

EDISON PREDICTS FOUR-HOUR DAY.

Thomas Edison, the well-known American inventor, speaking in New York recently, said: "The time will come when full automatic machinery will be so largely introduced that production will not require a man's working more than four hours a day. . . Then old men need never work. The young can work and support the family." Mr. Edison may know all about the productive power of modern machinery, but he evidently knows very little about the workings of Capitalism. Four hundred years ago, when machinery was unknown, Sir Thomas Moore, in his "Utopia," said that six hours' work a day would suffice for all the wants of the people. Benjamin Franklin said, about 150 years ago, that five hours' work would be sufficient. Now, with machinery increasing production a thousand-fold, Edison says we may look forward to a four-hour day. But he forgets, or ignores, one factor in his prophecy. The machines are not the property of those who work them. If the people who carry on the work of production also controlled the distribution of their products, we are certain that even less than four hours' work a day would provide everyone with all the necessities and many of the luxuries. But, unfortunately, we allow a privileged minority to control the enormous wealth produced today, and they return to the producers only just sufficient to keep them alive to continue production. Today we have fast motor vehicles and other "time-savers" and live in a constant hustle; but is our day's work any shorter since they were invented? They seem only to have got us into the "Through the Looking Glass" state of things—you remember when Alice and the Red Queen began to run. The Queen kept crying, "Faster, faster!" On they went, "they seemed to skim through the air, hardly touching the ground with their feet." And when, at last, they stopped, Alice said, "Why, I do believe we've been under this tree the whole time!" And we also are under the tree the whole time.—Freedom (London)

PLATFORM

Socialist Party of Canada

We, the Socialist Party of Canada affirm our allegiance to, and support of the principles and programme of the revolutionary working class.

Labor, applied to natural resources, produces all wealth. The present economic system is based upon capitalist ownership of the means of production, consequently, all the products of labor belong to the capitalist class. The capitalist is, therefore, master; the worker a slave.

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 its property rights in the means of wealth production and its 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 setting itself free from capitalist exploitation by the abolition of the wage system, under which this exploitation, at the point of production, is cloaked. To accomplish this necessitates the transformation of capitalist property in the means of wealth production into socially controlled economic forces.

The irrepressible conflict of interest between the capitalist and the worker necessarily expresses itself as a struggle for political supremacy. 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 political powers for the purpose of setting up and enforcing the economic programme of the working class, as follows:

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

Correspondence

MEETINGS AT THE GEM.

Editor Clarion,
Dear Comrade:

On Sunday November 4, we had with us Mr. Woodsworth who spoke on "Parliament Through the Eyes of a Labor M.P." His lecture was a resume of the seating arrangement in the House at Ottawa, and a description of the function of the different administration departments. He also supported the prohibition outfit during part of his discourse. In part, he said, that the labor movement stood for immediate demands, old age pensions, prohibition, unemployment insurance, minimum wage etc., the usual stock-in-trade of political hocus pocus. During the question period I put the following: "Does the political orientation of the progressive farmer and labor party group coincide with liberal bourgeois ideation?" Woodsworth said: "I can't understand your question," and sat down. During speech time Blind Bill Nicolson started the ball rolling with a slashing attack on the A.F. of L., describing it as evolving into a Fascist for the preservation of capitalist rule. I then followed up with a slashing attack on labor parties.

On Sunday November 11, Mrs. Mallard held forth on the Minimum Wage Act, and was ably supported by Daddy Owens, who was followed in due course by J. East, of cheap money fame, to be followed by Walter Long, who demonstrated that by a process of evolutionary gradualism via the Workers' Party route into the nationalistic Canadian Labor Party, and thence on up to the community of interests of robbers and robbed, and that the workers would finally wake up and find themselves where they were before they went to sleep in the arms of their would be saviours, disillusioned, disappointed, rubbing their eyes and wondering what next—?

On Sunday November 18, we had Bill Irvine of Calgary who crucified us with an hour of oratorical flourish and sweet sentiment about, what "we" want and how to get it, and I have a hunch that the "we" circumscribed a school of bourgeois intellectuals, and a raft of lesser lights but equally ambitious labor skates whose greatest ambition is to get their feet under the political pie counter; with that accomplished they will then be in a position to make war on the hated reds. Of all the dirty low lived shysters the A.F. of L. political labor skates are the worst; they play on the cupidity and ignorance of the mass, and stab the revolutionary socialist movement every time they get a chance. I put the following question to Irvine: Can you reconcile the Idealist conception of history to the Materialist Conception of History? Irvine replied that you can't reconcile the Idealist concept with the Materialist conception, but dodged taking a stand on the position, and wound up by stying that he was not going to allow me to make capital on the point. When speech time came round I made a blunt criticism of the C. L. P. position which drew fire from Irvine and the secretary of the C. L. P. Yours for the International Socialist Movement
J. MACKENZIE.

A FOOL AND HIS MONEY.

At the end of the seventh week of the strike the solidarity displayed by the men seems greater than during the first week. This has been an excellent object lesson to the Labor Movement in this city; in fact, it has been the only thing during the last four years to prove that the Labor Movement really existed in this city.

The Shipping Federation, together with that small coterie which holds to their viewpoint, were greatly surprised (if not actually disappointed) by the almost unanimous vote of 1100 men cast at the Mass meeting, against returning to work. The method of voting, and the fact that an absolutely neutral scrutiny of the ballot was taken, with over 1000 men listening attentively to the scrutineers calling out the individual "yes," or "no," is beyond the ability of the Shipping Federation to either understand or explain.

Nevertheless, there is a reason, and that reason is not difficult to discover if we but examine the proposition that had to be voted on. Without going into the employers' offer in detail, it can be said that it amounted to a request from the employers to the longshoremen of Vancouver to take the organization they had so painstakingly built up through years of persistent effort, and proceed to bury it. Employers of labor have many times in the past succeeded in breaking up labor organizations but in this case they outbid all their predecessors by gracefully demanding that this organization function as its own undertaker. Probably the employers were of the opinion that since they had offered to put to work

immediately some 600 "former employees" this would guarantee to them a majority of votes for this so generous concession. Such generosity, it would appear, is only exceeded by their ability to spend money foolishly.

— Longshoremen's Strike Bulletin

REVOLUTIONS, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL.

(Continued from page 6)

pecially prepared to organize an army worthy of Moltke's strategy, and Bismarck's machinations.

So on the eve of the greatest industrial development yet known to man, Germany was organized and armed for that task which alone could enable her to reap the full fruits of that development. But that is a story in itself, and will have to await another issue of our family journal.

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