



VIOLENT ASSAULT ON PEACEABLE CITIZENS

Vancouver's Civic Administration Strips the Mask of Hypocrisy From Democratic Government and Discloses the "Iron Hand" of Class Rule.

The "iron hand" with which Jas. Findlay, newly-elected mayor of Vancouver, proposed to deal with the unemployed problem was last Sunday fabled into unexpected quarters. It struck that much vaunted British privilege of free speech a vicious blow below the belt.

A peaceful, orderly and good-natured audience, composed of several thousand unemployed and more fortunate citizens, assembled on the Powell street grounds to hear a discussion of the important issues of the day, was without warrant or provocation violently attacked and rudely dispersed by armed policemen, mounted and afoot.

The principal purpose of the meeting was to allow Comrade R. P. Pettipiece, of the Trades and Labor Council, to deliver to the people of Vancouver the information he had received from Premier McBride as to the government's attitude toward the unemployed question. Representatives of the Socialist Party and the I. W. W. were also to deliver addresses on this matter and to protest against the attitude of the city in forbidding street speaking. No trouble was anticipated and there was no feeling of defiance manifest, as the meeting was held in a public square, where there was no danger of impeding traffic or of disturbing anyone.

A little after 2 p. m. the meeting was opened by Wm. Coombs, of the I. W. W., who spoke briefly, then made way for Comrade Burgess, whose remarks were also very brief. Comrade Lestor then took the box and spoke for a few minutes. After he had finished, Comrade Pettipiece got on the box and commenced his address. He was just about to tell of his interview with the Premier when the Chief of Police elapsed his way to the box, followed by three officers.

"I must ask you to disperse," said the Chief, Comrade Pettipiece said he had been requested to address the meeting and would do so. He had no power to disperse the crowd. In a few seconds the crowd began to scatter in all directions before the clubs of forty policemen. Although no resistance was offered and no one retaliated, the clubs descended right and left. Old men who could not run fast enough and those who were poorly dressed suffered the most. The fact that no one resisted and that they were licensed to attack law-abiding, unarmed and unoffending citizens seemed to carry the constables away and they charged about, using their clubs like mad men.

In the midst of the onslaught Comrade Pettipiece stuck to his guns and attempted to continue his message to the workers. He was finally dragged from the box and taken to the police station. Several I. W. W. men attempted to speak, but were speedily seized and hustled away to jail.

After the sluggers on foot had cleared the square, fifteen mounted police began driving everyone from the surrounding streets. One of these rode down the centre of a crowded sidewalk for a block, going at full gallop, or as near full gallop as the human impediments would allow. People were knocked right and left by this flood, who acted like a man crazed with drink. Comrade Watts, who was forced to jump off the sidewalk to save his life, called the over-vehement brute a "Cossack" and a few seconds after was arrested.

by a horse against a brick wall and severely injured besides being clubbed over the head. The policeman did not know they were capitalists or it wouldn't have happened. He was simply frenzied by the brief career of unbridled lawlessness the civic authorities had launched him upon. Early in the fracas great discrimination was practiced, only those who were feeble or who looked very much like workmen were very violently attacked. But as blood began to flow caution was thrown to the winds and everybody who got within range of a Cossack's weapon got a broken head.

When the police had withdrawn from the original place of meeting somewhat, some of the determined spirits started another meeting. This was the signal for the most horrible outrages of the day. That no one was killed outright was a marvel. As it was, scalps were laid open, faces cut, teeth broken and several were rendered unconscious.

The only rioters and disturbers of the peace last Sunday were Vancouver policemen. No more orderly or well-behaved crowd ever gathered than that which assembled on the Powell street grounds to hear the speakers. Everybody appeared to be in a good-natured mood and there was not the slightest danger of trouble had the "iron hand" been kept where it belonged.

Altogether about twenty-five were arrested, including Comrades Pettipiece, Watts, Reed, Fisher, Lestor, Leak, Hurst and McDowall of the S. P. of C.

A LASTING LESSON. The Socialist Party, in a measure, owes a debt of gratitude to Mayor Findlay for the disorderly conduct of his minions last Sunday. And that in spite of the fact that many of its members were thrown into the city's lousy, filthy, insanitary, loathsome dungeons, called by courtesy a jail. We should be grateful for the excellent propaganda done with the club and the whip.

Many a bruised erantum bears aching testimony today to the bitter fact of the class struggle, that unbrused used to shout "Rule Britannia." More workers will now listen to Socialism than ever before. The Cossack treatment is a good thing once in a while—it helps some to think.

SOCIALIST BEATEN UP. Comrade Henderson, familiarly known as "Yorkie," was set upon Monday last and severely beaten by two police men. No attempt was made to arrest him and the motive for the attack is unknown. Comrade Henderson had been near a free speech meeting on Carrall street, but had taken no part and was going about his business when attacked. The only possible reason for the assault is that he is known to be a Socialist and this is the method employed by the rulers to combat their opponents' political arguments.

FOR AND AGAINST.

Socialism is for a free world. Socialism is for equal opportunity for all.

Socialism is for the emancipation of womanhood.

Socialism is for free access of all people to a chance to work and make a living.

Socialism is for the realization of the dream of the ages, for real honesty and genuine morality.

Socialism is for a system which will enable people to live instead of having to devote all their time to making a living.

Socialism is for stopping the robbery of the worker, and believes that this being done, poverty will disappear from earth.

Socialism is for industrial democracy; for a rule by the people instead of by the plutocrats, for property for all instead of all for property.

Socialism is against peonage.

Socialism is against tyranny in all its forms.

Socialism is against white slavery and child slavery.

Socialism is against the incentive which leads to selling impure foods for the sake of profits.

Socialism is against the wicked idea, which says that poverty must afflict the race of man.

Socialism is against the system which makes almshouses, jails, and

penitentiaries necessary to house its victims.

Socialism is against the murder of the workers in war and against the use of the people's money in preparation for this murder.

Socialism is against the system which robs the worker of the fruit of his toil and gives it to the owner of the machine who does not work.

Socialism is against permitting a few men to own the jobs and having it in their power to keep the masses from work and a chance to live.—New Times.

PITIFUL STORY OF UNEMPLOYED MAN

YONKERS, N. Y., Jan. 31.—The unknown man who was found starving and with both feet frozen at the city garbage dump last night recovered sufficiently in St. Joseph's Hospital today to tell Dr. Isadore Miller that he was Malach Callanan, 42 years old, of 444 East Tenth street, Manhattan. He said he came to Yonkers several days ago to find work, but failed to get anything. He built a little hut out of boards, pieces of tin and rags that he found on the dump. He lived on crusts of bread and other bits of food that he picked from the garbage heaps. It was while digging in a frozen pile that he was overcome.

It was said at the hospital tonight that he would live.

A FRANK STATEMENT

Having been appointed as Socialist Party organizer for Vancouver City and vicinity, I feel it is due to Socialist party members and supporters to put the case plainly to them.

There has, until lately (beyond meetings in halls and on the street and the resultant sale of literature) not been any serious effort to systematically organize the city by the Socialists in the city. By organization I mean the connecting up of the efforts of those who, recognizing a common cause, have a common purpose in view.

The details of organization would take up too much space to go into here, but to give a general idea of the work to be done I might say the first thing to be done is to find out the names and addresses of Socialists in the city; next, to give those who are willing some work to do in the way of distributing literature and finding out other Socialists in order that they may, in their turn, be given work to do.

As we get the names of Socialists we have to ascertain if they are on the voters' list, and, if not, to see, at the proper time, that they are placed on. This is but a little of the work to be done, but it will give a general idea.

Splendid spoken propaganda has been carried on for a number of years in this city and it is still being carried on; it has been highly appreciated, as has been shown by the large crowds and great enthusiasm at these meetings. Let us see what these large crowds and great applause means, if it means that the applauders applaud because they look upon a Socialist meeting as an entertainment, or applaud because their heart is in the Socialist movement.

A number of young men are already working in small districts in the vicinity of their homes, but we want and must have more.

Now we come to the point: All willing to do a little on the lines already mentioned send in your names to the undersigned.

WILFRED GRIBBLE,
579 Homer-Richards Lane,
City.

BLOODY SUNDAY

On Sunday, the 21st, an unemployed demonstration that was taking place on a large public square was stopped by the police of Vancouver, so the Socialist party of Canada, the I. W. W., trades unionists and unemployed decided to test the right of free speech the following Sunday, January 28. On that date a crowd of between two and three thousand persons assembled. Fellow Worker Coombs opened the meeting. Comrades Burgess, Reed and Lestor spoke, then Comrade Pettipiece. Whilst the latter was speaking the police arrived on the scene and read a by-law that was enacted in 1910 which stated that a meeting on any public grounds, streets or parks was an unlawful assembly. The sheriff then told Comrade Pettipiece he would have to disperse the crowd, Comrade Pettipiece appealed to the crowd to do no violence, but that the meeting would go on, that only cowards would attack a defenceless and peaceable crowd. A few minutes later the police, thirty or forty strong, charged the crowd, and with batons drawn hit out right and left. Comrade Pettipiece and about twenty others that attempted to speak were thrown into jail. The Cossacks rode down the people on the sidewalks, and with the foot police clubbing right and left it resembled a riot, but there was no violence on the part of the crowd. This went on for about an hour, the police driving the crowd several blocks. The crowd then lined up and marched to the Vancouver hotel and back to the city hall, where Comrade Lestor was arrested with several others for inciting to riot. About twenty-five were landed in jail that day, and no ball was allowed. We were thrown five and six in a cell six with but two beds, and in most cases but one mattress and one blanket between the occupants. "The stretch in the cells was fearful. The jail is the most insanitary place in the city. A bucket is placed in a cell for the use of the occupants and emptied but once a day. No one was allowed to the lavatory, so you can judge for yourself the stench that must exist in that building 30x60 with over eighty occupants in steel cages. The brutality of the police in the prison is even worse than that of those outside. To knock men senseless and beat them up is delightful to such inhuman Cossacks. The food, perhaps pushed by some jail birds, is not relished by men who do not delight in being in jail.

On Monday ten more men were thrown in jail and those the police did not want to arrest were beaten up, among the victims being several old men and cripples. Ball was obtained Monday for several of us and the fight with admission to our propaganda meeting in the Empress Theatre on Sunday night. One hundred and four dollars was collected, \$64 of which goes to fight the case. Anyone wishing to send anything for the fund can send the same to the writer and it will be acknowledged in The Clarion.

WM. WATTS.

Letter in the Clarion Office addressed to E. Boxall and O. Reynor.

WORLD-WIDE CAPITAL AND "ARROGANT" LABOR

With the Far East Equipped With the Tools of Capitalist Production the Final Breakdown of Capitalism Will Come.

In certain circles there is a period to howl raved over the "arrogance of Labor." Truly this is amusing when we consider for a moment the Micawber-like "umbleness" of the average slave. "Day in, day out, from morn till night"—he labors, producing an abundance, yet he never asks or wonders why he hasn't something to do with the control or disposal of the wealth he produces. Occasionally an individual or group of individuals of the genus wage slave, enraged by their apparent helplessness and inability to cope with the might of international capital, get upon their hind legs and for a few moments growl or maybe nip at the trousers legs of their masters as did the McNamara brothers recently. Immediately the "arrogance of labor" howl is raised.

Apparently the henchmen and boot-lickers of the masters fear that these things portend an awakening and they are searching the heavens and the earth for means whereby they may appease the "arrogant" slaves for the time being and thus postpone the Deluge.

The Montreal Weekly Witness recently, Jan. 9, '12, published an editorial of this nature and in the course of its remarks reiterates a warning which has been given a prominent place in Socialist propaganda ever since the time of Marx. It refers to the commercial awakening and development of China, Japan, India and other Oriental countries and utters a solemn warning to all "arrogant slaves" to the effect, that if they do not at once evince the proper degree of "umbleness," Mr. Yellow Man will get their jobs. As the development of the Orient and its hordes of cheap labor is bound to win over the European and American worker anyhow, we fall to see how umbleness is going to improve our position much. Anyhow, let us examine the "Witness" outbreak and the cause for it.

It appears that a quarrel has arisen between masters and slaves in the textile districts of England. As usual we find the slaves divided. The unionists refused to work with the so-called "scabs" (non-unionists) and the operators (as once locked out about 300,000). These are now taking an enforced vacation. As capitalist law and usage declares that slaves were created for the sole purpose of working—all other habits and customs being merely incidental to this universal and very necessary habit—and as dividends suffer in consequence of any protracted idleness on their part, it is very necessary and natural (again from the standpoint of master class law ethics) that every effort should be made to frighten them back to their tasks. Hence the warning from the "Witness."

The Rev. Dr. Inge, Dean of St. Paul's, has issued a warning to the working people of London, whom he threatens he has at heart (?). He believes the transfer of industrial wealth to eastern Asia will be a certain step to the European labor movement, and that a worse fate would probably befall Australia. Easy (!) conditions of labor may survive as long as our country is exploiting an enormous national wealth, but at no very distant date we will be tried by a standard not our own. The present cotton strike in England will prove a boon to the cotton mills that have been started in India and southern China, as well as to those started among the negroes of the Southern States. It cannot but throw into the hands of these people a trade that the English cotton operator has been fighting with his best ingenuity to hold. Once such trade is lost it is a question if it can ever be regained with the present conditions of labor. England might soon be crying out for foreign cheap labor to keep her mills going. Should the strike last long it is probable that many struggling mills will find no market for their output after the first rush to supply the shortage created by strike.

That this is true there can be no question. International capital has discovered that China, India and Japan with their hordes of cheap workers provide a more profitable field for investment and exploitation of both in-

bor and natural resources than the so-called Occident. The slaves of civilization have created so enormously of all wars that the "masters" were compelled early in the game to find a "valuable" market for the surplus. These markets must be found outside of civilization, as all "civilized" countries were in the same predicament, their warehouses piled high with goods that the workers couldn't buy because the stipend or wage they received was merely sufficient to buy very limited quantities of pork, beans and hard tack. So the "civilized" nations began a campaign of conquest of the heathen or "uncivilized" portion of the globe. They are till engaged in the pleasing pastime as is shown by the press dispatches regarding the indiscriminate shooting, hanging and torturing of hapless victims in Persia, Tripoli and sundry other places.

The average wage in any community or country depends upon the cost of the food, clothing and shelter necessary to keep a slave in proper physical form for work. In the course of his campaign against heathendom the capitalist has found that Oriental workers can subsist upon considerably less than the European or American slaves and he accordingly proceeds to "develop" these countries. Said process being the erection of factories and mills, the opening up of mines and the herding of the slaves into these places to produce wares. When we consider the fact that the Orient is the last portion of the globe to adopt capitalist civilization and that once this market is satisfied there can be no question of further extension of markets unless a method is discovered of shipping the surplus products to Mars we can then understand just what capitalism is up against.

The Witness says that production will go to China and India as a result of the textile strike. We know and can easily prove that production will go to the Orient anyhow, strike or no strike, unless the workers of Europe and America are prepared to live on a few pennynorth of rice per day and wear no shirts. It will go to China and India because capital is bound to flow wherever it can find a more profitable field for exploitation. It is physically impossible for us to even try to compete with the hundreds of millions of cheap slaves of these countries. And anyhow it's none of our damned business if the master class want to move its industries to China. We are slaves who sell ourselves to them for a stipend, hay and oats, while they need us. Tomorrow they won't need us any longer as they will have found yellow men who will do the work as well and for less pay. Then we may chase ourselves off the earth so far as they are concerned.

Finding the old form of government somewhat cumbersome, the master class has engineered a revolution in China. The slaves of the country have been persuaded that they have everything to gain and nothing to lose by the overthrow of the Manchus. It is a significant fact that the new provisional president of the provisional republic is a civilized Christian gentleman who has traveled extensively in Europe and America and so imbibed all the virtues of capitalist governments. There is no doubt but that, if the Republic succeeds and the chances are very largely in its favor at the time of writing, the new administration will be found to be thoroughly ate and sane from a master-class standpoint.

So then the position may be put thusly. Capitalism could not continue to exist without foreign markets. The slaves produce about five times as much as they can buy back with their wages. For the disposal of the four-

Continued on page three

LOCAL VANCOUVER
Propaganda
MEETING

Every Sunday Evening
Empress Theatre

THE WESTERN CLARION

Published every Saturday by the Socialist Party of Canada at the office of the Western Clarion, Labor Temple, Dunsmuir St., Vancouver, B. C.

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THE WESTERN CLARION Labor Temple, Dunsmuir St., Vancouver, B. C.

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

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 3, 1912

COSSACK RULE.

Vancouver's present civic administration came into power at the recent elections through the efficient working of the Conservative political machine of the province, ably aided and abetted by the church, the liquor interests, the "red light" influence and all the other forces of moral and ethical uplift that constitute the stock-in-trade of the "better element" of this and all other modern municipalities.

It is a well known fact that a surplus of labor in the market gives great satisfaction to employers of labor. With such a surplus to act as a sort of check upon the avarice and greed of the workman, which is apt to express itself in a demand for higher wages, the price of labor power can be kept within bounds quite satisfactory to the purchaser thereof.

The workers of Vancouver may as well be satisfied with "Cossack rule." As none of the workers of moral and ethical uplift referred to above, have even as much as protested against the Cossack brutality of last Sunday it is safe to assume that such rule meets with their approval.

GET THE POWER. Sunday's rioting by the Vancouver police should drive his lessons home into some thick heads. They are plain enough this time.

all alike, there should be no complaint from any one. On Sunday last a large number (several thousand) men gathered at Powell street grounds in response to a call for a public meeting issued by the committee having the unemployed matter in charge.

No sooner was the meeting called than the law, in the shape of the city police, stepped in and converted a peaceable assembly of quiet and orderly men, women and children into a struggling mass of frightened humanity, feeling for their lives from the brutal assault of the police acting under the Mayor's orders.

Four arrests have been made since Sunday, but, as in numerous cases, men have been ruthlessly beaten up by the police, it would appear that "Cossack rule" is henceforth to be the order of the day.

Let us suppose that these wage slaves are able to have the use of their present jobs for a period of five years, and we will see what they have gained for the trouble of producing \$2,600.

THE REWARD OF ABSTINENCE. In the New Year's Bulletin published by the Winnipeg Industrial Commissioner are certain figures relating to wealth production. It states that in the factories of Winnipeg there are 15,000 hands (1) with a monthly payroll of \$750,000, and that the output for 1911 was \$40,000,000!

bands and big drums; they might have hired a full orchestra of calliopes and made corners of the welkin ring that never rang before.

As it was, they assembled to discuss their own unemployment—a dangerous subject. Not a shred of evidence can be produced that any of them even faced the police, or in fact, did so.

Had a big policeman come charging down on you, dared you have even defended yourself? Had you shot the policeman you would be hanged in due course, though the policeman was making an unprovoked assault with a deadly weapon and you were acting in defence of your life.

What can you do? Just one thing: BE THE STATE. MAC.

HE EVOLUTION OF A COMMODITY STRUGGLE. Milestones on the road to revolution are being passed rapidly, these days and no man can say what will happen next or how soon we as a party will be face to face with the problem of taking really active steps on the basis of our platform and aims.

For a long time it has been commonly known that the foremost members of the Federation were almost to a man straight Socialists on the political field, but even their equanimity came to be suffering from the effects of the first realization of the fact that instead of a convention of Labor Federationists they had on hand a bunch of Reds that were for turning the convention into a meeting of revolutionary Socialists forthwith.

Some conscientiously, others unconsciously, but all quite evidently aware to the fact that closer union was an absolute necessity and taking that position without one dissenting voice.

It is an opportune moment to allow such dramatic and revolutionary motions to go through and perchance be the cause of a stampedede that would shake the new and growing movement possibly to pieces for a time?

PRICE LIST OF SUPPLIES. (To Locals.) Charter (with necessary supplies to start Local).....\$5.00 Membership Cards, each......01

LOCAL BOUTE FORT GEORGE, B. C. No. 81. Meet every Friday night at 8 p.m. at the Public Library (on Taylor St.) between 12th and 13th. Secretary, Andrew Allen, Organizer.

LOCAL VANCOUVER, B. C. No. 1. B. C. Business meetings every Sunday evening at headquarters, 113 E. 2nd St. P. Perry, Secretary, 511 Hornby St.

LOCAL COSSACK, ALTA. No. 2. P. Miners' Hall and Upper House. Propaganda meetings at 3 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. Business meetings at 8 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. Following propaganda meetings at 8 p.m. on the 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, 11th, 13th, 15th, 17th, 19th, 21st, 23rd, 25th, 27th, 29th, 31st. Secretary, J. A. Gledhill, Box 83, Coleman, Alta. Visitors may receive literature on any day at the Public Hall, from Com. W. Graham, Secretary of the B. C. Federation.

LOCAL EDMONTON, ALTA. No. 1. B. C. P. of C. Headquarters 624 First St. S. P. of C. Business meetings every Thursday at 8 p.m. on the 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, 11th, 13th, 15th, 17th, 19th, 21st, 23rd, 25th, 27th, 29th, 31st. Our reading room is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. daily. Secretary, A. Farnill, 624 First St. S. P. of C. Headquarters, Edmonton, Alberta.

LOCAL CALGARY, ALTA. No. 4. B. C. P. of C. Business meetings every Saturday evening at 8 o'clock at the headquarters, 409 Eighth Ave. East, between Third and Fourth streets.

LOCAL REGINA, NO. 9. B. C. P. of C. Business meetings every Sunday at 8 p.m. in the hall, Trades Hall, B. Simmons, secretary, 1202 Garnet St., P.O. Box 1046.

LOCAL BRANDBURG, MAN. No. 7. B. C. P. of C. Business meetings every Sunday at 8 p.m. in the hall, 1008 Main St. Secretary, Chas. Penick, Box 83.

LOCAL LETHBRIDGE, ALTA. No. 12. B. C. P. of C. Business meetings every Sunday at 8 p.m. in the hall, 1008 Main St. Secretary, Chas. Penick, Box 83.

LOCAL MOOSEJAW, ALTA. No. 11. B. C. P. of C. Business meetings every Sunday at 8 p.m. in the hall, 1008 Main St. Secretary, Chas. Penick, Box 83.

LOCAL OTTAWA, NO. 8. B. C. P. of C. Business meetings the first Sunday in the month at 8 o'clock p.m. at headquarters. Secretary, Sam Horwith, Headquarters, 28 1/2 Hillson Street, Phone 277. Address, 322 Gladstone Ave.

Socialist Party Directory

- DOMINION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. Socialist Party of Canada, meets second and third Monday in month. 27 Kingway, Labor Temple, Dunsmuir St., Vancouver, B. C.
- ALTA. PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. Socialist Party of Canada, meets every first and third Monday in month. 27 Kingway, Labor Temple, Dunsmuir St., Vancouver, B. C.
- MANITOBA PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. Notice—This card is in force for the purpose of getting "Y.O.U." movement. SOCIALISTS are always members of the Party. If you are desirous of becoming a member or secretary, get an information, write the Secretary, J. D. Houston, 409 Park St., Winnipeg.
- SASKATCHEWAN PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. Socialist Party of Canada, meets every first and third Saturday in the month, 8:30 p.m., at headquarters, 2247, 22nd Street, North Battleford. Secretary will answer any communication concerning the movement in this Province. L. Budden, Secy, Box 101, North Battleford, Sask.
- BRITISH COLUMBIA PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. Socialist Party of Canada, meets every second and fourth Sunday in the month, 8:30 p.m., at headquarters, 113 E. 2nd St., North Battleford. Secretary will answer any communication concerning the movement in this Province. L. Budden, Secy, Box 101, North Battleford, Sask.
- NEW BRUNSWICK PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. Socialist Party of Canada, meets every Sunday evening at 8 p.m. in the hall, Greenwood, 113 E. 2nd St., North Battleford. Secretary, J. D. Houston, 409 Park St., Winnipeg.
- LOCAL EDMONTON, ALTA. No. 1. B. C. P. of C. Business meetings every Sunday at 8 p.m. in the hall, Trades Hall, B. Simmons, secretary, 1202 Garnet St., P.O. Box 1046.
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PLATFORM Socialist Party of Canada

We, the Socialist Party of Canada, in convention assembled, affirm our allegiance to and support of the principles and program 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.

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THE BEST GOVERNMENT THAT B. C. EVER HAD

The Member for Newcastle's Candid Criticism.

On Wednesday the 17th inst. Mr. Williams, in a speech that lasted nearly two hours, analysed the claims of the McBride government and its various organs to the title that heads this article. Although suffering from an attack of the grip, his delivery was but little affected, and the vein of sarcasm he ran through his speech evoked frequent laughter and applause.

Opening his remarks with a reference to the annual nature of the debate in reply to the speech from the Throne, he said that he always availed himself of the opportunity, and found himself more anxious, as time went on, to more and more indulge in criticism of the government and its methods. As far as the speech from the Throne was concerned, it would be a waste of time to analyze the matter therein from a Socialist standpoint, for his position in the House and the principles for which he stood were not in conformity with the interests which were represented in such a predominance. Time would bring about changes in the composition of the House, and then he would be able to do so with effect. All he could now do was to criticise from the standpoint of the present condition of things.

In view of the paucity of matter contained in the Address he would congratulate the mover and second of the address-in-reply (Watson, Vancouver and Lucas, Yale), on the noble efforts they had made to "make bricks with a wheel and straw" (laughter), and to feel sympathy for them. The opening clauses of the speech were more satisfactory. Others stated that sundry reports would be submitted to the government as if they were expected to give the government credit for not omitting to comply with the requirements of the House. What the railroad policy was he no one knew, but the mover of the Address (Watson) was prepared to endorse it (laughter). McBride, at the last Conservative convention had given more information as to what that policy was to be than was contained in the speech from the Throne, but then that convention was attended by a lot of political job-hunters whose support he needed to retain. (Laughter). The second member for Vancouver (Watson) had eulogized McBride as a political Moses who had rescued the province from a financial Egypt, and it was amusing to watch McBride's face on these occasions. It seemed to indicate a consciousness that there was nothing for which he could not claim credit. The government would have had to use an amount of skill that they had not manifested if they had wished to prevent the conditions now prevailing. The appreciation that the resources of land, timber and minerals were not inexhaustible was the reason for the prevailing activity. Just at the time when this Moses appeared to save the province from financial bankruptcy that was realised not only in B. C., but in every state in America, and yet his supporters could stand up and say it was something McBride was responsible for! (Laughter). The conditions prevailing in B. C. prevailed from Maine to California and New Brunswick to Vancouver Island, yet such conditions reflected in B. C. were all credited to McBride, and he took it without a smile! (Laughter). If it were true, a political Moses had bobbed up in every State in the Union.

Taxation and Commissions. The report of the commission on taxation was said to prove the solicitude of the government for the welfare of the people. While the subject was of little concern to the working class of the province, he would deal with it from the government's standpoint and not that of the workers.

Mr. Watson had said that he hoped the commission would not recommend a remission of direct taxation. The Victoria Colonist had carefully eliminated that portion of his speech. The government was particularly fond of appointing commissions, and the personnel of this one was suggestive. English and American commissioners were formed of Opposition as well as Government supporters, but in B. C. they gave all these jobs to the Government's followers. Commission after commission is appointed to enquire into everything. The Government promises to do something for the timber holders, a commission is appointed and recommends that the Government do it. (Laughter). Only one commission had been appointed in nine years in which he took an interest. That was to interview coal miners and mine owners as to the working of the Coal Miners' Regulation Act, and the (the speaker) representing a coal-mining district and a practical miner, could not get on that. It was not consistent with the "spoils system" to recommend the appointment of any

Land Settlement. This question seemed to irritate McBride. He would admit that the Premier looked like a statesman, but would try to find out if he acted like one, and consideration of this question would decide it. At present there are under construction in the province the C.N.R., Nicola Valley R.R., Kettle River Valley R.R., the G.T.P., and the Crow's Nest R.R. Where were the promoters in B. C. in the face of all this development? Where was the land available for them? Maps looked good, but as a matter of fact, where was land open within reach of transportation? Wherever the promoter looked the speculator was holding everything before him. Only a few promoters are financially able to go ahead into the bush and wait for transportation. They wait majority have to go in behind and find it all gobbled up by the speculator. That condition obtained along the line of all these railroads. All kinds of men would go on a quarter section, but all is in the hands of bands of speculators. They cannot be compelled to sell, and no one knows if it is to be settled in two years or twenty.

That was the situation as it stood, and McBride was proud of settling the land! The great bulk of the population was on the Fraser peninsula. What meaning McBride could attach to his claim for credit for his land policy was hard to understand. If the land was available 100,000 settlers could be planted in the province as soon as they could be told of it. The shortage was in land, not men.

Land Sales. In 1902-3, when McBride came into office, \$64,000 was received for land sales. In the last financial year that sum had risen to \$2,431,000, an increase of 3000 per cent. In view of the recent census they had certain proof that the increase was not due to settlement. The policy of peddling off land to speculators as fast as they could had been proved. Take The Work, with its British theories and its Saskatchewan Indian morals, defending the process of interesting large capital in the land, which the government could not settle up. If they could not do it, it was time they were swept out and the whole province handed over to the speculators. In "The Week," a personal organ of the Premier's, in an issue of March, 1911, appeared an account of "a brave little band of pioneers" who had gone out and cleared 602,000 acres. (Laughter.) In the Book of Judges they would find an account of 12 spies sent out after other people's land, and their report was much akin to that one. It spoke of the wonderful valley 200 miles long and 10 miles wide as a great discovery, but photos of it had been in the department 10 years before they went up! (Laughter.) Later on other "adventurous spirits" went out, and 90,000 acres were taken up, he believed, by Norton Griffins, a member of the English House of Commons. Today no less than 500,000 acres had been taken up in that district, and McBride must take the responsibility for it. This unscrupulous deal was endorsed by his own personal organ.

T. P. O'Connor had said that he had inherited his qualities equally from Catholic and Orange forefathers. He (the speaker) would like to know from what side of his house McBride had got his love of landlordism? He was the one gentleman who had planted his poisonous seeds in B. C., and he would be remembered by that. What ever else the Irish might do or be, they hated landlords, yet he remained for one of that race to plant the seeds of landlordism in B. C. The Premier had said that he had hewn no favours to, and that more land had been taken up by Liberals and Socialists than by Conservatives. If any one intended to state land to advertise in some newspaper, said he would naturally go to one of his political faith. Then how could they account for the fact that three out of every four applications are advertised in Conservative papers? Did Liberals and Socialists from whom the majority of applications were said to come, do it, if they could help it? It was too thin. If McBride was right, that their applications were in the majority, why but the belief that they would be more successful, in other words, receive more favor from the Department. Neither explanation was favorable to the Department.

Education. McBride had said that the Point Grey University would be the equal of Oxford or Cambridge, but the Colonial hand-picking process was exercised and he was made to mention McGill or Toronto. He (the speaker) was interested in the matter, for he kept in mind the treatment of the public schools in B. C., in view of the very generous treatment of the University. In 1902-3 the public school attendance was 16,557, in 1910-11, 28,094, an increase of 70 per cent. In the same period provincial revenue had increased 400 per cent, and expenditures 300 per cent. The cost of education in 1902-3 was \$400,000, in 1910-11, \$612,000. Between these two periods the payments for primary education in-

creased 52 per cent, which was not keeping pace with the increase of population or other expenses of government. As to the present school system, he could cite his own experience. Some years ago he had to leave Nanaimo and live in a rural centre. His eldest boy had been anxious to enter a high school and had been studying for that purpose, and after attending the rural school, was now, at 15 years of age, further away from the High school than ever, mainly as the effect of many changes of teachers. It was possible for a boy of a certain type to work his way through to the High school, but the system had to provide for the normal type and not the abnormal. That instance was true in thousands of cases. The University was the apex and the Primary school the foundation, and the contribution to the upkeep of the latter has been comparatively diminished, and the Ministers were travelling through the Province shouting about their system of education.

Does statesmanship manifest itself in expensive Universities and improvement of Primary schools? The Coronation. The Premier had made reference to the visit of himself and the Attorney General to London. If they had not been in very good company (their wives) he (the speaker) might have had something to say about that. McBride had stated that the "Imperialistic sentiment" (whatever that might be) was enhanced by their presence. Such men would see specks in broad daylight. (Laughter.)

Mine Inspection. Referring to the appointment of Mr. Thomas Graham as Chief Inspector, the speaker said that the one thing the government seemed to have lost sight of was the mine inspection business. He had always insisted that the mine inspection, which originated in the old country, was due to the great loss of life among the miners, and for their protection. The B. C. Government took the position that the Inspector was to look after the mine owner. It might have been expected that the Department would find out from him (the speaker) or from the miners of his district what their ideas were, but that was not done. The only intimation he received of the appointment was through the press, and he had immediately protested against it. He felt tempted to frame the reply he received, together with another, seven years ago, when the Premier had a notion that he (the speaker) had a right to a say-so in these appointments. On this occasion the note he received was so brief that he could use it as a model when he wanted to tell other people to mind their own business. (Laughter.)

When Mr. Stockett was a new manager in the Nanaimo collieries, his appointment was his little man Friday, and did not then possess a certificate as a coal mine manager. He was appointed superintendent by Stockett, and later on got a manager's certificate. If a man had been a friend to him (the speaker) he would conceive of himself being placed in a position where he would have to do or, injure him. Graham was not the man to appoint as Chief Inspector of B. C. coal mines. There was another Stockett in the Crow's Nest mining district, and another Graham in the Nicola mining district. There were the elements of obligation and blood relationship conflicting with duty. At any rate, he was there, and the speaker hoped that he would prove to be a different man than he took him to be. A man for that position should be secured with as few ties with owners and managers as possible. There were any number of that kind, qualified for the position.

Eight years ago the House had passed the Eight Hours Act for coal miners, and he had done his best to put that through, in spite of the expressed wish of the Nanaimo mine owners that he should not do so. When he went back home Stockett promptly and emphatically placed him "on the road" for his activity in connection with that Bill, and the intimation was conveyed to him through Graham, and this latter gentleman was now appointed Chief Inspector of coal mines in B. C. The necessity of the government passing an Auditing Act was then dwelt upon by the speaker, in order to do away with the anomalous condition now prevailing, by which a minister's accounts have to be audited by a subordinate official in the government service.

The Surplus. In regard to the boasted surplus, he recommended that a portion of it be devoted to starting a fund for old age pensions.

So far as being a statesman was concerned, McBride might look the part; but the speaker could not see any justification of the assumption. At the present time the government of B. C. cost about \$28 per head, the next province in point of expenditure being Manitoba, with \$10 per head. What had B. C. to show for that expenditure? Absolutely nothing. The expenditure had increased 300 per cent and the population 100 per cent dur-

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On Thursday, Jan. 15, Jardine (Esquimaux) resumed the debate, and after endorsing to what all previous speakers in admiration of McBride's administration, gravely reproved the member for Newcastle for the harsh and disrespectful manner of his criticism of the Premier and his policy. Referring to the question of wages being paid on the C. N. R. construction work, he said he had visited camps in his constituency and ascertained that the lowest wage paid was \$2.50 per day, and not \$2.25, as asserted by the previous speaker. In answer to questions from the latter he said that he believed that nine hours constituted a day, and the men were getting paid \$2.50 for a day of that duration. An interesting time is to be expected when the member for Newcastle returns to the subject later on in the week.

During the week the member for Newcastle obtained the answers to the following questions, as under Wednesday, Jan. 17: Mr. Williams asked the Hon. the Minister of Railways the following questions: 1. What number of workmen are employed on construction of the Canadian Northern Railway? (a) On Mainland of British Columbia? (b) On Vancouver Island? 2. What rate of wages are paid on each section respectively? 3. What rates are charged for board on the said work? The Hon. Mr. Taylor replied as follows: "1. \$1,644, average during month of December, 1911; (b) 351, average during month of December. "2. On Mainland—Foreman, \$4 to \$6 per day; blacksmiths, \$60 per month and board; carpenters, \$3.50 to \$4.50 per day; shovel engineers, \$100 per month and board; firemen, \$75 per month and board; cranesmen, \$100 per month and board; bridgemen, \$40 per day; axemen, \$2.75 per day; laborers, \$2.75 per day. On Vancouver Island—Foreman on grades, \$3.25 to \$5 per day; axemen, \$2.75 to \$3 per day; rock drillers, \$2.75 per day; laborers, \$2.50 per day; bridge foremen, \$150 per month and board; bridge carpenters, \$3 to \$4.50 per day; team and teamster, \$7 per day; teamsters, \$35 to \$60 per month and board; blacksmiths, \$75 to \$90 per month. "3. On Mainland—\$0 per week. On

the Hon. the Minister of Finance the following questions: 1. What was the total cost of the Hon. the Premier's visit to the Coronation? 2. What was the total cost of the Hon. the Attorney General's visit to the Coronation? The Hon. the Minister of Finance replied as follows: "1. \$11,000. "2. \$3,500. Mr. Williams asked the Hon. the Minister of Finance the following questions: 1. What sum has been paid Colanist Printing and Publishing Company for advertising during each year from July 1st, 1910, to March 31st, 1911? \$23,476. 2. What sum has been paid the Corporation during the same period for all other services? \$51,007. 3. What sum was paid the Colanist Printing and Publishing Company advertising in The Post during year 1910? \$8,942.

THE RIGHTS OF THE PUBLIC "I am sick of these cries for "law order" whenever a hungry and ragged workman breaks a wind while the law and order are groined under the heels of our whole capitalist society. I am sick of hearing the "rights of the public" when there is a conflict between capital and labor. There can be no rights until there are responsibilities also. A public that can sit stuporously in irresponsible silence while its own laws are violated by commercial banditism public that assumes no responsibility and takes no interest in the life of the men who dig its coal and handle its meat and run its railroads cowardly public, which whines, spite against those who serve it, licks the feet of those who rob such a public has no rights that its own is bound to respect.—Franklin Wentworth. The Prussian government has submitted to the Diet a bill providing penalty for those who will not work. If that bill becomes a law, and is enforced, the Prussian government will be in the novel position of penalizing power which is the cry of the ormes which it punishes. It is forced to make work for its grants, it can learn why they have worked before.