



MAR 30 1912  
C.T.C.  
Subscription Price  
PER YEAR \$1.00

OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA

PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING CLASS ALONE

NUMBER 661

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 1912

### TERRORS OF CHILD LABOR EXHIBITED

While many of the exhibits by organizations at the Woman's Industrial Exhibition at Grand Central Palace are of a charitable nature, two, at least, have a message of entirely different nature, namely, the necessity of eliminating the exploitation, blinding and starving of the tenement house child workers.

The National Child Labor Committee, which has an exhibit of photographs of the child slaves, and a table full of the children's work, is drawing good crowds. The committee found that of 1037 workers visited in six industries 36 per cent. were under 14 years old, 44.9 per cent. were between 14 and 16, and of all the workers 80.9 per cent. were children.

Many of the children work after school hours, until all hours of the night. It was found that the little workers had to be whipped to keep them awake, not because of any brutality on the part of the parent, but because the work had to be finished before morning. If the goods were turned in after 9 a.m. they would not be paid for.

One silent witness, a hairbrush, has a gruesome history. There is only one firm in America which manufactures the brushes, and is advertising extensively of the "American workers and the sanitary conditions." As it was found that the girls who inserted the bristles became hysterical and nervous wrecks, the manufacturer gave out the work to the tenement workers. Here the hysterics of the parents and little children cannot be seen when the factory is being inspected. The wages (\$1) paid for this work is 40 cents per dozen.

The exhibit of the National Consumers' League, which is also well attended, is similar to that of the former. It consists of work done by the tenement children and shows the deliberate starving process by means of tablets giving the retail price of the article and the pitiable pittance paid the producers.

The members of the New York State Woman Suffrage Association are cheerfully holding forth at their little booth, handing out literature and arguments, and enrolling the male and female recruits for the parade of the organization on May 4.

An excellent exhibit, a rare ecclesiastical collection of the sixteenth and seventeenth century, consists of wall hangings, robes, miters and church articles in which the scarlet hue predominates.

### SOCIALIST CANDIDATE MUST NOT SPEAK.

A new phase in electioneering has turned up and that is to deny the right of free speech to Socialists whose such is possible. Corbin is a closed town and every inch of ground and property within a radius of two miles belongs to the company. Consequently for the purpose of addressing a meeting of electors there the Socialist candidate asked permission of the secretary for the use of the hall, the only meeting place in the camp. The request was granted. Late in the afternoon, however, the secretary came along and said that the superintendent had forbidden the use of the hall for any meeting to be addressed by Socialists. Candidate Davidson then called upon the superintendent and in reply to the question why he had given such instructions was bluntly informed that as Socialism had as its aim and object the collective ownership of mines and other property, he did not consider it in the interests of his company to permit such teachings amongst his men. Asked if the hall would be open to advance the candidature of the Conservative party, he freely admitted that there would be no objection whatever to that. The strange part of it is that the Corbin mines are owned and controlled by American capitalists, and that Gus. Smith, the superintendent referred to, is an American himself. At least we must surmise as much, as his name is not on the voters' list.—District Ledger.

### THE MINERS STRIKE IN GREAT BRITAIN

Nearly a million coal miners are on strike in Great Britain. After six centuries of the wage system—six centuries of the most rapid and far-reaching industrial development the world has ever seen—the slaves of the coal mines find their wage so low and the conditions of employment so unbearable, that in sheer desperation they throw down their tools and demand better conditions of employment.

So complicated is modern industry, however, that such an army of workmen cannot lay down their tools without throwing the entire industrial machinery of the nation out of joint, and if such stoppage of work be long persisted in complete paralysis of industry must ensue.

Living as these coal miners do, even when in steady employment, upon the narrowest margin of existence, once idle they soon come to feel the pangs of actual want and starvation. As other lines of industry are forced to slow down owing to a shortage in the coal supply, this wave of misery rapidly engulfs an ever widening circle of workers, until eventually thousands will be faced with actual starvation.

Sooner or later starvation will force these strikers to return to work, and the wheels of industry will again revolve in the monotonous process of converting the flesh and blood of labor into profit for Capital. We note that a pretense is being made upon the part of the British government to bring the strike to an end by the enactment of some sort of minimum wage law. We also note that these efforts are marked by what appears to be a disposition to prolong the consideration of such proposed legislation until threatening starvation has driven the men back to their work.

A more scathing condemnation of the Capitalist system of production could scarce be conceived than that expressed in the conditions and wage of labor that has forced these workers to such dire extremities as to attempt the impossible task of wringing concessions from their brutal taskmasters with nothing more formidable than empty stomachs as their weapons.

There can be but one result of this strike: The men will be forced by their necessities to return to work. Perhaps some sops may be thrown them in the way of concessions as to wages or conditions of employment; but nothing will be settled. The same old forces that have pauperized the British workmen in the past and driven them in desperation to strike against their unhappy lot, will continue to work in the same old way. Their condition of slavish misery will continue to grow worse and their agony be made more acute and crushing. Sooner or later they will again revolt, and, presumably in the same old way. And so will the delightful game go on until the thick-headed working mule shall have learned in the school of his bitter experience that so long as Capital rules there is no hope for he and his kind. Perhaps he will then be inclined to revolt intelligently, kick the master class from his back, the chains of wage slavery from his limbs, and assume the mastery of industry in his own behalf. Let us hope so, at any rate.

### TERRITORIAL GUNS GIVEN UP.

You don't see it in the press, but it is so, and the coal strike has done it. Last week every Territorial in the land was asked for his gun, and when the guns were handed in, the bolts and bayonets were abstracted and sent to the nearest military garrison for safe keeping. There are whole companies of Territorials composed of miners, and the authorities are taking no risks. The Citizen Army in theory is all very well—but—Glasgow forward.

Competition is simply playing with the workers' selfishness and necessity. The purchaser goes where something for nothing is offered. The woman shopper goes from counter to counter with the same fundamental motive that the burglar and gambler has, and the evil there is in the struggle to get money without earning it is by no means limited to the Illegitimate burglar or gambler. Competition is the parent of gambling and burglary, and competition makes for personal degeneration and for social decay.

**Propaganda Meeting**  
**THE ELECTRIC THEATRE**  
Sunday, Mch. 31 8 p.m.  
Speaker:  
**R. P. Pettipiece**

### DIRECT ACTION BY THE BRUTAL RULING CLASS

#### War to the Death On All Who Fight for Free Speech in San Diego.

(By J. Edward Morgan)

"Whom the gods would destroy they first made mad." The master brutes of San Diego and California are mad and are riding swift-footed to hell.

Deeper and deeper are they digging the ditch into which they will eventually hurl themselves, beaten and damned and shorn of their power to curse the earth.

The fight for free speech in San Diego has demonstrated that the masters of the bread intend to stop Socialist and Industrial Union agitation at any cost.

City and county jails are filled to suffocation with hundreds of Socialists and Industrial Unionists who have dared big business criminals to drive them from a street corner dedicated to free speech by twenty years of agitation.

The show of solidarity by all workers of San Diego in the great parade led by Union band playing the "Marseilles" and surrounding the jails drove the master class to desperation. Thirty-eight indictments followed by grand jury charging criminal conspiracy. These were the first to go to jail for the right of free speech. Among the number indicted are Rev. G. W. Woodbury, the noted colonial lecturer and writer on Socialism of national prominence; Harry McKee, of the National Socialist Lecture Bureau; Kasper Bauer, well known pioneer Socialist of the old Socialist Labor Party activity for years, speaking and writing for the Socialist party; also E. E. Kirk, Socialist attorney of San Diego; Mrs. Emerson, prominent speaker for the I. W. W., and R. Gosden of Prince Rupert, B. C., I. W. W.

For more than a month the free speech fight has raged with every phase of police brutality known to the American cosacks. Man-handling, third degree atrocities and slow starvation have made San Diego the Siberia of America and the stench of the Pacific.

With the added brutalities the cry went over: "Fill the jails and the stockades." The jails are filled. Hundreds are to be confined in the stockades now being built by scab labor, as union carpenters turned down the dirty job. Jails in other counties have been filled by men arrested and jailed and beaten in San Diego for exercising the constitutional right of free speech—freedom of voice.

Something drastic had to be done to break the solid front displayed by these martyrs to liberty. The streets meetings outside the restricted district were attended by thousands. Public opinion was slowly coming our way. Its pressure was heating the onmy into the dirt. The city was being covered with literature telling our side of the story. Hundreds were coming from all points to assist in the fight. Victory was in sight. Suddenly the authorities changed their tactics. They determined to win out by sheer brute force.

While the usual Sunday morning meeting was in progress before the city jail, the fire department was called out and the hose turned upon the crowd, and the speaker, Mrs. Wightman, a noted Evangelist, who entered the free speech fight was addressing the great audience. The hose was turned full in her face and she was drenched brutally and finally forced from the stand by the deluge forced upon her.

For a full hour hundreds packed themselves in a solid mass around Mrs. Emerson as she mounted and stood upon the speakers' stand, flinging their bodies to the terrific torrent that poured upon them, they held their ground until swept from their feet by the irresistible flood.

Enraged at the show of solidarity of the great throng, they pulled up the hose to within a few feet of the speakers' stand and held the torrent full in the face of the lady and drove her by brute force before them. By this time thousands had gathered from all directions. Maddened to frenzy by their failure to terrify the I. W. W.'s and their sympathizers, Socialists and trade unionists, they turned the hose wantonly upon the crowd, and hit and down, to right and to left, hither and yon, tugging and pulling at the hose and driving the people be-

### BRITISH GOVERNMENT ADMITS ITS FAILURE

"We have done our best, with perfect thoroughness and impartiality, and it is with profound disappointment that I have to confess to the House that our labors have been unavailing." Thus said Premier Asquith. They have done their best. Sure, they have done their best; but in whose interests? Not in the interests of the 1,000,000 miners, not in the interests of the 35,000,000 of people; but in the interests of a thousand capitalists. What more could they have done? Some of you would ask. They could have taken the control of the mines away from the owners and put it in the hands of the people. Confiscate it? Sure! This government would sooner see the millions of workers go back to their thankless task of grinding out profits for a parasitic class—suffering, sweating, starving, to keep the coffers of the parasitic class—suffering, sweating, interests of those few hundred owners of the means of wealth production.

From pit boy to manager, every one of them could have produced coal for consumption without the aid of one solitary capitalist. Every concession of the miners could have been granted, and the suffering eliminated. But no; they are only slaves. Why should the government study the interests of a slave class? They would take the hunting grounds of the Indian without a second thought and use the land for exploiting the workers, but they could not take the mines away from the capitalists who are exploiting the workers. I am not advocating government ownership. I am trying to show that the interests of a thousand parasites are looked after to the detriment of millions of workers.

### CAPITALISM MUST GO.

The resources of the earth are unquestionably ample for the satisfaction of human needs. The power of man to produce wealth was never so great as at present. Never was poverty more widespread; never was a larger per cent. of the people continually in want or perplexed by the fear of want than now. The present ruling class has, especially during the past century, had a free hand in the control of industry and the command of economic power. During this period most marvelous strides have been made in the development of machinery and the technical processes of production. To such an extent has this been carried that it is now a matter of small moment, so far as the question of labor is concerned, to keep the markets of the world filled to overflowing with the material things requisite to the existence and comfort of humankind. These are facts so pronounced that it is only the most stupid and perverse person who would care to dispute them.

Under the administration of industry by the capitalist class human society can no longer feed, clothe and shelter itself. This is proven by the cry of distress of the countless thousands who now find themselves without employment, and consequently without sustenance, because capitalist production cannot afford them the one or insure them the other.

The capitalist class has been tried in the crucible of time and found wanting. It is incapable of longer directing industry so as to admit of the satisfaction of the normal material needs of the race.

Because of the plethora of wealth that falls to the lot of the capitalists, and the utter impossibility of its proper distribution among the workers, capitalist society rots at the top and starves at the bottom. That human society may be enabled to provide for its needs, the rule of capital must be broken. The control of industry must be stripped from the irresponsible and incompetent capitalist pirates that now hold it, and the resources of the earth and instruments of production converted to their proper use, the supplying of all members of human society with the material regulates to their comfort and well being. Capitalist production for profit must go. Social production for use by all members of society must take its place.

### FREE SPEECH DEFENCE FUND.

Funds are needed for the defence of the comrades who are to be placed on trial in April for taking part in the free speech fight in Vancouver. You have seen how the other prisoners came off. Now it's up to you to help fight the case for the rest. Send all monies to J. A. Macdonald, 1724 Alberni street, Vancouver, B. C.

### WORKER AND CAPITALIST SLAVES TO PROPERTY

Frequently kind-hearted sentimentalsouls are wont to bewail the inhumanity to man of the countless thousands of workers, especially if that inhumanity is clothed far off in some alien land, shudder with horror when a revolt is put down with rapine slaughter and even, upon occasion, they sadden at the contemplation of workers being half starved and overdriven, and the lives of children being ground out of them in mills and factories. Our humanitarian friends are appalled when confronted with such conditions. Some of them seek to alleviate them. A few add their cupful to the ocean of distress by writing verse about it. With most of them their hearts overflow in words of burning indignation and they let it go at that, and attribute the mercilessness of the oppressors to original sin, human depravity, lack of godliness or such other cause.

The fact of the matter is that no human attribute has anything to do with it. It is property that is the guilty party. The capitalist grinds the faces of the poor with absolute indifference to their sufferings, not out of any spirit of fiendish malice, but merely at the behest of his property; a behest that he must obey. Capitalists are not demons incarnate. Most of them are reputed to be not at all bad fellows and we are not inclined to altogether disbelieve it. Many of them delight in good works (especially if well advertised). Some of them have even been suspected of doing good by stealth. They are human beings and there is no reason why many of them should not be quite human. And the human genus, though perhaps the most stupid, is by no means the most brutal of animal species.

However, it is quite another story when they get down to "business." They cease then to be human and become merely the "outward and visible form of the inward and invisible spirit" of their property. And property is cold, mechanical, unseeing, merciless. Having no function but to accumulate. Reeking nothing of the ruin and desolation it leaves in its track; it moves blindly, unswervingly on to its own destruction, and chained to its wheels the human race must move with it. For all are slaves to property; the poor to another's, the rich to their own.

### IN JAIL FOR ASKING SOLDIERS NOT TO KILL.

London, England.—Frederick Crowley, a Socialist and a locomotive fireman of Honeywood road, was tried and sent back to jail to await a new trial on the charge of distributing the following letter among the soldiers, headed, "An Open Letter to British Soldiers":

"When we go on strike to better our lot, which is the lot also of your fathers, mothers, sisters and brothers, you are called upon by your officers to murder us. Don't do it. You know how it happens. We stand out as long as we can, then one of our and your irresponsible brothers, goaded by the sight of his loved ones suffering misery and hunger, commits a crime on property. Immediately you are ordered to murder us, as you did at Mitchellston, Featherstone and Belfast. Boys, don't do it. Murder is murder, whether committed by Tommie with a gun or by pipe-clayed Tommie with a bayonet. Act the man, brother human being. Property can be replaced. Human life never. They and their friends own land and the means of life, and when we kick they order you to murder us. When you kick you get cells.

"Your fight is our fight. Don't disgrace your parents and your class as being willing tools any longer of the master class. You, like us, are of the slave class, and when we rise you rise; when we fall, even by your bullets, you call also. Comrades, have we refused in vain? Think things over and refuse any longer to things over kindred. Help to win back Britain for the British and the world for the worker."

**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.

POST OFFICE ADDRESS, LABOR TEMPLE, DUNSMUIR ST.

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SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 1912.

### WHAT MUST BE DONE?

It is scarcely necessary to trace the development of industry from the primitive and clumsy hand-tool of ancient times down to the powerful and effective machinery of today. The fact is this machinery is here, and the factories and workshops of the world are veritable hives of activity and industry in consequence. The questions to be considered are: First, is human society making the best possible use of this gigantic machinery of production? Second, if not, what line of action is necessary in order to put it to its proper use?

The modern machinery of production is essentially social in its character. It cannot be operated except by the joint efforts of a vast army of working men. The individuality of the workman in production is lost in the social process that is alone capable of operating it. Each individual workman, at best, can perform but an infinitesimal part of the making of things, the finished articles being the result of the combined labor of all.

To the owner of the means of production belongs the product of labor. The huge machinery of production of today is the property of a small section of human society known as the Capitalist class. The workers, they who operate this machinery, possess no property rights in it. The products of labor consequently belong to the capitalists by virtue of their ownership of the machinery of production. That is why the workers are in a chronic state of poverty in spite of the fact that they perform all of the labor necessary to the production of wealth.

The owners, the capitalists, hold their title to the means of production merely for the purpose of being able to command the services of the workers and securing the product of their labor. They will allow their property to be used for no other purpose. The means of production then become the instrument whereby the owners exploit the slave workers and are able to bring forth by their labor. Under such circumstances the very means of labor become the means of the oppression and robbery of labor. This is the use to which the means of production are being put at the present time. This is the use to which they must continue to be put so long as they remain the property of the Capitalist class.

If "to the owners of the means of production belong the products of labor," then it logically follows that if the workers are to become the owners of the products of their own labor they must first become owners of the means of production, the instruments of labor. They cannot singly own these means, because they cannot singly operate them. They must own as they are compelled to operate, that is, together, or collectively. Such collective, or common, ownership would give them collective, or common ownership of the things produced by their joint labor. This would destroy the power of the capitalists to command their labor and make way with the product. Such a transformation of property rights would at the same time destroy the purpose for which production is now carried on, that is, profit, and substitute in its place production for the use of those who did the labor.

It is needless to add that such a transformation of property rights can be effected by the workers only by capturing the powers of the State and using such powers to bring it about. It is the organized powers of the State only that can protect and preserve the present, or Capitalist, system of property. It is the same power that is alone capable of overthrowing it. But the control of the State must first pass into the hands of the working class, because this is the only part of human society that is interested in bringing about such a transformation.

The conclusion to be arrived at, after a careful survey of the situation, is that human society is not at present making the best possible use of the gigantic machinery of production, and the line of action necessary to be followed in order to put it to its proper use is the control of the State and the utilization of its powers, for the purpose of transforming capitalist property in the means of production into the collective property of the working class.

That is what must be done.

### WHAT IS POLITICAL ACTION?

We are living in an age of government by political parties. Whatever material or economic interest in human society has possession of the machinery of government at any given time is in a position to successfully defend itself against assault at the hands of any opposing interest.

The Protectionists are now in control of the governments of Canada and the United States, and are, therefore, in a position to enforce their tariff schemes against all opposition. The "Free Trade" interests in Great Britain are in control of government and consequently able to determine as to the fiscal policy of that country, whether it may suit opposing interests or not.

Without the control of government, neither Protectionists nor "Free Traders" could defend their material interests and enforce their economic programme. This accounts for their activity in the political struggle.

And what is this political struggle? It is the struggle to obtain possession of the coveted point of vantage (government) and the utilization of its powers to enforce the particular economic programme in question. So long as the conquest of this point of vantage is the object sought, any activity, no matter how expressed, comes within the category of political action. The ballot is the weapon of so-called civilized, political warfare; but in case of its abrogation any other means of accomplishing the desired purpose would likewise be political action in every sense of the word.

No economic interest in human society can be safeguarded except through the organized powers of the State. Without these powers at its back and call it cannot withstand the assault of opposing economic interests that perchance are backed by the powers of government. That is why the economic interest of the working class is absolutely at the mercy of Capital in the world-wide industrial shambles of modern civilization. All the powers of government are at the disposal of the capitalist interests, and consequently the working class goes down to defeat in every battle in the so-called economic field.

Between conflicting economic interests there can be no compromise. It is complete mastery or absolute defeat. Victory can perch only upon the banners of the side that holds possession of the organized powers of the State, i. e., government. In the face of that power every adverse economic demand must go down to defeat.

Political action then, upon the part of the working class, is a struggle for the conquest of the citadel of government in order that its command of industry may be turned to the advantage of the workers and the benefit of Capital driven ignominiously from the industrial field. Any means to accomplish this "consummation so devoutly to be wished" is legitimate political action, and therefore worthy of commendation.

### WISCONSIN NOTES.

The Milwaukee comrades are by no means inclined to give up their house-to-house distribution of Socialist literature now that they have a Socialist daily paper of their own. It is true that this paper is reaching a large percentage of the homes of Milwaukee. But the comrades are determined that their literature shall reach every home.

Therefore last Sunday they accomplished a most notable feat in their campaign letter, the Voice of the People. All Milwaukee was thoroughly covered. Eighty thousand copies were left at the homes of Milwaukee's voters. Next Sunday's distribution will exceed even this. Eighty-five thousand copies will then be put into the hands of the people.

Nor is this all. In addition to this, 40,000 pieces of Socialist literature were distributed at the factory gates last week. This week the number of places will reach 50,000. This number will be equalled in each subsequent week of the campaign. As soon as the weather permits, the factory gate speaking will begin.

san five hundred Social-Democratic books have already been sold at these meetings and on the streets. While our meetings are crowded to the roof, the "non-partisan" meetings are poor affairs. The non-partisan orators wave the red flag, just as they did two years ago, and drag in every conceivable issue, even to the snub which Mayor Seidel administered to the Invincible Taddy. All this fails to arouse any public interest. In fact, the non-partisans did strike the keynote of the campaign when in their platform they truthfully declared that the issue was "Anti-Socialism vs. Socialism." The Milwaukee Socialists gladly accept this issue and are rejoiced that on this field the big battle will be waged.

The Milwaukee Federated Trades Council is doing its usual good work in sending a committee of twenty trades unionists to visit the unions and advise them to "strike at the ballot box" on April 2nd. To head off the work of the Socialist unionists, the "non-partisan" politicians thought to bring a "pure-and-simpler" of national reputation to Milwaukee, and for this purpose secured Bro. John Mitchell. They hired the big arena of the Auditorium—the largest hall in Milwaukee, seating 7,000 people. They advertised the meeting magnificently, in the papers, on the street cars, and in every possible way, only unfortunately they forgot to use the union label! Result—just 332 persons by actual count, attended this "monster" meeting. Many of these were "non-partisan" politicians. The days of "pure and simple" trade unionism have passed for Milwaukee.

Next Tuesday, March 19th, Milwaukee holds her primary election. After that, the non-partisans who are now fighting among themselves for the offices, will present a solid front to the capitalist interests. But the Milwaukee comrades are not in the least daunted by the fusion of the Republicans and Democrats. We are making a bigger and better campaign than our campaign of two years ago, which at that time was a record-breaker. The line is sharply drawn—Socialism or capitalism! On that issue we will stand or—no, Socialists never fail!

Milwaukee, Wis., March 15, 1912.

E. H. THOMAS, State Secy.

(We have been informed by unimpeachable authority that the Milwaukee comrades cannot split hairs with any degree of scientific accuracy. We have yet to see, however, any such showing of real work like the above, to be accredited to shn-warmers and freddie philosophers, no matter how scientific.—Editor Western Clarion.)

### GROWN-UP BOY SCOUTS—WHY NOT CIVILIAN POLICEMEN?

Writing on the subject of what should be done with Boy Scouts and when they attain the age of 18 and over and sever their connection with the Association, a London police official suggests that a way of solving the problem would be to enlist them straightaway into the Civilian Police Force. The last Trafalgar Day has inaugurated Sir R. S. Baden-Powell with a view to the proposal being adopted. The official states that it would be of a great advantage to have, in times of trouble, young men who have received such a "splendid character training as Scouts, and who, owing to that training would be capable of giving valuable assistance in carrying on trade during a strike.

The above flicker of profound ingenuity emanates from a London police officer. We have always thought that a "splendid character" was one which resisted the temptation to steal, refused to do a dirty trick, was upright in business as well as in sport, adopted a magnanimous attitude to those who hated him and preserved a kindly disposition to his enemies. Having this idea, we have always considered that anyone taking the place of a striker, because people do not strike without good cause.

We must confess that we almost feared the "splendid character training" would be discontinued when the boys began to ripen to manhood, but we are glad to note that it will be developed to even more scintillating heights. We are also pleased to note that the youths will go into the police instead of the army because, whereas dead men tell no tales nor remember anything, the policeman's club, flexing heavily upon the thick skull of the worker, raises but a bruise though it inflicts a deep wound in the nerve centres which never heals but goes on festering until it gets the opportunity to retaliate.

Vancouver Building Trades Council endorsed principles of Socialism by a vote of eighteen for, two against. Painters and Paperhangers' Local 138 voted forty-five to two in favor of endorsing the principles of Socialism. Several members refrained from voting. Plumbers and Steamfitters, No. 170, endorsed principles of Socialism, thirty-one for, twenty-one against. The layers' Union endorsed Socialism, twenty-nine for to twelve against.

### BETTER THAN A CIRCUS.

There is no need to go to picture shows these days, just go to the Brandon Trades and Labor Council. If you can't attend the meetings, read the accounts of their doings in the local press. It's as good as a comic edition.

There is something amusing in the fact that the "plugs" that attend these meetings think that the Trades Council is the "be all and end all" of the workers' efforts.

At a recent meeting of the city council a delegation of business men addressed the council and asked that the city endeavor to buy out the Brandon Electric Light Co.

Immediately an alderman moved a previously written motion to the effect that a committee be appointed to open negotiations with the company. The committee met the company two days after and a meeting of the shareholders was advertised to be held on the earliest possible date.

The Trades Council at once passed a resolution endorsing the council's action. Now, how in the name of all that's great, can the action of the council by jumping into this thing benefit the workers? And the working class of Brandon interested in electric light? THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS! I HAVE NOTICED THEM "BLINK" WHEN THEY CAME UP TO THE SOCIALIST HEADQUARTERS AS HEY ARE NOT USED TO SUCH LUXURIES.

I am ready to gamble that NOT ONE of those that passed the resolution used electricity for illuminating purposes, let alone the many other purposes for which it can be used.

They are hardly aware that such things as electric cookstoves exist. That such stoves do away with two-thirds of the housework and cuts out all of the work in an overheated kitchen.

They know nothing of the nice little electric toasting racks. The electric hot plates for warming food, etc. Of electric irons, washers and wringers they know but little, and it is certain that they never have electric vacuum cleaners in their (1) houses.

BLECTRICITY! WHY THEY KNOW NOTHING OF IT! Passing resolutions endorsing somebody else's owning and using electric light—what humbug! Why don't they get busy and own the plant THEMSELVES and have the use of electricity in THEIR HOMES.

Their actions on electric light is something like their action on the telephone. They passed a resolution condemning the proposal of the government to raise the rate on the telephone.

Only one person in the hall had a telephone, and he objected to the resolution. Always bothering their heads about somebody else's business, but then that is a working class falling. When they start to mind their own business the day of working class exploitation will be over.

Another thing about this electric light business that anyone but a person with the "municipal bug" can see, is that it's a move on behalf of the electric light company. This company became rather notorious recently when it acquired city water without having it registered on their meter.

Of course, the city made a fuss. I don't know why they should have made all that fuss about water. Now, if it had been beer—

One of these "trades councillors" said that it was the duty of the S. P. to make a row about that "acquired water," but, however, we failed to see how it mattered to the working class. It yet remains to be proved that the working class of Brandon would have been better off if all that water had gone through the meter.

Another thing. A lot of the power is derived from a power dam on the Little Saskatchewan River ten miles from Brandon. It's not the best kind of dam going, and eight years ago it burst and flooded the valley. "Nuff sed."

However, the Brandon Trades Council is going into politics, so we may have some life here yet.

### PERICLES.

What satisfaction is there in the workers voting the winning ticket unless that ticket stands uncomprehendingly for their emancipation? Would it not be more sensible to vote for freedom than merely for a choice of jailers? Wake up, slave!

Ward comes of the success of the Socialists at Basel, Switzerland, where the Socialist candidate for parliament beat his clerical opponent by a vote of 7873 to 3059. In Zurich a Social-Democratic Judge was elected by 2000 majority.

### Socialist Party Directory

- BRITISH ISLANDS COMMITTEE**  
Socialist Party of Canada, Second and Fourth Monday, Secretary, John E. King, 111 Temple, Dundas St., Vancouver, B. C.
- NEW BRITAIN PROVINCE**  
Executive Committee, Socialist Party of Canada, 111 Temple, Dundas St., Vancouver, B. C.
- ALBERTA PROVINCE**  
Executive Committee, Socialist Party of Canada, 111 Temple, Dundas St., Vancouver, B. C.
- MANITOBA PROVINCE**  
Executive Committee, Socialist Party of Canada, 111 Temple, Dundas St., Vancouver, B. C.
- SASKATCHEWAN PROVINCE**  
Executive Committee, Socialist Party of Canada, 111 Temple, Dundas St., Vancouver, B. C.
- ONTARIO PROVINCE**  
Executive Committee, Socialist Party of Canada, 111 Temple, Dundas St., Vancouver, B. C.
- QUEBEC PROVINCE**  
Executive Committee, Socialist Party of Canada, 111 Temple, Dundas St., Vancouver, B. C.
- LOCAL BRITISH ISLANDS**  
No. 1, 111 Temple, Dundas St., Vancouver, B. C.
- LOCAL ALBERTA**  
No. 1, 111 Temple, Dundas St., Vancouver, B. C.
- LOCAL MANITOBA**  
No. 1, 111 Temple, Dundas St., Vancouver, B. C.
- LOCAL SASKATCHEWAN**  
No. 1, 111 Temple, Dundas St., Vancouver, B. C.
- LOCAL ONTARIO**  
No. 1, 111 Temple, Dundas St., Vancouver, B. C.
- LOCAL QUEBEC**  
No. 1, 111 Temple, Dundas St., Vancouver, B. C.

# 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, and consequently all the products of labor belong to the capitalist class. The capitalist is therefore master; the worker a slave.

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

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

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

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

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

- The transformation, as rapidly as possible, of capitalist property in the means of wealth production (natural resources, factories, mills, railroads, etc.) into the collective property of the working class.
- The democratic organization and management of industry by the workers.
- The establishment, as speedily as possible, of production for use instead of production for profit.

The Socialist Party when in office shall always and everywhere until the present system is abolished, make the answer to this question its guiding rule of conduct: Will this legislation advance the interests of the working class and aid the workers in their class struggle against capitalism? If it will, the Socialist Party is for it; if it will not, the Socialist Party is absolutely opposed to it.

In accordance with this principle the Socialist Party pledges itself to conduct all its public affairs placed in its hands in such a manner as to promote the interests of the working class alone.

### SUBSCRIPTION CARDS

- 5 Yearlies - - - \$3.75
- 10 1-2 Yearlies - - - 4.00
- 20 Quarterlies - - - 4.00

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

CORRESPONDENCE

DOMINION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF MARCH 28th, 1912.

Present, Mengol, Anderson, Karme, and the secretary, Mengel, in the chair. Minutes of previous meeting read and approved. An application for a charter signed by ten workmen of Toronto, Ont., was received. The charter was ordered granted, the local to be known as Local Toronto No. 1. Adjourned.

PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF MARCH

Present, Mengol, Anderson, Karme, and the secretary, Mengel, in the chair. Minutes of previous meeting read and approved. Communications from several interior points relating to election matters were received and filed. Also a letter from Comrade Simpson of Victoria regarding alleged loose work in connection with the nomination of Comrade Midgeley as a candidate for the Provincial House. After some discussion the further consideration of the matter was laid over until the next meeting of the committee. Adjourned.

TO BUILD A HALL.

29 Fullum Street, Vancouver, B. C., March 14, 1912. Dear Comrade,—I have been requested by the Liberty Co-operative Club of Montreal to ask you to publish the following: Sometime ago a series of meetings of the different Socialist bodies of Montreal were held to discuss the question of amalgamating, and out of these conventions the decision was reached that our greatest need was a Socialist home, which should be the headquarters of all Montreal Socialists. To build this home the Liberty Co-operative Club was formed, with representations from each Socialist local in Montreal. Shares to the value of \$5.00 each were issued, though \$100 down and ten cents a month, till the full amount is paid. Money is urgently needed and all comrades who can, are requested to help us build a Socialist home, and help to make Montreal a Socialist city. For further information, write me at above address. Fraternally yours, PHILIP LAUGHMAN, Secretary.

HOW THEY COME

The Western Clarion has taken a new lease of life—1,000 Clarions, 13,000 leaflets, and a fairly good subscription for last week. We can do better if every one of you makes a determined effort to capture the world for the workers by the next Dominion elections. Here are the subscribers for the week: M. Magistano, Calgary, Alta. 14; J. Watson, Winnipeg, Man. 4; Alf. Budden, Organizer, Alta. 4; Dan. McDougall, Winnipeg, Man. 4; J. N. Hines, Glasgow, London 4; C. M. O'Brien, Organizer, Alta. 3; F. Rippling, Calgary, Alta. 3; W. W. Lefcows, Cumberland, B. C. 2; E. Simpson, Victoria, B. C. 2; Sam Hewitt, Hail, Que. 2; R. Avey, Evans, Alta. 2; G. M. Brandon, Man. 2; A. W. Byger, Vancouver 2; A. B. Baker, Brandon, Ont. 2; J. Naylor, Cumberland, B. C. 2; A. S. Julian, Michel, B. C. 2; J. W. S. Logan, Summerland, B. C. 2; Dan McLeish, Merritt, B. C. 2; Wm. McQuoid, Edmonton, Alta. 2. Singles: A. Stewart, Moose Jaw; W. K. Bryce, Demaine, Sask.; W. Geliboe, Cumberland, B. C.; F. Anderson, Barret, B. C.; Frank Ewald, Round Hill, Alta.; Thos. Frazer, City; J. Sidaway, City; Mrs. M. Petzold, City; Chas. B. Morton, City; H. C. Halpenny, Victoria; T. Mellan, Brandon; Henry Myers, Carleton Place; F. E. Stirling, Salmon Arm, B. C.; J. Pilkington, Endersby, B. C.; Wm. Minton, Fernie, B. C.; H. Fulcher, Brandon; W. L. Phillips, Fernie; H. Norman, New Westminster; Viola Wood, Mountain House, Alta.

FREE SPEECH POSTCARDS

4 different views on Powell Street grounds, Jan. 25, 5 cents each. 6 views of later dates. Huge crowd on Powell St. grounds. Scenes in Stanley Park. Speaking through 8 foot megaphone from boat. Watching the fight from roofs and balconies. The Cosacks. Finnish bank playing in motor boat. Reproduced photographs, 3 for 25 cents. Address: Western Clarion.

Ontario captures third place this week. Winnipeg gets ahead of Toronto again. How many of you are helping to distribute these leaflets in your burg? Go to the Socialist headquarters and get a bunch of leaflets to distribute, and make your town a hotbed of Socialism.

- Vancouver, B. C. 1; Victoria, B. C. 1; Calgary, Alta. 3; Brandon, Man. 4; Edmonton, Alta. 5; Winnipeg, Man. 6; Toronto, Ont. 7; Fernie, B. C. 8; Moose Jaw, Sask. 9; Montreal, Quebec 10; New Westminster, B. C. 11; Cumberland, B. C. 12; Nelson, B. C. 13; South Port George, B. C. 14; Silverton, B. C. 15; Ottawa, Ont. 16; N. Battleford, Sask. 17; Regina, Sask. 18; Gino Day, N. S. 19; South Hill, Sask. 20.

Send in for mailing list and rustle up the expiring subs.

SEES THE POINT.

Editor Western Clarion. Dear Comrade,—Your editorial of last week re the non-existence of an organization, to me, hit the nail on the head. Too long we had editorials that have been sargued with "we are doing fine," "we could not have done any better," and to prove it would be added, "because we have done what we have done." What would you call that? Science or dry rot. Sometimes I imagine that the leaders in a Local are scared of what is known as the political machine, and when a comrade suggests that it ought to be examined and see what it really is, he is met with derisive laughter. They will allow you to pass a motion to take names for the voters' list, but when you mention that it is necessary to distribute literature and then canvass for subs. and get names for the said voters' list they will at once dub you as a "schemer," a "vote catcher," or a "politician." At the last Dominion election the campaign committee had leaflets printed for distribution. I saw one comrade putting them in stores along one of the principal streets. He might as well have put them in the garbage can and would have saved him that most energy. When any distributor of clergers makes his appearance the clerk nearest him tells him to "lose" it. Should there be no customer in the store at the time, each clerk has a different suggestion to offer him. Literature should not be placed in stores. It should be delivered to WORKINGMEN'S HOMES IN THE EVENING OR SUNDAY MORNING. A weekly leaflet should be delivered at the same time every week. After the first three months the most of those who received them would have arrived at the conclusion that the Socialists were really crazy after all. The second three months quite a number would say, "I like to read some of their crazy stuff anyway." A great many will be arguing the point the third three months, while the fourth three months would be the time to gather in the subs. The opinions of the whole lot who received the leaflets would have changed considerably. In Ward V of this city another comrade and myself distributed 1,000 pamphlets in three nights at one hour and one-half per night. I figured it out that 23 men could cover this ward in one hour and fifteen minutes any time they wanted to. Platform Socialists shout about the power of the press. I agree with them. It is all a matter of psychology. Impress on any given individual for a certain time any given idea and he will be compelled to accept it or run away from you. No workman can run very far away from a Socialist today without running into another one. Some one will perhaps say you will require to give them spongy dope before you get results. I cannot see it. In fact I would refuse to carry spongy literature. In conclusion I claim there is a science in making Socialists and seeing that they vote on election day. The old adage of when a man becomes a Socialist he will see to it that he is on the voters' list and will vote on election day, to me, so much piffle. I know the working animal better. Yours in revolt, DAVE GALLOWAY. Vancouver, B. C., March 13th, 1912.

LESSONS FROM THE STRIKE.

There are quite a few lessons to be learned from the great miners' strike in England. At the time of writing, the strike has been on just a week and England is bordering on chaos. This shows how necessary is the working class. A fraction of the working class takes a week's holiday and train cannot be run, ships cannot run and business is at a standstill. Had all the capitalist class taken a week's holiday there would have been no one the wiser. The "Winnipeg Free Press" states

that the small business men in the mining districts are nearly bankrupt. One week of strike and the small business man that thinks he belongs to the capitalist class is nearly bankrupt!

There is much privation and suffering amongst the working class thrust out of work by the strike. One week of strike and the workers are starving. How true is the Socialist contention that the workers just get their stall and fodder.

Already the government is discussing the advisability of making more wealthy to be driven by oil power. The German coal owners are struggling to obtain the markets previously held by the British.

It is also certain that the railroads will increase their oil-driven engines before they will sacrifice their profits again by being short of coal. No doubt, too, the furnace and foundry people will be using more oil and less coal.

And it is extremely probable that many of the towns that are deriving their electric power from the use of steam, will be looking about for ways and means of getting water power for their electric power plants.

This strike will do the same for the working class as must all strikes, that is, cause the capitalist class to find ways and means of doing without as much as possible of the workers' labor power and so even is the workers are "victorious" they will find "victory" nearer than would be desired.

Above all, this strike has shown the necessity of the workers owning the government. The Overseas Daily Mail says that all the forces of the crown must be used to keep law and order. "The Daily Chronicle" says that the government should pass legislation to enable them to confiscate the miners' funds, therefore causing them to return to work.

Soldiers are also ordered to Wales, and it is possible that many regiments will be sent to the parts affected. Everything shows that the working class must have the power before they can do much. Current events prove the accuracy of the attitude of the S. P. of C., based upon Marx's statement:

"It (the working class) must, first of all, definitely wrest from its class adversaries the political power."

ED. FULCHER.

HERE AND THERE.

(By Watts.)

A good start has been made by the Socialists now in control of the government of the province of Alsace-Lorraine, Germany. They have cut off Kaiser Bill's yearly allowance of \$25,000,000 which was used for the upkeep of secret police and for political purposes. This amount saved will be used to better the conditions of State employees.

The second batch of free speech fighters to come up for trial in Vancouver received the following sentences: Two, six months from date of sentence; two, three months from date of sentence; one, three months to start from date of arrest; and one discharged. A jury trial of the rest comes of next month.

The police of San Diego have discovered a "dynamite plot" in connection with the free speech fight there, and six men have been arrested. It is said that the authorities are connecting dynamite with every labor trouble these days.

San Francisco has 30,000 unemployed, and all the charity institutions are crowded; yet the chamber of commerce are circulating hundreds of thousands of postcards all over the world including workers to come to that land of idleness.

Victoria's Central labor body voted twenty for and eight against a resolution endorsing political action and the principles and programme of the Socialist Party of Canada.

Annie Cooper, a seventeen-year-old girl, has been sentenced to fifteen days in the workhouse for picketing a shop in the recent shirtwaist strike in New York.

Out of 116 miners who were working in a mine at McCurtain, Okla., just before an explosion, only eleven have been reported as found alive.

Vancouver's Trades and Labor Council voted fifty-three in favor of and eight against (two not voting), for the principles of Socialism.

The Socialists of Centreville, New York, elected their three candidates on the board of trustees on March 10.

The Arizona State Federation of Labor has endorsed Socialism. Every little movement has a meaning all its own.

The Socialists of Haledon, New Jersey, made a clean sweep of the ticket for school commissioners on March 10.

U. S. INVASION INVITED BY MADRID.

El Paso, Tex., March 20.—Declaring that intervention by the United States would be far better than that General Pasqual Orozco, recently an ore wagon driver, should win in the revolution he has started in Mexico against the administration of Francisco I. Madero, Jr., General Benjamin F. Viljoen, a hero of the Boer war and a fighter in Mexico under the banner of Madero, today gave to the United Press his view of the situation in the revolt-ridden republic as follows:

"It is not to be denied that the situation in Mexico today is very grave. Pasqual Orozco is heading toward Mexico City. He has progressed along the main railway a distance of some 400 miles, taking each town as he reached it. Where he will be stopped is a question. Madero has no more soldiers than Diaz—some 14,000. How many of these are loyal is a question.

If Madero has enough loyal men to stop Orozco's advance all will be well. If he has not, then American intervention will be better than what would follow.

"Orozco was an ore wagon driver at the beginning of Madero's revolt. He read about Madero's attempt to remove Diaz, and he was brave enough to start a revolution of his own in his neighborhood even before Madero's fight was begun. To Orozco belongs the distinction of having struck the first blow by arms of the Madero revolution.

Success Means Chaos. "But today Orozco, with all his skill, cannot find a man to act as president of Mexico if his revolution succeeds. Vasquez Gomez cannot be Orozco's president; General Trevino has declined Orozco's offer of the presidency.

"There the situation stands, serious and sinister. "Madero is unbelievably brave. By some personal strike he may win back the confidence of the Mexican people. "If the Americans intervene they will not have an easy conquest. They would cost many lives and take many months of fighting for them to pacify the country.

Would Fight Americans. "The factional strife, I believe, would cease in Mexico, and all sides would join to face the invaders. But if the Americans should come I think their plan will be to enter Mexico at three points—Laredo, El Paso and Nogales.

"The next step would be to send warships and land marines at Vera Cruz on the Gulf of Mexico and also on the Pacific coast. Then they could gradually enter Mexico for that should be the United States once gain a foothold in that republic it would not mean an intervention to stop bloodshed among Mexicans, but it would be a conquest of territory which the United States would be unwilling to surrender."—Chicago Daily Socialist.

War, What For?

It is a sincere, well-founded fear of bankruptcy (it is not conscience) that chiefly induces many capitalist statesmen to co-operate at present so loyally (and piously) with international peace societies. Now, consider the fact that in twenty-one countries, namely, those of Europe, Japan, and the United States, militarism costs more than \$1,900,000,000 every twelve months. \$1,900,000,000 whilst the human race suffers in ignorance. \$1,900,000,000 to feed and clothe the multitude with their own blood and sweat whilst their lives are robbed and ravaged by the criminals and respectable profit-gut parasites of mankind. \$1,900,000,000 in times of peace. Yell, fool, yell: Hurrah for hell! For war!

War! War! War! The cost the working class pay for being meek, docile, obedient, ready to slaughter themselves, ready to butcher their brothers of the working class.

Hell of the Battlefield. "The dismal horror of (the battle) can best be observed when the actual struggle is over. Countless corpses covered with blood lie flat on the grass and between stones. Some were crushed in hand and feet, their brains mixed with dust and earth; the intestines were torn out, and blood trickling from them. The bodies of brave men built high upon hills, their blood made streams in the valley. Legs, arms, and heads were scattered about."

"(Human Bullets, a Tale of the Russo-Japanese War.)" "In what unequalled contempt do the masters of the world hold the toilers when they send them out into such blood-wasting hells. Shakespeare has expressed the master's scorn for the common flesh and blood of the soldier thus: "Tut! tut! good enough to toss food for powder; they'll fit a pit as well as a better."

A trusted labor leader named Olson was killed in a railroad wreck in Ontario, and death came so swiftly that he did not have time to destroy papers that he carried that showed him to have been a life-long spy in the ranks of the Western Federation of Miners.

THE LAWYERS AND THE COURTS

Some months ago the Ass wrote an article on the above subject, but it read so "drat-like" that he never tried to put it over. Having recently read the fine article in "Big Business and the Bench" by C. P. Connolly, in "Everybody's Magazine," (by all means don't miss this) the Ass now has courage to present for print what he formerly wrote. In fact he has come to the conclusion that neither Ass language or human language is adequate to overdraw the real situation.

"A New Student in Economics." The other day the Ass was stopped on the street and interrogated thusly: "I want to have a little talk with you. I am very much interested in this Labor Problem and want to get some books to read on the subject. Of course I don't want my friends to know this, but I really want to study up on the proposition."

This man was a lawyer, not one of the highly paid "corporation variety," but just a little "dinky" lawyer who has tried to make a living by his wits instead of doing honest work. Not having many "wits" he has not been able to prove his usefulness to the master class and has eked out an existence as a small fry pit-fogger. He might have done better as an ordinary wage earner—for even among these small fry lawyers competition is fierce and many of the little fellows know what it is to eat liver.

Now I have about as much love for a lawyer as I have for a polecat, they are both all right until they get to doing business.

In every case that comes up, one side is bound to be wrong—and frequently, now-a-days BOTH sides are wrong, but a "lawyer" will fight as valiantly for the WRONG as for the right—it is part of his training—he does what he is PAID TO DO, regardless of such trivial things as honesty, ethics or JUSTICE. If his client is guilty he tells him to plead "NOT GUILTY," and then he squirms and twists and schemes and prevaricates to prove a man not guilty, when he absolutely knows that he is GUILTY. A few years of this sort of business he usually becomes lost to all sense of ethical discrimination—like a man who lives near a glue factory and loses his sense of smell.

There may occasionally be a lawyer here and there who will accept only the cases where he is convinced that his client is right, but they are very scarce—about as scarce as hen's teeth. The average lawyer takes every case that comes to him—and takes everything else he can get his hands on—and keep outside the clutches of the other lawyers. From the standpoint of exalted manhood he registers about zero—for all that the Ass has something to say in his behalf.

In what preceded the Ass said some pretty severe things about the lawyers. But there is nothing to be gained by blaming them, so it may be well to understand their nature and training. As men they are potentially as good as any of us—whatever that means. It is however, a sad commentary on this so-called "Christian" age that a great army of men are required to PREVENT JUSTICE by their legal "quibbling" about "precedent" and "technicalities."

So called "Justice" as dished out by the capitalist courts is certainly a farce. If you have money enough to grease the machinery of trickery the lawyers will pull you through without injuring a hair of our head—they don't want your hair—if they did they would be bald headed when you got through. If you are poor, however, you are pretty apt to get soaked, even when you are absolutely guiltless.

No one but an idiot, or someone connected with the law-making and LAW BREAKING machinery, will have the audacity to maintain that "cases at the bar" are settled on the basis of "Right and Wrong," though this is always a pretext. It is just another part of the sham.

"Cases at the bar" are settled in accordance with the "Law," hence the business of the lawyer—and LAW IS A MATTER OF COURT DECISIONS and precedents and previous rulings and interpretations, and cleanery and trickery—and most anything but JUSTICE.

Once a BAD precedent becomes established it is henceforth GOOD law—just as good as any other precedent—and a darn sight better for the purpose of the tricksters and abusers who twist and distort and make black appear white and green yellow. Even the jury system is a farce. Sometimes months are spent in finishing 12 men who DON'T KNOW ANYTHING about the case, and have been found they haven't any right to use what little knowledge they do possess—that has escaped being discovered when they were "cross-examined." For, mind you, the jury IS NOT TO DECIDE THE CASE ON ITS MERITS or on their own judgement of the right and the wrong in the matter, but on the LAW—as instructed by the Judge. Oh, I tell you, brethren, this law-making machinery is great—for the master class.

In spite of the fact that neither the lawyers nor the Judges understand the

"LAW"—that it is a great fabrication of contradictions and a cunningly woven net of deceit, still it is very "exact science"—there is no guesswork about it—it's just a question of who has the price to pay for it. And still the people sleep!

Recently on the vaudeville stage the Ass saw an old-time public school re-produced. It was really funny. Some time, he hopes in the not distant future, he will see the Capitalistic Court in Vaudeville. It will be a howling farce. Perhaps some day our present lawyers and judges will in this way be able to make an honest living.

When that glorious time comes, we will make a huge bonfire of all their old rubbish of precedents and perverted justice, clean the slate, and put real JUSTICE on the throne, AND WITH NO BANDAID ON HER EYES EITHER. If the fool people ever get sense enough to do this, the Ass will take all the responsibility.

THIRTY-TWO KILLED.

Thirty-two men are dead in San Antonio as the result of an explosion of a locomotive, caused by the carelessness or inexperience of working-men employed by the Southern Pacific railway.

The Southern Pacific railway did not need to hire an inexperienced man. It could have obtained workmen who have spent many years in the trade of repairing locomotives if it were willing to pay even just a little more wages and to grant such men the right to stand together as men and transact their business with the company as one body.

The Southern Pacific is not willing to do that. It says: "If we allow our men to talk to us collectively they will be able to make a better bargain for themselves with us."

The shopmen of the Southern Pacific went out on strike with the rest of the Harriman lines last October, and the company, rather than grant their moderate demands, hired green men from all over the country, men who had little or no experience in the repairing of cars and engines.

Of course, the company knew that some of these men might blow up an engine and kill a lot of their fellow workmen, but what difference would that make to the company, as it would mean no financial loss to it except the price of the old engine?

The company could afford to risk the lives of human beings, both of those they persuaded to take the places of the strikers and of the passengers on the trains, and it has done so for the last few months. Just for the sake of the dollars it can make by so doing.

It is unfortunate that these men who went into the shops and took the places of the strikers did not understand the principles they were violating or the risks they were taking in working together as a group of inexperienced men.

But whatever their faults in this respect, it is a shame that should make every American blush when thirty-two human beings are blown to atoms to satisfy the greed of a railroad corporation.

JOY TO LIVE.

It is joy to be alive. History records no time more resplendent with hope than right now. To see the faces of the workers as they flock to the Socialist meetings, all lit up with a strange light, thinking of the happy homes of the workers, homes of their own, full of all the nice things the workers themselves have made, but greater still to see wife and babies with all their reasonable needs supplied and enough left over to enjoy some of life's benefits in travel and entertainments makes life worth living.

It is a well known medical fact that the injured and sick of a victorious army show much greater vitality than the injured and sick of the defeated side. Men forget their pain and sickness in the hour of victory and life becomes a glorious reality.

Socialists are on the winning side. Almost every paper makes record of some new Socialist victory, of a great increase in Socialist strength, of some stronghold taken, something to make the blood tingle with victory. These help to bear life's burdens. We look forward to a complete triumph of right over might.

For forty-five years, since the count of the first Socialist vote of 30,000 in Germany, the advance has been steady and relentless, gathering strength and numbers at each election until it has rolled around the world uniting the workers of all countries, colors and creeds, into a common brotherhood. We could easily count the ripening fruit. First one, then two or three Socialist officers were elected. Soon they were elected by the dozen, or score, but now by the hundreds. Already we have over twelve hundred of the fifty-five hundred in the national bodies of the world, literally thousands all told.

GEO. B. KLINE, M.D.

The Socialists of Vermont, have succeeded in electing an alderman at the election just past. The election of the alderman is looked upon as a result of the national Socialist lyceum course.

# THE SINGLE TAX AND WORKING CLASS

War to the death has been declared, the tomahawk has been dug up, the lance of peace laid aside and a gallant band of heroes has started out on the war path to save the citizens of Calgary from destruction.

The perturbation arises out of the action of the Council of the City of Calgary, sitting as a court of revision, in rating certain property within the City limits as agricultural land in an assessment of \$50.00 per acre instead of rating it as city property at a much higher assessment.

Our gallant band of heroes is the local branch of Single Tax Association, a body composed of lawyers, real estate agents, merchants and the like, and is middle class both in composition and aim. To see these heroes marshalling their forces and preparing to fight to the death from a purely altruistic motive makes our blood tingle with emotion and surge with eagerness to join in the conflict.

Unhappily, we are possessed of minds that seek reasons for action and insist on penetrating through the outward manifestations of our champions activities and endeavouring to find the motive that forces them to action. Our minds too, have a singular and unfortunate habit of making comparisons and in this particular case insist on asking why the S. T. A. starts out on the war path on this occasion and yet remained quiet when the same council saw fit to hand over half of the profits from the street railway for the relief of the rates. Let it be remembered that the sum in the latter case only fell short of the former by a paltry thousand or so.

Who are the users of the street railway? Not the members of the S. T. A. as a body for they have their aeroplanes and will soon have their aeroplanes, that is, if capitalism leaves them in existence, which is doubtful, judging from the trend of events. Neither the millionaires who are to be benefited by the rating at \$50.00 per acre mentioned above. No! you and I my fellow workers are the only persons as a class who use the street railway.

On the other hand, who is likely to benefit by the handing over of these profits to the relief of the rates? Our S. T. friends will say the workers, but our minds inquire how? Do many of the workers of Calgary own any property? Very few compared to the number who use the street railway, and even supposing that the number equalled the users of the street railway, are they not, from the S. T. standpoint holding up land for unearned increment and is it not, therefore, just—whatever that may mean—that they should pay taxes on that land. Besides, will not the millionaires too benefit by this relief of the rates and in far greater proportion to that derived by the workers.

Truly this question of action on the one hand and inaction on the other is a problem very perplexing. But, all we had nearly forgotten an important point. The S. T. A. is composed of middle class people and these as before stated do not use the street railway very much, so that if the profits had been placed towards lowering the fares the middle class would not have felt the benefit. On the other hand the middle class own quite a few choice lots in Calgary and the placing of these profits towards relieving the rates puts a few cents into their pockets, though they cannot prevent some of it from going into the millionaires capacious and hungry maws. But as this property is practically all classed as City property and assessed accordingly, And as, moreover, they will have to make good the difference between the rates which would be derived from a higher assessment of the land above mentioned and the lower assessment, they are out to stop this deproportion.

But Mr. Workingman, they are telling you that you pay taxes. Is this true? Let us take two things, butter and overalls. Do they pay taxes? You laugh at the question and call it silly, but wait and see. Butter and overalls are commodities because they are produced under the division of labor, not for use but to place on the market for sale so that a profit may be realized from that sale. Now we know that the individual who buys these things does so because they are of use to him, because they have a use value. But he does not buy them at their use value but at their VALUE, that is, he pays for them according to the amount of SOCIALLY NECESSARY LABOR TIME which they contain.

Now all things which are produced by the division of labor and for the purpose of placing on the market for sale as commodities and will exchange according to the laws of the exchange of commodities which is as before mentioned in the ratio of the socially necessary labor time that they contain. Now let us look at the thing we have to sell, our LABOR POWER. We know that if we are to live and be in good condition to work we must consume a certain amount of necessities of life in the shape of food, clothing and shelter. But these things today

are produced under the division of labor, so we say that as our labor power depends upon the consumption of these articles, it is produced by them. Therefore it stands to reason that labor power is produced under the division of labor. Again in order to live we must, in these days, sell something. We have no land or manufactured product to sell or we would not be a working class. Therefore we must sell the only thing we have, namely our labor power.

We see now that labor power satisfies our definition of a commodity and will therefore, exchange according to the laws of exchange for commodities or, in other words at its VALUE.

We have said above that value is the amount of socially necessary labor time embodied in an article and also that commodities will exchange at their value. For example, if it takes six hours of social labor to make a pair of overalls, the owner of these articles will get for each pair, if he is exchanging for butter, just as much butter as could be socially produced in six hours. If this is not the case, then one party or the other must be a loser. That, however, is only possible in an individual case for obviously we could not all be losers, but we must all exchange in order to live.

Now, if it is conceded that commodities exchange at value, it of necessity follows that the commodity "labor power" must, on the average, exchange at its value, which as we have seen is according to the amount of socially necessary labor time which was absorbed in producing it, or according to the cost, in labor time of the commodities consumed to produce it.

This, however, is not strictly correct for if, when the labor power or any other commodity is sold, the cost of production of anything entering into its composition has gone down, then the amount of social labor time necessary for producing the commodity, at the time of sale is diminished. To be strictly accurate, therefore, we say that commodities exchange in proportion to the SOCIALLY NECESSARY LABOR TIME that it would take to reproduce them.

Now it is understood that the commodity labor power exchanges at VALUE, it is easily seen that the worker has nothing, on the average, from which he could pay taxes, but as there are many who do not accept the principles and deductions mentioned above, I will get at the same thing from another standpoint.

Taxes are levies made by governments to meet those expenses which the government in any particular country shall deem necessary at a given time.

A government is that particular set of individuals put into power by owners or masters to govern subjects. "Oh!" someone will say, "but governments in these days are democratic and owned by the subjects or people."

In the first place a person or combination of persons cannot at the same time be subject to and master of the same person or set of persons. In other words the subjects cannot possibly be the owners of the government to which they are subject. It is therefore necessary to show that governments are the masters of the people, or to be more accurate the instrument of the masters of the people.

If, as our supposed interpolator says, the people do own the government, then how is it that in a strike the troops are turned out to fire upon the workers. "Well?" says our friend, "it is necessary to protect property." "True," I reply, "but the working class has only one form of property—their labor power." To protect and defend the government's interest to see that it is that the people do not first see that their own property is safeguarded.

As another instance let us look at the efforts of the Moral Reform League. They have for some time been on the war path against segregated districts, and the police, the agents of the government, have raided, on many occasions, the houses of ill-fame which some of the workers frequent. But who ever heard of the houses of prostitution that the rich go to being raided by the police. It would be as much, or rather more than their jobs are worth.

Further, a mine, owned and controlled by capitalists, blows up through the neglect of the owners, and hundreds of men are killed or permanently injured. Are the owners of that mine arraigned by the government for manslaughter? Yet if the government's interest is to protect and defend the lives and property—labor power—of their masters are looked after or they will lose their jobs.

It is safe to say that, as a general rule, every one acts according to his interests, subject always to his plane of education, and that we do not have very far to look to ascertain why it is that labor legislation is so infrequent and when it is put on the statute book, is so ineffective. It is because the governments of the world are owned and controlled by the capitalists,

and therefore look after the interests of their masters because their own interests would be impaired if they did otherwise.

Now to get back to the taxes. If you do not pay the levy, your government, through its agents, the police, bailiff, and courts, will seize hold of your goods in place of a money payment. If you have no goods worth taking, they will out of sheer spite, cast you into a lunatic asylum as an example to other subjects.

Because of this, it is not hard to deduce that in handing over certain money to the government, we are really putting into their hands something which already belongs to them but is in our hands for a while to serve a purpose. The purpose is to delude us into the idea that we have an interest in the State, that we own the government and pay taxes voluntarily as a people or nation and see that the other fellow pays his also.

If the economic principles laid down in the early part of this article are read carefully and in conjunction with the latter part it will not be a difficult task to see that the worker as a worker not only pays no taxes, but has no interest in the governments of the world, which belong to and work in the interests of the capitalist class. All that the worker does in regard to taxes is to hand over to a government official something which does not belong to him—the worker—he does not pay taxes in the sense of handing over some of his own property. SCAR.

### MARXIAN POSITION UPSET.

"The Marxian Socialists are not scientific, and, furthermore, I do not consider that Karl Marx was a first-rate economist, his theory of value being unsound."

While seated in a hall, which was used for the purpose of discussing current economic problems, the above quoted words fell upon my ears, causing my knees to shake together, and my face to assume a livid hue. At last an individual had been found who was about to take from us the bedrock of the Socialist philosophy by proving it entirely false.

I hardly dared to stay and hear the worst, but being encouraged by the idea that the speaker was possibly mistaken, I lingered on and listened. My hopes were dashed to the ground, however, by the speaker belching forth the following, with his stentorian voice:

"I have read the works of Karl Marx, in which he contends that the value of a commodity is determined by the amount of labor power embodied in it."

"I will now give an illustration to prove the falsity of the claim."

"Let us suppose I engage some men to dig a hole, in search for gold. After digging for quite a while they find no gold; labor power has been expended on the whole. Can Marx tell me the value of the hole? Would any of my audience care to purchase the hole?"

Cheers rent the air for the next few minutes. Those dreaded Socialists had been exposed. The speaker then continued by riddling the "Law of Surplus Value," and sum and substance of which was the following: "According to Marx, surplus value was that part of the wealth produced over and above his (the worker's) cost of subsistence. It was nothing of the sort. Surplus value was value produced by the machine, railroad, etc., of which the owners of the same were entitled to."

"The worker entered into a bargain with the employer and received the market price for his labor power. Consequently he (the worker) was getting all he was worth, which would allow for no surplus value to accumulate."

"The next thing that is credited to Marx is his 'Material Conception of History,' which is excusable when we realize that Karl Marx lived at a time when materialism was at its height. But now things were changed, no first-rate thinker would substantiate Marx in his contention. So by this I am forced to conclude that while Karl Marx tried to hit on the right track, and had he lived longer he might possibly have succeeded, it was nevertheless a fact that the principles which he expounded would not stand the test of close reasoning."

By this time I had recovered sufficiently to partake in the ensuing discussion. Questions were asked, and replied to by the speaker, after which the meeting was thrown open for discussion, and, taking advantage of the opportunity of the platform, it was my bounden duty to assail the previous speaker from a logical standpoint. I will admit that his concession in crediting Karl Marx with attempting to hit the right track somewhat overcame my modesty, so much so that I hated to pull the bottom from his argument. But I thought of that old adage, "That there can be no sentiment in business," and I also know that there can be no room for sentiment in class war, that we, as Socialists, are engaged in.

For that reason I challenged the speaker to produce the book, or pamphlet, wherein Marx contended that the labor power embodied in any article determined its value. Following this presumption out to its logical

conclusion, we would arrive at the following ridiculous position, that the slower the individual worked upon any article, the more valuable it would become. Let us for illustration take a case of two workmen making chairs, one is able to make a chair in one day, while the other takes two days to make his. According to the speaker's version of Karl Marx, the one chair is more valuable because it took longer to make, a theory which would be proven fallacious when those chairs were placed on the market for sale. Now let us see what Marx really did say, which was: "That the value of a commodity was determined by the amount of socially necessary labor power embodied in it." There we see the vital point overlooked by the speaker. That theory of value applies to our present system of wealth production, and has stood the test of criticism from the professors of economics of the present capitalist era. Some have even ruined their reputations in attempting to combat the same.

We say, for instance, that it takes as much labor power to produce a suit of clothes as would produce a watch. One is equal in value to the other, and, generally speaking, will exchange with each other on that basis. But now suppose that some machine was invented, and suits of clothes could be produced with only one-half the labor time expended on them, while the production of watches remained stationary. The result would be that the value of suits in exchange with watches would fall one-half. Thereby proving that the determining factor in labor power. In attempting to discover the origin of surplus wealth is pitiable in the extreme. Unable to reason from any premises, being a stranger to consistency, he early falls a prey to myths, delusions, etc., conjured up by his own disordered imagination. Let us ask ourselves a question: "Where does wealth come from?"

We have listened patiently to the erratic utterances of various individuals, "Nature," "Providence," "Direct Ability," etc. But we refuse to be beguiled, claiming that wealth came from God into such hallucinations. We will take no statements unless you can back it up with facts. On the other hand we maintain that "labor produces all wealth."

The raw material of nature is here, possessing a potential value but in order for that raw material to be shaped and adapted to the needs of society, labor power must be employed, the last named giving it its exchange value, thereby proving that labor is the source of all that the tools of production are owned by the capitalist class, which accounts for the workers' ability to hang onto the wealth he creates. He merely receiving enough in the form of wages to continue with the toil, and perpetuate his kind. The speaker's statement that the machine, railroads, etc., produce surplus value, is distinctly refreshing, but can be taken as an indication of childishness on his part, when it is applied to present day facts. I would like to assure the speaker that the capitalists are in business essentially for profits, which is another name for surplus value, and not to find us work, as he fondly imagines, and that consequently if the machine could produce surplus wealth the worker would become superfluous, and could end their unfortunate existence by being fed to the pet dogs of the female portion of the smart set. I feel bound to compliment the speaker on coming back to mother earth, after his dreamland flight, and stumbling upon the following truth: "That the worker enters into a bargain with his employer and gets the market price for his labor power." It could not have been more ably put by the Socialist.

Knowing that the speaker apparently approves of such slavish bargaining, while we as Socialists are opposed to it. The latter part of the sentence I am forced to deny, wherein he says the worker gets all he is worth. If that is so, will you please account for the luxurious manner in which the idle rich live? And judging by the general rotundity of their lower regions, won't you concede that there is possibly a little that the worker is worth, but does not get?

The speaker again resorts to the airship method of reasoning when dealing with the materialist conception of history as discovered by Marx, and which is, "That the way in which society gets its living is the dominant factor in that society, and that, accordingly, the economic structure of society at any time prevalent constitutes the foundation, and explains the whole superstructure of political, judicial and educational institutions. The discovery of this conception made it possible to explain the consciousness of man by his existence, instead of, as until then, his existence by his unconsciousness." This conception, contrary to the speaker's opinion, is, and has been, defended by a great number of thinkers of our era, of whom I might name such men as Lewis H. Morgan, Haeckel, Thorold Rogers, Spencer, Loria and Professor Seligman. Others could be mentioned who subscribed to the materialist conception. In closing, I would recom-

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men all to study the works of Karl Marx. More especially does this apply to the speaker, who might by a careful perusal of the same ultimately land on the right track, with the proviso, of course, that he lives long enough. A. W. BAKER.

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