

PLATFORM

Socialist Party of Canada

We, the Socialist Party of Canada affirm our allegiance to, and support of, the principles and programme of the revolutionary working class.

Labor, applied to natural resources, produces all wealth. The present economic system is based upon capitalist ownership of the means of production, consequently, all the products of labor belong to the capitalist class. The capitalist is, therefore, master; the worker a slave.

So long as the capitalist class remains in possession of the reins of government, all the powers of the State will be used to protect and defend its property rights in the means of wealth production and its control of the product of labor.

The capitalist system gives to the capitalist an ever-increasing stream of profits, and to the worker, an ever-increasing measure of misery and degradation.

The interest of the working class lies in setting itself free from capitalist exploitation by the abolition of the wage system, under which this exploitation, at the point of production, is cloaked. To accomplish this necessitates the transformation of capitalist property in the means of wealth production into socially controlled economic forces.

The irrepressible conflict of interest between the capitalist and the worker necessarily expresses itself as a struggle for political supremacy. This is the Class Struggle.

Therefore we call upon all workers to organize under the banner of the Socialist Party of Canada, with the object of conquering the political powers for the purpose of setting up and enforcing the economic programme of the working class, as follows:

- 1—The transformation, as rapidly as possible, of capitalist property in the means of wealth production (natural resources, factories, mills, railroads, etc.) into collective means of production.
- 2—The organization and management of industry by the working class.
- 3—The establishment, as speedily as possible, of production for use instead of production for profit.

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PAYING OUR WAY.

(Continued from page 7)

life of man, and its ownership in the wealth of society.

But the fundamentals of social necessity are not thus voided and broken. They are but stemmed back and in due time they will burst through the frail bonds of legality, imposed by temporary interest, and take their toll of reality in the broad field of social principle. No man, however great, can fling social necessity aside; no financier, however wise, restore the delicate mechanism of exchange without the full application of social labor. The application of that labor—in terms of profit—is an impossibility. The wheels of industry cannot turn till the market demand is effective. And the market is dead beyond resurrection; for it has been stripped of the wherewithal to "buy," stripped naked, because the labor of the world is the wealth of the world, and if the labor of the world is idle, the market of the world must be stagnant.

The ruthlessness of war shattered the conventional refinements of plunder and brought the necessitarian economic squarely to the front. And the logic of "the peace" is forcing the lesson home to our consciousness. The commodities of the war are gone, leaving behind them a long trail of astronomical figures. The debt represented by those figures cannot be "paid," for there is nothing wherewith to "pay." They are but a mortgage on the industry of posterity, a burden on human effort, and even at that, the authority of capitalist society cannot permit social effort, for it can only function at a loss to private property. The "wealth," which those figures show once existed, is all consumed, absorbed into the life and effort of society, and they can be reproduced only by the service of new life and effort. For "payment" consists in the bondage of man to the interest of class, in the further looting of social production. If iron or cotton or wheat is "bought" they can only be "paid for" by the reproduction of equivalents, i.e., by the expenditure of more labor. There is nothing outside of labor; and it is plain as the sun in heaven that if social labor received the total value of its production there could be no surplus, and consequently no "sale." Payment is wholly a matter of credit; of borrowing from the future; of continually augmenting the volume of indebtedness. And it is this immense augmentation of credit that is swiftly driving capitalism to bankruptcy and ruin. Just as the same cause precisely humbled the power of Rome and the pride of Greece; made Thebes and Memphis names; and buried Babylon and Nineveh and Assalon deep in the dust of centuries.

The "romance" of commerce is the tragedy of slavery. Its enterprise is exploitation; its objective, money success; its honor a legal process. Its "glory" rests on degradation; its Empires on the bleaching bones of misery; its power on cultivated ignorance; and its wealth on the broken lives, the ruined hopes, and the unconsummated efforts of men, struggling under the impulse of must for the idealisation of reality. It has wrung wealth alike from the tyranny of need, and profit from the aspirations of hope. It has planned and created, toiled and accomplished; lifted society—potentially—from the limits of want and hardship to an almost fabulous bounty of abundance. For its blood stained gold it has traded and triumphed. For society it has accomplished the economic revolution—the social perceptions of social harmony in human satisfaction. And its end, flashed world-wide on its jangling wires of trade, and written in the language of exchange, is posted daily in the wonderful cities it has conjured for its profit—and their desolation. R.

MANIFESTO

— of the —

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