

## MATERIALISM and SOCIALISM

Sir—Owing to war time interruptions in our mail service I have only recently received the December issues of the Clarion, and am thus belated in replying to George Herron's article, "Socialism and Materialism."

Professor Herron tells us that materialism "no longer has any place in the mind of a serious scientist." Evidently Herron is misinformed; not an inexplicable thing, seeing that he is an ex-minister and never has had any first-hand acquaintance with scientific work. Among the most thorough and serious scientists of the present epoch in the field of biology, where I am a minor worker, are Hetwig, Jacques Loeb, Mach, Czapek, Alexis Carrel, and Punnett. These men all adopt as the working scheme of things in their science that monistic matter-of-fact philosophy in which the living organism is regarded as a complex physical and chemical machine. This is what Herron calls "mechanistic materialism." The two recently deceased biological scientists, C. A. Herter and Charles Sedgwick Minot, held the same view. I might justly and accurately extend this list to include the names of nearly all the world's active workers in biology. In geology such men as Chamberlain hold the same viewpoint. I am not conversant enough with the views of workers in other sciences to assert anything about them, but for biology and geology Herron's statement is untrue.

Herron's argument is a punning argument after the approval of medieval practice. Herron identifies the philosophy called materialism with practical materialism—that is, with the hogish pursuit of material ends. This is an unwarranted confusion, and one that leads me to suspect Jesuitical procedure.

As a matter of cold fact, practically all the heroic instances of idealistic action, of firm stand for principles, which are recorded in the history of Socialism, have been the acts of men materialism for which Herron belabors Marx. The outstanding figure in Germany to-day, who has continuously and regardless of personal risk, opposed the Kaiser and his war, has been the Marxian materialist Karl Liebknecht. The "idealists" and philosophers of dualism have gone over to the enemy. That small core of German Socialism who did not yield to the Kaiser has been identical with the genuine Marxians in that movement. To label the whole Social Democratic Party of Germany as Marxian, and to say that its materialism, derived from Marx, has led it to betray the rest of the international movement, is to slap the facts in the face. This is what Herron has done.—S. G. Rich. Amantimoti, Natal.

### SOCIALISTS PROTEST AGAINST CIVIC ACTION.

Say Disfranchisement of Naturalized Citizens is Contrary to Liberty of British Constitution.

At the annual May Day celebrations of the Social Democratic Party of Canada at the Labor Temple last evening a strongly-worded resolution was enthusiastically adopted condemning the action of the city council in its attempt to deprive the foreign population of its rights to use the franchise and calling upon the federal government to ignore such a request as being "contrary to the boasted liberality of the British constitution, which concedes to every naturalized citizen the right of a British born subject." The resolution was

moved by James Simpson and seconded by J. McArthur Conner.

A remarkable reception was accorded Isaac Bainbridge, secretary of the Social Democratic Party of Canada, and editor of "Forward," who appeared before Justice Latchford on a charge of "seditious libel." He stated that the case would make no difference to his attitude in standing for the solidarity of the working classes. He commented upon the admission of Justice Latchford in his summing up when he said he recognized that five years hence, under the changing conditions, a case like his (Bainbridge's) would not be brought before the court for sedition. He told them that in the British West Indies on the revelation of C Bowman, M.P., and chairman of the Trade Union Congress of Great Britain, that the legislature of the British West Indies, with the sanction of Hon. Walter Long of the British Cabinet, has debarred trade unionism in the British West Indies. Following his speech the meeting entered an emphatic protest against this.

Isidor Zar, Zionist, of New York, claimed that the Socialists are largely responsible for the present world conflict, inasmuch as they failed to take notice of international affairs, claiming that a working man knew no land or nation, that he had no love of country or people, and so permitted the other classes to manage both national and international affairs. "With particular regard to the Jewish race," he told them. "We maintain that the national freedom of the world implies the establishment of a free Jewish nation in Palestine, where the Jewish working classes, shoulder to shoulder with the masses of the world, will achieve the kind of democracy that will do away with classes."

The chair was taken by A. W. Mance and other speakers were: James Simpson, J. Stewart, J. Arenrach (Jewish), George Mack (Russian), John Stefanstsky (Ukrainian), S. Perrone (Italian) and Sam Esser (Jewish). Over one thousand were present, and it was found necessary to hold an overflow meeting in another room. The proceedings closed with the singing of "The Red Flag."—Toronto World, May 2, 1917.

### SOCIAL AT KITCHENER.

The Kitchener Socialists celebrated May Day by holding a social. Despite bad weather the attendance was good, the meeting being one of the most enthusiastic we have had for some time.

The programme was varied, consisting of songs, recitations, and music by a brass quartette. The address of the evening was given by Comrade Farley of Guelph. He pointed out the growing unity of the Socialist movement, touching on the Russian revolution, May Day strikes in Germany, and the anti-war stand of the United States Socialists as hopeful indications of working-class solidarity. The conditions capitalism is creating during the war, and the trend after the war were presented as proof of Marx's statement that capitalism is preparing its own grave.

A resolution was passed to be forwarded to Toronto and Ottawa protesting against the arrest of Comrade Bainbridge. A telegram from him saying he was at liberty was read and received with applause.

The Guelph comrades who were present to the number of fifteen or twenty helped very largely to make the evening more enjoyable. Comrade Cunningham's contribution to the program deserves special mention.

On May 24 Kitchener Socialists are going to invade Comrade Farley's ranch in Guelph for a picnic, and between the two locals there will be something doing."

"What's the connection between friends?"—Timothy Campbell, of Tammany Hall.

## NEWS OF THE MOVEMENT

**Notice to Locals.**—We shall be glad to publish each week beneath this heading reports of the doings and activities of any local. Copy sent in should be written clearly on one side of the paper only. Reports should be brief as possible.

A conference committee composed of Russians, Jews, Polish, Ukrainian, and Finnish has been formed for the purpose of assisting the Socialist movement in Russia, both morally and financially.

A great mass public meeting is being organized in Toronto to protest the action of the Toronto City Council in its attempt to take away the franchise of alien enemy subjects. Meeting to take place on May 27th, 1917, at the Labor Temple at 7.30.

Guelph, Ont., May 7, 1917.

Resolved: Whereas it has been brought to the attention of this organization, known as Guelph Local No. 5, of the Social Democratic Party of Canada, that the crown authorities of the city of Toronto have charged the Dominion secretary of the Social Democratic Party of Canada, viz., Isaac Bainbridge, with seditious libel, because he is alleged to have circulated a leaflet containing the defence of Mr. Fenner Brockway, editor of the Labor Leader, Manchester, England, and, whereas, the said statement of Brockway's defence was published and circulated throughout the entire British Isles, in the Labor Leader, and also passed through the hands of the Canadian censor in a copy of the Canadian Forward of a recent date without let or hindrance,

Therefore, We members of Guelph Local No. 5 of the S.D.P. of C. do hereby protest against the action of the crown authorities of the city of Toronto in charging Comrade Bainbridge with seditious libel.

Signed on behalf of Guelph Local, No. 5, S. D. P. of C.

LORNE CUNNINGHAM, Secy.

### RUSSIANS MET IN HAMILTON.

Woman Said Canada's Liberty is Tainted With Slavery.

Yesterday's downpour of rain interfered with the plans of the Russians who had arranged for a big demonstration to commemorate the Russian revolution, and those who gathered to parade assembled in the I.O.O.F. Temple, where addresses were delivered by a number of local Russians. The demonstration was arranged by the Social Democrats, Russian revolutionists, Jewish national alliance and Jewish Workingmen's circle. Mayor Booker, who was to have addressed the gathering at Gore Park, was at the hall and spoke for half an hour to the Russians. He said he was glad to see that Russia was fighting for liberty with her allies on the fields of battle, and predicted that Russia would have the freedom that was enjoyed by Canada.

At this juncture Mrs. Olga Nicholas-yaw said: "Russia wants social revolution, and not Canada's liberty, which is tainted with slavery."

The mayor was somewhat stumped by this outburst, which was greeted with applause, but remarked that he was not there to argue that point with them. He thought all Russians were enjoying in Canada the same liberty that Canadians did.

### SOCIALISM GROWING UP.

The Ukrainian eastern section executive committee is now getting into good shape. Comrade Kowalyshun has been successful in organizing a local of the S.D.P. U.K. in St. Catharines, Ontario. Another local has been organized in Brantford, with thirteen members pay-

ing the monthly instalment of dues. An executive committee was elected for the purpose of carrying on the business of the local, after which the running and maintaining of a book store at 108 Market Street was taken up and deliberated upon with good results. The book department will provide the local with a room, rent free, for the first month. At the first meeting of the local we had over one hundred people present, and we expect the local to have a rapid growth until we reach the thousand mark.

Resolutions were presented at our last meeting protesting against the arrest of Editor Bainbridge, after which it was agreed that funds should be collected in support of his defence and call upon all locals of the S.D.P. of C. to do likewise in order to safeguard the liberty of speech and press, which is so vital to our movement.

ILKO PYSANIUK, Secretary.

### RIVERDALE LOCAL, 87, TORONTO.

The membership of the local is increasing, three new members having been added recently, and two prospective ones are in sight. The local has now installed an excellent library, embracing books not to be found on the shelves of the public libraries. Comrades Carmichael and Kindness have built a very fine polished oak bookcase capable of holding from three to four hundred books. About a hundred books are already installed, and it is proposed to add from time to time such books as the members deem necessary for the study of the various sciences in which they, as Socialists, are interested.

An excellent social gathering was held after the last business meeting, a good musical program being supplemented by the welcome presence of Comrade Jas. Simpson.

We regret losing Comrade W. J. Bird, who is leaving for California. He has been a sturdy worker for the Socialist cause, and carries with him the esteem and good wishes of the membership.

CHAS. M. THOMPSON, Secretary.

### HAMILTON LOCAL, No. 61.

We have now concluded our regular Sunday afternoon lectures, and from now till fall will hold but one meeting a month, every first Sunday. The past season's lectures, compared with last winter's, have been very successful, larger audiences, more literature sold, better collections, and several new members added. An audit just made of the books shows the local also to be in a healthy state financially. Our speaker for May 6th will be Com. William Gilson, who will give an account of the life and work of Robert Owen, the pioneer Socialist. The May Day celebration here was the best ever held, our foreign comrades especially being well represented. A collection for the Bainbridge defence fund realized \$30.00. The Russians in this city demonstrated their enthusiasm over the downfall of Czarism by a great street parade followed by speechmaking, the marshals and orators being, as a matter of course, Socialist comrades.

We are checking over the old list of Hamilton subscribers to Forward and arranging the city into districts for the purpose of canvassing for renewals.

Hamilton readers are hereby notified that they can now procure Socialist literature, pamphlets and periodicals, at the Socialist news agent's, 14 Barton Street East. By purchasing their smokes, candies and stationery here they are helping to the more firmly establish this new and valuable adjunct to the local movement.—J. A.

The British Government has introduced a bill which is almost certain to pass quickly, which provides for state domination of practically all industries.