

FOOLS AND MONEY

What Capitalist Economists Can See and What They Must Not See.

Marx has it that according to Gladstone "not even love has made so many fools of men as pondering over the nature of money." In dealing with the high cost of living I touched upon the money question. Next week "Leeds" advised me to read an article in Everybody's. I did so. I read several others also, and am of the opinion that Gladstone is right. The money question in general and the gold question in particular is the mainspring of many magazine articles at present. Consequently (apart from loose terminology which constantly lands these authors in metaphysical holes no thoughtful mind would think of visiting), we have an array of fools as per W. E. Gladstone. What struck me in Leeds advice was the fact that "from 1855 the world's coinage of gold decreased from 135 million dollars in 1855 to 97 1/2 millions in 1875. But this decrease did not affect prices at once." This "Everybody's" fellow is another fool, says I; because just exactly what bearing the decreased production of gold coins could have upon the value of gold I am at a loss to understand, any more that the decreased manufacture of steel plates could affect the value of steel.

But Holt, the writer in "Everybody's," is not such a fool as Leeds would make him out to be, not that Leeds is at fault, but because of his entirely loose phraseology. Holt says that "most economists credit all or the larger part of the advance (in prices) to gold depreciation resulting from increased output of gold," but he himself says the cause of gold depreciation is "the same in the case of gold as in that of any other commodity, relatively cheaper cost of production. This cheaper cost shows in an increased supply of gold." Quite correct. "And results in making it necessary to give a greater quantity of gold to get the same quantity of other things." The obvious result of which will be an increase in the currency, not, necessarily but possibly, gold coins. Therefore increased coinage of gold is not the cause but the effect of the decrease in gold values. Holt assumes, not unreasonably, that those commodities which can be produced most cheaply will attract a larger quantity of capital into their sphere of production, and subsequently this will show itself in an increased production, but again it should be remembered that the decreased value is not the result of increased production, but the cause. This is pointed out by Marx not only in his larger works but in his pamphlets, "Value, Price and Profit," and "Wage-Labor and Capital." According to Holt: "If we see the output of gold increasing more rapidly than that of steel or wheat, we may be certain that there are greater profits in producing gold than in producing wheat or steel; and that the output of gold will continue to increase more rapidly than the output of wheat or steel, until the exchange value of gold, in relation to wheat or steel, has declined sufficiently to equalize the profits and cost of production for these two commodities."

Thus saith Marx: "A mass of capital is thrown into that flourishing branch of business, and the immigration of capital into the province of the privileged business will last until the ordinary level of prices is obtained." So far so good. Holt is on there with the goods; but from now on to the end of his article we find confusion worse confounded. There is a gap in his economic reading albeit he is recognized as "one of our soundest economists." He jumped from David Ricardo to Irving Fisher. He missed Marx and Engels. He calls gold "the standard of value" and upon that rock he perishes as have many economists before him. Speaking of wheat, steel, gold and labor (?) exchanging in certain proportions for each other, he says, "But one of these commodities is the standard of value by which all others are measured. This one is gold." This is entirely erroneous. Gold is the standard of price, and the measure of value. Labor-time, not gold or labor, is the standard of value. Holt everywhere points out that the cost of production determines value,

but he seems totally ignorant of the fact that labor and labor only enters into the cost of production. He shows how, with the discovery of chemical processes and invention of machinery gold can be produced much cheaper than formerly, and how this must constantly affect the "price of more costly produced commodities." He is aware of habit and custom having much to do, with the fixing of wages and salaries which Marx calls the "historical standard of living," and he points out how, with the exceptional mobility of the redundant labor army, labor ever exceeds demand, and consequently must ever hobble painfully on the crutches of wages, behind rising prices.

"When business expands more quickly in the United States than in other countries, immigrants come over, more than a million a year. As they did in the years from 1905 to 1907, and as they are now doing. When business suddenly falls off here as it did in 1908 these immigrants return to Europe where the cost of living is cheaper." Therefore, in spite of Sammy Gompers and other non-calculating howlers, the condition of those who toil is destined to get worse. Holt states that wages and salaries will continue to decrease in purchasing power, faster than they will be raised. "Wages and salaries will rise only half as fast as prices." This is a serious problem, he declares, and "unless the wise men of the earth can solve it" terrible things will happen. He offers a solution in having a multiple standard instead of a single standard. Here is a dangerous and insidious attempt to again drag the exploited after the will-o'-the-wisp, reformed money, an attempt at which has been for some time on foot by a misguided individual here in Canada. I shall deal with this remedy later and attempt to condense into a couple of columns Marx's position on the money question. Space is filling and I desire to call attention to a quotation made by Holt from a speech of ex-Chief Forester Gifford Pinchot—not a Socialist, but a sane Republican.

"It is not merely a question of a few cents more a day for the necessities of life, or of a few cents less a day for wages. Far more is at stake—the health or sickness of little babes, the education or ignorance of children, vice or virtue of daughters, honesty or criminality of sons—"

So there you are, the virtue of your daughters does not depend so much upon the quality of religion she professes as upon the quantity of beef steak she consumes. The honesty of your sons is not guaranteed so much by the intensity of his love of God as by the quantity of pork and beans he can legally stow amidships. Other material wants in like proportion of course, both for honesty and virtue. The historical and social standard of comfort receiving (always remembered) due consideration.

J. H.
FROM SUNNY ITALY.

The system of renting the land is such, that the poor farmer who is the real producer, is always the one that gets left at the end of the year, after having worked hard for 365 days, about 18 or 20 hours per day.

A long line of parasites, large and small (starting from the land owner who might be in Paris squandering with subterfuge, or at Monte Carlo gambling his soul, to the smallest crook sub-agent, who hires the farmers, paying them only one third of their blood production) are sucking their blood in such a shape, as to leave them dry to their very bones.

I am spending most of my time tramping through these small towns, talking to and hearing the ideas of everyone about any subject, throwing down notes for future reference. Although I had not a large amount of money to spend for travelling purposes, still we stopped in a good many cities through France and the northern part of Italy, before reaching here. Havre, Paris, Lyons, and Marseilles were the main places where we stop-

ed in France, visiting the different Chambres de Travail, (Labor Halls), and getting an inside peep of all the questions that are going on in the labor world. Proletarians inside and out of the Socialist Party are looking most of their old faults in Politics. (Of course there is a reason for this at the very bottom.) Take as an illustration all this pandemonium that has been done between Ferri and Turati. My! but it is enough to disgust anyone. Although everything will be smoothed up in the very end, still, such scraps make the working class sick at heart, seeing that there is as much Jesuitism, swiftheadedness and personal ambition amongst the leaders(?) of the S. P., as there is in all the rest of the reactionary parties anywhere. Ferri, the Criminologist and man of Science, of course, is left untouched; but Ferri the Socialist, why, he has proved to be a very poor one. His revolutionism of ten years ago is all gone to hell, and he would be ready to compromise for a portfolio tomorrow or at any time. It is the same old story. When a man has been banqueting and saluted by capitalism, then Labor can well beware of him.

Another gullible fight is going on between all the extreme parties (republican, radical, socialists, and anarchists) and the Roman Church. The old monster, or (as Dante named her) the "Papaicous She-Wolf," does not like to give up. (Self Preservation of course). Very often I go to hear priests talking at church and outside, and say— but there is lots of fun in it. Read this and then pass it over to the Western Clarion if you like.

Father Antonio Pavlesich, a holy, very respectable and most illustrious prelate (?) was invited to speak in Padua last week by the P. U. F. P. (Pensionato Universitario Francesco Petrarca) and there he gave a lecture entitled "The Two Democracies." After an hour of oratory about the "Sovereignty of the People" ends his conference (if such it could be called) with these words:

"But in spite of all this, the people nowadays are more than ever discon-

tented. They have been told that outside of this earth there is nothing more and therefore, the heaven that they have been promised on the other side, they want it here. Heaven on earth is a lie, hence the whole cause of discontent, a cause that can be traced back to them, who were the propagators of false promises and diabolical lies; viz., the propagators of Socialism!" Now what do you think of it?

And now just to close up the paragraph about the church, I would like to translate a few words by no lesser light than Pius X. (His Holiness). He wrote in one of his last encyclicals to the "Italian Catholic Economic Assn. (I. P.), as there is in all the rest of the reactionary parties anywhere. Ferri, the Criminologist and man of Science, of course, is left untouched; but Ferri the Socialist, why, he has proved to be a very poor one. His revolutionism of ten years ago is all gone to hell, and he would be ready to compromise for a portfolio tomorrow or at any time. It is the same old story. When a man has been banqueting and saluted by capitalism, then Labor can well beware of him.

We enjoyed a most lovely trip from Marseilles to Genoa. It is the loveliest spot I have ever seen. Starting from Nice, all through Cetto, Monaco, Monte Carlo, Ventimille San Remo it is a continuous garden of palms, flowers, lemons, oranges, etc., most beautiful chalets and villas. No wonder that millionaires hang around there all year round. There are landscapes that will make a person go into ecstasy even if he is hard up.

Genoa and Milan were the main cities where I stopped here in Italy, and both of them industrially and commercially speaking, are as developed as any American city. In Milan had a chance to meet a young aviator who showed us his models of airplanes and the way they work. It is interesting.

—Extracts from private letter from G. B. Civate.

THE FARMER'S INDEPENDENCE

Editor Clarion,
Dear Comrade:—

Having had a little controversy with one who at one time was a class-brother, I seek information. My friend assures me that the farmer is the most independent man on earth. I will try to analyze the farmer's bill, hoping that some comrade will correct any mistakes in my so-doing.

The farmer is a chunk of clay, fashioned in the form of mankind. "From dust we came, to dust we shall return." In this country a heterogeneous quantity "of all lands and of different tongues." He comes to this domain to take up a homestead; the kind government extend to him the big glad hand, especially if he has some few thousand plunks. Why is it that these men should trouble themselves about you. Listen, and I will try to explain. About once in every four years there takes place an election, at which particular time you and I are asked to decide whether we want a Liberal, Tory or Socialist to write the law in ONR name. In the past, the voters of Canada decided Toryism and Liberalism was the very thing they required. Why do these men solicit your vote, of what good is your vote to the politician who begs of you to vote Tory or Liberal as the case may be? Think you is it to further your interests as the politician tells you at election time? Let us see, was it to your advantage that the Conservatives gave themselves the money extracted from the workers by taxes, etc? Was it to your advantage that they employed the class that you belong to, to build these railways paid by the money which they extracted from the class that you belong to? Is it to your advantage to pay railway rates to such an extent as to keep other people rolling around in luxury, eating and drinking the flesh and blood of the class that your interests are not identical with your interests are not identical with the worker in the mines, or factory. A farmer once told me that miners were the most heartless (dislike) of men in God's creation. Did not the miners go on strike and leave the

poor farmer to freeze to death? Since they did so it is evident the farmers are not so very independent after all. Do they need coal? We also need coal for transportation, to generate power to propel ships, the blacksmith needs coal supply you and I with tools necessary for the part we play in production. What do you think? Could you live without this host of workers who produce some thing which you consider a necessity?

A farmer, in my opinion, would be as much out of place on the prairie, as a cow would be in a kitchen, providing he had not some means of transporting and exchanging his wares with other workers. Where is your independence? What do you produce? For the most part you produce nothing except the little you grow and consume yourself, the rest of your, say grain, you take to these railway elevators, there to deposit it and never see it again. The people who allow you to put your grain in the elevators dictate to you what the exchange value is; that is to say, you receive a small sum of currency coin, "which is the medium of exchange," by means of which you exchange your wheat, spuds, pork, etc. for commodities which you require to keep yourself physically fit to again put on the market your wheat, spuds, pork, etc.

Robbery is rampant, those who work in mine mill or factory sell their physical energy for so much per hour, "per yard, per ton, per gallon, as the case may be piece work," but how, you might ask, am I robbed? I don't sell my physical energy? No you don't, your lordly masters, the elevators and railway companies don't think it worth the trouble to ask you to sell your energy, they know you must come to them and place the product of "your toil in their hands. You imagine you sell, in reality you don't. As a rule any person who is selling does all the dictating. Do you? No, you are glad to hand over your labor-power incorporated into food stuffs for the pleasure which is handed out to you. We who work in the hell-holes of capitalism

THE CHANGING ORDER

What the Capitalist System Is Now and What It Is Rapidly Becoming.

When one of the old philosophers made the statement which was afterwards used again by Hegel that "nothing is, everything is becoming," he hit upon about the only truth that does not change with the time, or rather with evolution. Change is the order of nature, and society is subject to this inexorable law. It is often quoted that the present system contains within itself the forces making for its own destruction, and the time is rapidly approaching when it must pass away and make room for the next order in society, a system which is in harmony with the forces of progress and compatible with the onward march of civilization. History proves this assertion to be correct. The preceding forms of society had their birth and maturity and then the process of decay set in, hastened onward by the fight for life the next system in order was making.

Socialists maintain that society at all times has been determined by the way it gets its living, by the manner in which goods are produced. This has caused society to be divided into classes, the class who own the principal factor in production ruling because they own that which men depend on in order to live. With a change in the methods of production, so has a change in the essential factor in production allowed a class who were a subjected class to obtain the wealth-producing power and overthrow the hitherto ruling class. This can be easily seen by the change from feudalism to capitalism.

Before the evolution of the machine the land was the principal factor in production. The landlords were then the rulers; but with the transformation of the hand tool into the mighty machine, the land had to take second place and the men who owned the machine now owned the principal thing that men depended on in order to live; consequently they owned the men, the laborers. The owners of the machine are the capitalist class; their mission in the course of evolution was to organize industry. This they did, but today perform no useful function, but

sell our power to labor direct; you, on the land, sell your labor-power incorporated in wheat, pork, beans, etc.

Say, have you, did you ever stop and think what good or evil the Salvation Army are doing bringing thousands of people here? They come in thousands and are scattered over the prairie. There is an unwritten law of supply and demand; if there is a glut in the market of any particular commodity, the price goes down, hence the more plugs that come the less you will have to pay for the gathering in of the grain. How delightful! There is also an ever-increasing stream of people taking up homesteads, which means an ever-increasing stream of foodstuffs going on the market, which means that the market has a horrible tendency to become glutted. How delightful! Again, have you, did it never occur to you that you might have to get away from that ranch which you are pleased to call your own? The industries of the world are being concentrated into fewer hands; money breeds, and as it breeds those to whom the money belongs must find some industry in which to invest. Soon the continent will be developed to a high pitch in other walks of life than farming, then will the farmer realize to the fullest extent that he is very far from being independent. As the capitalist must find some place to invest his hard-earned lawbees he will find good an opening in forming with all the latest of mechanical improvements. They will cause a revolution in the first stage of the production of foodstuffs, the turning of farms into factories has already begun. Your salvation lies in your getting next to your material interests.

Your material interests are the same as mine. You need to have the right to have access to the means of life. The way to gain that right is to educate your fellow workers to see the force of voting themselves into power. Yours in the fight,
JASPER RUTHERFORD.

confine their energies to drawing dividends and gambling on the stock exchange where they despoil one another of their plunder. To make a long story short the capitalists have developed into a parasitic class, while the working class are the only useful class in society today. In biology there is a law which says that which is useless shall pass away, and as society is an organism, therefore the Socialist maintains that the next rulers will be the working class; but they being the last class in society to be emancipated they will have no one to rule, so will substitute a government of persons by an administration of industry.

Let us examine and see if capitalism shows signs of terminating. First there are the ever-recurring panics. A panic is simply a breakdown of the capitalist system caused principally by the workers being unable to buy back with their wages that which they have produced. The goods pile up in the warehouses; the workers can only take a portion, and then we have the experience of going without because there is too much which we have produced. Wages are the price of our labor-power and they represent a part, and usually a small part, of what that labor-power produces. Consequently the capitalist has a surplus of commodities produced by the workers which he has to dispose of and one outlet for them is foreign markets.

Now in commodities, taking the average, there is a surplus value, and it is the one source of profit. It is the profit the capitalist is in business for. This surplus value is the unpaid labor of the workers, or the difference between the price of labor-power and the value that that labor-power creates. The capitalist produces for profit, and unless he can find a market for his goods will not go on producing. It stands to reason that a boot factory would not go on producing boots if they could not dispose of them, and in that way realize on the surplus value contained in them, and turn it into fresh capital which could be used to exploit more wage slaves to produce more surplus value to be used again to exploit more workers, and so the game goes on, an endless chain of capitalism.

And at the root of it all do we find Mr. Capitalist producing this fresh capital, this making of a small capitalist into a big one, the big ones take joint stock companies, the joint stock companies into trusts? No; we find the wage slave toiling and sweating away, running to the sound of the bell and whistle, and many of them thinking their lucky stars that they have found a master kind enough to give them work; thanking their stars that they are allowed to forge another link to the chain that binds them—the chain of capitalism.

The countries that till recently were foreign markets for the American and European surplus are now beginning to manufacture for themselves and will soon be able to produce their own, and more than that will be able to compete with the American and European. Japan is an instance. Japan today is in the throes of capitalism.

And so we see the beginning of the end when the capitalists will be unable to dispose of the surplus or find investments for their ever-increasing capital, and we shall be in a period of one great industrial depression, which would make life unbearable for the working class and render a new social order imperative. This is how the seeds of their own destruction, by the concentration of capital into fewer and fewer hands, the increasing size and perfection of the machinery, eliminating the skill of the worker and enabling children to be substituted for men, giving an ever-increasing power to the machine owner over the user, displacing the worker, increasing the misery of the working class, and bringing the new order of society nearer in which the machine shall be the slave of man instead of man being the slave of the machine.

J. STEWART.

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.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:
One Year, 50 cents for Six Months, 25 cents for Three Months.

Send 5 or more copies for a bundle of not less than three months. One rate of one cent per copy per issue. Advertising rates on application.

In making remittance by cheque, exchange must be added. Address all communications and make all money orders payable to THE WESTERN CLARION, Box 526, Vancouver, B. C.

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

577

SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 1910

EFFECTIVE PROPAGANDA

Many there are among the Socialist comrades who are imbued with the idea that the sole mission of the Socialist movement is that of propaganda. To them the be all and end all is embodied in the holding of occasional meetings in halls or upon street corners and the planless and haphazard circulation of such printed matter as too many well-meaning ones are prone to allow even such limited propaganda to drift along as best it may without effort on their part. It were needless to suggest that under such circumstances it would be futile to expect such satisfactory results as might be obtained were more vigorous effort put forth by all concerned.

It is quite apparent that during the earlier stages of the movement the spoken word must of necessity be principally relied upon to gain the ear of those inclined to give thought to the solution of the perplexing problem presented by capitalist development. But the workers of the world, they who must be awakened from the lethargy into which they have sunk through ages of slavery, constitute a vast army reaching to the four corners of the earth. It is beyond the scope of the most fervid oratory or eloquently spoken word to reach the great bulk of this vast army. Other means must be adopted to effectively reach countless thousands of these workers. Such other means is found in the printed word. My means of literature millions can be reached that cannot be reached in any other way.

We have no desire to belittle the value attached to the holding of propaganda meetings. A vast amount of good has been and will still be accomplished by such means. But we are not unmindful of the fact that this method of propaganda has its limitations. Though a speaker be the best informed man alive he cannot indoctrinate his audience with his peculiar faith except by time and again going over the same ground; repeating the same old arguments. As his audience are not all ways made up of the same individuals the most that any speaker can reasonably expect to do is to get some to thinking along his lines and trust that his words may be supplemented and confirmed by the written or spoken word of others later on.

It is safe to assert that but a small portion of the workers in any given city are ever reached by the Socialist propaganda through public meetings. To reach the country workers by such means is, in the majority of cases, next to impossible. All of the city workers and a large portion of the country workers can, however, be reached by the literature route. To do so requires systematic and thorough organization upon the part of those who would wish it to be done. This in turn implies steadfastness of purpose, unflinching zeal and earnest work upon the part of those engaging in it.

The recent victory of the Milwaukee Social-Democrats in the city election affords an excellent illustration of what may be accomplished through systematic and organized effort by earnest and determined men. The comrades everywhere may do worse than to profit by the example set by those Milwaukee workmen.

Briefly stated, they have for the past twenty years pushed forward the propaganda and organization along certain well-defined and predetermined lines, including the holding of propaganda meetings and the systematic and thorough distribution of literature. Owing to a condition everywhere prevalent, i. e., a shortage of speakers and the impossibility of reaching the bulk of the workers by such means, they have more especially centered their efforts upon the systematic distribution of printed matter. For some years past

the city has been covered every Sunday morning with printed matter, usually in the form of a four-page leaflet. This has been printed part in English and part in German, as the city has a large German population. For the Polish district these leaflets have been printed in that language. The result of the systematic and untiring effort may be seen in the success of the Social-Democratic ticket at the recent municipal election by the largest plurality ever given in the city.

It is needless to say that this achievement has not been attained by those who spend their time in endless hair-splitting arguments over questions of value, exchange, constant and variable capital, the virtue or otherwise of this, that or the other type of labor organization and other equally weighty matters. It has been accomplished by men, not windbags. Whether they could split a hair with scientific accuracy or not seems to have no appreciable effect upon the result.

To cover the city with literature as above referred to has of late required the services of 1200 men. These have been on hand at a given point at 5 o'clock on Sunday morning and each, supplied with his literary ammunition, proceeded to cover his allotted district. In a couple of hours the job was done.

This may, perchance, be the German way of doing things but, even so, it might be well for us to profit by the lessons afforded by the Milwaukee comrades and "go and do likewise."

A STORM BREWING

The nations of the earth are at present at peace with each other. The dogs of war are in leash and the gentle dove hovereth o'er the scene. At least that is the way it looks to one who sees things only from the standpoint of nation against nation. But he who possesses the faculty of being able to discern the forces at work within the social fabric, regardless of national boundaries, will not be led away by the idea that peace now prevails or can prevail so long as social and industrial institutions rest upon their present basis.

Between slave and master peace can not prevail. The very circumstance of slavery precludes it. Slavery is a coarse and brutal outrage of every worthy human sentiment and sooner or later the slave will revolt.

The workers of this and every other country of the earth are slaves, held in bondage to capital and as ruthlessly and mercilessly exploited as ever was the lot of feudal serf or chattel slave. So fierce has become this exploitation and so mercilessly are they being driven under the lash of capitalist brutality that millions of these slaves are even now in revolt and signs are not wanting to show that these and millions more will blaze their way to freedom by the torch of revolution.

Wherever capital holds sway the workers are seething with discontent and muttering imprecations against the master class. They are becoming ever more open and bold in their determination to break the chains of capitalist bondage and consign the present ruling class to that oblivion that has already swallowed many other accursed things.

The columns of every daily paper are filled with accounts of strikes, boycotts, lockouts and other evidence of labor's revolt. These occurrences are becoming ever more frequent and of greater magnitude. Gigantic demonstrations are held for the purpose of coercing the ruling class into conceding to the workers additional political rights, the granting of which presages the entry of labor into a more active participation in the social and political life of the various countries. Other huge demonstrations are to be pulled off on May 1st, emphasizing the solidarity of labor in the great struggle for emancipation from the galling chains of slavery that curse the workers of all lands alike.

The social atmosphere is even now "surcharged with the electricity of the coming storm." The discontent and unrest in the ranks of labor, the growing spirit of revolt and the increasing political activity of the workers, are the electric flashes along the horizon presaging its rapid approach. The frenzied efforts of the State to repress and of the church to exorcise it, goes to show that our brutal rulers and their canting apologists realize that their doom is sealed with the coming of the revolutionary storm.

The storm is brewing. Come it will, come it must. And whether it come like the balmy breeze of an April shower or with hurricane and thunder bolt, the social atmosphere will be purged of the stench now imparted to it by the presence of masters and slaves.

POLITICAL ACTION

Even the most careless student of the growth and development of the capitalist system of production could scarce avoid reaching the conclusion that eventually the wage-working class would become revolutionary in its action. That so intense would become the economic pressure as the system reached its most complete stage of development that these proletarians

would in sheer self-preservation be forced to make for its overthrow and the substitution of something which would give greater promise of conserving their welfare. To thousands of persons it has even now become plain that the present system can no longer satisfy the needs of human kind, and that some sort of change is threatening, although the nature of that change is as yet not clear.

If a change or upheaval is to occur it must have a material or economic reason, otherwise there is nothing to prompt it. That economic circumstances now exist that not only portend but render an upheaval certain, is beyond reasonable dispute. The powers of production are so highly developed that it is possible for much less than the entire working class to keep the world's market filled to overflowing with the material things necessary to man's existence and well-being. But as the extent to which the working man may enjoy the fruits of his toil and that of his fellows is measured by the size of his wage, and this is always kept close to the living point because of the intense competition arising among the workers, growing out of the fact that the labor of less than all of them is required to keep up the supply of goods, he finds himself cut off from any participation in the increased wealth made possible through the highly developed system of production. Yet he cannot break away from it. It holds him in its embrace as with veritable bands of steel. Each day he must be on hand when the whistle blows or the hour strikes to take his place in his own particular niche in the complicated mechanism of organized economic power. Whatever other associations he may affiliate with, the economic organization of the present day is the only one which can command his allegiance and loyalty through thick and thin.

The economic organization of capitalist civilization that holds the workman in its fetters while yet denying him participation in the benefits arising from it, not only points out to him the necessary line of action to follow in order to realize his share of the benefits, but makes it absolutely imperative that such line be followed. The machinery and consequent method of capitalist production must of necessity force the workers eventually to revolutionary action. That is to such action as will break the rule of capital and the consequent power of capitalists to seize the products of labor, and give to the workers themselves the mastery of economic power and control of production and the products of labor.

Can the rule of capital be broken by fighting on the "economic field," as it is commonly termed? Manifestly not, for the reason that the strike, boycott and such measures do not and cannot destroy control of the economic power of the capitalists, as this control is maintained by the organized power of the state, and is expressed in their titles of ownership in land, factories, railways, etc. If the workers are to break the rule of capital and its consequent absorption of the benefits of modern industry, they must by some means destroy the titles of ownership which are now vested in the capitalists.

As the state is the means whereby such ownership is affirmed and the power protected in the enjoyment of his property rights, it stands to reason that here lies the point to be attacked by the workers if they would effect the desired change. They must obtain control of the powers of the state, i. e. government, in order to strike down the objectionable control of economic power by the capitalists and substitute their own instead.

The economic groundwork or basis for the proletarian revolution is already prepared in the capitalist system of production. The economic organization to "back up and render effective" the seizure of the political power by the proletariat for the purpose of breaking the economic rule of capital, is already at hand. The same class that has seized the state mans the industries as well, the working class. The hour for human freedom only awaits the dawn of class-consciousness upon the field of labor, which is even now breaking. Let every one who has the cause of labor at heart bend every energy to spreading the gospel of the Revolution among the workers. By so doing they will be merely interpreting the mandate of the machine at this stage of its development.

A BLISTER!

"Leeds" remarks that the Clarion has a deficit for the month of March. He makes no great howl about it and no hysterical appeal to sub. husters to get busy; just the notification which one would think would be sufficient, as it is party owned and controlled, incidentally the only paper on the continent that is so.

Never a very patient individual, my little stock of patience becomes completely exhausted at times when I hear people who make petty objections to the Clarion, which could be made with much greater force against papers which they stamp with their approval, such as the Appeal. Take their charge of "abuse" and then compare a few

issues of these two papers and see which is the greater offender in that respect. Not that I worry about how vigorous the Appeal is as I am not squeamish in the slightest degree, but my aim is to show the illogical position these approvers of the Appeal and objectors to the Clarion take up. Then the awful charge that occasional cuss words appear in the Clarion. How often does the expression "damphoo" appear in the Appeal, and doesn't it take much intulition to know that expression means "damned fool." A "lady" who a short time ago objected to the Clarion on the score of bad language, concluded her argument with the statement that the Clarion "wasn't worth two kicks in the guts." Now this is a quotation, so don't blame either the Clarion or Gribble for it. I have often wondered since why two kicks, why not one?

And, strange to say, this "lady" belongs to a creed which denies the existence of matter, so, according to her, there can be no such things as intestines. You can see how much choicer Gribble is in his language than this "lady" is!

The fact of the matter is that these objections are invariably made by mentally lazy or insouciant people, or by cheap guys who want to conceal the fact that a whole big dollar is too great a "sacrifice" for them to make. Cheapness is a great recommendation with this type, but I want to tell them they can't fool this chicken a little bit. Experience enables me to pipe them off from the start.

I suppose some squeamish humbug will be objecting to Gribble's slang now, but if they can stand the statement that the capitalists are devils, surely they can stand a little mild slang.

The capitalists are not devils. They are human beings, originally the same as ourselves, dominated by the desire to get happiness out of life, as we are. On the average they are no more "greedy and grasping" than we are. They want all they can get, and we want all we can get. That's why we're Socialists, that's why we wait a change, as we realize that under the capitalist system the capitalists are in a good strategic position and we are not—and that is why they don't want a change. I dislike the capitalists very much, but to put it mildly, but my dislike doesn't impel me to make absurd statements about them.

It is no good, you cheap skates. We know that a 50-cent paper is better than a dollar one, a 25-cent better than a 60-cent, and a 10-cent magazine the best of all to you, and we know in addition that, though you call yourselves Socialists, your slavish minds are pleased at being patronized and you would sooner support any paper that comes down to you from above, than one that is the result of the struggles of working men and women, who, in many cases have spent their little all in the struggle and more, in some cases gone into debt. I know one who is still sitting to pay off a debt incurred in that way.

Those who were at liberty to say more. Then as to the mentally lazy, they usually say they "don't like" the Clarion. Of course, they don't. The Clarion teaches Socialism and that means brain work, but they want to be spoonfed with pap. The very fact that they "don't like" it, if they were in earnest, would impel them to take it and study it. Who "likes" economics for themselves alone. I detested them myself at first; would a lot sooner play billiards, but it is necessary for enough of the working classes to know enough of them for the working class to be free, and I want to be free.

Come now, you lazy fellows, you are not so bad as the stinky lumbags. Get a move on. Take the Clarion; read the Clarion as a duty and you'll find it a pleasure later on.

An article about the number of cubicles some capitalist keeps, or how Judge Grosscup assaulted a chambermaid may be spicy reading and doesn't require much brain work to grasp, but it isn't Socialism, and what a morally bad lot the capitalists are, the evidence is clear the workers are every bit as "bad" on the average.

The Clarion, not being run for the sole purpose of getting a circulation, but for the purpose of teaching Socialism, doesn't go in for sensationalism. I know the Clarion has bitter enemies in Canada. I know who many of them are. I have met them from the Atlantic to the Pacific. I know how they are underhanding endeavoring to get out of business and I know they are going to fail. There are enough real Socialists who realize their duty in this respect and there are going to be more. It is not necessary to work for the Clarion to the exclusion of all others, but it is necessary to push the circulation of the party paper primarily.

One tip is all that is necessary to husters—keep everlastingly at it, and results are certain. Now go ahead and get results. WILFRID GRIBBLE.

Wanted

At the Ymir General Hospital a duly trained nurse. For particulars write W. B. McISAAC, Secy.

Socialist Directory

Every Local of the Socialist Party of Canada should run a card under this head. 100 per month. Secretaries please copy.

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, Socialist Party of Canada. Meets every alternate Monday at 8 p.m. 416 Hastings St. W., Vancouver, B. C.

ALBERTA PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, Socialist Party of Canada. Meets every alternate Monday at 8 p.m. 416 Hastings St. W., Vancouver, B. C.

MANITOBA PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, Socialist Party of Canada. Meets every alternate Monday at 8 p.m. 416 Hastings St. W., Vancouver, B. C.

ONTARIO PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, Socialist Party of Canada. Meets every alternate Monday at 8 p.m. 416 Hastings St. W., Vancouver, B. C.

LOCAL VANCOUVER, B. C. NO. 1, S. P. OF C. Meets every alternate Sunday evening at 8 p.m. 416 Hastings St. W., Vancouver, B. C.

LOCAL VANCOUVER, B. C. NO. 45. Finnish. Meets every second and fourth Thursdays in the month at 151 Hastings St. W., Secretary, Wm. King.

LOCAL VICTORIA, NO. 2, S. P. OF C. Headquarters and Reading Room, Room 201, Esplanade Hotel. Meets every Tuesday evening at 8 p.m. Propaganda meetings every Sunday at Grand Theatre. R. Thomas, Secretary.

LOCAL HAWAII, NO. 3, S. P. OF C. Meets every alternate Sunday evening in Prop. Committee meeting at 7:00 o'clock sharp. Propaganda meetings every Sunday at 10:00 o'clock. Jack Place, Sec. Secy. Box 418.

LOCAL VERNON, B. C. NO. 39, S. P. OF C. Meets every second and fourth Thursdays in the month at 151 Hastings St. W., Secretary, Wm. King.

LOCAL PRINCE GEORGE, B. C. NO. 53, S. P. OF C. Meets every Sunday in Prop. Committee meeting at 8:00 p.m. Angus McIver, Secretary.

LOCAL NEWWAZOO, B. C. S. P. OF C. Propaganda and business meetings at 8 p.m. every Sunday evening in the Edison Parlor Theatre. Speakers invited to attend. B. F. Gagnier, Secretary. W. W. Lafleur, Organizer.

LOCAL MICHEL, B. C. NO. 16, S. P. OF C. Meets every Sunday in Prop. Committee meeting at 8:00 p.m. Socialist speakers are invited to call. V. Froshman, Secretary.

LOCAL GREENWOOD NO. 2, S. P. OF C. Meets every Sunday in Prop. Committee meeting at 8:00 p.m. Business meetings, 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. J. Campbell, Secy. Box 124.

LOCAL VERNON, B. C. NO. 39, S. P. OF C. Meets every second and fourth Thursdays in the month at 151 Hastings St. W., Secretary, Wm. King.

LOCAL PRINCE GEORGE, B. C. NO. 53, S. P. OF C. Meets every Sunday in Prop. Committee meeting at 8:00 p.m. Angus McIver, Secretary.

LOCAL NEWWAZOO, B. C. S. P. OF C. Propaganda and business meetings at 8 p.m. every Sunday evening in the Edison Parlor Theatre. Speakers invited to attend. B. F. Gagnier, Secretary. W. W. Lafleur, Organizer.

LOCAL MICHEL, B. C. NO. 16, S. P. OF C. Meets every Sunday in Prop. Committee meeting at 8:00 p.m. Socialist speakers are invited to call. V. Froshman, Secretary.



TO Canadian Socialists
On account of increased postal rates we are obliged to make the subscription price of the International Socialist Review in Canada \$1.20 a year instead of \$1.00. For 50 cents we will mail three copies of the Review to one Canadian subscriber for one year. For 70 cents we will mail ten copies of any one issue.

For \$2.00 we will mail the Review one year and the Chicago Daily Socialist for one year.

CHARLES H. KERR & COMPANY
134 West Kinzie St., Chicago.

Books of all Kinds
The Mistakes of Moses..... 50c
The Riddle of the Universe 25c
Merric England, Sunk in Great God and my Neighbor, Blatchford..... 20c
Ayesha, or the Return of She, by Rider Haggard..... 75c
Doomsday for our Race..... 75c
Marcia Monk..... 75c

All books sent postage paid. Send for catalog.

The People's Book Store
152 Cordova St. W.

A. F. Cobb
Merchant Tailor
Okotoks, Alberta
For every suit sold through this advertisement I will give \$2.00 to the circulation of the Western Clarion.

Plan:
1. Write me for samples of goods.
2. Mention the price you want to pay for suit.
3. Compare my sample with the price.
4. If suitable, send me \$6.00.
5. I will guarantee to deliver suit to fit within three weeks.
6. Clarion will acknowledge receipt of \$2.00 from me when suit is paid for.
Suits to measure from \$15.00 to \$30.00.

Propaganda Meeting

Sunday Evening, 8 o'clock
City Hall
Vancouver B. C.

THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA

Two Pages Devoted to Reports of Executive Committees, Locals and General Party Matters—Address All Communications to D. G. McKenzie, Sec., Box 838, Vancouver, B. C.

RESOLUTION TO THE DOMINION MEMBERSHIP S. P. OF C.

Berlin, Ont., April 14, 1910.

Editor Western Clarion.

Dear Comrade—Referring to the notice in the Clarion of April 9, calling the attention of the members of the S. P. of C. to the suspension of the Ontario Provincial Executive Committee and calling upon the various locals to instruct their respective officers to take steps of having referendum vote taken, we would ask what opportunity have the comrades throughout the Dominion had at their command to have an unprejudiced, intelligent opinion as to the state of affairs in Ontario?

The comrades of Local Berlin and of the majority of the locals of Ontario, judging from correspondence at hand, contend that the action of the Dominion Executive Committee, asking the membership of the S. P. of C. to vote upon an important question before having full and correct information upon it, is unfair to say the least.

Reviewing the action of the Dominion Executive Committee up to date in regard to this affair, we feel that they have overstepped their authority and acted contrary to the provisions of the party constitution. In the first place, it was hasty and uncalled-for procedure to revoke the charter of Local No. 1, without affording them a chance of stating their case, the Dominion Executive Committee relying solely upon information by a few members, to whom afterwards was granted charter No. 21.

After receiving an official communication from the secretary, P. C. Young, informing us that the newly-formed Ontario Provincial Executive Committee had disbanded, Local Berlin called a special meeting inviting Locals Galt and Guelph to be represented. On April 3 they held a joint meeting at Berlin to consider the advisability of taking the initiative steps for the selection of a seat for a new Provincial Executive Committee. At this special meeting a joint committee of Berlin, Galt and Guelph locals was appointed. They drafted and sent to the secretaries of all Locals of Ontario the following resolution:

Whereas Local No. 24 at a meeting held on March 23 disbanded the Provincial Executive Committee without the consent of the membership of the province, and

Whereas, Article III. of the Constitution of the Socialist Party of Canada provides for a Provincial Executive Committee elected by a general vote of the membership of the riding wherein is located the seat of the Committee, and

Whereas the action of Local No. 24 leaves the province without a properly constituted provincial body, it becomes the duty of the locals throughout the province to select a seat for a new Provincial Executive Committee at the earliest possible moment, and

Whereas Local No. 4 of Berlin at a special meeting held on Sunday, March 27, passed a resolution inviting Locals Guelph and Galt to a joint meeting to be held in Berlin on Sunday, April 3, to take initiative steps for reorganization, and

Whereas Locals Galt, Guelph and Berlin appointed a committee to act jointly at the meeting held at Berlin on April 3, and

Whereas the committee of the aforementioned Locals decided to submit a referendum to the provincial membership.

Be it Therefore Resolved, that in the opinion of this joint committee the secretary be instructed to write all Locals throughout the province to vote at once upon the following questions, calling a special meeting if necessary to save time:

1. Shall a convention be held to select a seat for a new Provincial Executive Committee?
2. Where shall convention be held?
3. At what date?

This joint committee recommends the 24th of May, 1910, at the Finnish Hall, Toronto, and would further recommend that the convention provide ways and means to defray expenses by assisting Locals from a distance.

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE

W. PEARD, Galt.
L. CUNNINGHAM, Guelph.
H. MARTIN, Berlin.

We contend, and firmly demand comrades everywhere will agree with us, that the selection of the seat of the Provincial Executive Committee is a purely provincial affair and should be left for settlement to the membership of the province.

We therefore appeal to the good judgment of the members of the S. P. of C. and trust that provincial autonomy will prevail.
Copies of this resolution were sent to the Executive Committee of Manitoba, Alberta and Maritime Provinces. (Press Committee.) G. PRAGER.

SOCIALISM AND INDUSTRIAL UNIONISM

Berlin, Ont., April 14, 1910.

Editor Western Clarion.

In reading many Socialist periodicals and pamphlets that are advertised as first-class socialist publications, we very often come across things that are not to the best interest of the Socialist movement. Chief among these are the importance paid to industrial unionism. To a non-Socialist after reading many of these articles it would appear that the only way for the workers to get possession of the means of production is through an industrial union of the workers. Nothing could be further from the mark. When we see such things as "That the revolutionary act, the act of taking over the means of production and establishing a social order, based upon the principles of the working class, cannot be achieved by a disorganized, defeated and humiliated working class, but must be the work of that class after it has attained a commanding position on the field of economic struggle."

And again, "Use our economic power to gain political power." These and other impossibilities are openly advocated as good propaganda.

First, let me point out that the working class, as a class, have got no economic power. Capitalism is based on the robbery of the producers. The development of industry, Engels says, upon a capitalist basis makes poverty and misery of the working masses' conditions of existence for society. How can we talk of economic power when we know that the value of our commodity, labor-power, is determined by the cost of its production.

Again we have already got political power in countries where the wage slave has a vote, and as he is in the majority in all countries, you can easily see that he gets what he votes for—"Misery and degradation of himself and his class."

What makes the starving armies of unemployed and the half-starved employed submit to the conditions that is the ignorance of the wage slave that allows those conditions to exist. But it is not government with its armies and navy, police and militia, together with citizens' alliances, Pinkerton thus and Thiel courtois, all of which are at the disposal of the owners of the means of production, and are maintained for the purpose of protecting the capitalist class in that ownership. That is what makes us submit so gracefully to the conditions we impose upon ourselves.

Let the workers try to take possession of the means of production without first being in possession of the powers of government. To do so would be suicide. When the revolutionary act, the act of taking over the means of production and establishing the economic program of the working class, comes, it will be done by an intelligent, class-conscious working class, whom the capitalist system of production has already organized into a vast producing army, knowing well the step to be taken when once in possession.

It cannot be denied but that industrial unionism is a better form of unionism than the old craft organizations and as a means of forcing our masters to grant us a little more of what we produce it is the only weapon we have, but it can never make him give up the full value of what we produce.

We cannot but admire the heroic efforts of our class in the misery and hardships they undergo in an effort to gain concessions from their masters in the way of shorter hours, higher wages and the right to organize. The strike in Sweden, McKees Rocks and the present street-car strike in Philadelphia go to show that the working class are not made the injury of one concern of all. But their economic position as peddlars of that commodity, labor-power, will not permit them to carry it to a successful issue. The most they can gain is experience.

The battle between masters and slaves must be fought out on the political field. The sooner we realize this fact the sooner will be the victory. We can never take possession of what we produce until we have first taken possession of the powers of government through political action and used that power to establish and enforce our demands.

Our propaganda should be conducted to show the economic weakness and political strength of the working class. Economic conditions to a great extent determine the conditions under which we shall work. Not so of how we shall vote. Wage-labor furnishes the organizing, directing and managing ability together with the skilled and unskilled labor that go to make up this great army of production. Then why give up most of what is produced to an unnecessary parasite class?

L. R. MCINNIS.

GRIBBLE AT BRANDON

Comrade Gribble gave two addresses in the Lyric theatre at Brandon on Sunday, April 13. Comrade Higgins played the piano, and although I am deaf, I could hear him playing the "Red Flag," "Chime" as I stood outside on the pavement of Rosser avenue. It takes a Socialist to play Socialist music. The revolutionary spirit comes out at the finger tips.

Comrade Tommy Legge, who is not by any means a bobbing Thomas, sold literature to the crowd and proved himself an unscrupulous capitalist by having the audacity to sell his commodity on the dearest market. When he was taking a 5-cent piece from one individual I actually heard him quoting Shakespeare: "Thanks, noble peer," quoth he, "the cheapest of us is ton groats too dear."

Tommy has gone out in the country this week carrying bricks. I can see him gasping, groaning and cursing under his heavy loads. Brick! brick! Nothing but brick will ring in his ears during the day time. In the evening he will be studying "Value, Price and Profit." It is Tommy's New Testament, and he would rejoice if every wage slave understood the little book of revelation. Tommy would carry brick to build another pyramid if that sobering, ghoulish, diabolical, pot-bellied monstrously, capitalism, could therein be decently interred. Comrade Gribble would read the funeral sermon with piousunction: "Imperial Caesar dead, and turned to clay might stop a hole to keep the wind away. Lord, let this dirty, stinking, foul, filthy old devil rot; let him stew in his own grease; let him ferment himself away; let him dissolve and leave not a shred behind. Send him to the infernal regions, there to converse with everlasting groans, unrespected, unprepared. Send him to the dungeon horrible; let him live in the fluid flames, and let us hear him bellow from the vasty deep of hell."

From the mourners there would arise a mighty shout, a roar of exultation, a seven fold of hallelujahs and harping symphonies.

However, I must leave Tom to build his pyramid, and give a report of the meetings. Ed. Fletcher was chairman and opened the meetings by short speeches on economics, dealing chiefly with the commodity labor-power. He showed clearly how the wage slave was bought in the cheapest market and how, when he was worn out, he was thrown upon the scrap heap.

It seems remarkable to the writer that both the wage slave and the capitalist should each commence their existence as an egg. "Man is developed from an ovule about the 125th part of an inch in diameter." Why should one structureless jelly-like substance dominate another structureless jelly-like substance? Why should one egg dominate another egg? I think it is because one of them must be added. How would you like to eat capitalist fried eggs on toast?

At the afternoon meeting Comrade Gribble gave us an insight into the frustration of capital. At night he spoke for two hours. He electrified his audience and paralyzed resistance. Respectable orthodoxy started open-mouthed, astounded, amazed. Comrade Gribble shamed them out of their nonsense. They came in frigid and calculating liars; they went out shame-faced hypocrites.

Gribble is naturally an orator and can give unspeakable effect to any passages of pathos or scorn, but he never loses control of his oratory. What Gribble spoke I have thought many a time, and I was delighted.

When, like a good son of Rosneers, Gribble was ruminating at the audience in a voice of thunder read Socialist literature, I shouted, "Hear! hear!" the fellow next to me got up and crawled out of the room like a crab. That settled me. I laughed because the nervousness of the speaker was just glorious. If it were possible to get capitalism into one shape we would put it under the axe of the guillotine. I would kneel down by its side and whisper: "Spawn of the devil, go down to hell." I should be the Jack Priest and give it consolation, but Comrade Gribble would be the executioner and send the axe clanking down and shear off its ugly head.

Yours truly,
CLIFFORD BUTLER.

PRICE LIST OF SUPPLIES.

Charter (with necessary supplies to start Local).....	\$5.00
Membership Cards, each.....	.01
Dues Stamp, each.....	.10
Platform and application blank per 100.....	.25
Ditto in Finnish, per 100.....	.50
Ditto in Ukrainian, per 100.....	.50
Ditto in Italian, per 100.....	.50
Constitutions, each.....	.20
Ditto, Finnish, per dozen.....	.50

A good place to eat
THE CAFETERIA
305 Cambie Street
The best of everything properly cooked.
Chas. Mulcahey, Prop.

KNOWS BETTER

Editor Western Clarion.—In the article entitled "The New Slavery" (April 2) the writer who elsewhere who elsewhere seems to have a good knowledge of Marxian economics has gone astray three or four times.

He states that "the worker would produce the equivalent of wages advanced to him by the capitalist," etc.

I would like to point out that the capitalist does advance wages to the worker. Now, in "Value, Price and Profit" (I think), and in "Capital," vol. I, Marx points out this fallacy, stating that "the worker advances his labor to the capitalist" and has to maintain himself until his wages are paid, which is never "in advance" like our landlord's bills.

Having recently worked for a company which has "gone broke," I can easily assure the writer that Marx is correct on this point; or does he (the writer) maintain that I have robbed the aforesaid company of one month's wages, and if so, why does it not prosecute me? I can get nothing out of the company, but, as Bumble says, "the law's a bass."

The point is rather important as it tends to show that there is no justification for extracting surplus value under the name of "interest."

Working men and women should pay more attention to these small points as they would not then be quite so prone (at the polls) with their thanks to the dear, kind capitalist who maintains them during the hard times and long winters!

Yours in revolt,
RALPH W. ABLETT.
Cooking Lake, Alta.

THE PRINTER

Dear Me.—In view of the fact that my handwriting is not quite copy-plate I could look upon the printer as the more in sorrow than in anger. But after the Clarion of April 2nd I feel disposed to explain my patience. "How long will you abuse our patience?"

That my own matter got mixed I could forgive and perhaps, after a lapse of years forget; but when the law, an action of the law, is quoted and a word omitted, I ask you, my masters, is the bounds of patience not exceeded?

The printer tribe has, if I read his story aright, justified to no inconsiderable extent, the building of jails; it also appears to me that not always were they imprisoned for such crimes that would meet with my disapproval; in fact, the cause of their frequent imprisonments was something of which I heartily approve. Yes, heartily. From Wilkes to Warren they are a noble band, these printer jailbirds, "Birds of Freedom," Deba, I think, calls them. But if I condemn and deplore their imprisonment upon the charges brought against them, I am not saying that they were wholly undeserving of imprisonment, not to say something worse. If the sins of omission and commission are absolutely unpardonable. And while they suffered for something they ought not to have suffered for, they went unpunished for crimes which are not in the criminal code. One comrade has, I believe, once suggested that, if for no other purpose than to properly punish the printer tribe, hell should exist. I subscribe to that, with less reserve. I am inclined to ask as Falstaff did of Poins: "What hole in hell is hot enough to accommodate the villains."

J. H.

Them's my sentiments, John, but what's the use? Printers are born human and raised devil.—Me.

THE PRUSSIAN DEMONSTRATIONS

The recent political upheaval in Prussia which attracted world-wide attention was the result of many false conclusions and expressions. It may therefore not be out of place to review the movement of our German comrades which brought them in several cases in contact with the armed forces of their masters.

The empire of Germany consists of a conglomeration of states; every one has its own law factory with about the same power as the provincial houses here. While the representatives to the Reichstag, much resembling the Dominion parliament, are chosen by the male population by a more modern,

and as far as registration is concerned, even better franchise than is here prevailing, the members to the local assemblies are elected by more or less ancient and reactionary election laws.

The kingdom of Prussia has the distinction of not only being the largest of the German states, but also of possessing the most backward and unfair franchise bill. The very limited number of electors are divided into three classes, depending upon the amount of earthly goods, or knowledge, or grade of ancestors. The large portion of the working class is disfranchised. It would take us too far to go into lengthy explanation as to the further nature of this mode of election, sufficient is to recall a declaration of the famous statesman Bismarck, about two decades ago: "The Prussian three-class election system is the most contemptible of all." Be it remembered that this was the same reactionary who vainly attempted to check the onward march of Labor with exceptional laws.

With the rapid political awakening of the German proletariat, persistent efforts on their part were made to extend the franchise and supplant the existing mode of election at least for the Reichstag. It will be readily seen that under outlined conditions, it was almost impossible for Labor to voice its sentiments in the Landtag. It is quite true that after the last general election five Socialists for the first time invaded the house of reaction, but it is remembered that not one seat was captured by Socialist strength alone.

Who read W. Liebnicht's "No Compromise" will see that the veteran had ample reason to warn his comrades not to enter the unfavorable battle, and the irony that destined that his own son was chosen to represent a Berlin district in the Prussian law-house.

Here and Now

By "Smith"

Following upon the intimation in last week's Clarion of the intended celebration of May Day by the Vancouver Local, the committee has decided to hold an open air demonstration on the afternoon of Sunday, May 1st, on the Cambie street grounds. Comrades Kingsley, Hawthornthwaite, Parker Williams and Pettipiece will address the meeting. This will be followed in the evening by a meeting in the City Hall. This note is merely inserted here to remind you of the necessity of being present to help swell the crowd and insure the success of the meeting.

Nanaimo Local pays up for their bundle and Card.

C. E. Kilby sends along his own record accompanied by another. A dollar is also enclosed to go where it will do the most good. Manitoba Campaign Fund gets the benefit.

Com. Hintz informs us that Local Nelson has sent along \$10.00 towards the Building Fund of the Gibson's Landing boys.

J. Shaw sends in one from Cowichan and complains that the last one is not coming often enough. For our part it is coming along alright.

Chas. Steen brings another two down in South Vancouver.

J. L. Thornley sends \$9.00 to renew Moyle bundle and adds another to the list of lucky ones.

Com. Collingwood takes in four yearlies.

The degradation and misery of the working class will continue as long as the capitalist system. It can only be abolished by putting an end to capitalist ownership of the means of production.

Local Sandon No. 38 sends along \$10.00 per A. S. Billard to cover the pledge of the local towards the Publishing fund.

Locals Ferns, B. C. and Brantford, Ont. pay up for Bundles.

Charlie O'Brien plucks two more brands from the burning in Lundbreck.

When you are out in the wood, working for some gunny sack contractor and sleeping in a crummy bunkhouse, does it not make you feel ill to think that Socialism is going to destroy the home. Your home?

Local Cobalt drops in 12.50 for bundle and card.

Gribble sends two from Dauphin, Man., and W. Davenport a like number from Brantford, Ont.

E. J. Turner in search of a home, notifies us of his change of address.

Price is the expression of the relative value of a commodity in terms of money, the money name for the labor materialized in a commodity.

Singles from the following bunch: W. Voss, B. Peake, Winnipeg; Lester, Leeds, R. Graham, Vancouver; F. G. Watts, Burlington, B. C.; M. Starford, South Wellington; C. Springfield, Behl, Alta.; T. J. Benninger, Christina Lake, B. C.; W. S. Lettbridge, Alta.; A. Jogg, New Westminster, P. Paul, Bellevue, Alta.; A. McDonald, Calgary, A. Taylor, Toronto.

slave resistance, many will undoubtedly exclaim. But whoever raises questions of this kind does not perceive that the general movement is hardly any better than in Wisconsin. Articles which we frequently find in the Clarion of an educational nature can, in the over fifty Socialist papers in Germany, only be found on very rare instances. It is ever, Revolutionary speeches as by the Canadian members notably Charlie O'Brien or ex-M. P. McInnes, are perhaps never heard in the German halls of legislature.

At the same time it is well worth while to take a leaf out of the book of our comrades there as regards their untiring efforts to spread the propaganda; 125,000 leaflets have been passed on in Milwaukee the day before the civic election before 6 a. m. Literature distributed mostly in German cities. Work of this kind will be more fruitful than useless harping in attempts to criticize speakers in meetings held for propaganda purposes, ceases. The Socialist movement in Germany, as perhaps not all what can be desired, but some lessons can be drawn, and one important one is that the little pieces of paper perhaps represent more than our direct-action friends imagine. If not, please explain why the ruling class in Prussia do not present the workers with the bareness slipp.

That this step was not taken without good reason will be easily seen by the fact that in several instances the soldiers waved the flag of revolution from the windows of their confinement while the demonstrations were in progress. Judging by those occurrences there is very little hope that "our" navy can ever be used to defend "our" country against the German.

It may be questioned if with the prevailing sentiment an uprising would not bring better results than meetings and demonstrations. Two and a half million Socialist voters and only pas-

II. N.

OVER 25 YEARS' EXPERIENCE

PATENTS

TRADE MARKS
DESIGNS
COPYRIGHTS & C.

Anyone sending a sketch and description of an invention is promptly patented. Free preliminary opinion. No charge for drawing. Patent secured. Free of cost agency for securing patents. Patent taken abroad. Actual cost. No expense. Special notes, without charge, in the pocket.

A. B. Scientific American.

MUNN & Co. 361 Broadway, New York
Branch Office, 65 F. St. Washington, D. C.

