

THE CANADIAN FORWARD

To Our Contributors—

The columns of The Canadian Forward are open to contributions from all friends of the cause. Though we can by no means undertake to publish all we may receive, everything, by whomsoever written, will receive careful attention.

No notice will be taken of anonymous communications.

All contributions intended for insertion to be addressed to the address given below, and must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication.

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Correspondence—

All correspondence should be addressed to Business Manager, or J. BAINBRIDGE, Dominion Secretary, The Forward Press, 361 Spadina Avenue, Toronto, Canada.

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The King can make a belted knight,
A marquis, duke and o' that.
But a honest man's aboon his might,
A man's a man for o' that.

—Burns.



BRITISH LIBERTY AND INTERNATIONALISM OF PACIFISTS.

Speaking in the House of Commons on Tuesday last, Sir A. Bonar Law, Chancellor of the Exchequer, stated, referring to the attitude of pacifists: "The pacifists should all be imprisoned." Now we are informed that this measure will be carried into effect on the first of March—after which suspicious date all lovers of peace will be domiciled in Dartmouth Prison; to become associated with criminals and murderers according to the law. It is a strange travesty of history that in England the oft-quoted land of the free and brave, that the freedom which has given her pre-eminence above all others is now to be taken away from her people. Freedom of speech and press, the gems of British democracy, are now to be replaced by the censor and the press gang. Liberty was ever a paradoxical and elusive creature. Some of our people are hunting this mirage upon unknown battlefields, for which they wade in blood clear up to their chins, while their brothers at home rot in dungeons vile in quest of the same golden talisman.

The view presented by Mr. Law is not a new device to hasten progress, but was ever the bulwark of reaction since the days of the Patriarchs and the Pharisees. "Justice on the grail."

The British sense of justice has become so dulled by the repetition of lying scribes, "They are not as good as we." "Our institutions are superior to all others." And our race of higher quality than other common garden clay has done its work after years of deprivation, suffering, and heroic courage we had thought to have attained.

The unfortunate part of it is that we have been deluded into thinking we had a constitution, and while it is no use crying over spilt milk, let us nerve ourselves for the task of writing our Magna Charta of the new age. The reactionary tendencies now at work must be resisted to the utmost, even though it takes us to the borders of a physical revolution.

The elements of Social Justice can never be abrogated by odious comparisons. It is an inherent quality seeking

for expression, and differentiation in blood, language, or geography can not for ever overrule the cardinal principle of man's relationship to his fellow-man, whether he be a Greek, or Turk, or Prussian.

REFORMING THE UPPER HOUSE.

The house of autocracy now falls within the gamut of war-time reform. It is due to the lethargic characteristics of the Canadian people that the gentlemen of noble blood have such a useful domestic duty to perform, which under a higher concept of duty might have been spared the purple brood. It is to be hoped that they may be favored with greater success in the reformation than would otherwise have been attained if Henry had had this menial task conferred upon him. Still, the situation is not without hope, and such honored and respected gentlemen will fortunately have the precedent of Prince Edward Island to guide them in their deliberations; it will be remembered that the latter abolished themselves on motion. But we confidently anticipate that mercenary considerations will have greater weight in Ottawa than on the Atlantic seaboard, due to the intensive industrialism with which it is associated, and patronage considerations to which railway directors and coal barons are closely allied, and which exert a powerful influence over mens conduct, although somewhat barren of moral significance. It is passing strange that any old thing that has been tried and found wanting in Europe should take root here and flourish like a green bay tree, and notwithstanding our antipathy to social barnacles, we shall render them all possible assistance in an advisory capacity; to shorten the rope "that democracy demands should long since have been utilized for the purpose of strangulation," the obsequies would be gratuitously attended by an elated but long-suffering people.

THE QUEST OF COAL.

There can be no doubt that this question is causing serious embarrassment to the running of industry and still

greater alarm to the housewives, who see the winter supply fast dwindling and no sign of a let-up, or the possibilities of procuring more only at an extortionate price. Whether the shortage is real, or purely of an artificial nature amounting to a hold-up by the coal corporations for the sake of their much-loved enhanced prices, is a debatable question. But, whether feigned or real, it is about time to call the bluff of our civic and national administrations, who rant much about representation and are so sluggish or unmindful of their trust that a great amount of unnecessary suffering is caused through their indolence and covert rapacity.

All the talk of running railways and producing coal for the poor dear public is animated by a desire to exploit the sentiment while moving as slowly as possible in that direction. There is not much need for second chambers, where interest and profit are at stake.

And the capitalists may continue to eat, drink and be merry, "their natural habit," as long as the man in the street is prepared to suffer in silence, steadfastly relying upon the ruling class to attend to his bodily and mental ills. The time has come to quit grumbling, and do some hard thinking, and not a little kicking—the gentleman booted and spurred ride leisurely upon the backs of the toilers—"and will continue to do so until the workers develop sufficient backbone as to suggest a good riddance to this cumbrous load of human leeches" by pushing them off.

AN ANTHOLOGY OF SOCIAL-DEMOCRACY

N.B.—This is No. 8 of a series of passages culled from the works of the world's greatest sociological writers. In their final form these articles will make a worth-while anthology of Social-Democracy.

A MONETARY NUISANCE.

Money is of no real value whatever. What can I do with it now? I cannot pay a man enough to make him change his real opinions. The only real resource this country has now is the intelligence of our people. They must think right, they must know the true principles on which to build a great, strong nation. They must hold firm to the big, true things, and realize—some way they must be made to realize—that they are practical, that ideals are the only practical things in this world. It is to everybody's interest to do right. Not in the next world, nor in a spiritual way only, but in good, hard dollars-and-cents business value. Let's be practical. Suppose we do prepare for war? Suppose we do take the energies of our young men and spend them in training for war? Our country needs the whole energy of every man in productive work—work that will make more food, more clothing, better houses. But suppose we turn that energy from real uses, train it to destroy, instead of to create? Suppose we have half a million young men ready to fight? What weapons shall we give them? Shall we give them guns? They will be out of date. Shall we give them poisonous gases, or disease germs, or shall we invent something even more horrible? As fast as we make these things, other nations will make worse ones. Shall we turn our factories into munition plants? Shall we build dreadnaughts? The submarine destroys them. Shall we build submarines? Other nations will make submarine destroyers. Shall we build submarine destroyers? Other nations will build war-aeroplanes to destroy them. We must make something worse than the aeroplanes, and something worse still, and then something still more horrible, bidding senselessly up and up and up, spending millions on mil-

lions, trying to outdo other nations, which are trying to outdo us. For if we begin preparing for war we must not stop. We cannot stop. I read articles in the magazines saying that we might as well have no navy at all, as the one we have; that we might as well have no army as the army we have, if this country should be invaded. Yet we have already spent millions on that army and that navy. Let us spend millions more, and more millions, and more, and still, unless we keep on spending more than any other nation can spend, we might as well have no army or navy at all. And yet there are people who think that to begin such a course is "practical," is good common-sense. I tell you, the only real strength of a nation is the spirit of its people. The only real, practical value in the world is the spirit of the people of the world. There were animals on the earth ages ago who could kill a hundred men with one sweep of a paw, but they are gone, and we survive. Why? Because men have minds, because they use their minds in doing useful things, making food, and clothes, and shelters.

HENRY FORD.

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.

CORRESPONDENCE

HAMILTON.

"Why I am a Socialist" was the title of the lecture given by Comrade Joseph Stewart, Toronto, at our regular Sunday afternoon meeting on February 18th. It was indeed a finely reasoned and finely delivered address, just the sort needed to set the worker right in his attitude to impending social industrial changes. He very strikingly pointed out the dangers the workers had to guard against in the introduction of Bismarkian state capitalism, under which the working class would be as effectually robbed as under direct private ownership, and strikers would be regarded and treated as mutineers. In defining the difference between his party, the S. P. of N. A., and our own Comrade Stewart quoted statements made by S. D. P. aspirants to public office, which, he claimed, proved that they did not fully realize the nature of the class struggle. The good demand for literature was some indication of the interest aroused by the address.—J. A.

NIAGARA FALLS LOCAL NO. 60 CALLS FOR A REFERENDUM FOR BOTH MEN AND WEALTH.

"Whereas, The question of Conscription is at present greatly agitating the minds of the Canadian people, and, whereas, the working class of every country are always the losers in war, no matter who wins, and, whereas, to be consistent with the principles of a democratic country, the will of the people must be obtained on every vital question; therefore, be it resolved:—

"That before any steps whatever are taken to establish conscription in the Dominion of Canada, a referendum on this question be submitted to all the people of Canada, both women as well as men, and that the will of the people be the deciding factor, and be it further resolved, that immediate steps be taken to submit a referendum to conscript the wealth of the Dominion."

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