

# WESTERN CLARION

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## LAW-MILL RUNS OVERTIME

*But Produces Nothing of Much Value to the Workers, Except the Exposure of the Hostility of the Government to the Interests of Labor—Railway Policy Unmercifully Dissected*

VICTORIA, MARCH 5.—This week has been the hardest on our representatives yet. The budget, estimates, railway legislation and two new labor bills had to be attended to in addition to the necessary attention that had to be given to the corporation bills introduced by the private members, which had to be watched and attacked when necessary in the interests of the workers especially and the community generally.

The night sessions were added to the afternoon sessions on Monday and continued through the week until Friday, when a morning and afternoon session was held and the house was adjourned until 10:30 a.m., Monday, Feb. 7.

Under the arrangement of the evening sessions our two members get practically no more than nine hours out of the 24 for themselves in which to sleep, answer correspondence, and attend to the bills that are due to come up and decide on the course to be pursued in regard to each. While some of these things can be done while the house is sitting, it must be remembered that one of our men has to be on the floor all the time to keep in touch with what the other fellows are doing, and be ready to block their moves, if possible at an instant's notice.

If it was possible to have a delegate from each local in the province in the gallery during the session, to see what these men of ours are up against, they would undoubtedly go back with the determination to try as they never did before to get them more help at the next elections. They have given enough material to fill the Clarion half a dozen times this week alone and it has been boiled down to less than two pages. An eight-page paper twice a week would be just about right now, but will it be enough for the next parliament?

### The Budget.

On Monday Hawthorthwaite replied to Bowser's budget speech. Although Bowser's speech could not be criticized in the manner of its preparation and attention to detail, it was surprising that he did not talk longer in his efforts to cover up the past sins of the government. He had not referred to any act of the government in the interests of the masses of the people, more particularly the farmers and wage-workers. All he dwelt on was money, administration and the piling up of an enormous surplus in the hands of the capitalist class. That surplus had been obtained by the assessors' thumb-screw and by handing over of the natural resources of the province in appalling amounts. The careless manner in which Bowser had mentioned these enormous sums might induce a listening worker to believe himself a rich man, until he put his hands into his pocket and ascertained how little he had left after paying for his last meal. Notwithstanding that address he knew his condition in the coming year would be no better. He would be receiving the same wages, based on the same laws as at present. They got no hope from the attorney general.

The member for Nanaimo then criticized the position taken by Bowser that the present business prosperity in the province was due to the McBride policy, pointing out that it was due to world conditions, and panics and booms were as little affected by that policy as the fall of Halley's comet.

He proceeded to contrast the policy of the government before and after Bowser's advent, both in labor and railway legislation. Before that time some seven or eight labor bills had passed, the home and 600 miles of railway had been built without bonus of any kind, but for the last three or four years only one mutilated labor measure had been allowed to pass and the C. N. R. was to be guaranteed to the extent of \$15,000,000. If that policy was continued the people of the province would have had that after 20 years had

finished there would be nothing left to give away. He proved from Bowser's own figures that the taxation of the small farmer had been nominally reduced and actually increased, while the poll tax had been retained. From 1899 to 1903 the average taxation per head was \$1.70, now it was \$1.58, a magnificent reduction of 12 cents per head. The benefit of reduced taxation to the small farmers had been offset by increased expenses in school maintenance and teachers' salaries, and by the medical inspection of schools, which he had been informed would cost one district \$800 extra yearly.

To the statement that men engaged in the mining industries received in wages a sum amounting to some 15 or 18 millions he took exception. (Why that difference of three million?) Some 12,000 men being employed gave the average wage of \$1,500. According to his own investigations \$800 was nearer the truth, reducing the \$18,000,000 to \$9,600,000, which meant that the capitalist class exploited those men to the tune of \$14,000,000. That was worthy of attention.

Dealing with the government's policy of granting permanent leases for timber, he charged that the government was merely the tool of the capitalists interested. It was simply a policy of handing over the last of the timber to that class. It had gone now and the people were powerless to remedy it, 12,000,000 already having been alienated.

Although the Attorney-General had said that the enormous wealth produced was something to be proud of (the Hawthorthwaite failed to see it that way). The producers of that wealth had only received their wages, the small farmers the same, for they had to put their product into a world market and met what the Attorney-General characterized as terrific competition.

The Attorney-General had invited the capitalists of the world to come to this land of great wealth and good workers, they would give them everything in sight and hold the workers in submission and at their mercy. That had always been their policy. He had no hesitation in saying all labor legislation would be defeated that session by the unanimous vote of the capitalist members, and the whole of the workers turned over to the tender mercies of the capitalist class. The workers alone were to be blamed for that. The Socialist Party would try to show the wage-workers and farmers where they got off. The government had a magnificent opportunity and occupied a unique position to have done something for the farmers and workers, but they had done nothing and had promised to do nothing for the future. The Socialist party could only expose the hand and intentions of members opposite, and they would continue to do so as long as they remained in the house.

After the speeches from other members, including an uproarious declamation from McPhillips, the motion, "that the Speaker do now leave the chair" was carried without opposition and the house went into committee of supply. A warning to the Granby Smelter Co.—and Others.

On Tuesday, March 1, when the house was voting the estimates, Parker Williams elicited the fact that the Mr. Funderfelt appointed on the Timber Commission, was the gentleman of Grand Forks and "breadthrough" fame, and immediately proceeded to criticize him as a patriot in Victoria and a czar in Grand Forks.

The Attorney-General said that the government had made a wise choice. He was a gentleman of experience and ability, and he (Bowser) understood that he would make no charge for his services. Mr. Hawthorthwaite remarked that that was good reason for reducing the

vote. The Socialist Party generally confined their attacks to the whole capitalist class, but when the working class were attacked by any individual capitalist they would retaliate in the best way possible, and they had convinced one gentleman that it would be wise to drop those tactics. The speaker both Funderfelt and Hodges realized that the better it would be for them there could be nothing meaner than the tactics they were at present using towards their employees. The defeat of the Socialist candidate in the last election and the return of the present member was simply due to the manager of the Granby Smelter Co. driving several hundreds of men out of the district. If those methods were to be used, the Socialist Party would use other weapons. The members of the house did not sympathize with the workers, which was quite natural, proper and right.

If the men could not meet these men politically they would find some other means. It was a serious matter to take a job away from a workman and they were fiercely resenting it, and expressing that sentiment now through the Socialist Party on the floor of the house. Not a corporation in the province but was escaping taxation, and there were many ways and means of getting at them and they would soon find it out—the sooner the better for them.

Miller (Grand Forks), replying, referred to an assertion made by the previous speaker that he was not returned because of his superior ability over John McInnis. He had a great liking for Mr. McInnis. There were a large number of working men in Grand Forks and he had to rely on them for

votes. It was through no action of the Granby company that they had been induced to vote for him, but because they were tired of the Socialists (applause). The Socialists had racked and torn the unions to pieces. At one time the union at Grand Forks had been strong and had been respected by citizens and the Granby company alike, but through the action of the Socialists it had declined. Out of 350 men employed in the Grand Forks smelter McInnis had only received some 70 or 80 votes, a fact very significant of a very intellectual class of men, and to that fact alone was his election due, and not to any action of the Granby company. The defeat of McInnis was due simply to the intelligence of the voters and not to any action of the company or the Conservative party. He (Miller) had promised to support all legitimate legislation the Socialists would bring into the house and he would not go back on that promise, so long as he could act in the interests of the province as a whole.

Hawthorthwaite replied that what Miller had said proved his statement that he (Miller) had not been elected because of any superior intellectual ability over John McInnis. As to the Socialists and the union, any union that received the respect of the employer ought to be racked and put out of business. As to the 70 votes for the Socialist, the Socialist Party knew that hundreds had been driven out of town, and he told the Premier so. Word had been sent round that if McInnis was returned the smelter would close down. That and the Bowser election act of last year were the reasons McInnis had been defeated. If conditions had

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## KR-RIME OF THE CONGO

I don't know and for this reason I ask you. Dr. Conan Doyle has written a book which I have just finished reading. Is the doctor a humorist or a plain fool? If this book is not a joke, then C. D. is a chump or a most vicious retainer of the capitalist class. It is published as an aid to the Congo Reform League and for those comrades who enjoy a gruesome and blood-curdling tale, I can confidently recommend it. The relations are horrible enough to heat the blood of a fish, and yet, why the Congo?

Why, of all the out-of-the-way places on earth surely the Congo is the most remote. 'Pon my Saluted Sam, for a man living as Conan Doyle does in the midst of horrid poverty, crime and squalor, dwelling as it were in the very high places of capitalist exploitation, such a book looks twaddling. Why not the Crime of England or something nearer home?

But no; 'twas ever thus, the man who lives upon a dunghill complains of the filthy stench arising from his neighbor's manure pile. The most vicious exploiter of labor in England can with a feeling akin to righteousness swell with indignation over the crime of the Congo. The poor wage-mule of Great Britain can read this book and thank heaven he is a free man.

The book itself is bound in black with a photo of a dusky slave minus his hand and foot, inside are other pictures of the same ilk. This is nothing new to me, or can Conan Doyle lead innocence of the same. He and I must have seen those white slaves who came back from one of England's colonization wars (of which the doctor is so proud) begging on the streets, sans legs, sans arms, with jaws and eyes and faces smashed, cast out to starve upon the rubbish pile of capitalist exploitation.

To me there is something funny in the fact that Conan Doyle is the author of such humanitarian books as the Croxley Master and Rodney Stone—books in which human brutes fight terrible battles for the very same reason that King Leopold or King Capital exploits the Congo—gain. Books in which drunken brutes are glorified into heroes, and betting, parasitic lords into men of the finest calibre. Books like 'The White Company' in which a band of cut-throat Englishers cross the channel and lay the fair realm of France waste with fire and sword for the identical reason that the Congo is laid waste—gain. Books in which

crime and vice are glorified and canonized, in which robbery is made a virtuous thing, and then to wax wrathful over such a trifle as the Congo game. Fiè, doctor! The book rings as hollow as a drum.

To start at the beginning. The author's introduction is, to say the least, humorous. He talks of Germany having a long score to settle on the Congo, both in the name of humanity and trade rights. Fancy mixing humanity and trade in one breath and putting humanity first. He does not think the French nation can know the real state of the Congo because if they did, although they have some capital in the game, their generous and chivalrous natures would not tolerate such goings-on. Only Conan D. would venture to couple chivalrousness and capital together. Chapters one to thirteen are simply a rehash of capitalism at work as we have had it from Upton Sinclair and others, save that this book is history and The Jungle, fiction. The reports of missionaries are very mild and yet horrible enough. A general state of "shooting up" the dirty niggers for rubber seems to prevail and with its usual cunning, capital uses the slave of the same breed to keep the workers in order. Some niggers are soldiers; some slaves. I think that the following extract from King Leopold's Bulletin Office is too good to miss. It says:

"With this development of general order is combined an inevitable amelioration in the condition of existence wherever he comes into contact with the European element. Such is in fact, one of the ends of the general policy of the state, to promote the regeneration of the race by instilling into it a higher idea of the necessity of labor." After that, what next?

It is, however, in the last chapter that C. D. shows himself as a funny man of the first water. The heading itself is too good for anything. He has called it a chapter of "solutions"—robbery solutions, of course. First, Belgium comes in for a severe keelhauling and the late Leopold would feel mighty small if he could read what our pill pedlar has to say about him. Amperica is next called up for trial, and although the concessionaires are some of them from the land of the free, still Americaners have a high moral sense and C. D. is sure that soon as they read his book they will mop up the Congo and send nothing but gain to the devil. How on earth a mad can talk such drivel about the moral sense of American

## O'BRIEN TURNS IT LOOSE

*Charlie Butts in on the Alberta Love-feast—Insists on Explaining the Class Struggle and the Commodity Nature of Labor Power—Gets in a Wage Clause—Introduces Coal Mines Amendments.*

The previous installment was delayed by snow slides and did not arrive until too late for publication. However, as Comrade Blake had little to chronicle except a sordid scrap among the legislative vultures over the railroad car, we did not miss much.—(Mc.)

### Alberta and Great Waterways Debate Still Continues.

Riley (L.), in continuing the debate for the Opposition on the 8th, heavily scored the Government in a speech lasting one and one-half hours. He said that the Premier had designated the ex-minister's statement that he could build the road according to A. & G. W. Railway's specifications for \$12,000 per mile, or according to C. N. R. specifications, for \$18,000 per mile, further that he would charge nothing extra for sidings and would furnish good equipment, as a big bluff. Turning to the Premier he said, "This proposition is made by a man who knows what he is talking about, I say to the Premier, will you call this bluff? Can you call this bluff? Dare you call this bluff?" Bennett (C.), "Ask him to come in and see you anyway."

In concluding, Riley, seconded by Glendinning, moved the following amendment to the Resolution: That all the words after "Therefore, Be it resolved," be struck out and the following substituted: "That the contract entered into between this Government and the Alberta & Great Waterways, is not such as will commend itself to confidence and judgment of this House." This alters the resolution insofar that the first question was that the Government should repudiate the contract and carry out the work itself, whilst the amendment is a motion of lack of confidence in the Government.

Puffer (L.), in supporting the Government, said he believed the Government had made a good deal. If it can be shown that there has been crooked work, that the Government has acted dishonestly, I for one am ready to vote against them. But I am convinced after a careful study of the question, that the Government has not done so, that they have done the best in their power and I will support them. Dr. Warneck followed with what was, although only a short speech, one of the most bitter directed at the Government. He termed the A. & G. W.

capital after the Chery mine game, to say nothing of the McKees Rocks, is one of the riddles of the universe, which even Heecler could not read. France, Germany and America are invited to join with Great Britain in the squashing of the Congo Free State for conscience's sake. But if not, if these countries prove false to the standard of humanity, then Britain alone in her splendid isolation must interfere.

The doctor says (so I suppose it is true) that we have a right to free trade in the Congo and we must enforce that right. We have done so before and if we are true sons of our fathers we will do it again. I hope we have a right to the Congo, but since it is very hot and swampy there the doctor can have my share for ten dollars. There is a lot more hot air and bombast about Britain's splendid colonial enterprise and some of the old, old dope about England the friend of the dusky African. The curse of blood and the scorn of man rests upon the Congo, says Doyle, and I don't think they give a hoot, so long as the game pays, say I.

The book ends with a last bite of humor. On the back cover is printed advice on helping the cause and the last one is fine. Readers are asked to write their political representative and express their feelings. On second thoughts, if your time is limited and eyesight weak, don't waste them upon the Crime of the Congo. Look nearer home.

ALFRED BUDDEN.

a white elephant and gave the Premier a hot five minutes for fustianating that there were traitors in the Liberal camp. As the seconder of the resolution he said, "I have the permission of Mr. Boyle to accept the amendment. This I shall do.

J. L. Cote (L.), was the next speaker in support of the Government. He made it plain that he knew what he was talking about. He denied that he had told Warneck that there were miles and miles of muskeg on the Great Waterways route. What he did say was that there was a percentage of muskeg. He quoted Warneck, an eminent railway authority, to show that the average estimate of the cost of railroads was \$25,000 per mile, basing the cost of labor at \$1.75 per day. He said there had never been any accurate survey of the distance between Edmonton and Fort McMurray. The distance as the crow flies would be about 240 miles, but a railroad could not be built under 275 miles.

J. W. Woolf, seconded by J. A. McDougall, moved an amendment to the amendment, which was questioned on a point of order by Bennett (C). The speaker not being sure, adjourned the house at 10:30 to enable him to look up precedents.

### O'Brien Defines His Position.

On March 11 O'Brien took the floor. Mr. Speaker, he said, I have been listening to this debate, not with much interest, but with a good deal of forbearance. One hon. member, said that this question was the most momentous in the history of the Legislature, if that be so, then, Mr. Speaker, I can only say that the legislature has not justified its existence.

This agreement about which so much has been said, and about which, I suppose, so much more will be said, completely ignores the interest of the employees, those men who will build the road. The Opposition to the Government, who so loudly proclaim they speak in the interests of the public have closely shown for whose interests they are working, by the fact that they have never once mentioned the workers, as well as of the capitalists, this is one of the loosest contracts that could be drawn up, but yet there had not been one word of criticism regarding the indefinite clauses referring to the protection of the employees. This debate has taken in a very wide range, from growing onions near the North Pole in the month of February, down to Kansas City, and finished up with a good time at New York City.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in order to be understood, it must be remembered that I represent a distinct political party to any of the other members here, that I have nothing in common with any of them, and that they all look alike to me. The party I represent, have a distinct platform and manifesto, which has in no part been borrowed by Liberal or Conservative, for the simple reason it contains nothing they could use. I may wander from the point a bit but I don't think I'll get farther than the others, not to the North Pole anyhow.

Before my election, I was, and am now, National Organizer for the Socialist Party of Canada. The present civilization is based on property, and property is simply a character endowed upon the method of owning and excluding others from that to which we claim title. We have in the history of the world had several kinds of property, at present we have Capitalist property, and under this system, the earth and the means of production belong to a small minority, the capitalist class. The Platform of the Socialist Party, is to transfer this state of ownership into the collective ownership of the working class, that they who produce shall enjoy.

At this juncture, several members rose in their places and appeared to

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# 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 838, Vancouver, B. C.

## MANITOBA PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE

**TIVE**  
Regular meeting Feb. 22. Present Voss, Armstrong, Cumming, Ingram, Saltzman, Stechshin and the secretary.

Correspondence dealt with from Dominion Executive, Locals Dauphin, Ladysmith, Nanaimo, Toronto, Ukrainian (Winnipeg), North Battleford, Ed. Fulcher, Brandon; F. Blake and William McQuid, Edmonton.

Organizer Cumming drew up appeal to all Socialists and sympathizers and secretary instructed to get list of subscribers to *Com's Weekly* for the purpose of mailing circular.

Secretary instructed to try and get the agency of the International Socialist Review.

Report of convention by Organizer Cumming, "That two candidates be nominated by the Socialist Party for Winnipeg and second meeting called for carrying out details."  
Gratification expressed at the success of Manitoba Campaign Fund to date.

The following bylaw of the Manitoba Provincial Executive committee to be ratified by all locals in the Province of Manitoba:

Section 1.—That all members of the Socialist Party of Canada elected to the provincial house of parliament shall act as organizers for the party.

Section 2.—Providing that members elected are unable to fulfil the duties of organizers, all salaries shall be used for the aforementioned purpose, excepting at such times as members are engaged attending the sessions.

Yours in revolt  
H. H. STEBBINGS.

## MANITOBA CAMPAIGN FUND

The following donations to the Manitoba Campaign Fund to date: Dominion Executive heads the list

Winnipeg, No. 1 are helping themselves	50.00
Winnipeg Jewish, No. 8, profit	30.00
W. McQuid, Edmonton, wishes us success	15.00
F. Blake, Edmonton, sympathy he calls it	1.00
Ladysmith, No. 10 asks us not to feel pained	1.00
Nanaimo's aid to our fight	5.00
Toronto, No. 24, wishes us every success	5.00
Hosmer, No. 52, instructions to fill the "law bill"	10.00
W. H. Stebbings, a Christian Socialist's contribution to the heathen	5.00
P.S.—That B. C. comrades who offer \$100 is going to get his money's worth by looking for it.	127.00

H. H. STEBBINGS.  
316 Good Street.

## ONTARIO AUDIT

Amount held by ex-Treasurer Lindalla in the convention	\$114.00
In the general fund	88.57
Total	\$202.57
Amount held by Treasurer Woodhouse in the convention	14.75
In the general fund	61.22
Total	\$75.97
Total receipts for the year	\$1064.30
Total disbursements for year	785.76
Balance in treasury	\$278.54

This audit includes all meetings from and including Jan. 27, 1909, up to and including Jan. 19, 1910.

**Liabilities all:**  
Assets as follows:  
Bills receivable \$14.65  
Supplies on hand:  
Number of due stamps 470  
Number of due cards 625  
Number of party buttons (S. P. of C.) 54  
Number of party buttons (cellular) 83  
Number of constitutions 1  
Number of platforms 600

Audited and found correct.  
ARTHUR TAYLOR  
W. G. CONLEY  
Auditing Committee.

## O'BRIEN TURNS IT LOOSE.

(Continued from Page 1)

The Speaker, that O'Brien was out of order, as he was not speaking to the question, the Attorney-General siding with O'Brien, by saying he was leading up to his position.

Bennett, sarcastically asked if the Attorney-General was also a disciple of Karl Marx, as he had seen "Marx's Capital" in the Attorney-General's office.

Attorney-General Cross, said he had read a good deal of Marx's writings, and he could assure the Junior member for Calgary, that a close study of it would do him no harm.

Boyle thought that O'Brien was in order, he was leading up to his point, and explaining himself.

Mr. Speaker ruled that O'Brien must keep a little nearer the question.

O'Brien. These objections, Mr. Speaker, are because the members do not understand my position and if I am to define it clearly, I must touch upon Capital and explain my meaning of that term. If the members look upon \$7,400,000 as Capital, and I have another conception, it is necessary that I explain my terminology.

These railroads, Mr. Speaker, have been necessary, they are necessary now to develop this great country. We all want to see this country developed, Socialists as well as other persons.

The quicker this country is developed, the quicker the workers will be in a position to claim their own. I am a representative of that Party which is working for a new order of Society, the Co-operative Commonwealth. I do not blame any individual for Social conditions of which they are but creatures. I have no ill-will for any official of the country for they are but pawns in the game of which we are all a part.

It took ages to pave the way from chattel slavery to feudalism, again it took ages to change from feudalism to capitalism and capitalism must be paved the way to that new order of society of which I am proud to be the first representative in this Legislature of Alberta.

Now, Mr. Speaker, to get down to the Great Waterways Railway, it is thought by some that Socialists are a party of humanitarians. I wish it to be clearly understood that we do not pose in that light at all.

It has been made much of here, that the Government are the servants of the people. That is quite right, they are, but we must know who the people are. The people are not that mass of tolling, wealth-producing humanity, but just that portion of the population who own that which others must have access to in order to live. That is who the people are within the meaning of this discussion.

With the great development of industrial capitalism, the workers have been transformed by a gigantic machine. The industrial machine has brought the ends of the earth into speaking distance, it has abolished boundary lines, except on maps. To-day owing to the machine, the ploughman is a skilled worker, as compared with the weaver who attends to the loom, who has in fact become part of the loom.

All this has had the effect of dividing the human race into two classes. The haves, and the have-nots. As capitalism more fully develops, this class line becomes more clearly defined.

This class which owns all that which the worker depends upon for a living, owns the workers; for they who control that which I must have access to in order to live, own me. So that we are in the last analysis, slaves. It is in the interests of that class of slaves that I am here.

The clauses in the agreement relating to the employees can be construed to mean almost anything. I have drawn up an amendment, which, if I can get a seconder, I intend to lay before the House, in which in place of the vague indefinite clauses now existing, I have drawn up a definite scale of wages and charges for board. I have already asked several members to support my resolution, including one who signed a pledge to support all labor legislation brought up, but in each case I have been turned down. Every member here is representing material interests, some in the interests of the C. P. R., some the C. N. R. and some the A. G. W. I

am not interested in either, only insofar as I may be able to make conditions a little better for the slaves. I would like to know, Mr. Speaker, if I could get this resolution before the House.

Speaker.—There is already a motion, amendment, and amendment to amendment, you cannot go further before the last amendment is disposed of.

O'Brien, Oh, I don't want to get mixed up with the other amendments, Mr. Speaker. In fact, they wouldn't mix. I will introduce it as a subsequent motion.

At that point, another point of order. O'Brien receiving many suggestions and offers of help.

O'Brien, I fully realize, Mr. Speaker, that if there is a close call upon this question, I can get all the help I want. I don't know how I'll vote.

After much more debate and mud-slinging, on the 3rd, a division was taken upon the amendment which was a vote of lack of confidence in the Government, the administration was sustained by a vote of 23 to 15. O'Brien voting with the Government.

Bennett immediately challenged the vote of Cornwall, member for Peace River, on the ground that he was financially interested in the subject matter. Voice allowed; matter referred to Committee on Privileges and Elections.

O'Brien then moved a further amendment; seconded by Cote (Lesser Slave Lake), which provides that the Government endeavor to get the company to pay a minimum rate of wages of \$2.50 per day of 9 hours. This was carried by acclamation—a division not being called for.

In moving the amendment, O'Brien said, the discussion over this question has taken up a lot of time, I had intended to introduce this as a motion, but have it put to the House as an amendment, to get it through quicker. This may have its legal and literary shortcomings. In the preamble, but I will give you permission to cut out as much as you like, provided you leave the main part of the amendment, which I am after. I was particularly interested upon the first question, but I felt that I ought to speak upon it and define the stand I am taking and my position in the House.

I had only started a few minutes, Mr. Speaker, when I asked your permission to define my position. I understand your position is a very peculiar and difficult one, because one member gets away a little from the question, and the next a little more and so on. In fact the Junior member for Calgary spoke away from the question for two hours. And I can readily understand, Mr. Speaker, that you called me to order earlier than you would the others because I pack a different kind of dope, and, if it was as repulsive to you as it was to me the first time I heard it, I wonder you didn't stop me earlier.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this is an entirely different proposition to the first question. There I pictured the class struggle, that is, the struggle between all those who have not, and those few who have control over the means of life. This question of wages, Mr. Speaker, is no part of the class struggle, it is a commodity struggle, a struggle between merchants, if you will.

Now, Mr. Speaker, whenever there is a sale there is a struggle, one side to buy cheap, the other side to sell dear. And it is so with the workers, they have a commodity to sell and its name is labor power or the power to labor. The workers like the manufacturer, are forced into trusts or combines, only in their case it is called trust unions, so that by amalgamation they might get a little better conditions under which to deliver their labor power. There is one difference, however, between the combine of the manufacturers, and that of the laborers.

Formerly no such things as beef, fish or fruit trusts existed, because they were perishable goods and there were no means of preserving them, but shortly after the advent of refrigerators, trusts were formed for these commodities. Now the workers' commodity, labor power, is perishable, but refrigerators are no help to it from its nature it cannot be trustified. Hence the workers have to sell it for what price they can get.

We have been told here that the cost of building railways has gone up but so too, has the cost of living. Whilst it is true the money wage in some cases is slightly higher than it was, yet the real wage, which is reckoned by the purchasing power, has really decreased. The workers have by the development of machinery, been speeded up to an extent never before known in the history of the world, and yet they get today what they have always got, a nice existence.

The agreement provides that in case of dispute the rate of wages and price of board shall be determined by the Local-Governor in Council. It has been said that this is to be a colonization road, and it is well known that after the first 50 miles there are very few people. In fact all the way the most of the people are small farmers, and as they work anywhere from 15 to 20 hours a day, that it would be the average hours and the employees of the road would, according to the agreement, have to work the same. It would

be very difficult in such a case to determine what is the average rate of wages, because there are no trade unions, and no fixed scale of wages, so that as the cost of railways and living has gone up and seeing that the workers produce more in a given time than ever before, I am not asking much when I ask for a minimum wage of \$2.50 for nine hours.

Now, sir, it is not necessary to make a long speech upon this matter. Its reasonableness must be apparent to all. It may be asked if I mean that boys should receive \$2.50 per day. My answer, Mr. Speaker, is yes, and the women as well if there are any employed. It is a very common sight, Mr. Speaker, to see a woman mending her husband's overalls, boiling his wash and making his mulligan; that is the sort of food they usually get, and living in tents, mud huts, shacks and dug-outs. That \$2.50 per day is their wages as well as that of the husband, and as regards single men, the girls that wait upon them at some cheap eating houses have to be paid their \$15 per month out of the wages of the single men or whoever else boards there. Then take the married man in camp with his family in town. Supposing he works regularly six days per week at \$2.50 per day, that is \$15. Take \$5 from that for his board—can his wife and family live and clothe themselves on \$10 per week besides his own articles. It is hardly enough to keep bare life in their body and what is their condition when he loses his job? Why, want and starvation, whilst the road he has helped to build is earning rich dividends created by the surplus value of him and his class.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I believe, as every Socialist believes, that this present state of society is about to pass away, and that a new and better social system is dawning. A system under which the workers will own that which they produce, and also the machinery and natural resources. Then we will not have to peddle our labor-power. Meanwhile, it is our policy to get all we can.

Members of this assembly may refrain from voting for various reasons, perhaps for legal reasons, they may have many excuses, but they all, when trying for election, were very kind to the workers—promised to do all kinds of things for them. Why? Because the workers had no vote and they wanted that vote to get returned.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I ask every member to give this their earnest consideration, and for whatever reason they may vote against it, they will go on record with me as having voted either for or against the workers.

Friday, March 4th, was the first real field day of the session. The house got right down to business and passed a large number of bills through their initial stages. Those for first reading were all for incorporating companies, granting town borrowing powers, and other smaller things of no great interest to the Colonist. Those for second reading included an Act Respecting Witnesses and Evidences, which provides that a witness shall not be bound to kiss the Testament, introduced by Attorney General Cross. An Act Respecting Towns and a Bill to Prevent Priority Among Execution Creditors, by the same member. There were also a number of bills for incorporation of Social Clubs.

Smith spoke very strongly against liquor licenses being granted to clubs, and contended that the hotels should be made more tenable. Several members spoke for and against this view, which will be threshed out in committee of the whole House.

O'Brien said he did not know much about clubs, but he did know that in small towns the club rates were smaller than in cities, consequently they could not keep up such swell-looking places. And even then the majority of people could not pay the rates. He knew a club in B. C. where instead of Brussels carpet on the floor they had sawdust, and so it got the name of being a disreputable place and was closed. O'Brien defended the hotels, saying they had been his home for the past three years, and he always stayed at the cheapest because he could not afford the best. What surprised him was not the poorness of the accommodation, but the excellence of it at the rate of \$1.00 per day. He could not see how it paid, and anyway if it is the improvement of the social conditions of the young men, there is only one solution, and that is to improve conditions under which they toil and to legislate more in their interests, and less in the interests of the capitalist class.

O'Brien plainly showed those in the House whose interests he is fighting for when his Bill to Amend the Coal Mines Act came up for consideration for second reading. He said, in effect: "This is not a Bill for shortening hours or larger wages, but is introduced solely for the purpose of affording greater protection to the lives of men and boys employed in the mines. It is claimed that nearly all accidents in the mines could be avoided if the law was made so much to the favor of the mine inspectors. These men have too much responsibility. They cannot be in every place at once, and they often have

to ask the operators several times, and then accidents often happen before anything is done.

The existing act provides that mines where less than 20 men are employed need not provide double shafts. With warmth O'Brien said, "I don't care, Mr. Speaker, if only one is employed in the mine. I want just as much protection for him as for a hundred men." Supposing a mine with 15 men employed, and an accident occurs in the shaft, these men are bottled up in there with no possible means of egress. Such a state of affairs as that is damnable. It shows, too plainly that the lives of men are no more regarded than mere animals. I am not laying a charge against those who framed the act, because I don't believe they understood the nature of the work they were legislating for.

Regarding ventilation of mines, the old act provides for not less than 100 cubic feet of air per minute for each man, boy and animal in the mines. This clause in being transferred from the ordinances of the Northwest Territories to the statutes of Alberta, was shorn of the words, "which shall sweep the face of each working place." This, O'Brien, pointed out, may have been an oversight, but it was most important that these words should be reintroduced, because the face of the working place was the very spot where the pure air was required. Under the existing act the air may be forced into the main roads, and yet the working place would not get the air and would be full of gas.

Regarding signals and refuge holes, he pointed out that the Act at present only provides for refuge or manholes when there is not more than two feet between the mine cars and the side of the place or road. He explained very clearly that a man standing or perhaps working in such a place is in danger of his life every time his car passed him, because if the cars were to jump the track he would sure be very badly squeezed, if not killed.

The amendment provides for refuge holes, where there is not at least three feet between the cars and the side, at intervals of not more than 25 yards, of not less than 4 feet in width and 4 feet in length. The amendment also, for further protection, provides that where the produce of the mine is drawn by any mechanical appliance at a speed exceeding four miles per hour, a separate travelling road should be provided. The last clause provides that the timber shall be placed at the cross-cut in the mine at the nearest end to which the men are working. The present act merely states that it shall be placed at the nearest cross-cut. The operators have kept within the meaning of the act, by placing the timber at the farthest end of the cross-cut from the working place, thus necessitating the miners carrying the timber right through the cross-cut. This, O'Brien, pointed out, precipitated a strike in the Crow's Nest Pass, which lasted for several months and came nearer to causing a general strike than anything else in the history of the mining industry in Alberta.

Premier Rutherford said he did not intend to oppose the Bill; it was probably more important than many of them realized. The last Legislature passed legislation which had been much appreciated by the miners of the district. He wanted to point out, however, that the proposed amendments were more advanced than any mining law was existing in any part of Canada or even in Britain. That was no reason why it should be opposed, however, but at the same time, it should receive careful attention from the House.

Walker said he had worked in gold mines for two or three years, and he did not think any mine should be worked with a single shaft. He had never worked in coal mines, but he understood it was more difficult to keep a coal mine free from gas than any metalliferous mine. He said that it was not permitted in B. C. to work a mine with a single shaft. He was quite in accord with that part of the Bill to regulate ventilation of the mines, and also with the remarks of the hon. member for Rocky Mountains regarding the mine inspectors. The law should be specific and the duty of the inspector should be to see the law was carried out, and not to define it. But he thought that the amendment dealing with manholes and separate travelling roads were rather farther than he could see his way just to them to endorse. However, he said, I may change my mind when the Bill comes into committee of the whole House. He was at present in favor of the principle of the Bill and the law in B. C., but not quite so far as the hon. member for Rocky Mountains.

Warnock thought that the providing of a separate tunnel would involve a great expense upon the operators, and feared that some mines would not pay to have that done, but upon being assured by O'Brien that the main road was wide enough to board, brick or otherwise fence off a part as a travelling road, it would come within the meaning of the bill, he withdrew his objection.

## Here and Now

By "LEBDS"

Bundles subscribed for by locals are by no means to be given to individual members of locals. Bundles are to be used for the purpose of getting arrangements acquainted with the labor movement, and when members of locals take these bundles and distribute the copies among themselves they not only neglect the best means of pushing their message, but they also defraud the party of 50 cents a year on each paper. Every member of the party who is not a subscriber to the Clarion at the rate of \$1 per year has not yet acquired the first rudiments of organization and is certainly not the stuff of which revolutions are made. The Socialist Party is no charitable organization—the working class must save itself and pay the price—no one else will or wants to. Educate yourselves—if you don't "like" the Clarion, all the more reason why you should read and study its articles, for it was by reading what you did not like that you have reached your present state of mind and progress may still be possible. The greatest enemy of the working class is ignorance and prejudice—but both can be overcome by persistent education along correct lines.

Take a look at the number on your address label—if it is less than 575 your sub. should be sent in at once—don't neglect this.

When renewing his own sub. for a year Com. J. A. Harris, Grand Forks, drums up a yearly to accompany his own.

Michel, B. C., has always polled well for Socialism and Com. Vincent Frodsham's two yearlies will help towards doing better next time.

Com. Archibald Hogg, New Westminster, B. C., is always on the lookout for new readers for the Clarion and this week he introduces two more for a year each.

Hardly a week passes without Com. James Thomson, Winnipeg, making his bow to the Clarion. Two more subs. this time.

"Every little bit helps," writes Com. D. McDougall, Winnipeg, and adds two more students to the list.

The lone representative of the true interests of Alberta's workers finds time to help along the cause with two new readers.

Three more yearlies for Hillcrest, B. C., were handed in by Com. Lestor since last report.

And Com. James Cartwright, South Wellington, B. C., sends in two renewals and one new yearly.

Vancouver's list gets another boost by Com. J. Franklin who calls and leaves a pair.

Com. H. Collingwood, North Battleford, Sask., orders a bundle of 50 copies and can be depended upon to make good use of them.

Say you, "Fo'cattic Barrister," your sub. has run out. Also the next time you want your address changed it wouldn't be a bad idea to sign your name to the postcard. What?

Single shots like the following make up the bulk of subs. Don't let yours be the last: A. Shiland, Sandon, B. C.; A. G. McCallum, Oitawa; R. Jamieson, Vancouver, B. C.; G. Williams, Vancouver, B. C.; H. Norman, H. Noakes, Victoria, B. C.; W. H. Stebbings, Winnipeg; Moses Baritz, Manchester, England; M. Stafford, South Wellington, B. C.; W. E. Fennell, Forest Hill, B. C.; Paton, Fernie, B. C.; T. Lane, Vancouver, B. C.; J. White, Nanaimo, B. C.; John Lundgren, Otter, B. C.; M. McGregor, Vancouver, B. C.

The soldiers of the Kaiser apparently want the revolution as soon as possible. They have again attacked the German workers who were marching peacefully through the streets.

Just watch and see what a licking the few men in Philadelphia, who are in a position of political power, will deal out to the "economic" organizations in that city, consisting of probably two hundred thousand or more packages of labor power.

Some "labor leaders" in the "city of brotherly love" seem to be afraid that the present strike is the beginning of the end of unionism in the United States. Personally, I believe that the end of trade unionism means the end of capitalism. When the "economic" wage of labor is shot to pieces the giant may lay hold of the club of political power and then there will be something doing.

A strike for more wages may be termed a futile and belated attempt to overtake rising prices.

BLAKE.

**Propaganda Meeting**  
Sunday Evening, 8 o'Clock  
**City Hall**  
Vancouver B. C.

LAW MILL WORKS OVERTIME

(Continued from page 1)

been otherwise the result would have been different. The W. F. M. was the greatest Socialist trade union in the world and knew that the legislature was the proper place to fight for political freedom. If the workers tamely submitted it would mean that political action would be denied them and that meant disaster for their masters. They had forced the German Emperor to his knees and Plummerfelt and Hodges would find out that they were up against a power which the Socialist Party would try to bring home to them. They had beaten down those tactics in Smith and Nanaimo. These people in Grand Forks and elsewhere had better be careful or something would be done to them.

McBride said that McInnis had told him he was absolutely certain of election, being in a position where he could review the situation.

Hawthornthwaite replied that it would be strange if he had said he was going to lose. Soft words would not meet in the case. The Socialist Party would use every weapon in their power to stop these methods of corporations.

Miller said that if intimidation had been used it would have been exposed by the Socialists from the platform.

Hawthornthwaite—And the man who did it would be discharged.

Miller—No employee of the Granby company was on the platform during the election.

Hawthornthwaite—The more the hon. member talked the more he gave his case away. The men must have been scared to go on the platform.

Miller said that what he intended to say was that if there was intimidation the men would not have been slow to expose it from the platform.

The incident then closed.

The Salvation Army Vote.

The amendment to reduce this vote of \$20,000 to 12 cents by Hawthornthwaite was negative on the following division:

Yeas—Hawthornthwaite and Williams—2.

Noes—Watson, Fraser, McKenzie, Mr. Manson, W. Manson, Tisdall, Jackson, Cawley, Bowser, McBride, Cotton, Ross, Shatford, Thomson, Behrens, Hunter, Taylor, Macgowan, Hayward, McGuire, Parson—21.

The Militia

The militia vote was opposed by Hawthornthwaite who moved to reduce the grant from \$1500 to 12 cents (to correspond with the reduction of taxation under the McBride regime), on the same date. It was, of course defeated.

Ayes—Williams and Hawthornthwaite—2.

Noes—Watson, Fraser, W. Manson, Tisdall, Wright, Callanan, Jackson, Miller, Cawley, Bowser, Cotton, Ross, Thomson, Hunter, Taylor, Macgowan, Gifford, McGuire, Mackay, Davey—23.

A bill respecting the Salvation Army, to register their property in the name of the army council, came before the house in committee on Monday, March 2 and it was assailed by Williams and Hawthornthwaite on two or three provisions contained in it, giving the Salvation Army privileges that no purely commercial body, under the same circumstances, would receive.

Davey of Victoria, in charge of the bill, said that the particular words referred to were perhaps not necessary, but when Hawthornthwaite moved to strike them out, he characterized it as an important amendment and demanded that notice be given.

Hawthornthwaite pointed out that if it was purely a business organization he would have no objection, but the S. A. was in the labor business in all parts of the world, and the Socialist Party was expressing the antagonism of labor on the floor of the house. If they had asked for these privileges as a religious body the Socialist Party would not object.

The amendment was put and defeated on the following vote:

Ayes—Williams and Hawthornthwaite—2.

Noes—Shaw, Watson, Fraser, McKenzie, Braden, Michael Manson, Wm. Manson, Tisdall, Callanan, Miller, Jackson, Cawley, Caven, Bowser, Cotton, Ross, Shatford, McPhillips, Thomson, Taylor, Macgowan, Gifford, McGuire, Mackay, Davey—25.

(The words objected to—and retained—allow the S. A. to escape paying the usual registration fees.)

Parker Williams then attacked section 4, which, while mentioning that the army was to get the "benefit" of all contracts it entered into, left out the usual stipulation that it should also bear the "obligations and burdens." He asked why they should exempt the army from the ordinary responsibility of commercial transactions. They continued to state in the most emphatic way that they only imported farm labor, and saw that they stayed on the land. At the time that assurance was given he had found an ad. in a Victoria paper directing manufacturers and employers of all kinds of skilled labor to apply to the A. Immigration Bureau if they needed help. Was it a fact that the Salvation Army contracted to deliver farm labor only? If it had, then it had been false to the con-

tract with the government. Either that, or it was doing business the government did not contemplate when it made the contract. It would not be wise to allow the S. A. any latitude, and they were given considerable in that bill.

He moved that the clause be amended by inserting the usual words "obligations and burdens" after the word "benefits." He would like to hear from the Attorney-General as to the advertisement he (P. W.) had read. Was it in keeping with the contract with the government, or was that contract confined to agricultural laborers? The answer would show whether the Salvation Army had been false to the contract or not, and give an insight into the character of that body.

Bowser replied that he understood the contract to have been for agricultural laborers only. He requested Williams to withdraw his amendment and submit it on report, to which Williams consented.

Parker Williams during the week referred to the question of the need of a government agent at Ladysmith and government assistance for the hospital people of that city are going to build. While receiving no satisfaction as to the former, the latter is now in a fairly satisfactory way of being granted.

For lack of space the debates are left out to make room for matters of more general interest, as well as Hawthornthwaite's speech on the act to incorporate Prince Rupert, on March 2. On Thursday, March 3, in committee, he moved three amendments to the bill. The first was to section 10 of the bill, to strike out all the words after the word "law" in the fifth line, excepting the words in the last line.

If it had carried it would have abolished the property qualification for mayor. Needless to say, it was defeated.

The second was to amend the section 23, to strike out the word "forty" in the fourth line and substitute the word "ten" and add the following words:

"Provided always, whenever in the opinion of the municipal council the city can safely allow a larger amount to be taken from Hays creek water than 10 inches for the use of the G. T. P. R. Co., nothing in this section shall prevent such action being taken."

This amendment, which would have given the city control of its own water supply, was defeated, only the Socialists and Jardine voting in favor of it.

The last amendment was to section 12, to strike out subsection (a) and renumber the following sections. This would have abolished the property qualification for voters for the first municipal election, and was also defeated.

Other matters of interest that can only be referred to were the speech on the second reading of the Coal Mines Consolidation act by McBride on Feb. 2, who paid a tribute to the assistance he had received from Parker Williams, by whose advice he had been largely benefited, and who had first moved in the direction of getting the German oxygen apparatus for saving life in mine explosions, brought to the attention of his mines department.

Parker Williams on the Fire Inquiries act on the same date, on the Land act, Feb. 28, and the speeches by Hawthornthwaite and Williams on the Bush Fire act on Friday, March 4, and the work done in committee on the C. N. R. deal.

Hawthornthwaite on Thursday, Feb. 3, moved the second reading of two bills standing in his name, viz. An Act to Amend the Labor Regulation act, 1907, and an Act to Amend the Inspection of Metalliferous Mines act, 1899. He only spoke at length on the first, as the same arguments and reasons applied to both measures. After pointing out the conditions that existed in the smelting industry before the eight-hour law was passed, and paying a well-deserved tribute to the efforts of Comrades Davidson and McInnis when in the house, in their efforts to have the act extended to include all employees in the smelters, and not merely those who handled the matte, he rehearsed the arguments that had been put forward in previous sessions as reasons for not passing the act. He proceeded to show that all those arguments against the act which passed in 1907 had been absolutely met and defeated as a result of that measure being in operation. Capital had not been driven out of the country, the industry had returned an enormous increase in dividends, the wages had not been reduced and the industry as a whole was in a much better condition to meet its competitors in the world market than ever before, as a direct result of that measure becoming law. He then pointed out that the average life of all smelter employees was only 15 years, and the necessity of including the mechanics and other workers not actually engaged in handling the ore, but subject to the same danger from the obnoxious fumes under the operation of the act.

When he had finished McBride adjourned the debate on both bills.

On the same day, March 3, in the evening session, he expressed the views of the Socialist representatives on The Agreement With the C. N. R.

After paying his respects to the Liberal and Conservative members who had taken part in the debate and criti-

cized the Liberal Party for its failure to evolve an alternative policy, that would be sufficient to meet the situation he proceeded to discuss the measure brought down by McBride on Feb. 1. He declared the uncompromising hostility of the Socialist Party to those proposals. He could see no necessity or advantage to be gained by giving inducements to railroad building in B. C. at this time. They now had three transcontinental lines. Why should the people burden themselves with debt for this road? San Francisco had for many years only one line and had found it adequate and sufficient. He could not see why such a huge sum should be set aside for that purpose. When one transcontinental line came the others were bound to follow and would come without any inducement from the government. Proceeding to refer to the previous policy of the McBride government of which they had been so proud, of giving no bonus for railroad construction, he contrasted that policy, of which he expressed his approval, with the present one, expressing his surprise that the policy of government ownership, as proposed by Mr. Borden, had not been adopted. If that had been done he (McBride) would have received quite an enthusiastic support. He alluded sarcastically to McBride's devoted following in the house, as manifested in the cheers that had greeted him when he had closed his address on Tuesday. He did not think such an exhibition of a loss of self respect on their part was desirable. Dealing with the government ownership policy, he stated that it was not a Socialist proposition for it postulated the continuation of the wage system and therefore had nothing whatever to do with Socialism. By a Conservative or a Liberal government that form of ownership would only open wider the gates of corruption and graft. In such countries as Russia and Germany it only added power to the oppressors of the people.

The white labor clause in the present bill was not a straight provision for white labor and an adequate wage.

His own amendment to the G.T.P. bill last session providing for a minimum wage of \$2.50 a day had been defeated by the combined Liberal and Conservative votes, only three Liberals (except McDonald and Oliver) having voted in favor of it. If that amendment had been accepted it would have done more to prevent the employment of Orientals than any other amendment that could be devised. The "fair" wage clause was easily overcome by charging for board as in the E. & N. extension to Alberni, and was no advantage to the workers of B. C.

The bill would be of no benefit to the workers and farmers, but as far as the business men were concerned it might be. McBride had proclaimed it as a blessing to the farmers, as it would provide them with plenty of work, but the workers now knew the necessity of other things than work, and while they knew a certain amount was absolutely necessary they demanded the minimum and insisted on having some leisure for other things. But that wonderful amount of work would not be forthcoming when the construction was going on, for the working men of B. C. In "The Week" a statement had appeared recently, and had not been contradicted, that 10,000 Italians were to be imported. It was absolutely certain that without them the road would not absorb all the unemployed in B. C. Those election promises would prove to be very poor provender.

A great cry was going up from the petty bourgeois against the larger capitalists, and the cry was "bust the trusts," but Roosevelt found it easier to kill beasts in Africa than to kill the trusts in America. That house, as well as others, had created them, but could not destroy them and the business men could not dispose of their goods in "bargain sales."

The farmers were also interested. They bore a large proportion of the taxation, would have to bear a very large portion of that enormous debt now being saddled upon the province. The Conservative victory had been largely due to the belief of the farmers that the road would be of benefit to them, but he (Hawthornthwaite) did not think so. They might possibly get some benefit where it went near them, but the others would not. The Conservative Party might have devised a Bill to benefit the farmers in every portion of B. C., but only a very small proportion would be affected. On Vancouver Island, the Comox Valley, the Cowichan district and the Nanaimo district were cut out of any benefit, also many other centres, excepting the Delta and Fraser River Valley.

The enormous liability incurred by the Government had not been equalled by any province in Canada or possibly in the States. It was grave and far-reaching. With the preliminary liability of \$40,000,000 the construction of branch lines might put it up to even \$100,000,000. When that liability was incurred the greatest care should have been taken to see that the small farmers, who bore the main burden of taxation, should be provided with some of the blessings to be obtained. It was the last time there would be any railroad construction on a large scale in B. C. No election

could be won by playing that card again. It had been played to a finish, and could no longer be used to delude and humbug the wage-workers and farmers.

The Government would have come to a wiser conclusion if they had built through the Chilcotin, which would have opened up a district where many might have been benefited, through to Frederic Arm and Chatham Point, and they would get the competition they wanted. That might perhaps have given them a temporary benefit.

The facts stood out plainer than ever that it was not the "McBride" policy, that the "McIntosh & Mann" policy; that it had been decided upon some time ago and imposed on the house and the people of B. C. The Government and its supporters could take no "credit" for it, all that went to the corporations interested. \* \* \* The corporations decided the policy of the House as of all legislatures, which gave expression to the desires of the ruling class of any country. They were going to bonus the road to \$20,000 per mile, with interest, the amount of which was not stated, but could be put at 4 per cent. That would bring the gross liability up to \$5,000,000, and yet an attempt had been made to show that no interest had been incurred. He would deal with other details in committee.

The guaranteeing of bonds was the least objectionable method, but it was well to realize the responsibility, and the security given. The mortgage was somewhat misleading. The original bondholders had a first mortgage of \$26,000,000, and B. C. could only get a third mortgage. They had been assured that they would not have to pay \$1. What justification was there for that statement? In every instance in the past, B. C. had to meet the liability, and he could see no reason why they would not have to do it in this case also. If the province was in a position to compel the company to do so it would be many years before it would be done and the farmers would have to bear the main portion of the burden. \* \* \* In years to come the C. N. R. deal would meet with as much condemnation as the C. P. R. deal did then. "After us the deluge" was the motto of the business men and the Conservative party gave expression to that feeling, but they were taking a step that would lower them in greater disgrace than the Liberal Party was then. \* \* \* The day was fast coming when the farmers and wage-workers would realize that capitalist development meant ruin, poverty and distress to them, and would as long as capitalist development continued.

"Competition was the dominant note of the Government railroad policy, as giving relief to the business men as the C. P. R. Until the Bill to incorporate the C. N. Pacific Co., was brought down he had not seen the intention of the C. N. R. deal. The C. N. P. R. Bill provided an "straw man" who could be attacked without touching the people behind it. If that had been known, he did not think such enthusiastic support would have been manifested by the rank and file as on the previous Tuesday. It was the most up-to-date method of the American Trust to humbug and skin the common people. It acted as a screen to protect from damages the people behind it. After an accident, who was to be sued, the C. N. R. or the C. N. P. R.? If the latter, the real interests were not attacked. But that was not all. Clause 37 of the C. N. P. R. Bill gave the company, "with the consent of the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council, power to amalgamate with the C. N. R. or such other Company as may be approved as aforesaid." That clause meant that when the agreement was endorsed by that House they could turn over all their effects to the C. P. R. There was the position. He did not charge that the Government was aware of it. That would mean charging them with the most gigantic conspiracy ever conceived, but he insisted that it was the real position. The Company were to have that power, and the people had no guarantee in any shape or form that it would not be done, and would be absolutely at the mercy of their mercy.

But that was the legitimate end of competition, which carried within itself the nucleus of its own defeat. It was only a question of years when all the railways on the continent would do it. The Bill was an expedient means for these companies to get together, and the people were entirely helpless. The Capitalist members of the House had not grasped that point. If they had done so that applause would not have been given. The position of those people who had looked for relief was no worse than before, in regard to railways. He hoped his position would prove to be incorrect, but he could not see it differently. When the bill went into committee the Socialist Party would do their best to eliminate the worst features. As it was a short cut for the advantage of certain interests, they proposed to vote against the second reading, and reserved the right to amend it in committee. (Applause.)

Hawthornthwaite, when the bill was in committee on Friday, March 4, moved to amend clause 3 (b) by striking

PLATFORM Socialist Party of Canada

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 1. The transformation, as rapidly as possible, of capitalist property in the means of wealth production (natural resources, factories, mills, railroads etc.) into the collective property of the working class.
2. The democratic organization and management of industry by the workers.
3. The establishment, as speedily as possible, of production for use instead of production for profit.
The Socialist Party, when in office, shall always and everywhere until the present system is abolished, make the answer to this question its guiding rule of conduct: Will this legislation advance the interests of the working class and aid the workers in their 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.

out the words "on or near" and insert "Alberni." This would compel the company to make Alberni the west coast terminus. The amendment was defeated.

Hawthornthwaite then moved to strike out the words "Lieutenant-Governor in Council" in clause 37 and substitute the words "Provincial Legislature." The effect would be to make the company apply to Parliament for permission to amalgamate with another company. The amendment was defeated on the following vote:

Ayes—Williams and Hawthornthwaite—2.

Noes—Shaw, Watson, Fraser, Braden, Browster, Jardine, Manson (Skeena), Tisdall, Wright, Bowser, McBride, Cotton, McPhillips, Schofield, Behrens, Hunter, Ellison, Taylor, Macgowan, Parson—20.

Parker Williams on the same date moved to amend clause 7 of the C. N. R. agreement by providing that \$2.50 be the minimum wage. The amendment was defeated on the vote given below:

Ayes—Williams, Hawthornthwaite, Brewster.

Noes—All the Conservatives except absentees Manson (Skeena), Wright, Caven, Young, Macgowan, Hayward, McGuire.

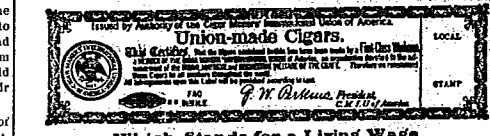
Hawthornthwaite moved to strike out the land grants for terminal and townsite purposes in clause 13 (d). This was defeated.

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