

## The Indicator

A Journal of History, Economics,  
Philosophy and Current Events

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Editor.....C. Stephenson

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### A Labor College Wanted

**P**OLITICALLY and ethically, the movement of the working class, as a whole, draws further and further away from the bourgeoisie. The gulf widens and deepens under the stress of economic pressure and of the progressive historical forces generally. The bourgeois political parties are fundamentally impotent to satisfy working class needs and aspirations. This is manifested in every country in the world by working class parties appearing on the political field as independent political forces, disputing with increasing strength the power of the bourgeois parties. Therefore, we need a Labor College in Canada, for intensive education on all subjects that will fit men to play their part efficiently as educators or in any other capacity in the working class movement which it will require trained minds to fill.

Talkers there are aplenty, but there is no more pitiful spectacle, nor perhaps any more dangerous object, than a man in executive position who talks or acts on vital questions without understanding them, because he has no grasp of certain mental necessities, only acquired by a thorough study of such subjects as economics and history, etc. There are problems now, and in the future, others, which can only be solved by the working class and which must be dealt with as that class assumes that larger part in the direction of political and industrial affairs which, in the near future, it is destined to play.

In the meantime, the most important political problem facing the working class is its own education on political and economic questions. Or, otherwise all is confusion and riot; and we of the class-conscious workers, hope, with a burning hope, for a peaceful and orderly progress. We regard an advance into a new social order as inevitable, because we recognize that humanity is compelled along by economic forces that will not be denied. And so, whether it is along the peaceful sunlit paths of progress we travel, or through the valley of the shadow, will depend solely on whether the problems of the day are understood or not by those whom they most press upon for a solution, i.e., the working class. Should the latter way be the one we travel, then those, who by their passivity, apathy and slumberous inactivity neglect to farther this education, will be equally responsible with those who by violence and repression strive to frustrate it.

Let us rouse ourselves and set this working class educational institution at work, as the workers have done

in Great Britain. There is little time. The working class are staggering under an increasing burden of misery which could not be imposed upon them except of their ignorance.

When we get this college started, working men from the woods, the mines, and the shop, having attended a session of intensive and systematic study of social problems, will go back to their occupations, having prestige as being trained thinkers, and be a power for good among their fellow workers. Commence discussion on this matter. John Maclean, who was one of those most active in starting the Scottish Labor College, in the letter to us which we published in last issue, says, "Let the progressive West start the ball rolling." Let those who have any influence in the organized labor movement get busy. Write to the labor papers. Get the editors to carry on an agitational campaign on the advisability of a college, including a discussion of ways and means. One college for a start, then, a second and a third, if possible. The education of the working class can only be carried out by workers themselves. Therefore, the field being large, the season short, speed the plow!

### A Warning

**I**N spite of the press, which has already passed judgment on the Centralia affair, past experience warns us to withhold it until further information arrives. For a long time it is well known that the workers organized in the I. W. W., have been subjected to extremely bad treatment in that city. And early reports of the inquest show that the first move was made by the street crowd to attack the hall. Probably we shall never know all of the circumstances. The ways of the secret service and its agents are dark and peculiar. The history of the organized labor movement in the States has been scored deep with the sinister operations of agents provocateurs. Time and time again it has been brought to light that they have been the chief instigators of violence. Favorable occasions are seized when feelings run high over grievance, to precipitate action. The sure way to defeat such methods is to work in the open. But in that respect the ruling class has a responsibility. If by repressive measures they seek to prevent members of the wage working class from organizing to better their conditions of work and wages, or to prevent the free expression or discussion of the ideal of a social organization put forward as a superior alternative to the present one, then they but repeat the age-old futilities of other generations of rulers, having neither forgot anything nor learned anything.

The Centralia affair has been seized upon with avidity as an excuse to inaugurate a new reign of terrorism against economic and political unorthodoxy in the States. We desire to warn our readers in Canada that a similar campaign would be welcomed here by certain interests. There are reasons why this kind of a red herring is desired to draw attention from other matters, among which are, the returned soldier's gratuity question, and the trial of the labor men in Winnipeg. Already, if you study the daily press, it will be seen that they are at work on the

## Some Notes on Elementary Economics

I.

**P**OLITICAL Economy is that branch of science which deals with the production and distribution of wealth. It is a matter of observing the facts and drawing such general conclusions or "laws" as are warranted by those facts concerning the way in which man in society gets his living.

Wealth, in a general sense, may be said to consist of all those things which are necessary, useful or desirable to man. This definition, however, would take in all such things as land, water, forests, air and sunshine and, for the purposes of political economy is much too broad. The things just mentioned are generally spoken of as "natural wealth" and in order to make them of use to man require a certain amount of work. The land must be cultivated, the forests cut down, the coal-dug, even wild berries must be picked.

The act of production consists of just such work and may be defined as the expenditure of labor-power with the object of producing some useful object. The factors, that is to say the things necessary to production are:

(1) The natural resources of the earth, sometimes called "land" or "nature."

(2) Labor.

(3) The instruments of production, tools, etc. These, under certain conditions are capital.

Every ordinary man generates a certain amount of energy which may be used in work of the brain or hand. This energy, or ability to work, is called labor-power. Labor-power in use is labor. The useful thing which results from the act of production is a "product," products are said to possess utility or use-value. The use-value of any product depends on its natural properties. For instance, bread or meat is nourishing, wool is comfortable, coal may be burned in a fire and so on. These products of labor taken altogether, are the wealth of modern society. Wealth, then, may be defined as those products of labor which are necessary, useful or desirable for the life and well-being of man.

We are here concerned only with the production and distribution of wealth under the present form of society, that is, the capitalist system. The word distribution as here used means the manner in which the products of labor are shared out among the various classes and individuals in society. The capitalist system rests on certain rights, the right to life, liberty, contract and property. And involves certain conditions such as the exchange of goods, division of labor, co-operation of labor and the use of machinery. The right of property is no longer regarded as a "natural" or "sacred" right and may therefore be defined simply as the legal right to the exclusive use or disposal of any natural object or any product of labor en-

joyed by any person or number of persons. The operation of these rights in society has been such as to bring about a division of society into classes as follows:

(1) A class who own the land and other natural resources.

(2) A class who own the instruments and means of wealth production.

(3) A class which owns nothing except their labor-power—the working class or "proletariat."

So far as this continent is concerned, these two classes may be lumped together as the capitalist class or "bourgeoisie."

GEORDIE.

(To Be Continued)

### LOCAL SMITHERS ACTIVE

The members of Local Smithers S. P. of C. are proposing to build a hall and have already collected some funds towards the expenses. At least \$500 will be required. A comrade has donated a vacant lot in a central location and all labor will be donated free. The hall will be used for reading and recreation. Current papers and periodicals will be provided, and in addition it is proposed to establish a lending library. On occasion the hall will be rented for meetings and social gatherings.

The town of Smithers is centrally located in Northern B. C., and a hall where working men may meet freely and in comfort and enjoy social intercourse, will be, we are sure, much appreciated. Anyone who will assist in the building and furnishing of this hall, either financially or otherwise, will earn the gratitude of the Comrades of Local Smithers. Send any assistance to

R. C. Mutch,  
Box 10, Smithers, B. C.

### SUBSCRIBERS TO "INDICATOR" WANTED

The subscriptions are rolling in for "The Indicator," but not nearly fast enough to reach the stipulated 1000 increase in the time called for. Increase the pace, if those who have not started to rustle subs will get busy we shall make it yet. Remember all obligations are guaranteed fulfillment, or money returned: 20 issues for one dollar; bundles of five and over, 4c per copy.

### PROPAGANDA MEETINGS, VANCOUVER

Every Sunday evening at 8 o'clock, in the Empress Theatre, corner Gore Avenue and Hastings Street.  
Doors open 7:30. Come early.

### Labor Defence Fund

Send all money and make all cheques payable to A. S. Wells, B. C. Federationist, Labor Temple, Vancouver, B. C.

Collection agency for Alberta: A. Broatch, 1203 Eighth avenue east, Calgary, Alta.

Central Collection Agency: J. Law, Secretary, Defence Fund, Room 1, 530 Main street, Winnipeg.