

## THE OLD COUNTRY POLITICAL CRISIS

We are in the throes of a general election which, according to the Liberal story, has been forced on the country by the rejection of the Budget by the House of Lords. Immense sums are being spent in the campaign, it being firmly believed that the party which spends the most money is most likely to win. And this is largely true. Such is the unredeemedness of the electorate that bribery, more or less veiled, still plays a prominent, or even a predominant, part. Even the bare returning officers' fees in each constituency are so heavy as to seriously hamper the electoral activity of all but the wealthiest organizations. Money is also being lavished on picture-posters, some of which are quite works of art, but the lesson to be drawn from them is in most cases just the opposite of that intended.

The ray of hope to us in this matter is the knowledge that the charm of money must fall to act on the working class, and all capitalist blarney is wasted, as this class obtains a better grip of its position, a better knowledge of its interests, and a clearer conception of the magnitude of the issues at stake in the political struggle. So the propaganda of Socialism is the paramount need of the day, the rest being relatively of little consequence.

Readers of the Western Clarion, however, may be interested in knowing more about the parties engaged in the present struggle, for the situation in Great Britain is an interesting one from many points of view. Let me, then, pass the various parties rapidly in review.

Protection is the panacea offered by the Conservatives, and with their election cry of Tariff Reform they have put in an immense amount of work. They batten upon the anti-foreign prejudices of the electors, and make fraudulent promises of more work and higher wages. By the most unscrupulous manipulation of figures they try to hide the fact that poverty and unemployment are rife and, despite temporary fluctuations, tend to increase under both protection and free trade; and that the wage of the directer in every country has a direct relation to his cost of subsistence, but none whatever to the existence of otherwise of tariff walls. They have got hold of Robert Blatchford, of "Merrie England" fame, and are paying him to work up a novel and military scare through the columns of the Tory Daily Mail. The economic interests and political ambitions of the German ruling class are again the pretext.

To show how little the editor of the English Clarion deserves the name of Socialist to-day it is only necessary to quote his proposals. He wants:

- (1) An immediate vote of 50 millions for the navy.
- (2) The immediate passing of a compulsory service bill to come into immediate operation.
- (3) A bill for the elementary training of all schoolboys of the age of ten.
- (4) The immediate establishment of a general staff for the Army and Navy.
- (5) A large increase in the vote for secret service and naval intelligence.
- (6) An official appeal to all employers of labor to employ British subjects in preference to foreigners.

Conscription and protection! Further comment would be superfluous.

The Liberals, though less frank in their opposition to working class interests make no secret of their hostility to Socialism. Thus the Liberal minister, Dr. Macnamara said, "Radicalism is irrevocably opposed to the principle on which Socialism is based." The Liberal prime minister, the lord chancellor and the president of the Board of Trade have been equally definite.

Take the present Budget over which so much noise is being made. It is a budget of exploitation. The increased expenditure is due, above all, to huge armaments for the protection of capitalist interests and property. Its

disputed taxes have been advocated by Tories, and are in operation in other countries with no benefit to the workers. The only valid grounds for the Tory objections are the exigencies of party politics, and the possibility that the new sources of revenue may postpone "protective" taxation.

Lloyd-George, chancellor of the exchequer, rightly summed up the overdone Tory opposition and showed what the Budget really is when he said at Carnarvon: "When I come along and say to the landlord, 'Here, the state wants money to protect you and your property, your land, your mansion, your rights, your privileges; we want more!' It is, indeed, a Dreadnought Budget of blood and iron, and its object is the maintenance of capitalism and the consequent continuance and oppression of the workers."

One of their chief election slogans is, "Down with the House of Lords!" But do they intend to abolish the Lords? The Liberal premier said, at the Albert Hall, London: "You will be told that the issue lies between government by two chambers and government by a single chamber. That is not the case. I myself, and I believe a large majority of the Liberal Party, are in favor of what is called a bicameral system." Thus the Liberals do not intend, and indeed, never have intended, to abolish the House of Lords. That institution is regarded as a great bulwark of the "rights of property," and any reform of it undertaken by the Lords themselves, the Conservatives, or the Liberals, can only result in strengthening it against the people.

The Liberal party would, moreover, be impossible without the Lords as a foil. It is their perpetual election cry and universal excuse for broken promises. In fact, while "protesting" against usurpation, the Liberals have deliberately concealed fresh privileges. After saying that to dissolve at the dictation of the Lords would be to capitulate, they have deliberately capitulated. Instead of making use of the undoubted rights of the Commons, or using the power which Lord Courtney (in the House of Lords) has proved the government to possess over that chamber, the Liberals have conceded the powerful privileges and precedents of rejecting a Budget and compelling a dissolution, precedents which even the ultimate passing of the present finance bill by the Lords will neither destroy nor weaken. Even the Church Times, an influential capitalist organ, was moved to remark that "There is only one true description of the situation—ministers have capitulated to the House of Lords." The present campaign against the hereditary chamber is, in fact, part of a great conspiracy to strengthen that chamber and humbug the people.

There is, however, still a sub-section of the Liberal party which merits attention. I refer to the Labor party (which includes the so-called Independent Labour Party). It is the tail of the Liberal bow-wow, and always wags approval when the big dog barks. The Labor M. P.'s cannot be completely separated from the Liberals in politics, for their political independence does not exist. "My Budget," says the Liberal chancellor, "My Budget," says Mr. Philip Snowden at Portsmouth. And it is amusing to find them trying to assure the murmuring rank and file that no understanding with the Liberals exists in spite of the withdrawal of Liberals in favor of "Labor" men, and of "Labor" men in favor of Liberals. One does not, of course, expect to find a written agreement. That might be awkward evidence in the future. Besides, as the Times says, "With friends who understand each other so well it is unnecessary." In fact, the compromise of the last general election is being repeated now on a more extensive scale.

The legislatively powerless "Labor" members proudly claim as theirs the fraudulent measures passed by the Lib-

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## MANITOBA PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE.

Winnipeg, January 15th, 1910.  
 Dear Comrades:—  
 The Executive of Manitoba wishes to urge on every Local in the Dominion, and Socialists not connected with Locals, the absolute necessity for helping out the Party in Manitoba financially, in view of the forthcoming elections in the Province.

Not only is money needed for carrying on an election fight, but also, and in a greater degree, for permanently organizing the Province as a whole. The Province is waiting to be organized, but the Executive, up till the present time, have been powerless, owing chiefly to lack of money. Whenever they had a cent to spare, the comrades in Manitoba have always responded to appeals for money from outside Provinces, and it is now time for those Provinces to help out Manitoba. If every Local will take an interest in this matter, there is no reason why a sum of one thousand dollars should not be raised. That is the sum which the Executive aims at getting, and with your help they will get it, and with your help only. With such a sum for an organizing fund, a heavy blow can be struck at this rotten system.

Any money subscribed should be sent to W. H. Stebbings, who will acknowledge such sums in the columns of the Western Clarion and Cotton's Weekly, from time to time.

Wade in now and show what you can do for yourselves.

Yours in revolt,  
 W. H. STEBBINGS,  
 Sec'y Manitoba Prov. Executive.  
 Address:  
 City Comptrollers' Office,  
 Winnipeg, Man.

## FROM THE TOP BUNK.

Is it needful to call the Working man's attention to the fact that he is never permitted to hold two jobs and draw two salaries.

This is reserved entirely for pevter aristocrats.

To obtain something for nothing is also a special perquisite reserved for

these individuals of base metal and mind.

Even a square meal given without a full rendering of its equivalent or more is contrary to their code of ethics as applied to "a weak producer."

When their victims are left helpless and penniless so virtuous are they that horror possesses their gentle and sweet dispositions at the thought of a further degradation by and through charity.

But to get themselves elected into positions of power to control the material things of life, they will really swallow any and all their most cherished ideals.

And fawn and smile upon the dejected plug to wheedle from him a vote.

How long, O Plug! How long will and can you endure this belly crawling that ends always in your own undoing.

How long will you submit to these priests of capital, who whose labor creates all their luxuries and comforts—your, whose reward is no more than the market price of your physical energy?

You, whose reward is old age and poverty.

You, whose reward when sick or injured is merely to be replaced by another who is sound in mind and limb.

Watch this coming session of the B. C. parliament, the Dominion and other Provincial parliaments.

And see and learn for yourself how untrue you have been to yourself and Class by a thoughtlessly cast vote.

Watch 'em, I say. Observe closely what Labor gets.

Hero-worship is truly a vice—characteristic of slaves!

THE FOG'S LE BARRISTER.

## GOMPERS, HENDERSON, MURDOCK

The labor world, like the capitalist world, produces many famous men, who become notorious (excuse me, I meant famous) by their sayings. Gompers with his "vote for your friends and defeat your enemies" linked himself with that political cotton-tail, Arthur Henderson, M. P., at his well known epigram. "We don't wish to embarrass the government."

In order that Henderson and Gompers might not feel lonesome, acting as the martyrs of Labor, James Murdock, vice-president of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, has given the masters the high-ball to go ahead and treat labor like they have in the past. He makes it quite clear by his assertion, "We do not want to create a feeling of insecurity. It might hurt business." Is it any wonder that the Financial Chronicle approves of his action or refers to the circumstances as being of sufficient importance to grant an increase in compensation to the men.

I would like to believe that the officers who are at the heads of the various entertainment unions, believed in the mutuality of interest between the capitalist and his workers. If they do, then they only reflect the pliancy of those responsible for their election. James Murdock stands out prominently as the ally of capitalist interests, whether cognizant of the fact or not. It seems strange that men holding positions of such importance should be ignorant of the fundamentals of economics.

He spoke also about the railroad of fields being labor's friends. He should know that business recognizes no friendships. The railroad officials purchase men's power to labor and calculate on its cost exactly like the calculation on ties, rails, and rolling stock. I know what I am talking

about in this particular instance, from experience. They look upon wage-workers as animated packages of energy, whose energy is paid for after it has been delivered and consumed by its purchasers. The price paid is called wages and has no bearing on the commodity produced.

I deny emphatically that wages are that portion of the product of labor which the laborer gets for the expenditure of his labor-power, and are paid to him as his share of the product.

The commodity created by labor does not belong to the laborer. As a commodity producer he is robbed. As a producer of wealth he creates more than he receives, consequently when labor power ceases to be a commodity, the laborer will get the full product of his toil.

Laborers sell a commodity, labor-power, at the highest possible price that the market will stand. Capitalists buy labor power at the lowest possible price. Buyer and seller meet in the market under no other guise but as buyer and seller. Now, where is the identity of interests? Where is the friendship? I will tell you or rather, do, then they only reflect the pliancy of those responsible for their election. James Murdock stands out prominently as the ally of capitalist interests, whether cognizant of the fact or not. It seems strange that men holding positions of such importance should be ignorant of the fundamentals of economics.

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W. H. S.

## THE PROVINCIAL LAW SHOP OPENS

Parker Williams Opens the Debate on the Reply to the Address from the Throne.

The Rift in the Liberal Lute.—During the presentation of petitions Brewster, one of the two Liberals returned, to the surprise of the House, rose and requested McBride to place his name on some of the standing committees. McBride read out the names of Conservative appointments to the standing committees, adding Brewster's name to those on Municipal, Private Bills and Railways. The House sat up and took notice when Jardine's (Lib.) name was moved for the committee on Private Bills, by Hawthornthwaite, who also moved him on the Agricultural, Municipal and Railway committees, all of which the House accepted. He also moved Parker Williams on the Mines, Railways and Agriculture committees and himself on Railways and Public Accounts committees. These were also concurred in by the House.

The chasm between the "ranks" of the "Great Liberal Party" is deep and wide indeed, but it must not be forgotten that Jardine supported all labor legislation introduced in previous sessions by the Socialist members.

Com. Parker Williams opened the debate in reply to the "address from the Throne" in his usual caustic style.

After referring to the meaningless rhetoric, full-time battery and absolute insincere flattery that was always lavished at such an occasion upon all and sundry, and particularly upon those who least deserved it, he asked to be excused from following that line, as life was altogether too short.

Referring to the position of the leadership of the Opposition, and the discussion that had taken place on that point, he would say that the Socialist Party, notwithstanding the theories and forecasts of the Conservative and Liberal press, proposed to take the same course as in the past. They had occupied the position of a distinct political party in the House and they would continue to do so. The matter of location of seats for the Opposition had been satisfactorily settled. The claim of the Socialist Party to the first seats on the left of the Speaker was based on the practice recognized by the Conservative Party. They (Williams and Hawthornthwaite) were older parliamentary hands and claimed the seats by virtue of seniority of parliamentary experience.

The address from the Throne reminded him forcibly of a lobster, everything in it went backwards. To look for information in it was a waste of time. Though the Conservative party was jubilant over the present condition of affairs in the Province, he was of the opinion that it would require a large microscope to discern any justification for it. They would have to go to the Kettle River Valley and the C. N. R. to find it.

In regard to the reference to a reduction in taxation, he reminded the House that the member for Nanaimo (Hawthornthwaite) last session had moved a resolution recommending the Government to abolish the poll tax. If the Government was going to reduce taxation he hoped that they would begin by sending the poll tax by the board. If conditions, in the opinion of the Government, were so that the tax could not be abolished, let there be proper persons appointed to collect it. At present it frequently happened that a man who started to work a few days before the end of the month, after his board bill was paid, found that the small surplus had been taken for this tax. It was a disgrace to the Province, and they stood alone in the British Empire in bearing it. It might have been necessary at one time when the cost of education was heavy on the municipalities. He was convinced that after the last 3 years it was unnecessary. If any taxation was to be removed this ought to be.

While dealing with taxation, he would refer to the methods of the assessors. There was room for considerable criticism. Their present methods differed from the purpose of the legislature. He knew of one instance personally of a piece of wild land with a hotel on it covered with tar paper, worth in all about \$76.00, being assessed at \$600, while neighboring land in exactly the same condition, and perhaps more in need of improvement, escaped. Four years ago he had said that if the Government used good business methods they could do away with direct taxation.

He observed a note of exultation on the part of the Conservative party in the fact that the mover and seconder of the address came from Grand Forks and Delta, two seats that had formerly been represented by a Socialist and a Liberal leader respectively. Probably McBride was feeling boastful in having a party of 38 out of a House of 42 members.

He would congratulate the member for Grand Forks on his remarkable control of his remark. He could say less with more words than any man he (P. W.) knew. Among the mass of his generalities there was not a grain of ideas. However, there was satisfactory to the people of Grand Forks to be represented by a phrasemonger, it was their business and not his.

The Evolution of a Graft.—The timber policy of the Government might be termed the evolution of a graft. One year ago the timber men came to the Government and received 21 years lease of their holdings. Now they are to have their leases in perpetuity. These timber sharks had the Government good. No doubt they had provided a lot of money for the Conservative campaign and a grateful Government was handing them the timber rights for all time to come. If they had not done so he was convinced that there would have been considerable less money spent in some constituencies. Looking at some of the land that had been staked for timber he thought it funny that any timber man intended to hold it for timber unless they had an assurance from the Government that their lease would not pay for it as timber land.

Strathcona Gets His Limb.—The member for Grand Forks had got enthusiastic over the visit of Lord Strathcona. He (the speaker) had a wholesome respect for the genuine pioneers of this country, but Strathcona did not come in on the list. He was a doddering old man whose whole energy had been devoted to accumulating goods for himself. The scabbiest corporation in B. C. was the Granby Co., and the Western Fuel Co. and the C. P. R. tied for second place. Strathcona was connected with the C. P. R. and that corporation has been the greatest corrupting force in Canadian legislation. They have reduced wages to an irreducible minimum and their whole force is honeycombed with spies, informers and thugs to sow the seeds of mutual distrust amongst them.

The Power Behind the Scenes.—Victoria had sent four members to the House and had then appointed a committee of merchants to watch them in railway matters. If the electors of Newcastle had no more confidence in him he would have told them to find another representative.

Thomson (Con.)—Can the hon. member give the House the names of that committee?

P. W.—I cannot do so at this moment, but I will give the hon. member the information requested later.

Needs of Newcastle District.—Referring to the damage wrought by the Nanaimo river which was washing away land belonging to ranchers, he would ask the Government to send up an engineer to the scene. The effects on cleared land had been serious. Although the Dominion Government had spent money on similar plans, did

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The Western Clarion

Published every Saturday by the Socialist Party of Canada, at the Office of the Western Clarion, 145 Hastings Street, Vancouver, B. C.

Subscription: \$1.00 Per Year, 50 cents for Six Months, 25 cents for Three Months.

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 29, 1910.

THE SOCIALIST PARTY.

With many of you this is the first issue of the Clarion, possibly of any Socialist paper that has fallen into your hands. To quite a number of you this paper will cost nothing for the next three months, having been paid for by members of the Socialist Party of Canada that you may, if you will, watch the work of its representatives in the Legislature. Those who are footing the bills are not primarily out after your subscription, though that will be welcome, particularly as an indication that they are getting what they are after. They are after you. If they get even a few of you, that will amply repay them, for once we have got you, you are ours for keeps, one of us, doing as we do, everlastingly on the hunt for others.

Anyway, read the paper. Probably you won't like it, which does not worry us; we have no intention of trying to please you. But if you don't like it, what are you going to do about it? Can you show where we are wrong in any particular? If you can, go to it, there is a barrel of money in it for you, for nobody has ever been able to do it yet.

What do we stand for? You will find it stated in our Platform, on page four. Shortly put, we want the earth. This may sound like a large order, but we have discovered that we have got either to take that or take what we are getting and be satisfied. And we are not satisfied. Are you? If you are, we have nothing for you except the fervent wish that you may get all that is coming to you and get it quick.

Satisfied with what? To hunt a job and work, work, work, till the last ounce of energy has been wrung out of your carcass and you are thrown on the scrap heap; all for a bare existence. To have hanging over you at all times the fear of losing that job. Is that the best that life can give you, think you? We don't. We know that life has greater possibilities than that. In fact, not possibilities only but an inevitability of something better.

Look! The earth is fruitful, the harvests abundant, the flocks and herds countless, the waters teeming, the bowels of the earth strewn with minerals. Our labor is the most productive ever known or conceived. By the aid of giant machines we can produce wealth as never before could men produce; and all the good things of life, till the storehouses are full to bursting.

More than sufficient to supply the every need of every man, woman and child alive. And what have we? What have you got? A few dollars.

Of all that wealth produced by us, and ours, we can touch nothing but the meagre price of our toll; the mess of pottage for which we sell our manhood, womanhood and childhood. Between you and that wealth stands a class, mortals like yourselves, but invested with the magic vestiture of ownership.

The earth that you have made fruitful, the powers of nature you have harnessed; the mighty machinery you have devised and built, they own. And by virtue of that ownership they can compel you to pay to them toll in the coined product of your sweat and toil that they may live in luxury and idleness. At their hands you must seek a job. By their leave you labor and so they leave you alive. And you are not at slaves.

Before them and between them and us stands the Law, guarding and protecting them in their ownership that we touch it not. Seek ye redress of the Law? Not against them. It is their Law. Made by those who obey their behest.

Knowing this we are bound to gather them in the Socialist Party of Canada to achieve that end, and therefore we seize every occasion to reach with our message those who are in like case to ourselves, the members of our class. That eventually we may wrest from their hands the sceptre of rulership and strip them of the vestiture of ownership whereby they compel us to their service.

OUR RIGHTS.

What is a right? We find it difficult to frame, in so many words, a definition expressing its significance fully. Roughly, a right is that which we may do and have without let or hindrance. That which we can do by right is that which no one can prevent us from doing; that which we have by right is that of which no one can deprive us. A right which we are unable to exercise freely and fully is no right.

What rights have we, the workers? Have we any measure of those "inalienable rights of Man" that were the slogan of eighteenth century republicanism—the right to "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of happiness"? To Life? Pennies and jobs, let us see you assert the right to live. To Liberty? Why then do you cringe so slavishly before the boss? Why surrender into his hands all the product of your toil in return for a slave's portion—still and fodder? To the pursuit of happiness? Well, if your happiness is compassed within a job, you have one right, anyway; you may chase jobs, in fact, you must.

"The right to work"? Glorious right. Exercise it, you unemployed millions. The right of free speech? Try it on Spokane. Free press? Not on your life. You have only that privilege. This paper can be suppressed to-morrow if the rulers are not too wise. What would you do about it?

Rights? We have no rights, because we have no might, or know not our might which amounts to the same thing.

In a class society only the ruling class has rights. The subject class can have none. It may have some privileges dispensed at the whim of which it is not policy to deprive it except in extreme cases. But the ruling class has rights, absolutely inalienable so long as it is a ruling class. It has the right to the product of our toil. To take our lives. To imprison us; to deport us; to do what it will. For it has the might.

And that is all there is to a right—might. Of course we have always been taught the contrary. "Might is not right," they have told us, since we could listen. As Post of peanut-shell fodder fame would say "There's a reason." They know that when it comes to a test of strength we have the might, if we know how to use it and why. So their salvation lies in teaching us this. But tell us, you wise ones, if right is not might, what is it?

FOR SALE.

What? Why, everything! And what isn't for sale is for hire, which amounts to the same thing. Provided you have the price you can buy anything or anybody, and dirt cheap, at that, despite the generally expressed opinion to the contrary.

But first, you must have the price. "Nothing for nothing and damned little for slypence," is the motto of commerce. So you must have the price. Where do you get it? To have the price wherewith to buy you must first, if begging or stealing successfully is not in your line, sell something.

And what have the workers to sell? Yourselves? Well, everything is for sale, but everything is not saleable. You can't sell yourselves in this civilized society of ours. It is against the Law. Also, nobody would give twice as much for a man as he is worth. The main reason why it's against the Law by the way. That was all very well in the bad old days; but not now. In this respect at any rate, the capitalists practice a bit of the thrift they preach. You are absolutely worthless so they don't buy you. Your power to labor is all there is about you that is worth anything and so they buy that. The rest of you is only meat and bones, and quite valueless meat and bones, for our present high ethical standard will not permit us to eat you. Moreover, you are tough, stringy, and generally too lean to make anything but a thin soup.

So that is how you get the price to buy with—by selling your power to labor, your physical energy. You have to sell it, too, not having anything else to sell and not having any other way to get the "price." Besides you there are millions of others doing the same thing, or trying to. But the buying end of the market is never so brisk; sometimes it is extremely "dull." And you and your mates have got to sell; the one who sells cheapest makes the sale. Consequently the price of your labor power is very "reasonable," very. The least you can sell for is enough to keep you chewing. There being plenty of you selling, the price doesn't get far enough away from that so you can write home about it. You couldn't be a much cheaper

much of slaves than that, could you? What does anyone wish to buy your labor power for, anyway? Wait, maybe you'll see it this way: Long ago they used to buy slaves and put them to work. They worked with tools we wouldn't look at, unless we had to pay a dime to look at them in a museum. They ploughed with oxen and wooden ploughs. They wove by hand and spun by foot-power. They moved, with a syringe and thrashed with a fall. They smelted with a furnace that wouldn't heat a modern hotel. In everything they were slaves of the second coming. But in spite of that these slaves produced so much wealth that they, fairly gilded their masters, whose tastes were quite expensive. Over and above that they produced enough so that their owners were able to afford to feed them a sight better than the modern worker on the average feeds himself. It paid to feed them, too, for it cost money to replace them.

To-day production is quite different. With modern machinery the workers can now produce more wealth in a minute than those slaves could think about in a week. And as we have suggested, the worker of to-day doesn't get rations that make him uncleanly fat as a rule. Stands to reason there must be considerable 'overs.' That is why they give you jobs, or buy your labor power. You get the price of your feed. They get the overs. That is where they get the price wherewith to buy things.

It is a beautiful system. Everything is for sale and you dig up the price. Your bosses take it out of you and you take it out of yourself. Keep right on. That's the way you voted. Go sell yourself.

GRIBBLE PROTESTS.

Come off, Comrade Lefaux, you are piling it on too thick, though we thank you for your kindly thought, Gribble will take blasted good care he doesn't kill himself, and as a matter of fact, is at the present as healthy as a horse, but he just had a couple of bad teeth out and caught a bad cold in the jaw afterwards while at Revelstoke, was a bit out of sorts temporarily and (which pleased Comrade Lefaux) was a bit extra savage in his remarks on the platform.

Furthermore, we don't want any martyrs in our movement (if any man makes a martyr of himself, write him down an ass or a knave), it is only a step from a martyr to an hero and from a hero to an idol, and we want none such in our Party.

And as to ability, let it be known that there are some boys back east who are started long since the writer and are now lads ahead, a fact which cannot be too widely known in Ontario. When this fact is sufficiently known by the various locals they will also realize that there is no need of importing self-appointed and doubtful saviors of society, who are mighty careful that they only go where the good crowds and good collections are to be got (Ottawa, take notice).

I want to impress upon the Ontario Locals, generally, the fact that there is a bunch of boys at Toronto fit to take any platform anywhere. I want them to get rid of the idea that the "well-known" men are the only people on the bench.

Also, that the boys are got all cast in the same mould, though all giving the straight dope in a way that can be understood, and able to keep their audience interested all the time. There is Stewart, the calm expositor, the somewhat more vehement Green, the fiery Woodhouse and the furious Farrell. There is Watkinson, the man of phenomenal memory, who a few years ago said Socialism was "all nonsense," but now says it's the only thing.

This is only a few of them and they are ready for a call at any time, but are not presumptuously pushing themselves forward.

No, comrades, don't send for them if you want pretty talkers or platform acrobats; they don't punch holes in the sky with the upraised index finger; they don't stride tragically across the platform, or strike an attitude like Ajax defying his mother-in-law. Sentimental females will not make such remarks as "he is such a dear man," after hearing any of these comrades, as I heard one such lady remark about one of our Rev. Comrades Comrade Reynolds, who never is the correct way of putting it.

Glad to see Comrade Desmond estimate them at their true value to the movement.

As to the West, I feel like the Queen of Sheba at the court of Solomon, "not half had been told me." Revolutionists, voters and non-voters, are thickly scattered throughout B. C. and Western Alberta, and one finds them in the (apparently) most unlikely places. On many a lonely ranch there are comrades who are looking forward to the Day. At one I went to there was a Red Flag-hoisted outside, but better still, there was a good Socialist Library inside. You may imagine the welcome that a comrade from a distance gets from these lonely comrades.

The average of education among such as these is very high, and as far as I can see the reason is that they, having no city attractions, and, often, no near neighbors, spend their evenings in study. The pity is that such as these get little opportunity to develop as speakers. Everywhere, I find Socialism is a very real thing to these Western comrades, and their spirit as high and determination as unabated as before election.

Have no fear, you Eastern revolutionists, the plotters and schemers will never switch our Party, the West makes them safe. Keep the flag unspotted and if any endeavor to besmirch it, kick them out of the Party at the first opportunity.

WILFRID GRIBBLE.

CONFUSION WORSE CONFOUNDED.

For general confusion and lack of knowledge of the principles of Socialism, the I. L. P. and S. D. P., etc., rank and file take the proverbial cake. I came to this country with the idea that Socialism was permeating the people, but after two months' stay I think I was very much mistaken. I thought at first, when I boarded the train at Liverpool and ran into a young fellow reading the Labor Leader that my early impressions were justified, but when, after conversation the only "Socialist" I got out of him was that Keir Hardie & Co. were fine fellows, I was considerably disappointed.

However, two weeks later I undertook a trip into Lancashire and Yorkshire, touching districts which I was informed were full of Socialists. I attended a social, also a propaganda meeting of the branch in a town not far from Burny, and got fairly well acquainted. There I learned to my surprise that such leaders of labor as Crooks of the Canadian tour fame, Shackleton, etc., were Socialists.

What do you know about that? When I differed it was told, "Well, I ought to hear them." As though the praise which is lavished on them by the capitalist press is not a sufficient voucher for their harmlessness to capital.

At the propaganda meeting we were regaled with a plink tale discourse, on the subject, "Socialism and Christ."

The lecturer was a very nice looking man in silk hat, frock coat, etc., and above all had the title of Reverend, and was consequently well qualified to give Christ's opinion on Socialism. I found from this gent that the Lords had no right (?) to their acres, while we had none; that Christ would have been heart and soul for this great reform (?), etc., and another gem was that all Socialists who had left the church, had better go back, and do as he was doing, win them for us.

At the subsequent discussion the writer butted in and made unkind remarks about parlor Socialism, which was received in chilling silence by the comrades, who didn't like their speaker handled roughly.

My next visit was to Bradford, where I attended Labor Church to hear a speech on unemployment. A sacred solo was sung, labor hymns were sung loudly in the intervals, and the whole atmosphere was so churchy that I nearly knelt down for a benediction at the close.

Here again I heard that a revolution would be the worst thing that ever happened, which appears to be the general opinion of I. L. P. etc. The comrade's idea was that if everybody could be made like the Rev. Stitt Wilson, who was holding social missions in the slums (combination of Jesus and politics) the world would be all right.

There is in the nearest town to my present home an Independent Labor Party branch, who have just signified their intention of supporting the Liberal Party in their fight for the Peers against the Peers (read this I. L. P. etc.) and this is their independence.

I have not yet found a Socialist being organized to the S. P. of G. B., but the papers published by them is easily the best and straightest over here.

Victor Grayson trusts the rank and file of the I. L. P. So do I—to do what their leaders tell them. The best thing that could happen in this election would be the wiping out of the Labor Party, thus clearing the way for straight teaching of the Socialist type, but I must confess that signs point the other way for a return of the false friends of the worker. I would sooner see the enemy in power than this present motley army of Liberal cum Labor cum temperance fakirs.

But at any rate, those of us who are class conscious can go on fighting for the one thing useful, the coming of the Revolution.

F. S. FAULKNER. Stately, England.

LOOK HERE!

Socialist Directory

Every Local of the Socialist Party of Canada should run a card under this head \$1.00 per month. Secretaries please note.

EDMONTON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. Socialist Party of Canada. Meets every Friday evening, 8 p.m. at the Hotel, 1100 St. James Street, Edmonton, B. C.

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. Socialist Party of Canada. Meets every Monday evening, 8 p.m. at the Hotel, 1100 St. James Street, Vancouver, B. C.

ALBERTA PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. Socialist Party of Canada. Meets every Monday evening, 8 p.m. at the Hotel, 1100 St. James Street, Calgary, Alta.

MANITOBA PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. Meets first and third Mondays of every month, July and August, at the Hotel, 1100 St. James Street, Winnipeg, Man.

ONTARIO PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. Meets in English Hall, 214 Adelaide St. East, Toronto, Ont. Meets every Wednesday evening, 8 p.m. at the Hotel, 1100 St. James Street, Toronto, Ont.

MARITIME PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. Socialist Party of Canada. Meets every second and fourth Sundays at the Hotel, 1100 St. James Street, Halifax, N. S.

LOCAL VANCOUVER, N. O. S. P. OF G. B. C. Meets every Monday evening, 8 p.m. at the Hotel, 1100 St. James Street, Vancouver, B. C.

LOCAL VANCOUVER, B. C. No. 45. Meets every second and fourth Sundays at the Hotel, 1100 St. James Street, Vancouver, B. C.

LOCAL VICTORIA, N. O. S. P. OF G. B. C. Meets every Monday evening, 8 p.m. at the Hotel, 1100 St. James Street, Victoria, B. C.

LOCAL MARIANO, N. O. S. P. OF G. B. C. Meets every Sunday evening, 8 p.m. at the Hotel, 1100 St. James Street, Mariano, B. C.

LOCAL YVRARD, S. P. OF G. HOLDS educational meetings in the Miners' Hall, 1100 St. James Street, Yvrard, B. C.

LOCAL GREENWOOD, N. O. S. P. OF G. B. C. Meets every Monday evening, 8 p.m. at the Hotel, 1100 St. James Street, Greenwood, B. C.

LOCAL PRINCE GEORGE, N. O. S. P. OF G. B. C. Meets every Sunday evening, 8 p.m. at the Hotel, 1100 St. James Street, Prince George, B. C.

LOCAL MARY, B. C. No. 34. S. P. OF G. B. C. Meets every Monday evening, 8 p.m. at the Hotel, 1100 St. James Street, Mary, B. C.

LOCAL PORT MOODY, B. C. No. 41. S. P. OF G. B. C. Meets every Sunday evening, 8 p.m. at the Hotel, 1100 St. James Street, Port Moody, B. C.

LOCAL GLENHATTON, N. O. S. P. OF G. B. C. Meets every Monday evening, 8 p.m. at the Hotel, 1100 St. James Street, Glenhatton, B. C.

LOCAL BURNABY, N. O. S. P. OF G. B. C. Meets every Monday evening, 8 p.m. at the Hotel, 1100 St. James Street, Burnaby, B. C.

LOCAL RICHMOND, N. O. S. P. OF G. B. C. Meets every Monday evening, 8 p.m. at the Hotel, 1100 St. James Street, Richmond, B. C.

LOCAL SURREY, N. O. S. P. OF G. B. C. Meets every Monday evening, 8 p.m. at the Hotel, 1100 St. James Street, Surrey, B. C.

LOCAL DELVIEW, N. O. S. P. OF G. B. C. Meets every Monday evening, 8 p.m. at the Hotel, 1100 St. James Street, Delview, B. C.

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Directory of Western Federation of Miners in British Columbia

Table with columns: Executive Board Member, District Association No., President, Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, Name, Meeting, Pres., Secy., Box, Add.

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THE TALE OF A TIGER.

(By Flitz.)

(Continued from last issue)

On thing is continually placed before him as a virtue specially created for the poor. This one thing is called "obedience." The boy is made to believe that to be obedient should be his loftiest ambition. But who or what is to be obeyed? Is it the instinct of his own boyish nature, or the promptings of his own pure human heart? Certainly not, that is the very thing to be avoided. It is not the heart of man is black with the sins of his fathers, and his own. The teacher must be right, or he would not be a teacher.

In this way the mind of the child is practically destroyed. He is robbed of his brightness, without knowing he had one to lose. The reasoning powers are killed; lies, horrible lies are driven into the plastic mind of the youngster. Instead of having his intelligence developed by a system of true education, he is warped and twisted so as to fit into the society in which he was born and in which he must exist. He must be obedient to his masters; why they are his masters, no one cares to explain. There are many authorities anxious to impress upon him what will happen here and hereafter if he fails to obey. To the capitalist, the landlord, and the aristocrat, he must ever pay homage and respect.

At the age of fourteen he leaves school; he is fitted in every way to advance the interests of his masters. It happens that there are many hungry mouths at home, for the workers are not only fruitless in the production of wealth, but also in the production of wealth producers. Our youngster having completed his education must now look for work; he does so and finds it easily enough, for boys are wanted everywhere. It is one of the glories of capitalism that the greater the demand for boys, the less is the demand for their fathers.

The lad is now employed at the meagre salary of three dollars per week. Every year that passes he receives a raise of one dollar. This goes on till he is receiving ten dollars per week, and is twenty-one years of age. Our boy is now a man, possessed of the appetites and desires of one, and therefore wishes to get married. He goes to his employers and informs them of the fact, and at the same time requests them to raise his wages. It happens that there are many men and boys out of employment, as proven by the large number applying for work every morning. His employers do not fail to make him aware of this. He is also informed that thousands of families are living happily on a smaller wage than he is receiving. This statement would be quite true if the word "happily" were left out.

The young fellow grows persistent. He urges upon his employers his faithful services and loyal obedience during the seven years he has worked for them. His persistence and the fact that there is an unemployed army in the field gives his masters their excuse and the young man is discharged. He has now learned that one of the hardest facts in existence is "capitalism has no sentiment."

Our friend is now idle, not because he is in fault, but because he had the audacity to ask for what he considered to be a living wage. He is compelled to enter the labor market where he finds himself on terms of equality with thousands of other men and women, and even boys and girls. This equality is a thing which puzzles him very much. It does not occur to him that all these people are equal with him and he with them, in that they all have the same thing to sell, and experience the same difficulty in finding a purchaser. Their one and only possession is hard to dispose of. As time passes, this commodity deteriorates; it loses a portion of its value if its owner is any length of time finding a buyer. It must be exchanged as all other commodities are, according to the cost of its production.

In order to learn what it costs to produce this particular article which our hero and his competitors possess, in common, we will revert to the argument put forward by our wise old friend, the Tiger Chief. "Every creature must have food or die."

Food then, enters into the production of this property possessed by the workers, which is called labor power. This food, which is absolutely necessary to life, is produced by nature with the aid of man. By observing nature as she works, man learns from her how to change the forms of matter so as to best serve his own interests. He ploughs the soil, gathers seed and plants it, and harvests the crop when it is ripe. He digs iron ore out of the earth, changes its form by putting it through the smelter, the rolling mill and the machines shop. He then takes it in one form or another and uses it to help in the production of all that wealth which is necessary to the well being of the human race. He digs gold, refines it, and makes a portion of it serve as a means whereby he

can exchange his own labor for that of his fellow men.

Man has arrived at a relatively high plane of development. He needs much more than food. If he is to be kept in that condition which will enable him to expend energy in the production process, he must have a place in which to rest. He must have clothing, beds and bedding, and machines; the work of his brain and his brawn.

But these and the land have all been taken from him and are being used against him every day by those who have had no hand in their making. They have become the property of a class, and the workers who produced them have to go to the owning class, and beg for permission to use the machines they themselves have made, and which are necessary to the production of all those things which the workers must use if they are to live.

The value of this one and only thing which the workers possess then, is measured by the cost to society of the food, clothing, and other things which the toilers must use if they are to be kept fit for toil. Our young friend did not know this; he did know, however, that he was out of work, and, and that if he did not find something to do he would have to go hungry. So he unconsciously acted in accord with the law of capitalist mismanagement. Off he went to find some one who would be kind enough to rob him of four-fifths of the value of the product of his labor power, some one considerate enough to give him a job. He searched for a long time in company with hundreds of others who were embarked in the same voyage of discovery.

What a marvellously strange world it is. Nature holding out full and plenty for all, and a few individuals called capitalists standing between nature herself and their fellow men, and saying, in effect, "you shall not live, because we cannot make a profit out of you."

At last our young adventurer found what he was looking for—a philanthropic exploiter of other men's labor. A kindly looking old fellow he was and his smile was full of the spirit of benevolence. As he sat gazing at our young applicant for work, one would imagine that, by the expression of kindness upon his face he was seriously considering the advisability of sending this fine young specimen of sturdy manhood to college, before taking him into full partnership. No one could possibly dream that this noble looking old gentleman was sizing up the young man's build, measuring his muscles, and mentally calculating the amount of surplus value that could be extracted from him in a full working day.

We have all wondered at one time or another, when applying for work, why the employer looked at us so closely, and we have without thinking, squared our shoulders and thrown out our chests in order to convince him that we were quite capable of doing what he required of us. However, it also made to show off their good points; so, that this peculiarity is not native only to man, is easily seen.

Our young acquaintance was no exception to the rule. He honestly endeavored to look his very best while in the presence of his future owner.

The wage which he had received in his last place of employment, and which had seemed too small to marry on, now appeared to him the most desirable thing in the world. He had, of late, had ample opportunity to appreciate the joys of hunger, and this had resulted in a complete change of mind. Marriage, no doubt, was a beautiful thing, and a condition to be desired. It was the ideal state; but hunger is the antithesis of idealism, and our hero had become grossly material.

He waited, therefore in great anxiety for the answer of the capitalist; at last it came. "I like your appearance, young man, you are bright and intelligent and your references prove that you are honest." He might also have said, "You are a living proof of the fact that under capitalism honesty is the worst possible policy." On this point, however, he was silent, for he knew that, "allence is golden," especially to the private owners of the means of production. "I shall," he continued, "pay you at the rate of ten dollars per week. You will be here at seven o'clock on Monday morning, ready to start work."

The heart of our hero seemed to be doing its utmost to force a way out of his chest in order to throw itself at the feet of the kindly benefactor. The young man muttered, in faltering tones, "Thank you, sir, good morning." "Good morning, my man," replied the capitalist, as with a wave of his hand he dismissed him.

(To be continued)

HORRIBLE EXAMPLES.

Some time ago, when Toronto Local was badly off for speakers, A. M. Simons of Chicago was secured for a lecture and gave one of the best talks I ever had at that place. He came from Chicago for the purpose and lectured at Berlin on his way back. All he received was his bare expenses. A short time since he was at Toronto again during the A. F. of L. con-

vention, together with other "prominent" men of the S. P. of the States, who preferred to attend a "pleasant" Sunday afternoon meeting of freaks attending the regular Sunday meeting held by the English Local of the S. P. of C., and from what I hear from the revolutionary boys of Toronto, Simons was the only one of these "leaders" to inspire them with any respect.

Knowing these facts, I am all the more surprised to read his letter to W. E. Walling, which was published in the last number of the I. S. Review, showing what a state of indecision he is in as to what shall be done to "reform" the S. P. of the States.

That it wants doing something to has been evident for a long time, as has been pointed out frequently in the Western Clarion. It has gone from bad to worse, a large number of its most virile members have left it in disgust (witness the action of the proletarian members of Denver Local) and more will doubtless do so ere long. Its platform of palliatives alone is enough to condemn it, and the way in which its "leading" men and its papers have crawled to the trade unions is enough to nauseate any "Red."

Take the Chicago Daily for example, for which Simons himself is to a great extent responsible. It is far more a trade union paper than a Socialist, and the New York Call is equally guilty if not more so.

These, as well as the Social Democratic Herald, seem to pandor to the A. F. of L. type of trade union chief, and now, even the International Socialist Review seems to be becoming a labor union journal rather than a Socialist, having for the last few months been hysterically enthusiastic over industrial unionism as opposed to A. F. of Lism.

I am not a bit surprised at this latter, neither am I surprised at so many of our comrades in the states losing their faith, wholly or in part in political action. It would be a matter of surprise if they DID NOT lose faith in such a party as the U. S. Socialist (?) Party as constituted at present, bossed by professional Socialists, party Socialists, "Christian" Socialists, and all sorts of qualified Socialists.

Simons himself confesses that after all the efforts that have been made to "capture the trade unions," the majority of their delegates who he interviewed at the Toronto convention regarded the S. P. of the States with "intense hatred," so the pandering for show support, of which he has his share of guilt, has been an abject failure, particularly, as he admits, many of the leaders were once members of the S. P.

The S. P. of the States is one horrible example of how not to run a working class political party. As to how to do so, I would remind Comrade Simons that he has himself made the statement that the Canadian movement was virile, and also that the Western Clarion, its party paper, was the best educational sheet he knew. The moral is obvious.

For horrible example No. 2, I will briefly refer to the Labor (?) Party of the Old Country, the members of which were returned to Parliament a few years ago on the distinct understanding that they were to remain independent of both Liberal and Tory Parties. No need to say much about this precious Labor Party. One can see with half an eye what has happened to them. They are hand-in-glove with no, party-and-parcel, of the Liberal Party, and doing their level best, or worst, to help that party to fool the workers by the Budget and "down the Lords."

"Socialism is alright," they shout most of them, "but we've got to settle the Lords first, that is the issue at present," and so they are helping to fool the workers out of some more precious years, and the next election probably the "issue" will be tariff reform, and these well-fed, comfortable salaried "Labor" members will once more yell, "Socialism is alright, but we must settle this issue first, and prevent a tax being put upon food," and some more precious years gone forever. And the election after that perhaps conscription (if not that, some other fool thing) will be the issue, and the "Labor" men will be indignantly yelling, "Down with conscription," and some more years lost to the workers, until at last the workers wake to the character of this Labor Party, and know enough to rally behind the real party of the working class, the Socialist Party of Great Britain, a party which like that of Canada, has no palliatives on its platform, takes no side in the quarrels of the robber class over the division of the booty already filched from the workers, but ever proclaims the truth, that ever points out to the workers that the only issue that concerns them is: Shall the latters remain owners of the means of life, or shall the workers use their power to vest that ownership in themselves?

WILFRID GRIBBLE.

B. C. PARLIAMENT.

(Continued from Page 1)

so every year, the local member at Ottawa, Ralph Smith, because the political complexion of the district was not pleasing to him, had refused to do anything. He would therefore suggest that the B. C. Government assume sole charge of this work. Salaries of Teachers.—He hoped that the entire cost of school teachers maintenance in unorganized districts would be assumed by the Government. The present system of the local boards sharing it with the Government was no longer necessary, and the entire cost ought to be borne by the Government as had been the case formerly. The cost of living in the last 10 years had gone up 25 or 30 per cent., and the teachers salaries remain the same as ten years ago. The remuneration compared very unfavorably with that of loggers who could make the same money in half the time. There were ten janitors in the House getting more than the school teachers received in this Province. He did not think that the janitors were getting too much, but what principle did the Government proceed upon in grading salaries? If they refused to pay a satisfactory salary to school teachers, who after 4 or 5 years education, only received \$45 or \$50 a month, less than that of a book-keeper in town, then the schools would continue to be used as stepping stones to other occupations. He thought the salary should be raised to \$75 per month at least.

A new teacher is given 6 months trial in a Normal school, if he turns out well he is sent to Vancouver or Victoria, if not, he remains in the country, and the children of the agricultural settlers are raised in ignorance. It was up to the Government to find a remedy for this.

Ladysmith Hospital.—A delegation was coming up to interview the Government on this matter with the object of procuring assistance, and for the present he would leave the matter alone.

Stinking Ball.—The Newcastle electors were told that if they sent a Conservative member to Victoria they would get the best possible results, as the Government would be more generous. A man who would use such arguments was rotten from middle down and up. If the Government did that, what became of their oath of office. If they would do favors of that kind for a Conservative district they would do it as readily for individuals. Are they a band of plunderers? Spending money for private graft? Any district is entitled to send a representative of any political opinion it chooses. The prevailing opinion is that a constituency that returns a Government supporter will get the best results. The settler in the Delta was, previous to the last election, compelled to deal with the present member if he desired any improvements. There is a limit to which the Government can go in this line. The Conservative candidate for Esquimalt was motored over the district by the commissioner of public works to influence the voters. This gentleman had an office on the main street with the British flag over it. He was no Jingo, but if that flag stood for anything it was for purity in elections, which was not the grade of Conservative tactics in B. C.

Local Option.—The attorney general had stated that the defeat of Local Option was due to the satisfaction with which the manner of handling hotel licenses by his department was regarded. He did not think so. Under Local Option if Ladysmith or Nantawmo went dry, the drinking would be driven out into the unorganized districts.

Bowser.—That is a mistake. It would apply to all districts, organized or unorganized.

P. W.—That is news to me, and has not been made public. In conversation with Dr. Spencer I found that he was under the same impression as myself. He (P. W.) had advised the people not to hold up Bowser's hands, and insisted that his view of the matter was right.

Concluding, Parker Williams referred to the disasters at Ladysmith and on the New Westminster car line, and said that flowery speeches were all very well at plunk teas but in cases of that kind some other action was needed.

Brewster adjourned the debate.

TAKE NOTICE.

Locals wishing to have Commissioners for taking Affidavits appointed to put men on the voters' list in their district, should send in the names to Comrades Hawthorthwaite or Williams now.

N. B.—It is necessary to send full name (Christian and surname), full address and occupation.

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.

Manitoba Provincial Executive Committee

**WANTED WANTED WANTED**

All Socialists and Clarion readers in Manitoba to wake up.

The province needs organizing and we appeal to all workers to get in touch with the Executive. Don't wait! Write now for information to the secretary.

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