

The Indicator

A Journal of History, Economics,
Philosophy and Current Events

Published every Week By the
Socialist Party of Canada.

401 Pender St. E., Vancouver, B. C.

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Subscriptions to "The Indicator,"
20 issues \$1.00

SATURDAY.....NOVEMBER 8, 1919

Democracy!

ONE of the Harmsworth family of newspaper magnates, the head of which is Lord Northcliffe, is a British Cabinet Minister. A press despatch reports him as announcing for the British Government, "that the blockade would not be lifted from Soviet Russia until a Democracy was established in that country." Strewth: the governing classes have lost all sense of humor. A Harmsworth talking about Democracy is as a lion emitting from his leonine throat the plaintive bleating of a lamb. More than any other group interests in the newspaper world have the Harmsworth interests been instrumental in enslaving the press of Great Britain. For years they have been following the course of buying out or killing by competition one journal after another until they now dominate the newspaper and periodical world in that country, owning from the London "Times," clear down through all classes of publications to halfpenny comic papers. Of daily newspapers alone it is said they own over forty. Besides this gigantic Harmsworth machine there are two or three more press syndicates leaving about as many independent journals as can be counted on one hand. When Northcliffe roars, his countless editors and writers roar in unison. Prime ministers and cabinet ministers dance to the tune they call. Bullitt reports that on his submitting the report of his mission to Russia to Lloyd George, that the latter during the discussion of it, pointing to a Harmsworth journal, said, "How can we act sensibly towards Russia when the press is talking about Russia like this." And still the unctuous hypocrites can get up in the National assembly and blether about Democracy; and all the bankers, profiteers, Col's., Capt's., and Major-Gen's., cheer them on.

The Indicator

In the last issue of "The Indicator" we notified our readers that, owing to an increase in the price charged by the printer, it was necessary that the circulation of the paper be increased in order to overcome this handicap. We appealed for an increase of 1000 within a month. There is little need to point out that everything is more costly today than ever except the price of "The Indicator." That is cheaper than ever at five cents, because it contains more reading matter than any of its immediate predecessors issued by the Party. As to the quality of the matter from an educational standpoint, it is open to criticism of course, but is the best we can do at present. If we can raise the circulation, then better ability can be put on the job. We want our readers to look on this matter as their business. It seems to us there

is a lifting of the cloud that has rested on working class education this last five years, and that we are due for a great expansion in activity along those lines. In Canada, we have a field that needs cultivating badly. Knowledge and understanding of social problems must be sown among our fellow workers if we are to reap the harvest of a better world. And, if we will not do it, who will? Extend your propaganda, comrades! Let that be your prime object. Incidentally to the extent of your success, the existence of "The Indicator" will be assured and its influence for good increased. Get an extra copy and introduce it to your friends. Send for small bundles, carry the Socialist message into every nook and corner of the Dominion. Educate! Educate! Educate!

NEED FOR A LABOR COLLEGE

[Just before going to press, we received the following letter from Winnipeg. The contents of this letter add weight to the advice offered to us in John Maclean's letter, in another column, in that it shows, that there is a growing opinion in this country, that it is time the matter of establishing Labor Colleges here, as in the Old Country, should be brought up for discussion at least. It is up to Comrades in the labor movement to move in this matter and start the ball a-rolling.—Edit.]

Winnipeg.

Dear Comrade:

The Educational Committee of the O. B. U. Central Labor Council have under consideration the establishing of a Labor College, however, there are several economic classes going on at the present time and the "Fire-eating" Pritchard informed me, that a correspondence course was being arranged by your committee in Economics, therefore, I am writing for full information and a sample of the course, because, knowing the calibre of the movement at the Coast, I think that it could be used in the Economic Classes here, and in the Labor College when started

Further, any information respecting Labor Colleges would be welcome. I have already written to John Maclean, Glasgow, but have not yet received any reply. I am doing my best to start a campaign of education in Winnipeg, because I realize that the progress of the movement depends upon how much knowledge can be disseminated among that rank and file, and any "assistance" would be thankfully received in this respect.

A. J. B.

For the Educational Committee.

NEW PUBLICATION BY HUEBSCH PUBLISHING HOUSE

B. W. Huebsch, Publisher, New York City, announces for immediate publication a contribution to an understanding of Russia and of the Allied policy toward that country: "THE BULLITT MISSION TO RUSSIA. Testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee of William C. Bullitt." It includes these important documents in full: Lenin's Peace Proposals, Bullitt's Report on Russia, Lincoln Steffens' Report on Russia, Capt. Pettitt's Reports on Russia, Discussions of the Peace Conference on a Policy towards Russia. The book contains 160 pages and will be published in two editions: Paper covers, 50 cents; Cloth covers, \$1.00. Add postage 10 cents. Those desiring copies of the first edition are urged to order promptly. Mr. Bullitt's story is the logical sequel to Ransome's "Russia in 1919," (\$1.50), now in its third edition. Mention "The Indicator" when ordering. B. W. Huebsch, Publishers, 32 West 58th Street, New York City, N.Y.

Propaganda Meeting, at Empress Theatre, corner Gore Avenue and Hastings street, Sunday, 8 p.m. Doors open at 7:30 p.m.

Concerning Prices

Relations of Supply and Demand Affecting Commodities and Money-Currency

HAVING occasion, recently, to look up Hyndman's "Economics of Socialism," I happened to notice a quotation from an old-time economist, one Lord Lauderdale, to the following effect:—

"With respect to the variations in value, of which everything valuable is susceptible, if we could suppose for a moment that any substance possessed intrinsic and fixed value so as to render an assumed quantity of it constantly, under all circumstances, of equal value, then the degree of all things, ascertained by such a fixed standard, would vary according to the proportion betwixt the quantity of them and the demand, and every commodity would of course be subject to a variation from four different circumstances.

"1. It would be subject to an increase of its value from a diminution of its quantity.

"2. To a diminution of its value from an augmentation of its quantity.

"3. It might suffer an augmentation in its value from the circumstance of an increased demand.

"4. Its value might be diminished by a failure of demand.

"As it will, however, clearly appear that no commodity can possess fixed and intrinsic value so as to qualify it for a measure of value of other commodities, mankind are induced to select as a practical measure of value that which appears to be least liable to any of these four sources of variation which are the sole causes of alteration of value.

"When in common language, therefore, we express the value of any

THE PROLETARIAN UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT

The Proletarian University with headquarters in 174 Michigan avenue, Detroit, whose Official Organ is the "Proletarian," is issuing a series of outline courses in Socialist theory. These we understand are for advanced students who already have some knowledge of the basic principles of the Socialist Philosophy. Lesson sheets for each of thirteen sections are in course of preparation and no doubt will be procurable in due course.

The manager of the "Proletarian," A. J. MacGregor, has kindly forwarded to us a syllabus of the subjects for the course. This we regard so highly as indicating the scope of Socialist discussion, that we shall take the liberty of publishing it in a future issue of the "Indicator." Comrade MacGregor has also forwarded to us proof sheets of a paper on "Suggestions for the Conducting of Study Classes," which is to be published in the November "Proletarian." This also we shall take the liberty of reproducing. The "Proletarian" is published by the Proletarian Publishing Co., at the above address and is issued monthly in magazine form. Subscription rates are one dollar a year or ten cents a copy. Money Orders to be made payable to the above Company.

commodity, it may vary at one period from what it is at another, in consequence of eight different contingencies:—

"1. From the four circumstances above-stated, in relation to the commodity of which we mean to express the value.

"2. From the same four circumstances in relation to the commodity we have adopted as a measure of value."

For the present I propose to divide this statement into two parts, considering each separately, that is, firstly, the four circumstances concerning commodities and, secondly, the four circumstances concerning money. Taking the first four statements and substituting the word "price" for "value," and interpreting "quantity" as "supply," we have a very fair statement of the law of "supply and demand."

The second four statements relative to the money-commodity, form the basis of the "quantity theory of money," and show very clearly that this theory is simply the extension of the law of supply and demand, to cover the relations between commodities and money. Any increase in the quantity of money in circulation, it is alleged, manifests itself as an increased demand for goods and tends to raise prices. Any decrease in the quantity of money would have the opposite effect. On the other hand, any decrease or increase in the quantity of goods offered relatively to the quantity of money in circulation would have corresponding effects.

Now, it will, of course, be understood that there is here no question of the determination of value, but simply of one of the laws governing the variations in prices. Nevertheless, the law of supply and demand is one of great importance inasmuch as it is the medium by means of which so many economic factors make themselves effective. This is more than ever true at the present time when, owing to the disappearance of the money-commodity, all of the eight circumstances mentioned by Lauderdale are in full operation. The currencies of practically all civilized countries are no longer on a gold basis and the value of money, so to speak, is now a mere matter of quantity in circulation.

It will be well to note that the word demand is used in the sense of "effective" demand. It is not sufficient that people should desire goods; they must be able and willing to pay for them to constitute an effective demand.

The law of supply and demand has often been stated in this manner:— The prices of commodities will vary in a direct ratio to the demand and in an inverse ratio to the supply.

This is incorrect. Prices have a reciprocal effect on both the supply and the demand for any given commodity. No commodity can continue to be produced at a price below its price of production and, on the other hand, any increase of prices will immediately react on the demand. This, however, forms the starting point for another story concerning monopoly prices which will have to wait for another time. GEORDIE.