

Are we to see a re-occurrence of the happenings of the early years of the 19th century, when the Industrial Revolution so changed the productive forces that the old handicraftsman found that the skill of his hands could not compete against power-driven machinery, and that his occupation was gone and his place taken by a child machine operator or a woman. Almost simultaneously the return of the victorious Empire defenders from the battlefield of Waterloo precipitated large numbers of soldiers into a civil life already overburdened with the task of re-adjusting its social conditions, and bringing them into line with economic changes brought about by the use of the engine and the machine. The fluid state of society at that period made it possible for such an intensified exploitation of the workers by the new industrial capitalist factory owners to be accomplished that the workers of to-day have not yet thrown off its effects. The numbers of men and women involved are so much more vast in the present crisis, that if history repeats itself on a bigger scale, the horrors of the 1800-1850 period will seem small and trifling in comparison with the mischief that will be wrought.

OUR OBJECTIVE

No form of organization and no plans for attack can be of service unless the workers possess a clear recognition of the service and purpose of the working class. Is our purpose the mere securing of an extra few shillings per week or the reduction of one, two or even many hours of labor? If it is, then the workers' industrial movement need but hand itself over to the tender mercies of the Alliance of Employers and Employed. The employing class will of itself concede these things, knowing well that "contented" workers, tolerably well cared for, will do more work and will be quite "safe." Our purpose must be clear and definite, and be the guiding inspiration of all our activities. It must be nothing less than the full and complete determination by ourselves of the conditions under which we live and work, and the full control by ourselves of the wealth we produce. The accomplishment of this purpose cannot be the work of benevolent, philosophical professors engaged in analysing society, or of social quacks with distorted vision. All progress comes from below. The working class has been brought into being as a class, and has become an entity by the development of the productive forces. Capitalism has produced it, and will be destroyed by it. No compact with the employing class can serve the purpose of Labor. No class can be entered into, because even when declared a period, as during the war years,

they have not and could not be observed by the capitalist class, notwithstanding that the workers were prepared to keep their side of the contract.

The spirit that led the South Wales miners, the workers on the Clyde, and later on the engineers, to challenge capitalist law and order in the shape of the Munitions and Defence of the Realm Acts, is the spirit that will carry the workers through to their final goal. This spirit should not, however, be wasted in struggles for trifling gains. It must be conserved and even disciplined in order that when called upon to be used it may be found ready and prepared. All forms of working class activity need to be co-ordinated. We have seen how the State—capitalism in its most highly developed form—has taken part in industrial regulation and control, and because of this the struggles of the future will bring the workers into conflict with capitalism at its very nerve center—the State. The programme laid down by the President of the Trade Union Congress at Blackpool for the closer linking up of the industrial, political and co-operative phases of the movement, is more comprehensive than any proposal yet taken up by organized Labor. But behind it there must be the driving force of Labor in revolt against modern conditions, and Labor determined to work out its own salvation.

We have said that Trade Unionism has reached the cross roads. It has to choose between a losing policy of defence and a policy of purposeful and determined attack. It has to choose between alliance with Capital for the maintenance of capitalist supremacy and a condition of things in which Labor will always play second fiddle in the oligarchs' orchestra; and the asserting of its position in the struggle for freedom as an integral part of the armoury of a fighting working class. United, Labor conquers all; divided it remains the tool of its exploiters. United, resolute, determined and refusing to be side-tracked by specious promises or arrangements, the working class nationally and internationally can consolidate its forces, close its ranks, and prepare, first for the clearing the ground of the encumbrances of autocracy and despotism, industrial and political; and secondly, for the building of the new society by the labor of its own hands. Those who do the work of the world have the first claim to full and free opportunities for self development, for education, for leisure, and for the enjoyment of all good things of the earth, which without their labor could not be produced, but which, because they have so far not had the will to prevent it, have been filched from them by a class whose usefulness in society has long passed away. A glorious future is our heritage; it awaits us and it calls

us on. Our own class interests demand that we shall obey the call and march shoulder to shoulder, skilled and unskilled, men and women, all banded together for one common purpose—the winning of true freedom.

THE SOCIAL DEMOCRAT.

This paper is published by Toronto Central Committee, of the Social Democratic Party of Canada; in order to place the views of that body before the electors of this city in the forthcoming Municipal Elections, January 1st, 1919. This means has been devised in order to cope with the conditions of "Press Censorship" which was responsible for banning our official organ the "Canadian Forward" and in this respect we may add: That it was significant that the above mentioned paper was banned at a time when peace was within measurable distance—the armistice being signed within one month of the date of suppression. It is more than remarkable that this course was adopted by the powers that were at that particular time, and also by the fact:—that only one instance of objection had ever been brought to our notice by the Chief Press Censor, and that of a purely technical nature.

ORDERS IN COUNCIL

The "Order in Council" banning the Social Democratic Party and the consequent disorganization following from this order is principally responsible for us not placing candidates in the field at this time. It has always been a part of our propaganda to place candidates in the field at such times in order that the electors might become familiar with the purpose and policy of the Party. The S.D.P. was formed in the year 1908 and from that time to the present we have always advocated constitutional means for the accomplishment of our purpose. i.e. To legislate the Profit System out of business, and to introduce the principle of Co-operation, not only in the methods of production—but also in the ownership of the means of life. The transformation of "Capitalist Class" property into the property of the Working Class.

Some time ago we stated in the columns of the "Canadian Forward" that the "Order in Council" would not convert any person to the rightness of such orders, but on the contrary would result in a large number of people being sent to jail. We can now state that this prediction has come true, hundreds have felt the heavy hand and many have been sent to prison under these orders upon the most flimsy pretexts—politics playing a very important part in the prosecutions. The orders have fulfilled no useful purpose unless the

prevailing signs of revolt against these measures are a sign of good purpose. They have given considerable momentum to the principle of "General Strike," and the worst is yet to come. All appeals to have the "Orders in Council" removed have been unavailing, and as orderly and peaceful citizens we place the Government on record as the responsible party for any development, upon direct action lines which has taken place. When any government stands impudently in the path of progress and commands "Halt"—they are thereby engendering sentiments of revolt, which if not ended, are likely to throw the country into a condition of civil war.

CLASS WAR—AND PROFITEERING.

The Anti-Socialist will tell you that we are making a "Class War," such, however, is not the case, as we merely point out that there are two classes in Society whose interests are opposed to each other, as per instance:—At the time of the Compulsory Military Service enactment we took the ground that if the lives of the working class were taken in defence of the Empire—and that the Empire depended upon the workers, that it was perfectly logical that the resources of the Empire should also be "Conscripted" in order to defend the workers and their dependents as compensation for their sacrifices. We may add that this was precisely the attitude of the Trades Congress in Convention at Vancouver over two years ago. Now, what did the Government do in this matter? Did they place wealth on the same plane as Man-Power? No. The whole history of the War proves conclusively that not only did they not Conscript Wealth—but even permitted the corporation to make fabulous profits out of War Supplies. Money loans were even exempt from taxation, and the cost of living soared so high that prices of commodities have no parallel in history. This instance of conscienceless profiteering is conclusive proof that the Government were representing a "Class" and were carrying on a "Class War" against the workers who were cajoled into making these sacrifices in the name of "Patriotism" and "Liberty." This, and many other instances might be quoted in defense of our position, and vindicates to us the recognized necessity of "Capturing the Powers of Government," in order that the wealth producers may thereby determine how to divide the products of their labor according to the needs of the people. That is a great Nation which possess within its own borders a great number of "Happy," Healthy, Human beings. Social Democracy will make of Canada—a Great Nation.