

Reading and Reading

OF the mass of reading matter that comes before the individual with an enquiring turn of mind, none is so coldly and dispassionately scientific as the work of socialistic writers.

The truth and logic contained therein immediately stamps it as the product of courageous minds.

These articles, stories, etc., shine from out the conglomerate mass of piffle with which the reading public is literally swamped, as the dazzling rays of a powerful searchlight pierce the encircling darkness.

Their brilliance penetrates and bites deep into the hungry brain of the nauseated seeker after knowledge. The world was never more in need of these socialistic teachings than it is today, and to those who are in search of truth, the writings of these advanced thinkers come as cool water to a thirsty, tired traveller.

They not only point out the vicious iniquities of the present state of society, but with the weapon of truth give the intelligent reader the key wherewith to unlock the door of his own mind, to enable him to find the remedy for the many ills from which he as an individual, and the rest of the world in general are suffering.

It is undoubtedly correct to state that the average worker will not have truth thrust upon him. A dollar for a sweepstake can be more easily extracted from the average worker than a dollar for a subscription to a journal of scientific socialism.

He cannot be blamed for this; the thoroughness with which the hirelings of capitalism have done their work is only too apparent.

Blame, however, can be attached to those intellectual prostitutes who sell their principle and ability by writing the wretched drivel with which the average worker is regaled. Under the capitalist system, no intelligent person will deny that might dictates right, for under the calm scientific analysis of a socialist, present day conditions prove the truth of that statement.

Socialists have been and are being persecuted and ridiculed by the very people they seek to benefit, but they are not discouraged. They know that ultimately, conditions will force people to recognize the truth of what they write. They are always

ready and willing to point out the path along which the earnest seeker after knowledge must travel. Based on science the writings of socialists fully explain the cause of the present intolerable state of existence, and by the same token prepare the reader for the vast changes which will undoubtedly come about in the future.

What is of more importance than explaining the cause of our misery? Socialist writers give us the remedy. Their literature, pregnant with indisputable truths is placed before a suspicious and poisoned public many of whom have very limited education, which prevents them from viewing with an unbiased mind the many unpleasant truths brought before them. Though bitter the medicine must be swallowed.

Man's nature is such that he would much rather be caressed than told his faults, hence his natural dislike to the paper that tells him just what a fool he is. Truth to the majority is never pleasant.

In the field of politics the average man has hitherto been too lazy to think. He preferred to allow his newspaper to think for him, contenting himself with being praised and petted, and finally enmeshed in the tangle in which he now finds himself. Hitherto, the power of the capitalist press has scarcely been challenged. By first pandering to the wishes of the masses, the press has been able to create a weapon which it now uses to their disadvantage, and instead of having representative government they have a government controlled by a few big monopolies who in turn control the press.

It is this state of affairs which socialist writers have the courage to expose. To adhere strictly to socialist teachings requires a high standard of courage, for very few writers have the moral strength to withstand the economic pressure brought to bear upon them.

Socialistic journalism attracts only the very cream of the writing profession, which fact accounts for the extremely high quality of the work, and the consequent small quantity. Socialist literature and periodicals are the oases in the deserts of ignorance, prejudice and corruption. Read them for education. G. P.

Reconstruction in Russia

The bourgeois and Social-Democratic press never tire of enlarging upon the economic ruin of Russia. It would be foolish to assert that, after six years of war, the blockade, the sabotage by the Intellectuals and the passive resistance of the peasants, the internal economy of Russia could be in a flourishing condition. But it is necessary to inquire whether the crisis is past and Russia is already on the road to reconstruction, or whether the ruin—as her enemies maintain—proceeds apace. It would be a sufficient answer to these charges to point out that a State rushing headlong to ruin cannot have great victorious armies from one end of the country to the other, and this after more than two years' existence! This would of itself be sufficient to prove that production cannot be in such a parlous state as the enemies of the Revolution would have us believe. But we desire to call attention to the following data just arrived from Russia as further proof of the economic soundness of the Soviet Republic.

The Iron Industry.

The organization of the iron industry of the Urals, with its obsolete methods is being feverishly tackled. Two works are engaged in turning out rails—both narrow and wide gauge—besides nails, wires, telegraph material, etc. In the repair works at the same place ten to fifteen locomotives and 500 to 600 wagons are repaired every month.

Platinum.

By the re-conquest of the Urals, Russia possesses almost a monopoly of platinum products. Two factories are engaged on this work. The workers, technical experts and engineers of Soviet Russia have brought production in this field to the highest point of efficiency in Europe. Soviet Russia can produce platinum for all technical, medical and scientific purposes.

The introduction of the "Communist Saturday" in places in which railway works are situated has produced splendid results. From May 1st to June

1st, 1919, the output of locomotives rose by 4.1 per cent. The entire number of locomotives under repair or awaiting repair on May 1st was 52.5 per cent, and on June 1st only 46.6 per cent.

The Baltic factory repaired two locomotives and 252 wagons, thereby carrying out 100 per cent. of its programme, while the factory engaged in preparing signals accomplished 37 per cent. Equally good results were obtained in the repair of ships and river-going vessels.

Agricultural Machinery.

In Saratov, a new factory has been opened for the manufacture of agricultural machinery. The monthly output of this establishment is 112,000 machines.

Many more machines were supplied to the peasants in the year 1918-19 than in the preceding one. There were delivered 107,141 parts for ploughs, 171,868 harrows, 1,420 sowing machines, 479,000 scythes, 3,563 reaping machines, 2,438 winnowing machines etc. The output was more than double that of the previous year. The Commission recently appointed by the government expects to have in the near future 1,000,000 mowing-machines for sale.

We could add much more data of a similar nature, but sufficient has been said to show that there is no sign here of progressive decay. The facts point to hard and successful work carried out under great difficulties.

—Socialist Information Research Bureau (Scotland), 196 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, March 15, 1920.

CLARION MAINTENANCE FUND

J. Fraser, \$1; R. Gooding, \$1; J. Purnell, \$1; G. M. Barrett, \$1; H. C. Mitchell, \$1; Sympathiser, 20c; A. E. Faulkner, \$2. Total, 27th April to 10th May, inclusive, \$7.20.

Smithers Socialist Hall

The following donations have been received towards the building fund:—Chas. Neil, \$22; Ed. Kennedy, \$22; Jas. Carson, \$20; Jas. Kotow, \$10; Mah Yoke Long, \$10; S. Carlson, \$10; John Wander, \$10; A. McKenzie, \$10; A. P. McCabe, \$6; Axle Anderson, \$6; Tom Mace, \$5; S. Neshudin, \$5; Brede Miller, \$5; W. S. H., \$5; J. M., \$5; S. E., \$5; E. Nelson, \$5; J. McCuish, \$5; Lars Anderson, \$5; J. S. K., \$5; Phil McGettigan, \$5; H. Fotherby, \$5; Dave Bird, \$5; P. Richardson, \$5; Jack Aldrich, \$5; Fred Miller, \$2; R. F. Allen, \$2; D. B. and J. M., \$4; B. F., \$2; Gus Sycho, \$2; Andy McNaught, \$1; L. Kelly, \$1; Geo. Smith, \$1; H. Ponder, 50c; D. E. Moore, \$5; Shorty Davitt, \$5; Fred Collins, \$1; W. J. S., \$1.50; Axle Peterson, \$5; Martin Dahl, \$2; John Larson, \$1.75; R. Duff, \$2; Frank Conway, \$5; Geo. Wright, \$5; R. C. Mutch, \$5; Peppercorn, \$5; S. Grierson, \$2; Guy Farrow, \$5; Pat McGettigan, \$5; Mark Wilson, \$2; John Vick, \$5; Dan McLeod, \$5; Otto Lundberg, \$5; Chris., \$1.

Collections by Chas. Neil, Tie Camps.—A. Falconer, \$10; H. O. Johnson, \$5; H. J. Johnson, \$5; J. E. Hughes, \$5; O. Nelson, \$5; John McGettigan, \$3; Joe Fisher, \$2; B. Hanson, \$2; Robt. Berg, \$2; L. J. McKay, \$1.50; A. W. Hutchinson, \$1; J. E. Tremblay, \$1; W. Bennett, \$1; Mike O'Neil, \$1; C. Larson, \$1; H. Kinden, \$1; E. Erson, \$1; E. Olson, \$1; J. McDona, \$1; Claude Wilson, \$1; A. Friend, \$1; A. Wick, \$1; Lars Brun, \$1; H. J. Durea, \$1; C. Lany, \$1; E. G. Hardy, \$1; Delmar Cassidy, \$1; Jos. Orskovich, \$1; E. Brattan, \$1; John Erickson, \$1; Axle Soucher, \$1; E. Nelson, \$1; F. G. Olsen, \$1; H. M. Dualberg, \$1; V. Lundgren, \$1; W. Wolquonst, \$1; C. Vaulberg, \$1; August Olson, \$1; Sid Hawley, \$1; Victor Carlson, \$1; Oscar Frausen, \$1; John Duya, \$1; Andrew Larson, \$1; Pete Lingvall, \$1.

There is quite a little work to be done in order to complete the building, and further donations may be sent to R. C. Mutch, Smithers, B. C.

ALL VILLAINS WERE WORKINGMEN!!

Only workingmen and women make life possible; but in spite of much talk about their usefulness to society, they don't inspire much respect. Indeed, one of the worst names in the language is, in its origin, a word that meant a workingman—a VILLAIN! Consult a dictionary and you will find a villain means (although the word is spelled, villain) a forced laborer attached to an estate, a serf, a bondman, a peasant and, lastly, a KNAVE or SCOUNDREL. Of course, villeinage takes us back to the days of the Feudal System.

But why should a word that once simply meant a serf or forced laborer, now have come to mean a person who is base, vile, wicked, depraved and mean? The answer is easy! As a villain was depressed down to the position of the Brutes, no more educated than they and, like them just one of the fixtures on the land he naturally developed so many repulsive vices that it was not possible to think of a villain, without thinking of his repulsive characteristics. In course of time the personal qualities swamped all recollection of the man's working duties; then behold, its new meaning—a scoundrel!

The modern workingman,—feared, hated, kept in ignorance and looked on with contempt, has no more come into his own than had his ancestor, the Serf. But history shows how class after class rose to power. At one period the kings, like the ex-Kaiser and the late Czar of Russia, were absolute; then the Nobility clipped their wings; next, the Capitalist Class, who are the class in power today, got on top, and have so mismanaged affairs and abused their power that the next class, the Working-Class, is everywhere in revolt and preparing to assume management.

Says a famous Socialist writer—"By degrees there rises out of the despised, maltreated, degraded Working-class a historic power before which the powers that be have begun to tremble. Thus, a New Philosophy, a class that grows daily in numbers, in compactness, in consciousness of its mission, in intelligence, and into an economic necessity." As there is no class below the Working-class, they can only rise to power when they put an end to all economic classes and make the whole nation one working-class. That is the MISSION of the WORKING-CLASS of which the author speaks, for theirs is the noble task, in freeing themselves, to free the whole human race from the British struggle for bare necessities. Already wealth is socially produced by great factory-groups of workers. It is also their mission to complete the process by socializing the DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH.

"Progress."

NOTICE.

Donations to the Manitoba, Provincial Election Campaign Fund of Local (Winnipeg) No. 3, may be sent to E. MacLeod, Secretary, Dominion Executive Committee, 401 Pender Street East, Vancouver, B.C., from whom collection cards may also be obtained.