

The Indicator

A Journal of History, Economics,
Philosophy and Current Events

Published every Week By the
Socialist Party of Canada,

401 Pender St. E., Vancouver, B. C.

Editor.....C. Stephenson

Subscriptions to "The Indicator,"
20 issues \$1.00

SATURDAY.....NOVEMBER 29, 1919

Conferences

WHAT is to be the end of all this striving to get labor and capital together. Will it eventually succeed? Will the shapness of the first antagonisms finally wear off under the streams of debate? It does not look hopeful even from the most optimistic point of view. Though the personnel of the labor groups at the great conferences of labor and capital have been handpicked from the most conservative and "safe" and "sane" elements, yet when brought face to face with the capitalist groups, they act almost in the reputed manner of Bolsheviks.

The superstitious bourgeoisie say it is the malign spirit of Karl Marx, wandering like the fabled Jew over the face of the earth, which has entered into the working class. A little of the common sense materialism of Marx, however, would lead them to look into other more earthy factors for the cause of these untoward "boltings" of labor groups from the "get-together" conferences and for the labor unrest.

The trouble, basically, is the capitalist system itself, which places these groups in impossible positions from the harmony standpoint. All the differences between capital and labor that can be settled are settled on the industrial field, either by agreement between groups of workers and capitalist employers or by means of a test of strength by the strike or the lock out. All larger issues with which these conferences are supposed to deal with whether they be of seeking a radical change in conditions or of seeking a permanent basis of agreement, are beyond solution under the present order.

The disease of the present system is found in the ownership of society's means of production by a class who exploit these social powers for their own benefit. There can be, in the nature of things, no permanent agreement or solution while this condition prevails.

Sub. Hustlers Wanted

To increase the circulation of "The Indicator," Urgent. One dollar for 20 issues, money returned if unable to fulfill obligation. Do not delay. Help on the educational movement.

Violence and the I.L.P.

[From The Socialist, Glasgow]

IT may be truthfully stated that at the present moment the Independent Labor Party is in a more unsettled state as regards Socialist theory and policy than it has been at any time during its past history. As a result of its courageous attitude to the war it has been compelled to abandon much of its former worship of the

State. Having attracted to itself a large pacifist following during the past few years of universal slaughter, it is now faced with problems which only arise through a lack of fundamental Socialist thought. One of these problems, and, perhaps, the one which is causing most agitation within the ranks of the I. L. P. is the problem of violence and the Revolution. Although a large number of the rank and file is rapidly moving more and more towards "the left," it is probably the thought that revolution spells bloodshed which at present prevents the party as a whole from adopting a more uncompromising attitude, from renouncing the Second International and all its works, and from joining the Third International at Moscow.

The problem of violence and the Revolution is quite simple to the average reader of The Socialist. We as Socialists do not believe in violence and do not advocate it, although our reading of history and the working of capitalism leads us to presume that violence most probably will be resorted to by the capitalist class when the workers are ready to assume control of the instruments of production and distribution. But we also know that the more the proletariat is educated to the realization of its social position the less possibility there is of violence being used. And if it were possible to permeate successfully the armed forces and the flunkies of capital with our doctrines of class-conscious Socialism no violence at all could take place, because at the hour of need capitalism would find itself deserted by those upon whom it relies for protection. In short, more class-conscious education at the present means less violence in the future.

Strange to say the I.L.P. when judged by this test of education is sadly lacking. For nearly thirty years the I.L.P. has been organized as a propagandist body, and yet its educational results towards a class-conscious proletariat are practically nil. It possesses a network of branches spreading all over the country, which might have become a veritable honeycomb of centres of revolutionary education, but, at present, its activities are confined to windy political demonstration of no lasting importance. Classes in those vital subjects of economics and industrial history it has practically none. Again, the I.L.P., whilst issuing superficial pamphlets and leaflets by the million, has failed to produce any Socialist literature of lasting value. In this connection it is amusing to note that Ramsay MacDonald speaks of Noah Ablett's excellent 'Easy Outlines of Economics' as follows:

"It is a profound pity that thousands of young workmen earnestly seeking for instruction in the social problems which they wish to help to solve have to turn to such handbooks which are educational neither in spirit nor in substance."—Socialist Review.

What, it may be asked, has Ramsay MacDonald done during the years he has been one of the guiding stars of his party, to help forward the dissemination of solid Socialist literature among the workers?

The I.L.P. does not want violence and yet is doing very little to obviate violence by real educational work, this in spite of many protests that have been made by industrial members at conferences and in the Press.

In conclusion it should be stated that the writer has not been com-

Industry and the Gild

From Jenks "History of Politics"

(Continued from Last Issue.)

ORGANIZATION of Industry.

Having now seen something in the way in which industry, in its two branches of production and exchange, arose, we turn, as in dealing with agriculture, to examine how industry was organized, i.e., what institutions were developed to work it.

Village Craftsmen. There can be little doubt that, at first, there was an attempt to fit industry into the village system. Although the smith, as a stranger, would not readily be absorbed in a group of kinsmen, although, as a matter of fact, we generally find the smithy at a little distance from the village, yet the "village blacksmith" became, and, indeed, still is, a recognized village in-

stitution. So also with the other early crafts. The carpenter, cobbler, tailor, the weaver, tiler and baker, are, in Oriental countries at the present day, and formerly in European countries were, integral parts of the village system. As for the primitive merchant, we find him in the humble guise of pedlar or huckster, going about with his pack from village to village, and so being, if not a villager, at least a connecting link between villages.

The Market. But, as industry became more and more specialized, as new crafts developed out of the old, it gradually became clear that more rapid progress was made, and better work done, if the workers in a particular craft collected together in a centre, perhaps specially suited for the particular industry; and thus we get the beginning of that tendency for industry to gravitate towards towns, which is so marked a feature of modern industrial life. It may be that the gradual collection of craftsmen formed the town or it may be that the existence of a fortified town attracted the craftsmen. That is a much disputed question. But it is tolerably certain, that one of the earliest institutions in connection with towns was the market, and the existence of the market was closely connected with the development of industry. The neighboring villages would not want to come to market for agricultural produce; but they would want to come for the produce of what is specially known as "industry."

Now the very essence of the market is, that it is neutral ground, on which the members of different communities can meet without trespassing on one another's territories. As its name implies, it was frequently on the march or boundary of two or more districts. And, whether it was so or not, in any particular instance, it was essential that it should be a place of peace. The existence of the market cross in later days shows that the church took the market under her special protection. And, also later, kings and emperors made a special point of protecting the peace of their markets. How the peace was guarded in the ancient days before Church and State, it is difficult to say. In savage times, the essential point is, that seller and buyer shall never actually come into contact. The seller brings his article near the strange camp, lays it down on the ground in full view, and retires. The intending purchaser comes out, inspects the article, places beside it what he is willing to give in exchange, and also retires. The seller once more comes up, inspects the proffered exchange, and, if satisfied, takes it away, leaving his own article to be fetched by the purchaser. If he is dissatisfied with the offer, he takes his own article away. Needless to observe, savage barter is a trifle tedious; but time is of no value to savages, who, indeed, do not understand what it means. In Patriarchal times, the "gods of the market place" probably are supposed, in some mysterious way, to guard the peace of the market. At anyrate, the bazaar, which is the Oriental market, is a typical feature of town life in Patriarchal countries at the present day.

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."

Next Issue: "The Gild."