

CLIP AND COMMENT

Toronto City Council petitions Parliament to disfranchise naturalized Canadians from alien enemy countries:—

"That this Council petition the Dominion Parliament to provide that only such naturalized natives of alien enemy countries that have lived in Canada for twenty-five years shall be allowed to exercise the franchise at any election in war time, or until otherwise provided, except such naturalized natives of alien enemy countries that are on active service themselves or have sons or daughters on active service in the Canadian Expeditionary Force or other of His Majesty's forces."

This is another example of long-whiskered be-deviltry. In all probability emanating from the cerebrum of the Toronto Czar, to whom the city council has become a nice group of ladies-in-waiting. This resolution, which was carried by a vote of 17 to 5, need not disturb the rest of the innocent, provided they wake up in time to expose the plot to destroy the foundations of British liberty. The patriotic veneer is so thin that it does not even disguise the political dodge, and no honest Labor man should be led astray by the two capitalist apologists (misnamed Labor representatives), Messrs. Gibbons and Robins. This is the same old dodge—staged a little differently to suit the occasion—but it belongs to the same evil brood of designing reactionaries—whose policy is to keep the workers divided by inculcating race hatred in the guise of patriotism, and whose aim is "pelf and place."

"The audience was for the most part composed of laborers, mechanics, factory employees, all well dressed and apparently well-to-do, and many possibly a good majority, young, able-bodied men, who would look well in khaki, fighting for the liberty they professed to have so much at heart."

—Toronto Telegram.

The question is: Would they be fighting for the liberty they profess to have so much at heart? An historical review of the wars of the past hundred years should leave no doubt in any reasonable mind that liberty is never achieved by warlike methods either to the victor or the vanquished. In the mass they have chains, though no eye beholds them, and they are slaves, although men call them free. General Sherman said, "War is a dull and stupid hell." General Lee, said, on the other side: "This stupidity might have been avoided by reasonable thought." Get rid of the illusion that liberty comes by war. In times of war the liberty you have is taken away—for peace is weal and war is merely woe." If Mr. Robertson has truthfully expressed his views in his reference to being in khaki, he must see double—for the truth that lies behind it "is the grave."

Liberty is life. "The paths of glory lead but to the grave." (Grey's Elegy.)

"If Germany had waited for another quarter of a century she would have secured the commercial primacy over all the earth, without striking a blow. When I look at this, and think of the helplessness of the British Empire to combat with the Teuton menace—said as we were on Flander's fields by the old regular army—I sometimes think that only the grace and mercy of God saved this empire from destruction, and that it would have been destroyed if God Almighty had not needed it." This was one of the pregnant utterance of Sir John Willison, editor of the Toronto News, in the course of an address delivered to the Men's Club of St. Giles Church last evening.—Hamilton Spectator.

Here is a pious ejaculation worthy of a place in the sacred anthology of Imperialism—the hymnology of high finance—a gem for the jewel casket of

lingoism in juxtaposition with the press pearls of the Mail and Empire, the Telegram, and others. It is an excerpt from the Hamilton Spectator of recent date.

We are enabled to visualize by this "pungent utterance" (which embodies a twin or triple conception) the spectacle of the knights of British imperialism, prior to the war, seated in noble aloofness yet with constrained gaze on the vision of vanishing overseas trade, sad, perhaps, and even restive—but to be moved to unsheath the unsullied sword, dedicated only to super-chivalrous sacrifice—far be it—Never!

Here is the great British God of Imperialism (no relation, of course, to the Junker Jehovah of Germany)! Even more altitudinous but less aloof from trade interests, you see, than the cabinet and war office, and having a more robust sense of expediency, viewing with deep concern the prospect of profits "fading like sweet Sabbath day" and dividends in sad decline, recedes that something must be done. Yet nothing less than a holy cause, an issue untainted with profit, could move these zealots of altruism and ethical extremists to stir from their seats of conscious rectitude, "trained a shade over-fine." He soliloquizes, "Well, it's up to me"—a happy thought! Why not "unhappy Belgium?" (Have you heard the phrase before?—known in ante-bellum days as the worker's hell, the capitalists' heaven.) A little more or a little less misery to the workers and the flowers of knighthood to the rescue, the situation is saved. British commerce shall not perish.

Virtue is not the sole reward of virtue, praise be! J. A.

REBELLION!

Rebellion comes hope's sacred fire,
To Freedom's son from Freedom's sire;
A soul-breath swordsman cannot kill,
Nor gold, nor cross, nor rifle still.

It sent Gautama on his quest,
Him Asia calls her light and blest;
With Quetzacoatl, long ago,
It stirred the heart of Mexico.

With Moses it for freedom sought;
With wild Mahomet too it fought;
It gave Zoroaster all his fame,
Confucius his deathless name.

With Cromwell's legions, grim and cold,
It trampled on the statutes old;
With Voltaire, Marat, and St. Just,
It raged till Europe rose from dust.

It called Abe Lincoln from the plains,
Set Marx and Ferrer breaking chains,
And hovered o'er the Commune when
It fired the souls of workingmen

But yesterday, from Erin's woes,
With Connolly and Pearse it rose;
In Washington, and not in vain,
It marched to death with Harry Lane.

'Tis that which stirs the race to-day—
'Tis that which makes truth's lightning play—
'Tis Revolution in its birth—
The soul of Freedom—the light of earth

Why is it that the American capitalist press regards Liebknecht, who opposed the war in Germany, as a hero and an American Socialist who opposes war in this country as a traitor?

When the American people run out of bread, perhaps the food-grabbing profiteer will tell them to eat cake.

The whole world is my country.—
Thomas Paine.

"God knows, I don't.—William H. Taft, at Cooper Union, February, 1908, when asked "What is a man to do in a financial panic who is out of work and who is starving?"

"Men who object to what they style 'government by injunction' are in

hearty sympathy with their remote skin-clad ancestors who lived in caves, fought one another with stone-headed axes and ate the mammoth and woolly rhinoceros. They are not in sympathy with men of good minds and good civic morality."—Theodore Roosevelt.

"The rights and interests of the laboring man will be protected and cared for, not by the labor agitators, but by the Christian men to whom God in His infinite wisdom has given the control of the property interests of the country."—George F. Baer, mine owner and president of the Philadelphia and Reading Railway Company, during the coal strike of 1902.

"Habeas corpus be damned. We'll give them post mortems instead."—Adjutant General Sherman Bell of the Colorado militia, defying the orders of the civil courts, 1904.

"I'm working for my own pocket all the time."—Richard Croker, of Tammany Hall, in testimony before the Mazet committee in 1899.

Our best thanks are due to the Toronto Telegram, for giving us something to punch. There is no immediate harbor of running out of copy. Here is the latest Tele-slam at the Socialists:

May 2, 1917.

Report of May Day Celebration.

"No. 1. But while the audience may have differed in speech, language, complexion, and education, they were all one for the great cause for which other men of Canada, Britain, France, Russia and Belgium had to do the fighting."

The great cause, of course, is liable to different interpretations. There are two classes in society whose interests are diametrically opposed to each other. "One that produces all and owns nothing, and another minor quantity, who own all and produce nothing." This is the class struggle.

All other struggles, all other "great causes" for which sacrifices are made only effect the workers indirectly, no victor's spoil is theirs, but the greater burden of poverty and desolation arising out of war. Liberty is not a quality arising from immediate war conditions which needs to be fought with the aid of Vickers, Maxim, and Krupp guns, but a feature of time, condition, and place, to be struggled for in times of peace as well as war, and its most marked progress is recorded while nations are quiescent and invariably sacrificed by all countries in times of war.

Class Conscious Comments

By Phillips Thompson, Oakville.

The Socialist or Labor man who receives bouquets instead of brickbats from the capitalist press should be watched closely.

Free wheat may not directly benefit the working class, but it is a step in the right direction of breaking down international barriers.

The Labor Party that starts out without a clear understanding and acceptance of the Socialist philosophy is like a ship starting on her voyage without chart or compass.

Get a firm grip on the principle of economic determinism and you have the solution of the social and moral problems that have perplexed so-called statesmen and philosophers.

The single tax movement is an attempt of the capitalists whose main investments are in factories, skyscrapers, bonds, mortgages, etc., to shift their share of taxation onto the other capitalists whose principal holdings are in

land. Workingmen have no interests at stake whichever way it goes.

We learn from the daily newspapers that the Germans are thoroughly demoralized, that the people are starving and on the verge of rebellion, and the Government anxious to negotiate for peace. We are also told that Canada is in imminent danger of being conquered by the Germans unless more men enlist for the war. The capitalist press is a great public educator!

Recruiter—"How about you, young feller? You should be at the front." Party Addressed—"How about yourself? I've seen you around in khaki for a year or so, and you've done no fighting yet."

"Oh—you see—I've been on recruiting duty."

"Just so! Well, I'm quite willing to enlist as a recruiter!"

Comrades who are over-optimistic about the coming of socialism should remember that we can't have socialism without socialists. Hence propaganda work is far more important than winning occasional elections by the aid of non-socialist votes.

The capitalists having carried prohibition because they wanted sober slaves, are now trying to abolish race-track gambling because they want honest slaves. But sober and honest workers will soon get wise to the cause and cure of wage slavery.

By the way, did you notice that recruiting fell off just about the time that prohibition came into force?

Cobalt and Porcupine mine owners refused to negotiate with their employes as to wages on the ground that they cannot recognize a union under "foreign" control. Yet fully half or more of the capital invested in Northern Ontario mines is owned by Americans. Capitalism has neither shame, consistency, nor even a sense of humor.

Numerous parsons and editors are deploring the ravages of liquor and unmentionable diseases among the troops in England, who left this country clean, healthy, Canadian boys. Yet in the next breath these same people assure us that Canada is being raised to a higher moral and spiritual level by the chastening and purifying influence of war! "Oh, for a forty-parson power to chant thy praise, hypocrisy," in the words of Byron.

Learn from your enemies: Here is a board of directors in a large industrial corporation: One is a Scotchman, and a pronounced Grit. Beside him is an Englishman, staunch Tory and Imperialist. Another is a shrewd Yankee, a fourth a French-Canadian, a fifth a Jew, and so on. All the elements for a first-class racial and religious scrap, supposing they were fool workingmen. But does the Scotchman get up and insist that the plant shall be run on Liberal principles? Does the Englishman get red in the face denouncing the Frenchman as a traitor and a friend of Henri Bourassa? When the American makes a suggestion, do the rest reply with indignation that they are not going to be dictated to by an "alien"? Not a bit of it! Not a whisper or hint of any national or creed differences—all harmonious and united over their schemes for skinning the workers. Class conscious! You bet. And how they laugh and chuckle over the report that a contemplated agitation for increased wages has failed because of disagreements between the English-speaking and foreign workers. Take a lesson in class consciousness from the capitalist.

The Canadian Forward is a brand of light to the darkened toilers of Canada. It is your duty to see that the light reaches them, through you, as the medium of transmission.