

PLATFORM

Social-Democratic Party of Canada

We, the Social-Democratic Party of Canada in convention assembled, affirm our allegiance to and support of, the International Socialist Movement.

By virtue of the ownership of the means of production and distribution (natural resources, factories, mills, railroads, etc.) all wealth the workers produce, accrues into the hands of the capitalist class. This property the capitalist defends by means of the state (the army, the navy, the judiciary.)

The object of the Social-Democratic Party is to educate the workers of Canada to a consciousness of their class position in society, their economic servitude to the owners of capital, and to organize them into a political party to seize the reins of government and transform all capitalist property into the collective property of the working class. This social transformation means the liberation not only of the proletariat, but of the whole human race. Only the working class, however, can bring it about. All other classes maintain their existence by supporting the present social order.

The struggle of the working class against Capitalist exploitation produces a constant state of warfare between these two forces for the control of political and economic power.

As a means of preparing the minds of the working class for the inauguration of the Co-operative Commonwealth, the Social-Democratic Party of Canada will support any measure that will tend to better conditions under capitalism, such as:

- (1) Reduction of hours of labor.
- (2) The elimination of child labor.
- (3) Universal adult suffrage without distinction of sex or regard to property qualifications; and
- (4) The Initiative, Referendum, and right of Recall.

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- Justice in War-Time (Hon. Bertrand Russell) . . . 45c.
- Where You Get Off (J. M. Work) 10c.
- Socialism for the Farmer (Ameringer) 10c.
- The Genesis and Evolution of Slavery (Kingsley) 10c.

I. BAINBRIDGE, Literature Agent,
363 SPADINA AVE., Toronto.

SECRETARIAL NOTES

Your Dominion Executive Committee for 1916 is now defunct, and I patiently await the incoming executive board, as it is not good for democracy that government and administrative power be vested in one person no matter how capable, even for so short a time.

The Ontario report is in, and while not being extremely encouraging, it gives no occasion for pessimism. We are just about holding our own. The membership shows a slight increase, and one new local has been added to the glorious numeral of sixteen (16) since my last report.

We have reason to complain at the limited support we are receiving for the Forward--both financially and by way of supplying copy for the same. I anticipated that we should have so much correspondence that we should have to lay some of it over for lack of space, especially with the burning questions that are agitating the public mind at the present time.

The red-week plans are not yet fully matured, and I will report further upon this matter in the next issue.

Some well-informed people are betting large odds that the war will be over on the 29th of February, that will be the time for you to get busy; let the sail trimming take place at once and steer for Socialism--not the United States.

Secretaries and members please note, we desire your contributions and cordially co-operation to make this paper fit the bill.

Subscriptions coming in are by no means sufficient to cover the cost of production. It costs approximately \$75.00 per issue. The amount received since last issue on subscriptions is \$25.00. This should be an invitation to all and sundry to get busy with the mental defectives who are suffering from the financial prosperity we read so much about.

Take it into the home of your friends, hand it around to your workmates; ay, make it a text-book for your Sunday school lesson--it is necessary wherever two or three Dubbs are gathered together in order to discuss current events. "Do not let the slogan be--Everybody's doing nothing except each other."

J. BAINBRIDGE, Secretary.

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NEW POEM OF BURNS.

Shows Plainly the Independent Signet of the Bard.

January 25th was the anniversary of the Scottish national bard, who in truth it can be said that he was truly the poet of democracy. The following poem was unearthed at St. Andrew's, Scotland. Its authenticity is undisputed. In fact, the poem is "Burnsian" from the first word to the last. It would pass for a volume of Burns, condensed into one stanza. For the latest discovery fairly reeks with the independence which characterizes the entire works of Scotland's world-honored bard.

These verses were composed by Burns and presented to the nobleman addressed, upon being called up from the servants' hall (where he had been sent to dine along with them) to add to the entertainment of the company, along with which company he had been asked to go on an excursion to Bass Rock. On presenting the verses he put on his hat, turned on his heel and retired:

My Lord, I would not fill your chair,
Tho' ye be proudest noble's heir.
I came this night to join your feast
As equal of the best, at least.
'Tis true that cash with me is scant
And titles trifles that I want.
The King has never made me kneel
To stamp my manhood with his seal.
But what of that! The King on High
Who took less pains with you and I,
Has filled my bosom and my mind
With something better in its kind
Than your broad acres, something
which

I cannot well translate in speech.
But by its impulse I can know
'Tis deeds, not birth, that makes men
low.

Your rank, my lord, is but a loan,
But mine, thank Heaven, is all my own.
A peasant tis' my pride to be;
Look 'round and 'round your hall and
see

Who boasts a higher pedigree?
I was not fit, it seems, to dine
With these fox-hunting heroes fine,
But only came to bandy jests
Among your lordship's hopeful guests.
There must be here some sad mistake;
I would not play for such a stake,
Be a buffoon for drink and meat
And a poor earl's tax-paid seat.
No, die my heart, e'er such a shame
Descends on Robert Burns' name.

WHEN THE BASE IS ROTTEN.

You cannot have a great nation when the base is rotten. You cannot build a great nation when twelve millions of people are on the verge of starvation. It is socially impossible. Mr. Hughes, Prime Minister of Australia, at Cardiff, March 24th.

Speaking at Cardiff last week Lord Rhondda said no one ought to be allowed to make profit out of the war. The Government should have taken all extra profits of shipowners and coal owners. He had suggested that the Government should take over the Admiralty collieries and make what profit they liked if they guaranteed the owners the ordinary profit, but he was told by a man who knew less of the coal trade than he (Lord Rhondda) did that it was not practicable. Trade unions, the speaker continued, should be placed in exactly the same position after the war as they were before the war. The interests of employers and workmen were identical.

A statistician comes forward with the estimate that there are at least 16,000,000 tunes in existence. That's nothing compared to the number of tunes a politician can play when he comes forward for your votes.

Woe to America the day the European war ends. On that day the panic will begin.

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THE CANADIAN FORWARD

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