

THE DEGRADATIONS OF CAPITALISM.

(Continued from page one)

tions will be more pronounced as humanity develops until eventually it disappears altogether.

In the meantime the temptation to gravitate towards "shady" actions seems to be as strong as ever. In the Sunday Sun (Vancouver) for April 27th, last, and in the first few words of an article on page 5, we read as follows: "They are skandaleering about the Ontario treasury, and at this writing everybody is asking what next, and who: then follows on another page, as if the subject were a propos, a list of famous historical scandals which one could hardly imagine to be avoidable considering the natural resources that were subject for generations to the juggling processes of capitalistic manipulation. At the present moment we have before the British Columbia electorate the case of "Burnt Books" purporting to be an exposure by a political party of certain satellites of their rivals, who, while functioning as sub-contractors, are said to have squandered two and one half million dollars of "the people's money" and then to have destroyed the records by fire. Amongst political parties who have held the reins of power on this continent there seems to be no exception to those whose membership has been tainted again and again by incidents such as is here alleged, nevertheless we are not concerned with the political, but rather with the capitalistic side of the question, involving temptations that might be removed: and just as we write the word "removed" the "Weekly Province" arrives for May 15th. We lay aside our work for a moment and with a Sherlock-Holmesian instinct, induced no doubt by our frame of mind, we allow our optics to wander metaphorically over its pages until quite beyond our control; they glue themselves triumphantly, as if they had meritoriously discovered an appropriate item under the following heading: "Serious Charges Made Against Coast Officials—Senator Taylor Alleges Organized Rascality in Government Merchant Marine, Rum Running, Perjury, Fraud and Illegal Commissions Included—Sir Henry Thornton Attacked." Obviously "Skandaleering" is not confined to Ontario: Indeed under the regime of Master Capital, that is one activity for which there seems to be "equality of opportunity" everywhere: We have seen accusatory pamphlets published, during election campaigns, by each side against the other that might well be described as miniature editions of the Newgate Calendar.

The obvious course for the electorate to follow is to prepare itself by the study of economic determinism as applied to these conditions so that eventually it may oust all parties and put in power one that really represents its interests.

We shall conclude with a story dealing specially with business ethics. It is taken from the "Information Service of the Research Department Commission on the Church and Social Service," and is told by Moses Mosessohm to an interviewer of the New York World for April 13th, 1924. He claims he tells it to show that economic necessity is enforcing moral standards in at least one line of manufacturing industry.

Mr. Mosessohm is arbiter for the leading women's wear industries in the United States. When the United Women's Wear League of America was first organized it met to discuss relief measures for the market. "One of the manufacturers made the motion that they all stop cutting garments for six weeks. It was a good suggestion and the motion was passed. The next thing I heard was that the man who had made the motion had gone back to his office, and ordered his factory to keep on cutting at full speed. He told his partners that he had put a good one over on his rivals. The funny part of it was that nearly every one of the other manufacturers had done about the same thing. The result was the market was flooded. The season was disastrous."

We cannot compare all business men to these: nevertheless it is only a matter of degree in the interpretation of the world-wide slogan of "Business is Business." In that little sentence is authority to do as one pleases as long as the act is compatible with preconceived ideals of the actor.

We may conclude by saying that amidst the numerous degradations incidental to the existence of Capitalism, not the least of which is the tacit coercion to hypocrisy involved in the necessity to hold a job, or to benefit by patronage otherwise unobtainable, the man governed by truth and honor has a hard road to travel, but for him there is the greatest of all rewards—the consciousness of, an invincible manhood. Of the man or woman who lives up to this ideal it might be said:

"All honour then to that brave heart, though poor or rich he be,

Who struggles with the baser part—who conquers and is free.

He may not wear a hero's crown, or fill a hero's grave

But truth will place his name among, the bravest of the brave."

CONSTRUCTIVE IDEAS IN CURRENT POLITICS

(Continued from page 4)

seek unerringly for some expression of their antagonism to the lucky, dexterous, unscrupulous or far-sighted who enjoy the advantages of the existing social and economic tangle; their suffrages and passion will go to support the particular lucky, dexterous, unscrupulous or far-sighted politicians who seem most in harmony with the hates and hopes of the stunted, hampered, oppressed multitude. But the antagonism and discords of the present system are as much a part of the present as its order and its success. The Labor party is no more inherently reconstructive than the banking interest or shipping interest. Like them, it merely wants an excessive, inconsiderate share of present power and satisfactions.

I suppose if we could set aside the entangling influences of social position and traditions we should find that men and women fall into a series between two extremes of temperamental type; conservatives at one end who like things to go on very much as they are going, only to be just a little richer, sounder, sunnier; at the other end the disturbers who like fresh things to happen, who make fresh things happen. Of the disturbers there seem to be two main types, the personal adventurers who want a series of vivid events centering upon themselves and do not care very much how much disorder is caused by their careers, and the innovators, with instinct or mental habit of creative service—the scientific worker, educationist, innovating artist—men with a passion for industrial, financial and social organization, who will ultimately remake the world. These types mingle in most of us, we are all something of each; but in such prominent British figures as Lord Birkenhead, Winston Churchill, Lord Beaverbrook, we seem to have almost pure adventurers, in Sydney Webb and C. P. Trevelyan almost pure creative service innovators. But the great financial adventurers are not in politics. They are behind politics. The unco-ordinated, inexplicit world of today is all for the bold, acquisitive egotist. He causes wars, prevents peace. The industrialist is in his financial net. He does things to the exchange, the money in our pockets becomes worthless counters. He controls the newspapers, he buys the house over our heads, the ground under our feet. He turns up in all parties as they suit him. His eternal antagonist, the creative service innovator, must use all parties as he can against him.

No party has a monopoly of creative ideals, the Labor party little more than the Conservative. For consider what the great constructive ideas before the world at the present time are. There is the rescue of civilization from the destructive pressure of unregulated births through the extension of necessary knowledge for efficient birth-control. There is the reorganization of the educational method throughout the world to develop habits of service and co-operation upon lines so admirably demonstrated by Sanderson, the re-orientation of educational aims and material by mankind, universal history the basis of a conception of universal citizenship. There is the rescue of democracy from its hopeless suffocation under the party system by a reduction in the size of representative bodies to efficient proportions and the adoption of a method of

proportional representation in large constituencies. Only in that way can the ordinary citizen be released from his slavery to party managers, and brought into direct personal relationship to the member his vote elects. There is the liberation of the economic life of the world from the restrictive and destructive financial manipulations, by the creation of a world authority for regulated currency, the clearing of the world debt jungle. There is the lifting of the waste weight of private profiteering and nationalist sabotage from the shipping world, transport and staple productions of the world through the creation of a group of world authorities for these ends. Everybody of intelligence knows that these are just possible achievements for mankind, that the outlook for mankind is dangerous and on the whole dingy until they are attained and secured. But there is no political party in the world that dare do more in office than fumble and prevaricate about any of them.

Literature Price List

Cloth Bound.	Per Copy
Critique of Political Economy	1.65
Revolution and Counter Revolution (Marx)	1.15
Ancient Society	1.85
Capitalist Production (First Nine and 32 Chapters "Capital," vol. 1, (Marx)	1.00
Vital Problems in Social Evolution	80c
Science and Revolution	80c
The Militant Proletariat	80c
Evolution Social and Organic	80c
Puritanism	80c
Ethics and History	80c
Germs of Mind in Plants	80c
The Triumph of Life	80c
Feuerbavk	80c
Social Revolution (Kautsky)	80c
Origin of Species (Darwin)	1.15
Essays on Materialist	
Conception of History (Labriola)	1.50
Social Studies (Lafargue)	80c
Paper Covers.	Per Copy
Evolution of Man (Prof. Huxley)	30c
Wage-Labor and Capital	10c
Independent Working Class Education	10c
Communist Manifesto	10c
The Present Economic System (Prof. W. A. Bonger)	10c
Socialism, Utopian and Scientific	15c
Slave of the Farm	10c
Manifesto, S. P. of C.	10c
Causes of Belief in God (Lafargue)	10c
The State and Revolution (Lenin)	25c
Value, Price and Profit (Marx)	15c
Two Essays on History (C. Stephenson and G. Deville)	5c
Economic Causes of War (Leckie)	25c
Civil War in France (Marx)	25c
Christianism and Communism (Bishop W. M. Brown)	25c

Quantity Rates on Paper Covered Pamphlets.

Two Essays on History	25 copies 75c
Communist Manifesto	25 copies \$2.00
Wage-Labor and Capital	25 copies \$2.00
Present Economic System	25 copies \$1.50
Socialism, Utopian and Scientific	25 copies \$1.25
Slave of the Farm	25 copies \$1.50
Manifesto of S. P. of C.	25 copies \$2.00
Evolution of Man	25 copies \$2.75
Causes of Belief in God	25 copies \$2.00
Value, Price and Profit	25 copies \$2.25
Economic Causes of War	10 copies \$2.00
Christianism and Communism	6 copies \$1.00

All prices include postage.

Make all moneys payable to E. MacLeod, P. O. Box 710, Vancouver, B. C. Add discount on cheques.

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Obey that impulse and subscribe for the

WESTERN CLARION

Address P. O. Box 710, Vancouver, B. C.

Enclosed find \$ _____
Send the Western Clarion to: _____

Name _____

Address _____