

now historic Shack (Gribble's) to the Labor Temple. Stewart was known to speak on value, but an unfortunate accident prevented him from turning up (he having found a temporary master), so Taylor had to do the trick two weeks ahead of his prearranged date. This was his first attempt as a speaker on any occasion and he tackled that brain-twister "Labor Power a Commodity." Taylor is not an orator and I hope he never will be. But he is a deep thinker and has a good grasp of economics and in the simplest language he conveys to his listeners what he wants them to know. I learned a good deal from Taylor that night on gold production and the rising prices of commodities, something I could not get out of books to my satisfaction; he explained and I grasped it readily. We had an attendance of 22, mostly strangers. Quite a few of our regulars were away that night on account of work.

Taylor used to be a great I. L. P. man till a short time ago, in fact he voted for international affiliation at that famous meeting of Local Toronto and was highly indignant at us impossibilists. After the meeting at which he spoke was over he said to me, "I learned all I know about Socialism and economics out of the speakers' classes and the sooner the locals all over the country organize speakers' or economic classes the better for the party." His opinion is this, that the only way to keep the reformers out of the party is by securing a well-educated membership, and the only way to prevent squabbles is by educating the workers and not promising them reforms.

Who said we neglect propaganda and antagonize trade unionists? Local 21 runs one propaganda meeting a week and one speakers' class meeting a week also. There is a bunch of misfits in Toronto claiming to be Socialists and they are splashing ink all over the province yelling for fair play and referendums. Their only claim to notice is because they are so vigorously denouncing and endeavoring to belittle the efforts of the members of Local 24. It is a fact that they have not held one propaganda meeting and they profess to number 210. Just imagine 210 Socialists organized in a district and not being able to get an audience of wage slaves together. I think I would die if I could not hear a rebel at least once a week. Actions, however, speak louder than words. It is control "the misfits" are looking for. By a policy of misrepresentation and shallow appeals to democracy they evidently hope to control the party in Ontario. Suppose, instead, they act accordingly to the principles they profess to uphold and preach Socialism. Or would their leaders sooner ride on the back of working class effort into international reputation for themselves? But that is too tender a spot to touch upon.

F. G. S., Toronto.

COME IT, COMET, COME-OFF-IT

Twinkle, twinkle, Halley's comet!
'Tis to you I write this sonnet;
Just to ask you what you're doing,
Threatening us with wreck and ruin.

We're an old acquaintance, damn it!
No, not us; but this old planet;
And although it's topsy-turvy,
Such a trick would be most scurvy.

We'll admit to run it proper,
We've not done it as we oughter;
But just you hold on a minute,
There's a secret—and you're in it.

Since we humans were invented,
Stuck here and allowed to rent it,
We've been puzzling out some notion
To give each his due proportion.

We've tried early communism,
Serfdom, slavery, capitalism;
And have sloughed each in succession
(Bar, of course, the last in question).

Now its turn is on the time-card,
And, by gum, it sure is dying hard;
Got to go, though. Too abusive—
Too much misery—that's conclusive.

Now the secret (it's between us;
Don't tell Neptune, Mars or Venus).
That will surely bridge this chasm—
What's it called? Why, Socialism.

Easy, ain't it? Solves this puzzle:
Happiness pursuits unuzzle—
All his products to the worker,
Naught whatever to the shirker.

Master, slave and all will pass;
No more war 'twixt class and class;
No more starving, destitution,
Bloody war, or prostitution;

No more poor and no more rich.
Man to man shall meet as such.
Spoil it, will you? Don't you do it!
Or you'll never live to rue it.

After all these obligations,
Halting rhymes in poor relations;
Without further word or sign,
To the timbers tall for mine.

Say, Gribble, you'd better hand over that bunch of "bay leaves" that have been adorning your manly brow this while back. Don't you think this screech deserves them? While you are at it, let's hear if you can define "politics" yet. I was a little surprised to hear you slighting "industrial unionism" in the last Clarion. I thought

we had given you enough pointers that night in Nelson to induce you to investigate it with an open mind. You are more prejudiced against it than any old-party politician ever was against political Socialism.

Yourself, "ye editor," E. T. K. and the other S. P. C. giants have formed your ideas of unionism under the old craft regime, and you seem incapable of reaching beyond it. You say that politics is but a reflex of industrial conditions—gauged by the materialistic conception. Then you say that our industrial movement is sure in a muddle, and unionism in decadence. Where does that logically leave the political reflex? Our industrial movement is sure in a muddle; and so is our political movement, and only by consolidation on the industrial field under revolutionary industrial unionism can we ever hope to have a clear political movement.

Political Socialism is destructive; industrial unionism is constructive. They are two weapons—what the McKenzie sneeringly calls a "double-barrelled" movement. They go hand in glove; but act apart from one another. Pure and simple political action alone is just one perpetual compromise. More about this anon, barring, of course, "ye editor" don't drop this in the W. P. B.

GOUROCK.

MARRIED.

On Wednesday, February 3rd, at the Registry Office, Kendal, England, F. S. Faulkner to Annie Thornborrow. Both Reds.

Alberta Crisis Drawing Nearer

(Continued from Page 1)

The regular business of the House was proceeded with. Attorney-General Cross, moved the second reading of a bill respecting towns. Immediately Riley arose and moved an Amendment that all words after the "Preamble" be struck out and the Bill be holsted for six months, as the House no longer had any confidence in the administration. A Division being called for, the result of the vote being 20 in favor of the Government and 17 against. Finlay and Genge have not yet taken their seats, both being ill, O'Brien having no interest in the outcome, left the House when the Division was called and resumed his seat afterward.

Smith, of Camrose, gave notice of a resolution for Tuesday, calling for the establishment of a Board of Railway Commissioners, independent and removed from political control, which would have full power under the Acts of guarantee.

The Bulk Sales Act introduced by Riley was read a second time, after comment, Boyle said he would not support the Bill, while Bennett and the Premier saw excellent qualities in it.

Premier Rises to Explain.

The Premier rising to move the adjournment till Monday, stated that he still occupied the first Minister's chair, in spite of the rumors that he had resigned, or was about to resign, and he hoped that he would occupy that chair for a long time, yet he had accepted no resignations, and he hoped to have the Public Works Department filled soon.

Bennett pressed the premier for an explanation regarding the disappearance of the Ministers from the Cabinet benches during the last few days. The Attorney-General, he said, had given out a statement that he had resigned from the Cabinet and was out of politics for good, and that he had taken up law again. Such a statement as the Premier had given was quite inadequate, it was mere twaddle, he said, further, that it was his duty to inform the first Minister that he must give an explanation, the House had a right to know, and that the Premier was either insincere or incompetent. Why, he continued, does not the Premier take the House into his confidence and answer the questions put by the honorable members? Why does he not answer these questions? Has the Attorney-General resigned? Has he returned to the Cabinet? Has the Minister without Portfolio (Buchanan), resigned? We have a right to ask these questions and we have a right to know, we are not suppliants, we are exercising our functions in this House as legislators.

Marshall, Minister of Agriculture, said they were sticking to the ship and would only go down when the old ship went down.

Premier Rutherford said, I have stated that we still have a Government, I know my duty. On two occasions my Government has been endorsed by the people of this Province, and I don't have to go to the junior member for Calgary to know what to do or say. Bennett, it's a pity you didn't.

Premier, I have been frank with the House, I can't help this newspaper twaddle.

Bennett—Has the Minister from Lethbridge (Buchanan) resigned? The Premier has stated that he has accepted no resignations, yet we find the hon. member for Lethbridge in a private member's seat and voting against the Government.

Premier (paying no attention to Bennett's query), my motion is that the House do now adjourn till Monday at 4 o'clock.

BLAKE.