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THE FARMER AND HIS SURPLUS

Granted He Produces Four Times What He Consumes, What Does He Do With It?

The hypothetical farmers of Spencer, Percival in the *Clarion* for May 20th gave me pause. Farmer A bought 200 acres of land for \$1 per acre with his savings as a wage slave; he cleared the forest, drained the swamp, and fenced the whole, worked early and late, lived frugally; finally produces more than four times what he requires for food and clothing; the surplus he would like to exchange for an automobile, a new piano, a trip around the world and as many works of art as possible." Zounds, said I, can this be true? There are thousands of these farmers in Canada, we are told, who would like to buy autos, etc., then, why the dickens don't they? Possibly for the same reason as Hanspurg gave for not calling spirits from the vasty deep:

Glendower: "I can call spirits from the vasty deep."
Hotspur: "Why? So can I, and so can any man; but will they come when you call them?"

The farmer would LIKE to exchange his surplus for luxuries; in this he is not a whit behind any other individual, but the system under which he lives demands that he turns this surplus over to the masters of the earth—the capitalist class.

But the farmers' question is what I wish to discuss, and to begin with, I wish to make it clear that I am not a farmer. I have tried farming, and, of all modes of earning bread and butter and overalls, I like it least. The trouble with this question is that somebody is lying like a real estate shark. For instance, Banker Henry Clews, writing from New York on May 1st, says:

"The public feel hardest upon those in moderate circumstances with fixed incomes, for, owing to the high prices for food and clothing, the cost of living has been excessive and threatens to continue so until our farmers make the earth produce more abundantly and do their legitimate part towards rebuilding national prosperity. At present the farmers are a distinctly favored class, and they are welcome to their good fortune, but big profits evidently have the same effect upon them as upon other people, promoting laziness and discouraging the best methods and largest production. Of course, the present high cost of living is not entirely due to the farmer; nevertheless he is largely responsible and ought to be frankly told so."

Suppressing the query which at once arises, Can this man actually run a bank? and passing its self-devised stupidity, let us take the statement as a whole. That the farmers are lazy and partly responsible for the high cost of living. Whom are we to believe, Percival or Clews? We will not do to say one speaks of Canada and the other of the United States. But in case some patriotic Canadian should resent the comparison, let me quote from an editorial in the *Saturday Evening Post* of March 13th:

"Suppose the farmer calculated his profits in the same way that a manufacturer does. If you allow six per cent. on capital invested in land, implements and horses, an annual depreciation of one-tenth on the implements and one-fourteenth on the animals, \$75 per month for the farmer's own labor and \$35 for his wife's, then the actual cost of producing wheat in the Red River Valley, the average yield being 12½ bushels per acre, is practically one dollar per bushel." These figures were presented to Congress by a farmers' association; as 50c is more like the average price per bushel, it will be readily seen that the editor's comments are true, albeit they are but the repetitions of already hackneyed Socialist phrases. Probably he gets merely fair wages for his labor and a moderate interest on his capital. Essentially, we suspect he is much more a working man than a capitalist. He buys a farm, not because he wants to make a manufacturer's profit on the capital, but because it gives him an opportunity to apply his own labor. Generally speaking, to buy a farm is merely to buy a

FROM THE TOP BUNK.

The capitalists' ecology in relation to all morality, and especially domestic morality, is a position so revolting, that it is difficult to discuss it in a respectable paper. We choose our words carefully, repeating Marx' and Engels' of 60 years ago, that "the bourgeoisie not content with having the wives, and daughters of their proletarians at their disposal, take the greatest pleasure in seducing each others' wives."

"This is a very logical outcome of an arrangement which robs the industries and supplies to replenish the lazy and useless with every luxury, and stamps the latter as "respectable" and the former as the "low" class.

Under this system of wage-labor applied to the present gigantic labor displacing devices, there are not near enough jobs to go round; young men are reluctant to marry, and millions of girls and young women are forced to sell the only marketable thing they possess to obtain sustenance, clothing and shelter—their virtue and youth.

Yet their male relations go right on voting that the bosses shall skin them of all they produce, except their wages, which is just the sum required to keep them fit to work continuously.

An ever-increasing measure of misery and degradation is the workers' portion, and the bosses—an ever-swelling stream of profits.

Old age and poverty! Old age and poverty! is what you vote for, or agree to by not voting at all, and by the Holy Poker you deserve to get it!

Liberal and Conservative, Conservative and Liberal, which will you choose, worker, Liberal or Conservative? You'll get shot a kick in the rear amidst his anyhow, so which will you have?

In the meantime you are in the very

digified position of being allowed to plead to be permitted to do another man's work for him and cheerfully agreeing that he shall enrich himself by your labor!

After an exhausting day's toil you get home to your "batch"—If you are not hiring a corner in some one else's home-cook your evening meal in head silence, wash, and then to bed, to be ready to do an "honest" day's work on the morrow. The routine is fine, ain't it. Eh! Er—what—a?

Then get on the voters' list! Vote! you chump, vote! And then become active, else—old age and poverty!

The misery and poverty of the British working class, promising soon to become a menace to the bourgeoisie, has led a truly bourgeois government to try and dodge the trouble by displaying their "righteous indignation" against inherited wealth, chiefly possessed by the effete Conservatives, by a tax amounting to 27 per cent. That's alright, but it is not comprehensive enough and falls about 73 per cent. short.

By no stretch of imagination can a budget designed for the continued exploitation of labor be called "Socialistic." However drastic upon a limited few, it can only be regarded as a sign of the times. If the workers will just take a little trouble to themselves, things will start moving pretty rapidly right here, too.

Labor applied to natural resources produces all wealth; then to the producers it should belong!

Recognizing the first part of that and denying the latter, the Salvation Army has established a sawmill at Glen Vowell, near Prince Rupert, "to give work to the Indians there," and Major Morrison reports it as "being run in an entirely satisfactory manner." 'Tis a better sweet life it is!

THE FOU'SLE BARRISTER.

SOCIALISM BECOMING RESPECTABLE

U. S. Socialist Party Likely to Be "Hoist With Its Own Petard."

Comrade Kohler's communication in this month's "News and Views" department shows how the signs of this process strike a proletarian. But some of our Socialist readers may think that he is misinformed or has misinterpreted the recent acts of some of our party members. We therefore give a somewhat lengthy quotation from one of the most respectable periodicals in the United States, the *Congressionalist and Christian World* of Boston. In its issue of May 15, Prof. John B. Clark of Columbia University, a man who stands in the very front rank of Capitalist economists, writes:

"Not at once by a single stroke it is proposed to confiscate private property. The effort will be made to reach the goal by a series of approaches, although the goal is kept constantly in view and the intermediate steps are to be taken in order that they may bring us nearer to it. What should we do about the movement while it is pursuing this conservative line of action? If we could stop it all by a touch of a button, ought we to do it? For one, I think not. On the general ground that it represents the aspirations of a vast number of workers, it has the right to exist; but what is specifically in point is that its immediate purposes are good. It has changed the uncompromising policy of opposing all half-way measures; it welcomes reforms and tries to enroll in its membership as many as possible of the reformers. It tries to secure a genuine democracy by means of the initiative and the referendum—something that would accomplish very much of that purification of politics which the Socialists and others well know have so much to say.

Factory laws, the abolition of child labor, the protection of working women and the proper inspection of factories are measures that we all have at heart; and most of us desire the gradual shortening of the working day and general lightening of the burden of labor. When it comes to a public ownership of mines, forests, oil wells and the like, there are few of us who are not open to conviction and many of us are ready to assent to that policy by which the government holds on very carefully to such properties of this kind as it possesses and even acquires others. Inheritance taxes and income taxes, which the Socialists desire, have been widely adopted. In

are trying to make the Ontario province of the British war scare. Laurier would, of course, have given or promised to give a Drednought to help the British to steal more territory only that he has a realizing sense of the power of the French-Canadian vote, which is decidedly anti-English. This gives the Tories a chance to voice their hatred "loyalty" in condemning him for not doing what they would not have dared to do if the Quebec vote were in question. Sir James Whitney, in virtue of his brand new title, is naturally extra zealous. (How cheap the Imperial Government buys Canadian politicians, to be sure, by bestowing an empty decoration, Canadian corporations have to pay cash.) Speaking the other day at a meeting of the Ontario premier, Laurier, he blamed the Laurier government for neglecting to cable to England that they were prepared to recommend an appropriation of the price of one or two Drednoughts, adding the thoughtful suggestion that "it might never have been necessary to utilize the appropriation." Isn't that a beautiful and characteristic specimen of the dishonestness of Canadian loyalty? In other words, Sir Whitney finds fault with Sir Laurier, not because he didn't give a Drednought, but because he didn't put on a bluff and make an offer of one on the understanding that it wouldn't be accepted. The "moral effect," you know, upon the people who are "rattling into barbarism" would have been sufficient. But as the been politicians of Germany and other outside barbarians hadn't long ago sided up our patriots for revenue at their true value.

short, the Socialist and the reformer may walk side by side for a very considerable distance without troubling themselves about the unlike goals which they hope in the end to reach.

and work with it, as it were, ad interim? The platform is always there telling very distinctly whether the movement is tending, and it is no modest platform which even the immediate demands now constitute. If we take account of all of them; for it includes the national ownership of railroads and of all consolidated industries which have reached a national scale and have practically killed competition. It demands the public ownership of land itself, a measure so sweeping that our kindly farmer would feel restless in the ranks if he really thought there was any probability of its adoption. What the reformers will have to do is to take the Socialistic name, to walk behind a somewhat red banner and be ready to break ranks and leave the army when it reaches the dividing of the ways."

Will it be safe for the capitalists reformers to join the Socialist Party for the sake of bringing about reforms which tend to delay the collapse of capitalism? Professor Clark thinks it will, and he is a man of no mean ability. But if he is right, will it be safe for the Socialist Party to shape its policy with a view to catching the votes and even the membership applications of these reformers, who will be, in Professor Clark's words, "ready to break ranks and leave the army when it reaches the dividing of the ways?" That is the issue that must be met within the Socialist Party in the near future. There will be no lack of arguments on the reform side. There are hundreds of efficient party workers who have put in many hours of unpaid labor, and who feel that the fat salary of a public official would be a suitable reward. And the salary is a possibility. If we can only attract enough reformers to come in and help with their votes, there are party editors working for uncertain salaries whose pay would no doubt be sure and liberal if the reformers' money could be poured into Socialist channels. And behind these few, who perhaps after all are influenced rather unconsciously than consciously by their material interests, there are many thousands of converts who have come to us through sentimental sympathy rather than class consciousness, who will accept Professor Clark's overtures with joy, and with not a thought for the collapse of the allied army when it reaches the dividing of the way." Opposed to these will be found an increasing number of wage-workers in the great industries, whose personal experiences have taught them the vital reality of the class struggle, and by their side will be those whose study of Socialist literature has convinced them that their own ultimate interests are bound up with those of the wage-workers. We who take this position hold that it is better to let the reformers do their reforming out of the Socialist Party rather than inside. We hold that the function of our party is to prepare for the revolution, by educating and organizing, and that the quickest way to get reforms, if any one cares for reforms, is to make the revolutionary movement more and more of a menace to capitalism. Two things are certain. One is that the opportunists, so lightly commended by Professor Clark, now hold most of the official positions in our party and control most of our periodicals. The other is that the great mass of the city wage-workers remain utterly unmoved by the eloquent propaganda of opportunism. The outcome? That will turn on forces stronger than arguments. Captains of industry are making revolutionists faster than professors and editors can make reformers. And when revolutionists start the policy of the Socialist Party, reformers will find little in it to attract them.—International Socialist Review.

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CLIPPINGS AND COMMENT

Topics of the Time Class-Consciously Considered.

When a Socialist speaker or editor calls attention to the obvious truth that constitutions and laws were made by the capitalist class to suit their own interests and are ostentatiously violated when they don't happen to work that way, he is accused of preaching condition or stirring up class hatred. Here is a little extract which seems to fall under that condemnation, the author of which ought to be properly dealt with as an undesirable citizen. The writer is speaking of betting on horse races:

"No matter what the strict moral law may say, we cannot forbid in a democracy, such as ours, practices which have the support of any large section of the respectable people. They may be precisely the same in principle as practices which we do forbid, and for indulging in which we send unfortunates persons to jail; but that does not make any difference. When a fairly important number of what we call the "betting people" want to do anything, we might as well let them do it, without bothering about the law. It is not a question of right or wrong. We cannot stop them."

No, this is not clipped from a Socialist paper, nor even from a labor or radical publication, but appears in the editorial columns of that staunch Tory and Jingo exponent, the *Montreal Star*. How did the editor ever come to allow such a truthful and damaging admission to get into print? It's a complete give-away.

"The game of public life will never be improved by the critics who stand on the side lines and criticize the players. Good men must get into the game if they would better the performance."—*Ottawa Journal*.

The only difference visible to the naked eye between the "good" man in old party politics and the ordinary type of grater is that the latter can be bought considerably cheaper, whereas the "good" man sets his conscientious scruples at a high figure, and has to go get at in a roundabout indirect way so that the proprietors

are not violated by a straight bargain and sale. Laurier, for instance, wouldn't sell himself—perish the thought! But he wasn't unwilling when he became premier to accept a donation of something like \$100,000 subscribed by prominent capitalists just to enable him to keep up the dignity of the position. And contrary to his earlier professions, he accepted a knighthood from the British government and made good by violating the constitution he was sworn to uphold in sending the Canadian contingents to South Africa.

In the course of discussion on Socialism, we, in Canada, miss the old familiar argument so prominently brought forward elsewhere by our opponents, that "socialism will break up the home." All sorts of absurd objections are advanced, but on this head the apologetics for capitalism are discreetly silent—at least in public. Can it be that there are so many known libertines and home-wreckers in high places at Ottawa and elsewhere that they are afraid of playing with edged tools? Better let sleeping dogs lie. The free love question is a live wire that capitalist literary hirelings had better not fool with.

The measureless hypocrisy of the Anglo-Saxon was never better illustrated than by the speech of Lord Rosebery to the Imperial Press Conference urging militarism upon the colonies. "Europe is rattling into barbarism, and persuades not upon this little England defend itself." Little England is doing precisely the same thing as Germany, Austria, France and the rest. They are all in the same boat—all wanting to get the drop on the neighbors at the opportune moment like a lot of rammers playing each with one eye on the cards and the other on the next man's hip pocket. But why can't they? Bah! It's like a pirate captain summoning his red-handed crew to prayers.

All the politicians, Tory and Grit,

PHILLIPS THOMPSON.

(Continued on Page 4)

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 886, Vancouver, B. C.

DOMINION EXECUTIVE.

Meeting held June 14th, 1938. Present—Comrades Morgan (chairman), English, Karme, Menlog, Peterson, Stebbings and the secretary. Minutes of previous meeting approved. Charters granted Locals Harris, Sask.; Springfield, N. S., and Newcastle, N. B. Correspondence dealt with from Ontario and Alberta executives; Locals Springfield, N. S.; Newcastle, N. B.; Fort Arthur and Toronto, Ont., and Harris, Sask. From Cotton's Weekly and from Organizers Gribble and O'Brien. Receipts. Ontario Executive, stamps, \$25.00. Harris, Sask., charter, \$10.00. Springfield, N. S., charter, \$7.50. Newcastle, N. B., charter, \$7.50. Total, \$47.40. Warrant drawn to Western Clarion, May card, \$1.00.

B. C. PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE.

Meeting held June 14th, 1938. Minutes of previous meeting approved. Correspondence dealt with from Locals Greenwood, Nelson, Mara, Ross, Stokoe, Nanaimo, Ladysmith, Solntina and Vancouver; from Comrades Chas. Lestor, Johnson, Silver Creek and McIntosh, Edgewood, and from Organizer Harrington. Receipts. Local Revelstoke, stamps, \$5.00. Local Mara, stamps, \$2.00. Local Greenwood, stamps, \$10.00. Local Solntina, stamps and assessment, \$15.00. Member at large, dues, \$1.00. John Rivers, constitution, \$1.25. A. H. Comox campaign fund, \$1.00. Total, \$34.25. Warrant drawn to Western Clarion, May card, \$1.00.

ALBERTA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Meeting held June 7. Present: Hyatt, McDonald, Franks and the secretary. Correspondence dealt with from Bankhead, Claresholm, Bowden, Edmonton, Bellevue, Staveland and Dominion Executive. Resolved, that the report of Comrade Lestor re tour be adopted. Receipts. Camrose, \$5.00. Calgary, \$9.20. Edmonton, \$3.95. A comrade for Lestor tour, \$5.00. Total, \$20.15. Expenses. A. Stewart, Moose Jaw, \$12.00. C. Lestor, \$30.00. Total, \$42.00. A. J. BROWNING, Box 847 Calgary.

LADYSMITH.

Preparing for the next Dominion Election. Ladysmith and Nanaimo Locals being convinced of the necessity of doing propaganda work between elections, are combining their forces to hold meetings in all the places in the constituency that showed weakness or ignorance at the last election by casting too many votes for the representatives of the large financial and industrial corporations. It has been resolved to carry on in addition to the usual home meetings, open air meetings all through the summer. We made a fairly good start last Sunday 13th, at Ladysmith, upon the Green in the shade of the round-house.

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SILVER CREEK.

Silver Creek is a small settlement situated in the Salmon River valley, 10 miles south of Salmon Arm. It is a bush country and most of the ranchers have only small clearings and are hard at work clearing land so that in future years they and their families may be able to produce wealth for the C. P. R. company and the capitalist class generally.

We number among our settlers two or three sound Socialists and most of the other ranchers are studying the subject and beginning to see the light. Accordingly, when it was announced that Comrade Harrington would speak here, there was joy in our hearts and a good crowd turned out to hear him. The comrade can certainly deliver the goods. He dealt with economics and showed how the present state of society with its wage-slavery and capitalism evolved. A few questions as to probable social conditions under socialism were asked and satisfactorily answered. I have yet to hear any adverse criticism of his remarks.

Organizer Harrington addressed a meeting the next evening at Salmon Arm, but the writer was unfortunately unable to be present. A Local is to be formed there and the Silver Creek Socialists will join. Later as we become stronger we shall organize in Silver Creek. A. F. JOHNSON.

TORONTO.

Dear Comrade,— Enclosed find sub. We have had a little bother with the police, obstruction as usual. If it wasn't the crowd obstructing, it was the soap box. We appointed a delegation to see the police commissioners and the result is free speech, allowed to use a soap box or chair, and if the police interfere when unnecessary, report him. Yours in revolt, ALEX. LYON.

LESTOR MEETS O'BRIEN.

O'Brien and myself met in the trap at Red Deer on Friday. He journeyed with us to Bowden and assisted at our meeting there. He is a clear, logical and convincing speaker, and I was surprised at his grasp of the situation. He puts things in a nutshell in a simple and charming manner. We spoke in the Lyceum Theatre, Calgary, on Sunday, when Mrs. Lestor and myself were through, the chairman called upon O'Brien to say a few words. He received an ovation from the audience when he arose, and his popularity testifies to the growth of Socialism. The audience numbered at least 1,000 persons. He gave them much to think about, and the applause he received at the close of his remarks was inspiring to all lovers of freedom. Yours in revolt, LESTOR.

LATEST PICNIC NEWS.

Boat leaves Johnson's wharf at 9:45 a.m. Sunday, June 27th. There will be music and dancing aboard. There are tables and ranges scattered about in shady spots in Strathcona park. A big net will be provided, sufficient to hold water for the crowd. Bring your bathing costumes with you as the bathing facilities are excellent. There are trails cut through the woods which make a delightful ramble possible. There will be sports and games for men, women and children. The round trip will be taken before heading at the boat. Have up and get your tickets, as there will only be a limited number sold. SECRETARY COMMITTEE. EXCELLENT HEADQUARTERS.

In the International Socialist Review for May, Harry Hotshot describes Local Toledo's headquarters. It is an exceptionally good one. Situated on one of the main streets with a large storefront, in the window of which cigars, stationery, Socialist papers and literature are displayed, this headquarters is a standing advertisement for the Socialist movement. Though established only about nine months ago, the profits from the sale of the merchandise just specified at most pay the cost of maintenance, and soon, the Toledo comrades hope, there will be a sound surplus. Behind the store proper is a large room which serves as a meeting place for committees, speaker's classes, economic study cases, singing parties. Library and general rendezvous. This is the kind of a headquarters a number of the boys in Toronto have set their minds on getting. Certainly it is the only kind that can be made pay for itself. Readers of the Clarion who have any ideas about headquarters, or who will describe those in their own or other cities, should get busy with the pen and tell us about them. W. R. B.

NOTHING TO LOSE.

The population of the city of Chicago is 2,483,000, and of that number only 110,815, or every twentieth person has money or property in excess of \$250. During the past month the election of judges took place, and although the old party candidates have recently handed out some of the worst labor decisions ever recorded, no decision practically ruling that to maintain the "closed shop" was a national conspiracy, yet the working class candidates received only 11.46 per cent. of the vote. Following the lead of Brother Gompers, the Chicago Federation of Labor tried the policy of "rewarding their friends and defeating their enemies," with the result that those slated for defeat were returned at the head of the poll, while those supported were in a majority of cases defeated badly.

The city of Chicago has for years been known as a stronghold of organized labor and has advantages over the smaller cities in many respects, and has been known to carry on strikes for a year or more at a time, yet when the men who have made the strike an obsolete weapon came forward for re-election the workers placed them where they will continue to injure the interests of labor, if it is possible to injure people who have not more than \$250 between them and starvation. Judging by court decisions, treatment by the police and the actions of Congress, the United States treat their working people worse than any other nation, with the possible exception of Russia, and no other country does the worker receive as small a percentage of his product as in the Republic below the 40th parallel, but in spite of all these facts, the workers' political movement is far behind that of other countries.

What is the reason for this condition of affairs? The States have more labor papers per capita than any other country; every city of any importance has from one to a dozen labor organization headquarters situated across the city. The entire movement, from a political standpoint, appears to be rotten to the core. The Socialist movement does not appear to be in any better shape. Their platform, with its long list of immediate demands, does not appeal to the working class, but tends to draw petty reformers who are more concerned to make their propaganda acceptable to their own kind than to voice the one essential demand of the workers. In the city of Chicago the Socialist ticket of judges should have polled the least per cent. of the vote, assisted as they were by "The Chicago Daily Socialist," containing daily cartoons, many of them of high educational value. In addition to this, the news and editorial columns of the paper always contain some articles of vital interest to the working class, the effects of which are, however, to a large extent nullified by stories of graft that bring the paper into the same class as many of the capitalist sheets.

We would suggest that our American comrades continue trying to combine the trade union, which is part and parcel of the present system of society, with the Socialist movement, which should be the political expression of the working class, rather than a forum for the political tricksters of the old parties, and at the same time reduce their platform to a few clauses enunciating what they really want, eliminating all the immediate demands that tend to confuse the issue, which must be set clearly before the workers if any permanent results are to be expected. The Socialist movement should be one of education and the quality of the propaganda will be reflected by the membership and by the results on election day. The membership should be confined, as far as possible, to recruits from the working class and should be a fusionist or opportunist; be found in the ranks, the sooner he is rejected the better for all concerned.

Although our movement in Canada is comparatively young, compared with that of other countries, yet we have followed the policy already set forth and have made more real progress since that time than has been made in the United States up to the present. In the Province of British Columbia, with a population of approximately 500,000, less than 1/4 of that of Chicago, we have elected three members to the Provincial Legislature, who have, since their election, introduced 70 bills and amendments thereto, all of which were in the interest of the working class alone.

All this has been done without compromising with anyone and without the assistance of a daily paper, the value of which cannot be overestimated if run along correct lines. The movement and the results will be just exactly what we make them, and it is up to our American comrades to shape their policy in a way that will prevent a recurrence of the defeats of the past year. A TRADES UNIONIST.

CALGARY.

The Lyceum Theatre Sunday night was the scene of a logical exposition of scientific Socialism. The main speakers were Mr. and Mrs. Lestor, the English Marxians, and member-elect Chas. O'Brien, held the boards for a few closing remarks on the class struggle which he emphatically repudiated R. B. Bennett as a champion of the working class.

Mrs. Lestor's remarks were naturally from the standpoint of the woman's interest in social conditions and political remedies therefor. She appealed to her sex to open their eyes to the fact that they were simply breeding slaves for the capitalist market; and declared that the mother's instinct for the protection of her young ought to send them forth on a holy crusade against evils in whose abatement they are as yet given no political voice, but against which they can nevertheless hurl countless votes through their influence with their friends and relatives of the opposite sex. The man who will not listen to the plea of woman for the child is not entitled to receive woman's co-operation in producing children.

Mr. Lestor addressed himself more to the basic maxims of Marxian philosophy. He declared that the truth of economics could only be discerned by those who were willing to put off from their feet the shoes of private interest adverse to the general good. For this reason the workingman, bearing as he does, by labor of hand and brain the whole burden of providing the world's material necessities, is specially fitted to understand economic truth and wage the battle of industrial freedom. Being himself a slave, able to make some choice of his particular master, but none the less tied to the chariot wheels of the class that controls the jobs, he is necessarily compelled to raise his entire class in order to help himself; and the struggle of life therefore decrees that class consciousness is bound to increase and spread from the very pertinacity of capital in continually seeking fresh dividends and new avenues of profit at the expense of the worker.

The supremacy of the capitalist class having resulted from their capture of political power when feudalism went to pieces, it was now up to the worker to capture the political power in his turn and by means of that power turn capitalist property in the means of life into working class property. In this way the working man started forth as the savior of the world from an era of confusion and gloom in that he was opening wide the door of opportunity to all and thus making possible for every one a full and satisfying draught of the wholeness and gladness of human life.

Chas. O'Brien, M.P.P., followed the Lestors with a half-hour exposition of the class struggle, and in answer to a question asserted that R. B. Bennett's position as the special representative of a section of the capitalist class that just now was squealing "reform" because it was not getting as much swill as it used to, was by no means a passport entitled him to the sympathies of the working people. Let Mr. Bennett be given power to work his legislative will and the actual producers of our country's wealth would shortly see where they got off. "I, alone," declared Mr. O'Brien, "am the real opposition at the Edmonton sub fort. If you want any measure introduced in opposition to the present industrial and economic system, send down your request to your Uncle Charlie."

The concluding hour for questions and criticisms brought on quite a debate regarding anarchism in his antithesis to the political tactics of the Socialist Party. An apparently well-educated European who championed the side of plutocratic anarchy said that Mr. Lestor was one of the most tolerant Socialists he had ever met on the platform.

Nothing is easier than to give Christianity a Socialist tinge; but as soon as a movement becomes respectable it loses all usefulness for the working class. WANTED—Miners to keep away from the Nicola Valley, as the strike is still on. D. K. McDOLALD, President. WANTED. A Socialist Traveling Companion 'Round the World with Wilshire's. All Expenses and a Salary Paid. A red hot Socialist preferred. Write at once for complete information. WILSHIRE'S MAGAZINE, 220 William St., New York. Depl. 22.

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Demand Cigars Bearing this Label Union-made Cigars. Which Stands for a Living Wage. Vancouver Local 387.

Here and Now By "LEBDS"

Every Local that persistently pushes the circulation of the Clarion makes sure and steady progress. If YOUR Local does not subscribe for a bundle of Clarions each week and if it has not its card in the Socialist Directory, you make it YOUR business to bring this matter up at your next meeting. Every member, without exception, should be a regular reader and subscriber of the party's paper. The extra cost PER MEMBER for bundle, card and sub. is merely nominal when RESULTS are considered. The party was willing to let one comrade bear all the expense of getting out the paper for over three years, and it is now up to the party collectively to do so itself. Let every member do his share—his duty—and there will be no deficit. Are you with us? Are you, really?

Unable to withstand the jolts of Comrade Gribble, ten wanderers asked to be shown the road to freedom, so he sends along their names for immediate attention, and every week from now on they will study the Clarion in search of "the better way."

Comrade W. H. Kyle of Strone, Alta., renews his own sub., but he thinks he ought to do more than that, so he encloses four new ones.

A short note from Comrade F. Hyatt informs us that the Lestors and O'Brien comrades held a splendid meeting in the theatre at Calgary. As usual, the comrade remembers the Clarion and forwards two yearlies.

A bundle of "the paper that educates" will be used to "turn away" the slaves of Bowden, Alta., from their idols, thanks to the efforts of Charley O'Brien, M.P.P.

Revelstoke boys pay up for their card in the directory. And Fernie for its weekly bundle, per Comrade J. L. Thornley, who boasts with a list of five yearlies and gets the party emblem.

The secretary of Local Sandon, B. C., renews his own sub. for another year and also encloses the renewals of two other comrades for the same period.

Comrade W. Taylor of Winnipeg renews his own sub. for another year, and, like a good Socialist, adds a new yearling to the list.

Winnipeg has a bylaw prohibiting free speech, but Comrade James Thomson informs us that the City Council at its last meeting introduced a new by-law allowing free speech, which, to save trouble, they should lose no time in passing. Our comrade sends a renewal for a year with a new one.

Still another from Winnipeg. This time it is Comrade G. Watson, who sends his own and another comrade's sub. for a year.

A new sub. from each of the following hustlers arrives this week:

P. C. Young, Woodstock, Ont.; R. Stroud, Toronto, Ont.; F. J. McNeely, Gopher Head, Alta.; W. B. Smith, Chemungus, B. C.; Alex. Lyon, Toronto, Ont.; Frank Dempster, Vancouver, B. C.; Abe Karme, Vancouver, B. C.; J. A. Murray, Vancouver, B. C.; A. Black, Vancouver, B. C.; Hugh Hanna, Hillcrest, B. C.

WATCH the number on your address label and don't let your sub. run out.

A writer in a local daily state that "local opinion" will be the "issue" before the "public" at the next election. The cry of "a white Canada" is about played out, so it is necessary to manufacture a new issue in order to fool the worker once again. It will also be necessary for the politicians to get some new bait, as Joe Martin is no longer available. Any old thing will do to jolly along the intelligent (?) elector. He is a standing joke. There can, however, be but one issue worth the serious consideration of any decent person. SHALL CAPITAL OR LABOR WRITE THE LAW?

The voters' list is like your brain; if no use unless you use it. If your name is not on it, drop into Local Hall or to any of the parties' headquarters and get it put on right away.

LONDON LETTER

The annual report of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshops for 1908 has just been issued. The report, which includes all factory inspectors' reports in the United Kingdom, is a most pitiful official document dealing in many cases with heart-rending accounts of the evils of sweat-labor, of dangerous trades, of terrible sufferings of workers, of gross illegalities, of inhuman treatment of employees, and worst of all, of instances where the workers, even through ignorance, brutal treatment or coercion do not dare to seek or hope for improved conditions. Coming as this report does from a capitalist government, it is certainly one of the strongest condemnations of the capitalist systems that could be had, but it is given out to the public by the authorities with little hesitation, for they know that as yet the workers are indifferent to the terrible wrongs that are perpetrated in the name of capitalism upon the wage slaves of the British Isles.

Here is what Miss Martindale, one of the lady factory inspectors in Ireland, in giving her report, says: "In collecting evidence against this factory, I had no less than 72 visits. A report had been spread through the town that if I won the case, and hearing apparatus had to be installed, the factory would be closed down, and as the factory was one of the principal means of support for the inhabitants of the town, the report was calculated to counteract my efforts. I provided a popular subject of discussion for the inhabitants on what they called 'the crusade against the factory.' Often on presenting myself at the door of a worker's house, I would see the girl whom I wished to interview, rush upstairs and hide in a bedroom."

Miss Martindale tells of her experience with the proprietor of a hotel, who also kept a large general shop, the post office and a hand weaving shed. Declarations were obtained by her from men who swore that their wages were kept back in payment for their father's long-standing debts. Proceedings were taken and the little court house was packed, but coercion had been used by the employer and the witnesses went back on their declarations and swore that they received their wages in coin, and the case was of course dismissed. Yet Miss Martindale was not immediately afterwards that "the employer had paid wages in goods from time immemorial and that every one in the court room knew it."

"Speaking of the evil effects of the industrial employment of children," Miss Martindale says, "in Belfast the high infantile death rate is depressing, but it is hardly to be compared with a high death rate amongst children of 10 years of age and upwards. It needs little power of imagination to realize the pain and wretchedness which must have preceded those deaths." After referring to children of 9 and 10 years of age working full time in mills, she concludes, "I have no hesitation in saying that unless public opinion is aroused, the children of the Irish industrial classes will remain weakly and undernourished and the high death rate will continue."

Coming on to England and Wales, the report shows equally as bad, if not worse conditions of the workers. In some of the best homes in the Southampton district the old custom of paying workers wages, partly in money and partly in bread and flour, still flourishes. A girl of 16 was found in charge of a boiler in a dark cellar in the same district. A pottery manufacturer was in the habit of lending his employees £1 (20 shillings) to be repaid in four weekly instalments of 6 shillings each, making a total of 24 shillings deducted from the wages. The men were never out of debt, and some weeks would not only have no wages to take home, but would still be owing 6 or 12 shillings due on a previous loan. In some beer bottling works a practice was found to exist where boys had to suck the syphon filters to start the flow of beer. The result was that drunkenness was of daily occurrence amongst the boys.

In certain parts of Swansea and Cardiff, houses suitable for the working class are so scarce that men sleep in three layers of eight hours each in the same bed. The kitchens are also used for sleeping apartments. In another part of Wales, caked filth two inches deep was picked up from the floor of a bake house by an inspector. Gentility and high rents are the curse of London's West End dress-making establishments. The workers must be hidden away in basement

workrooms in the rear or on top of buildings in order that they may not worry the sensibilities of the wealthy or aristocratic customers who frequent it under what conditions the clothes are made.

Lead poisoning of women workers engaged in industries where lead and lead paint is used, adds another pathetic chapter to the report. Here is a typical case: A celeste painter, aged 38 years, was a color duster 8 years ago. While so occupied she received a severe attack of lead poisoning from which she had never recovered. She was ill with colic, and the poison so affected her fingers and wrists that she could not use her hands. She had been married 15 years and had had ten children, nine of which were dead and the one that was living was ill the three years of his life and could never walk on account of the lead poisoning it had received. The husband was injured by the South African war and had been an invalid ever since.

The report also states that the practice of sending children of tender years to work half a day in a factory and the other half to school, still flourishes in Lancashire, Yorkshire, Dundee and parts of Ireland, while in Oldham it is exceptionally bad.

Many other instances of cruelty, sweating, dangerous occupations, child labor, etc., could be cited, as the report is made up of more than 200 closely printed pages and contains scores of similar cases. It stands out as a monument to the capitalist system, a dastardly disgrace to the capitalist who perpetrates such brutalities on often time helpless women and children and as a double dastardly disgrace to the workmen of this country for allowing such a state of affairs to exist, when, with the remedy he holds in his hand, the ballot, he could put an end to it forever.

ROBERT E. SCOTT.
London, May 28th, 1909.

AROUSAL TO REVOLT.

During the course of a conversation carried on between two wage-slaves who were yet unemployed, at the Carroll street front, Vancouver, last Saturday evening, one slave who was still kind of sleek looking, showing plainly that he had a kind master, volunteered the information to slave number two that we must work; to which slave number two mournfully agreed, sighed and shuffled off with that peculiar knock-knee, knock-knee, swivel-necked gait so characteristic of the twentieth century brand of serf.

I shuffled off after him and caught him up at a well-known doughnut joint, where he was evidently going to try in a stock of nourishment sufficient to enable him to reproduce his labor-power, when occasion demanded. "Taking a seat at the festive board I began the hard task of trying to instill a little hope into my fellow slave's slavish breast. Fortune seemed to frown on me from the start, for he had evidently reached that stage of the slave's evolution in which he was only living out of courtesy, as to which form of misfortune could happen next.

Between the bites of his imitation or artificial steak, commonly known as Hamburger, or slave's steak, and the intermittent sipping of a mahogany colored hot water, which is what the slaves fondly believe to be coffee, I managed to elicit the information in answer to a question of mine "regarding a change of conditions," that he was not against Socialism. Anyhow, he did not think it would come, if he wasn't going to trouble; he was still eating and getting some sleep, and if it were not for the fear of getting out of a job, would be all right, although his exhausted physique denied this, but evidently his poor, starved mental faculties refused to grasp the possibilities of a system based on production for use, instead of profit. But a faint ray of light seemed to enter his brain can, when I made clear the process, under which he had been skinned during the long years he had been doing the serf stunt. He was evidently wise to the fact that he was robbed, all right, but thought the fifteen cents he was paying for the loaf of the process was devaluing was part of the process. Great was his surprise to find that that was not so, but that the process only started on the job, where, after the first few hours, during which he earned his own wages, and contributed to wear and tear of machinery, etc., he started in grinding out surplus profits for the master class, which profits were divided up among the

various parasites hanging on the heels of capitalism—such as landlords, money-lenders, real estate grafters, sky pilots, magistrates, lawyers, soldiers, police, and a whole host of others too numerous to mention. This explanation and some effect. His lamps began to glow with expression like unto a faint desire to stick his slave's fork into some of his persecutors, and thus showing some of the spirit of his long forgotten ancestors, who sometimes went out and smote a few of their betters, chosen by God to rule over them.

Encouraged by this embryonic sign of revolt, I attacked him as to the possible the dismal pit which still further awaited our doughnut-eating slave, said doughnuts being ordered on the strength of the newly acquired knowledge of "not being robbed as a consumer," but unfortunately the signs of worse conditions to come, seemed to take all the newly acquired spirit from him, the hopelessness of his case seemed overwhelming and as he picked up the ticket, which is the proof positive that you have eaten and serf-wardly passed over two dinners, which must have looked like dollars, by the loving attention he gave them, picked up a tootple to disengage some of the class-consciousness which refused to be swallowed, he remarked, with a weary air, "what's the use, anyhow, if things are going to get worse?" Which gave me advance to tell him about the organization of impudent slaves, who flout their masters, who actually have the audacity to challenge their authority to rule over them, and who have thrown down the gauntlet to meet them in combat, mortal or otherwise; these most impudent fellows, who are changing their chains in their masters' faces; slaves who will fight; slaves who laugh at the old suppositions, superstitions and traditions with which the masters hold the rest in bondage; slaves who ridicule with contempt the efforts of the false prophets, soothsayers and fetish men of the master class, who, with their baby talk and by prattling sweet nothings, think to keep men who have picked the forbidden fruit from the tree of scientific investigation; slaves who have thrown off their chains of mental slavery, which held them in hell, from which once free they never return, and look back only to call their fellow slaves to get a move on, and get out of the mire, and take a look at the infinite possibilities at their command; slaves who hold no sacrifice too great for what they call the cause, and who are growing in vast numbers and glorying in their strength; slaves who refuse to be the "glad perishers" described by a capitalist novel; slaves who have their own code of ethics and methods of fighting, and who will one day eventually overthrow the present form of existing society and substitute in its place a society in which there will be no slaves.

The slave's eyes were now burning with a new light of quiet determination and power, and I knew from then on he would go through the process of being born again. Every converted wage-slave means a missionary who will spread the gospel of discontent and revolution.

J. FRANKLIN.

EXTRADITION OF GUERRA DEMANDED BY MEXICO.

Thirty-seven Others Sought by Diaz. In the Maverick county jail at Eagle Pass, Tex., lies the Mexican revolutionist, Calixto Guerra, whose extradition is demanded by President Porfirio Diaz. No man in the United States is more hungrily sought after by the Mexican government at this time than Calixto Guerra, because if he goes shackled back to Mexico thirty-seven other patriots must go with him. Guerra's case is to be made a precedent for the extradition of all the others. Around his neck hang the lives of over a score of men.

A week ago not even the ever vigilant members of the Mexican liberal party knew of the existence of this secret list of names which Governor Cardenas of the state of Coahuila had transmitted to Governor Campbell of Texas. Guerra might have been tried, extradited, forging the first link in a long chain of trials, if the Political Refugee Defense League had not sent a special representative to Eagle Pass to get Guerra's story and the evidence introduced by the Mexican government in its requisition for his extradition.

The lawyers of Porfirio Diaz have prepared eighty-nine pages of charges in their demand for extradition; extracts from the Mexican press and denunciations of Mexican soldiers who were in the fight at Las Vacas when the revolutionists attacked the town; sworn statements of officials who viewed the scene after the battle; lists of killed and wounded furnished by the chief surgeons; and, all the data which goes to prove the existence of an uprising to destroy a government by revolution. This evidence furnished by the Mexican government would alone seem to be ample proof that Calixto Guerra and his comrades are no more criminals than were Rudowitz and Potpour, whom the United States refused to return to Russia on

the ground that political offenses are not extraditable.

Just across the street from the office of District Judge Douglas, upon whose decision the fate of the political prisoner depends, is the yellow brick, oven-hot little jail in which Guerra has been confined since January. Twice a day the prisoner hears the drumbeats of the Mexican soldiers come thrashing over the Rio Grande from Ciudad Porfirio Diaz, the Mexican town at the end of the long bridge which spans the river. Once he sets foot on that bridge a prisoner, to be handed over to the waiting rurales, and the drumbeats will become louder and louder, draw closer and closer, until the mud wall and the file of soldiers end all.

Calixto Guerra makes no denial of the part he took in the bloody encounter between the forty-five revolutionists and eighty Mexican soldiers of the Twelfth regiment stationed at Las Vacas. The men of the Liberal party crossed the river before daylight to attack the town, drove the surprised garrison back through the streets into sheltering houses, burned the roofs of these shelters over the soldiers' heads until their roofs fell again to a final stand in the barracks, and then, with the town practically in their hands and the fight won, were forced to retreat because all of their ammunition was exhausted.

Twelve revolutionists were killed in the desperate rushes through the streets. Fearless Canales lost his life while exiting fire to the door of the barracks. Wounded comrades were carried back into the hills, hidden, and by night taken across the river. It was a brave fight for Mexican freedom, one of many that broke out on the 24th of last June all over the land ruled by Diaz, but it failed—for the time being.

Of the eighty soldiers, that had composed the garrison stationed at Las Vacas, but seven remained alive and unharmed, holding the barracks, by reason of their plentiful supplies of ammunition, to the end of the struggle.

The tall, thin, shadow-of-a-man who told this story of the fight, as he sat in the sheriff's office at Eagle Pass will in a few weeks be either extradited to certain death, or freed under the same right of asylum that America gave the Russian revolutionists.

Calixto Guerra, Mexican patriot and revolutionist, asks this question of the American people:

"Should I be the first political prisoner extradited from the United States?" What answer will America make to this man? The demand of the Mexican government for the extradition of Guerra will be fought by the Political Refugee Defense League. Lawyers have been employed to give Guerra every possible legal defense, and the services of the well-known Texas attorney, Walter Gillis, who successfully fought the extradition of eight Mexican patriots in 1906, has been retained by the League.

Further information as to the progress of this fight, for the right of asylum in America, will be given to all those who send in their names and address to

JOHN MURRAY,
Secretary, Political Refugee Defense League,
180 Washington St., Chicago, Ill.

THE FARMER AND HIS SURPLUS.

(Continued from Page 1)

and swamps. Farmers A, C, D, E, F and G jump in on the bush land; Farmer B gets the clearing. They all get 100 acres. Those on the bush land work like Trojans early and late and live frugally; it costs them \$100 per acre to clear their land. It takes them ten to twenty years to clear and drain it. If they wish to sell, all things being equal, they could get \$150 per acre. Perceval would say that is right, just and proper. But Farmer B is a lazy good-for-nothing who toils not, but lives on the fat of the land. He can turn his farm over any old time, all things being equal, for \$15,000. What would Perceval call that? Right, just and proper? The farmer's property, as does all other property, conforms to certain definite economic and social relations, and truth and justice and natural rights operate in all transactions with the same force which they exerted when a human being stood upon a block of wood and was knocked down to the highest bidder. Man, whether he be farmer, frugal and hard-working, or millionnaire, idle and prodigal, does not possess wealth, measure or abundance because he has a right to, but because social relations permitted him to do so, and until Perceval and others like him recognize that fact, the best place for them is outside the S. P. of C.

The farmers' land is not capital any more than the carpenter's tools or the engineer's instruments. He may get much or little for it, not because Christ said, "Do unto your neighbor as you would he should do unto you," but because of economic laws and social conditions. This always has been and possibly always will be.

J. H.

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-swelling 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 class 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 "Irishman'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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