The unemployed marchers came in conflict with the police of Manchester a few days ago. It is estimated that several of the marchers were injured and others were arrested. The trouble arose over the police endeavoring to arrest the leader of the marchers, Thomas Brown, on the charge of obstructing traffic. The marchers objected to this, and the result was a melee in which the march was broken up. However, it is understood that another attempt will soon be made.

The Dominion Executive is now in position to supply party buttons to those requiring same. A specially designed button, with the party emblem on it, consisting of a red flag on a white field, with lettering in gold, has been provided. It is very nice, and will compare favorably with any fraternal emblem worn. The price is five cents each. Locals can obtain them at a special rate of five for \$2.00, which will allow them to re-join their members at a figure which will serve to help the funds. Address orders to the Dominion secretary.

be made by the unemployed to march against things are in a bad way in Manchester and thousands are on the verge of starvation. The following statistics regarding unemployment have been given out by the Manchester city council and show the appalling state of affairs. The number of people out of work 15,730, of whom 10,687 are males and 2,643 females. The skilled workers out of employment number 6,765, and the general unskilled, 4,774. For one-half of the number out of work, the number is that, allowing 5 to a family, the distress is shared by some 26,000 more, and this, too, in misery England.

Trouble is now brewing in South Wales, and it is feared that in June when the miners' new law goes into effect the mine owners will precipitate a labor war in that district. The miners are preparing for the threatened strike, and at a conference recently held they resolved to meet the mine owners to the bitter end.

At Woolwich Arsenal the government has laid off another big batch of men, and similar action was taken at Portsmouth, Plymouth, and as the spring advances it seems to get harder and the number of unemployed grow apace. One indeed marvels at the patience of the workers, who meekly submit to all these privations and hardships and then vote their own votes into political power.

Victor Grayson spoke to a large audience of working people in King's Hall, South Hackney, London, last Thursday night and the ovation that was accorded to him was certainly a record for his popularity. Grayson has kept rather quiet in Parliament during this session and is devoting a great deal of his time to the preaching of the social revolution from the public platform, as he reckons that in this way he can reach more than in Parliament, and I guess he is right, too, judging from the numerous applications that are received to join the party after the conclusion of his speeches.

Grayson promises to be a red letter day this year throughout the land, and many of us comrades are now busily engaged preparing for the event.

I remain yours for the revolt,  
T. E. SCOTT,  
London, March 28th, 1920.

NEWS VS. ESSAYS.

Comrade Editor— I am inclined to think that the protest raised by Comrade McDonald of Toronto in last week's Clarion is due more with commendable support, at least that part of it in which he draws attention to the lack of news.

On one time or another, long before and also since the Clarion was under direct control of the Party, those of us who have been where the paper had a general circulation, have listened to and joined in protests of this kind, and the burden of them all, was more or less the same.

It seldom occurred to any of us apparently, how or where the news we desired was to be obtained, and printed in the Clarion with its limited circulation, and still more limited funds. It is of little use to urge the editor to call out items from the various exchanges; that source of information is usually well drawn up by all. It is a fact that with many Socialist Journals, articles of this kind, mainly a rehearsal of the same old news, in between columns of ads, and appeals for contributions, forms the bulk of the reading matter amongst such pickings for the Clarion seem mighty slim.

On looking over some of these exchanges I have often thought that, lacking the ability to write for themselves "essays on economics etc." such as the comrade appears to object to, these Journals might have lifted a few from the columns of the Clarion occasionally, with advantage to themselves and their readers and at the same time furnished an excellent reason for boosting their subscription lists. In a discussion of this kind, it should never be forgotten that the Party press is, after all, one of the best general mediums that they seek to apply the Socialist philosophy to, and deal with live points of current interest, by no means devoid of news of vital importance to the movement. If under the circumstances of this case, the comrade would not make head or tail of them, as Comrade McDonald opines, for no given reason, then I should certainly have to say that proportion of the text book readers grasp the meaning of the text book and general news, and the number would "cut an ice" at best.

None of us would object to more news, though we may not all agree as to what constitutes news from the Socialist standpoint. Samples of alleged news, under such headlines and red ink, such as frequently appear in some of the Socialist papers, would be more appropriate in a capitalist daily. Many of the news items are either rubbish arising from the announcement of election to the British Parliament of some thirty Socialists at the last general elections. Scarcely any of the Socialist journals that made so much of the news, mentioned the fact that not a single man of the whole lot had his stand on a straight Socialist platform. The Clarion was one that did and also pointed out the inevitable consequence. Another piece of news that at times has gone the rounds of the Socialist and Labor press, had reference to the ideal conditions of labor in New Zealand, Australia, Switzerland or some other place sufficiently distant or obscure, "even this has not our news, but our grasp of economics, a perusal of the Clarion papers, on the part of those in charge of these papers, might have stayed the printing of news stuff that merely peddles the lapse of time to place in the reader's mind a mystery. Any other items might be recalled; they are latently numerous, but they merely serve to prove that injury, rather than benefit may accrue by the printing of news, matter that a few weeks renders false.

The progress of the movement is better learned by a knowledge of the program and propaganda work, that elections are carried on under, than a record of the seats won or votes cast. The news we want to see in the Clarion, or most of us, are printed by the membership themselves. The comrades are to be found throughout the Dominion, from Atlantic to Pacific, and across both oceans. There are also quite a number in various parts of the U.S. These are the ones who can contribute news, and the press if they will only get down to it something of interest is surely happening where they are and they possess the knowledge to point out the Socialist moral.—O Raymer.

of these injuries done to society by these convulsions of nature, but nobody imagines that they will ever be finally stopped. It is certain that at no period prior to the growth of what is now known as the capitalist system of production—the system of production, that is to say, of articles of social use for profit by free labor, who now paid wages—did difficulties arise in the same degree as they do now. The superiority of the wealth which the members of the society have, and any other benefits that may be derived, are the times of greater distress for the mass of the people now are the times when there is a complete glut of the commodities which they need and which they make.

Now, so long as the worker makes for his own use, or to the direct order of his customers, he is in control of his tools, his farm or his workshop. So soon, however, in the course of economic development, as the workers begin to produce no longer as individuals but as wage-workers, bound together by no tie other than that of turning out commodities to the order of an employer, who throw the goods on the market; so soon as they did this, a direct antagonism was established between the two parts of the wealth-creating machine. The workers were then working no longer as individuals; they were working together in social union, and as division of labor came in, were working together in co-operation, to produce goods which were of no use to them, for the use of others at a distance. In these circumstances the workers have no control over the raw material, no ownership in the finished product, or say in the means of production, and in the complete form of the process, as we did it today, no proprietorship in the machinery of production. They are simply wage-earners, working at wages regulated by the average standard of living, or subsistence wage their trade, and they receive only a fraction of what they produce.

It is this antagonism between social production for social purposes and class appropriation and exchange for class profit that gives the key to all our modern ills.

Falling this key, many absurd explanations are given. Over-production has been advanced as one reason, although in the crises of 1856 and 1872 the United States had no over-production, and the currency quacks attribute everything to the lack of circulating medium, though the same medium has been recouped when currency was restricted, as prior to the gold discoveries in America and Australia, gold coin certainly was, and was in circulation in quantities as great as in 1857. Similarly it has been suggested that the system of banking is to blame, though here again it is impossible to show how tinkering with credit based upon production can remedy the ills of the faulty system of production itself.

The markets of the world are larger today than ever and the cheapening of goods enables the machine industry to conquer the old forms of industry in other countries. However there is no social control over the individual rush for profit. As the workers in the factories, etc., become more completely organized, so does disorder and anarchy more completely dominate exchange. While, inside, all is conducted in a regular and orderly manner, the profit-making efficiency of all the parts, outside, each contends against his fellow to sell his goods most rapidly and in the greatest quantity. Moreover, the necessities of the system itself, the necessities of competition, to realize his goods into cash. When doing this he can not remember his operations by buying raw materials. Each and all must realize their products in a coin, or its equivalent. However good a firm's credit may be to this complexion must they all come at last. Consequently the capitalist system of production involves an antagonism between money and commodities. The sole object of capital is to invest in producing commodities to obtain profits for themselves. Their individual control and anarchical methods result in a glut. That glut renders it impossible for them to continue to produce. The capitalist class has victimized its own machinery to conduct the business of the community.

There have been nine recognized crises in the nineteenth century and one in the twentieth, all deeply affecting the world and each in succession having a greater evil than its predecessor. This must show to every unbiassed observer that capitalism has nullified its usefulness and must be replaced by a better system. The position that the markets of the world are glutted with the people and as the great majority of the people are the workers (all those who do ANY necessary social labor, not merely manual workers or artisans, but all workers who do not receive the final product of their toil, which is manifested as the capitalist gets the greater portion in the shape of profits—consequently they are unable to purchase back from the market an equal value of what they have produced. EQUAL VOICES

Now, if this recurrence of crises could be traced to well-defined natural causes, mankind would, in this as in other cases, be compelled to accept the inevitable and make preparations to lessen the mischief. Earthquakes, droughts, etc., have all brought about trade disturbances at times and some have caused more local or temporary effects. As things go on, we may succeed in contracting some

AS TO NEWS.  
Dear Comrade—  
Read the letter in your issue of the 17th inst. I say most emphatically that I do not cut out your economic essays, but on the other hand just to your paper whatever news you can with regard to the Socialistic movement in other parts of the world; I believe that the fact of the individual attraction to your paper and that it is a great help to its circulation. At present we have to look to the capitalist papers for this news, and we only get it in a half-hearted condition.  
Yours, etc.  
MENGEL

MAY DAY CELEBRATION.  
Local Calgary intend celebrating their second anniversary by holding a concert and social on the evening of May 2nd, May 1st. The object being to keep in line with the movement abroad and to try and raise funds to keep up and make our headquarters more useful than in the past. The fact is that the next we have a room in this city is doing a great deal of good and many new-comers are calling daily, who have come from all parts of the world, and are thus able to learn about the doings of the Socialist movement in every part of the world, many kinds can be obtained here.  
F. HYATT, Organizer.

COMMERCIAL CRISIS AND THEIR CAUSE.  
The causes and effects of industrial crises must be reckoned among the most important subjects for consideration at the present time. From time to time all civilized countries are exposed to a complete upset of their industrial, commercial, and financial machinery, at the very moment when the great majority, even of those who are directly engaged in business, imagine that trade is in the line and that no danger threatens them. Suddenly, in the midst of the greatest apparent prosperity, when the promoters and the contractors have their hands full of work, when merchants and traders are congratulating themselves on the extent of their turnover, when manufacturers, mine-owners and shipping companies are dividing most satisfactory profits; and when the workers are being paid a somewhat better wage—that that very juncture a change for the worse begins, and what is known as a crisis, panic or stringency sets in. Prices, which have risen all along the line, fall quickly. Uneasiness and distrust spread throughout the business community. There is a rush to obtain money, either by sale of securities or goods, or by obtaining advances from the banks.

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PLATFORM

Socialist Party of Canada

We, the Socialist Party of Canada, in convention assembled, affirm our allegiance to, and support of the principles and programme of the revolutionary working class.

Labor produces all wealth, and to the producers it should belong. The present economic system is based upon capitalist ownership of the means of production, consequently all the products of labor belong to the capitalist class. The capitalist is therefore master; the worker a slave.

So long as the capitalist class remains in possession of the reins of government all the powers of the State will be used to protect and defend their property rights in the means of wealth production and their control of the product of labor.

The capitalist system gives to the capitalist an ever-widening stream of profits, and to the worker an ever-increasing measure of misery and degradation.

The interest of the working class lies in the direction of setting itself free from capitalist exploitation by the abolition of the wage system, under which is cloaked the robbery of the working-class at the point of production. To accomplish this necessitates the transformation of capitalist property in the means of wealth production into collective or working-class property.

The irrepressible conflict of interests between the capitalist and the worker is rapidly culminating in a struggle for possession of the power of government—the capitalist to hold, the worker to secure it by political action. This is the class struggle.

Therefore, we call upon all workers to organize under the banner of the Socialist Party of Canada with the object of conquering the public powers for the purpose of setting up and enforcing the economic programme of the working class, as follows:

1. The transformation, as rapidly as possible, of capitalist property in the means of wealth production (natural resources, factories, mills, railroads, etc.) into the collective property of the working class.

2. The democratic organization and management of industry by the workers.

3. The establishment, as speedily as possible, of production for use instead of production for profit.

The Socialist Party, when in office, shall always and everywhere until the present system is abolished, make the answer to this question its guiding rule of conduct: Will this legislation advance the interests of the working class and aid the workers in their struggle against capitalism? If it will the Socialist Party is for it; if it will not, the Socialist Party is absolutely opposed to it.

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

DON'T BE A SOCIALIST

unless you know WHY you are one. The cause of Socialism has been tremendously injured and retarded by the ignorance of those who talk and write about it without a proper understanding of its principles. The foolish notion of "dividing up" and the story of the "Britishman's two pigs" come from this source. The capitalist writer and the speakers deliberately misrepresent our principles, but if every comrade thoroughly understands Socialism, it will hasten the coming of liberty for all.

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(In the Original Documents—Translated) sweeps away the bigotry and superstition that has accumulated around Religion, Government, Law, Social Science, etc.—brings to light the naked truth and shows why Socialism is coming. The "Documents" cover as well the entire field of thought.

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