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### RAMSAY MACDONALD AND SOVIETS

When we refer to British radicals there are some outstanding names that immediately present themselves to our mind. One of these is Mr. Ramsay Macdonald. There is no doubt about his being a Socialist, and Lenin himself is not more positive in his denunciation of Capitalism. Mr. Macdonald's criticism of the Russian revolution should therefore carry more weight than the usual literary offensives against Bolshevism.

Mr. Macdonald's book, "Parliament and Revolution" is a defense of the democratic and parliamentary reform as against the method of which Lenin is the most conspicuous example. He is opposed to copying Lenin's methods in England because he believes that there is a safer road to the realization of Lenin's ultimate ideals than the dictatorship of the proletariat. "A Parliamentary election," he says, "will give us all the power that Lenin had to get by a revolution, and such a majority can proceed to effect the transition from Capitalism to Socialism with the co-operation of the people, and not merely by edict." Socialists, he tells his readers, ought not to accept the doctrine "that Capitalist methods of repression and force can be used by Socialists to free peoples, and that a rule of tyranny is necessary as a preliminary to a reign of liberty." He puts no more trust in the "tyranny to end tyranny" than he did in "the war to end war."

The Soviet system of government is an autocratic system. The Russian Soviets are both local governments and electoral colleges for the election of members of the next higher Soviet; until by the time the supreme council is reached, all contact with the people is lost. Mr. Macdonald says that "only a low state of political interest and intelligence will tolerate this system of government." Mr. Macdonald believes in parliamentary democracy. Nor does he look with favor upon the proposal to substitute industrial for geographical constituencies.

To those who from the beginning have maintained that the Soviet system was not democratic, and have opposed its principle for that reason, Ramsay Macdonald's book gives added assurance. The British leader makes no compromise with the old order but upholds democracy. He is unequivocally opposed, and rightly so, to autocracy even though it might be "for the good of the masses."

### INDIVIDUALISM ON THE TOBOGGAN

A speaker at the Kiwanis club on Monday told the members of that organization that individualism was on the toboggan. "Communism and collective legislation" was interfering with the individual liberties of the people. And the danger of this communist legislation, the speaker thought, was that it had a tendency of causing a decline in individual responsibility and enterprise. In the ranks of Labor, the individual man did not have anything to say as to the number of hours he would work. This was arranged and regulated for him by collective representation.

Dealing with this last point of the speaker's, we can scarcely believe that Capt. Cameron was correctly reported. What did the worker have to say regarding the number of hours he should work before the advent of "collective representation," or trade unionism to which the speaker no doubt referred? He had nothing to say. The employer had absolute control, and the hours worked were those hours which he and not his workers determined. It was when the workers decided upon collective action that they did begin to have some say as to the hours they should work. The workers' "individual liberty" was increased by "collective representation."

The speaker declared that communist legislation was greatly increasing. It has been piling up for some time. But is it a fact that there is a decline in "individual responsibility and enterprise"? Emphatically no. Never in the world's history have men risen to the needs of the times as has been the case during the present generation. And as the world progresses toward a more equitable and just order of society, men will arise with a greater vision and higher ideals than were possible under a system based on personal greed and selfishness. By collective organization the people can alone attain the "liberty" about which the defenders of the old order are so fearful. Then from the ranks of those who are now kept down by economic circumstances will arise a people, fully developed, whose "individual responsibility and enterprise" will be intensified in the service of humanity. We have only to turn the pages of history to prove that the greatest deeds of all the ages have been inspired by unselfish motives. Why then will collectivism, or the greatest good for the greatest number, cause a decline in individual responsibility and enterprise?

### THE VETERANS AND POLITICS

President W. A. Irwin of the Provincial G.W.V.A. told the East Edmonton U.F.A. that the veterans are "free lance" politically. Mr. Irwin's statement is somewhat vague. If he meant that the returned men were as individuals to unite with the political organization that suited them best, then the "free lance" idea is a practicable one. If, however, Mr. Irwin's statement was intended to convey the idea that the G.W.V.A. as a body should be a separate political group, there are very many veterans and others who would oppose such action.

It is true that returned men have some special interests. But the instances where the interests of the veteran are different from those of other individuals who occupy a similar economic position, are few, and such special interests are at best of a temporary nature. The veteran working in a factory, for instance, and his mate who is not a returned man, have interests that are identical. Especially are their political interests exactly alike. But a separate G.W.V.A. political movement would place them in different political parties. The most damaging characteristic of the old line political parties was the fact that they created an unnatural division. A Soldiers' party would have the same bad feature. The place for the wage-earning returned soldier is in the ranks of the workers' movement. The farmer veteran has interests identical with those of his farmer neighbor who is not a returned man. These are natural divisions, and it is to be hoped that in referring to the Veterans as "free lance" President Irwin meant that the returned men were free to take their places in the political movements that would best serve their several interests.

### AGITATE FOR ADULT EDUCATION

In concluding his very valuable series of articles on University Extension work, Professor Ottewill made some suggestions as to what should be done to increase the usefulness of the university in this province. In the immediate future the following expansion of the existing service should be made:

1. Correspondence Teaching—  
Courses by correspondence ought to be offered on all subjects capable of being taught by such a method, at least up to and including the second year in a University Course.
2. Travelling Instructors should be engaged whose business it would be to organize groups along the line of the Workers' Colleges, already in existence in the United States, making such adaptations as our conditions required. Wherever it is possible to secure a group of students from ten to thirty, who were willing to give some of their spare time, and to pay a reasonable fee for instruction, it should be possible for them to secure such instruction. Judging from the amount of money which outside schools are taking from Alberta for instruction by correspondence, such work could be made self-supporting or nearly so.

## The Home-Furnishing Department Is Making an Elaborate Showing of Seasonable Goods for Indoors and Out

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There is no doubt about who would receive benefit from a service such as outlined above. There are in this province, as in every other province, thousands of men and women who have not had the opportunity to enjoy the pleasures and benefits of education, and who would be quick to take advantage of a plan as outlined in Mr. Ottewill's articles. The Free Press can heartily endorse his observation that "organized Labor could make no greater single contribution, either to the welfare of working men and women, or to that of the province and country and world, at large, than by agitating for and insisting upon an immediate development of adult education, along what are commonly called cultural lines, dealing with literature, art, science, history, and economics, to an extent never tried before."

### MANITOBA

At the time of going to press (Wednesday afternoon) the returns from the Manitoba elections are yet incomplete. It is determined, however, that the Norris Government will not have a clear majority, and the Conservatives are hopelessly swamped.

Labor throughout Canada will rejoice over the result. There is good reason to believe that twelve of the fifteen Labor candidates will be elected. The enormous vote piled up by Fred Dixon in Winnipeg is at once gratifying and a splendid tribute to the man.

The whole result is a sign of the times; another proof that the people of Canada have broken from the bondage of old political traditions and are thinking and voting along independent lines.

### EDITOR'S NOTES

Democracy in industry is as logical and reasonable as democracy in government. We need them both.

Two dismal union failures: The camouflage Union Government and the camouflage One Big Union.

The sources of ivory are the elephant, the walrus, the hippo, the mammoth and the United States Senate.—Dallas News. Why overlook our old men's home in Ottawa?

When the American Federation of Labor met in Toronto in 1909 the membership numbered 1,450,000. At the convention just held in Montreal the affiliated membership was 4,078,450.

We must take consolation from the fact that the longer the Union Government hangs on to office the more complete will be the smash when it does come.

The Trades and Labor Congress of Canada meets in convention in about two months. Now is the time when unions should plan to send delegates. An "Edmonton in 1921" movement in connection with the convention would not be out of place.

Readers who did not carefully peruse the extracts from W. Jett Lauck's report in last week's Free Press should dig up the paper and read it. Two readings wouldn't hurt. Mr. Lauck has compiled statistics that give an effective answer to the fallacy that increases in wages are responsible for the H.C.L.

The Dominion is making a good change in indemnity of the members by paying for the days attended rather than fining a man for the days he is absent. One time an Alberta member was appointed senator on the day that the provincial legislature opened. He did not attend the session, but asked for his sessional indemnity of \$1,500 less \$400, which was the fine for being absent 40 days, all the days of the session at \$10 a day. The legislature thought that looked too much like profiteering and the gentleman was not paid.—Calgary Albertan.

## CAPITALISTS HAVE LEARNED HOW TO CO-OPERATE

(Continued from Page One)

trained since 1909. This had no illusions about competition. Rather, it has had as its object the successful combination of various forms of business enterprise into ever larger units. First there was the uniting of like industries. Cotton mills were linked with cotton mills; mines with mines. Then came the integration of industry—the concentration under one control of all of the steps in the industrial process from the raw material to the finished product—iron mines, coal mines, blast furnaces, converters, and rail mills united in one organization to take the raw material from the ground and to turn out the finished steel product. Last of all there was the union of unlike industries—the control, by one group of interest of so many and as varied activities as could be brought together and operated at a profit.

It was in the consummation of these combinations, integration and consolid-

ations that the investment banker came into his own as the key-stone in the modern industrial arch.

Business is consolidated, because consolidation pays—not primarily, through the increases of prices, but through the greater stability the lessened costs, and the growing security that has accompanied the abolition of competition.

Again the forces of social organization have triumphed in the face of an almost universal opposition. American business men practiced competition until they found that co-operation was the only possible means of conducting large affairs. The business experiences of the past fifty years have added another to the many causes that were forcing the business individualist to unite with his fellows. Theory advised, "Compete!" Experience warned, "Combine!" Business men—like all other practical people—accepted the dictates of experience as the only sound basis for procedure. They combined because their competitive struggles had pointed out to them the direction in which lay their common salvation. Their combination solidified their ranks, preparing them to take their places in a closely knit, dominant class, with clearly marked interests, and a strong feeling of class consciousness and solidarity.

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