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## Merely Our Viewpoint

A vivid pleture comes before my mind of youthful days at school. I can picture myself standing before my compeers and wistfully reciting "How doth the little busy bee . ." And then I reflect on the wonderful organization of bee-dom which we were taught to admire. I remember how the lazy, non-producing drones were not allowed to batten off the produce of the workers. And to-day—! A marvel in natural history has come to light—the drones control the bees.

It almost seems like a regular practice amongst those-that-have to impart these inspiring observations to the receptive minds of those-whohave-not. Think, for example, of the clergy in our churches of to-day. One eminent prescriber of morality assailed my-eyes each day for quite a time with an announcement that he would preach on "A Modern Judas Iscariot." Read the headlines of any newspaper published three or four months ago and you will know the subject. No, you can guess outright he did not refer to one of our plutocrat betrayers-Judas would sit amongst the angels when compared with there. For did not a sense of justice make him return the money that his greed had won for him? And then he hanged himself. 中 中 中 市

Canada has seen splendid exemplification in recent months of the morality of Judas. The commissions which have recently sat at Ottawa were exquisite examples of the political technique known as "whitewash.' Nominally these commissions were instructed to probe the traffic in war munitions. It is common knowledge among Socialists everywhere how else could it be after the exposures made by Dr. Karl Liebknecht in Germany, J. Walton Newbold and Philip Snowden in England, Clyde Tavenner in U. S. A.?that the manufacture of the machinery of human slaughter is in the hands of an International Trust. It is sufficient if Socialists keep this fact in mind when reading of the Ottawa "scandals." Only on this basis can be explained the original difficulty encountered in procuring shell orders, the presence in Canada of Lionel Hitchen, an emissary of the British Armament Ring, and the negotiation of contracts in New York through Sir Trevor Dawson, managing director of the English (?) firm of Vickers, Maxim & Sons.

\* \* \* \* Among the slogans used to lead the average Canadian into active participation in the war is "Kaiser, Krupp, Kultur." Incidentally (while rightfully incriminating Krupp's as being in part responsible for the machinations which brought on this war, but wilfully forgetting to include Krupp's allies—the English, French and American armament firms) the abusers of Germany say that the Kaiser is financially interested in Krupp's. True enough! But let us be frank and point out that the French ex-Minister of War, M. Etienne, could also give large orders

to armament firms in which he was financially interested. Let us add that 8 Ministers of Cabinet rank, 6 bishops, 18 members of Parliament, and scores of lords and dukes are financially connected with English armament firms. And do not let us omit the fact that more than one newspaper in Canada has asserted that the Ross rifle-about the service value of which there is no little doubt-would never have been adopted, or at least would long ago have been discarded, but for the fact that Sir Sam Hughes himself has a financial interest in its manufacture!

Each year there comes to this country an enormous influx of settlers. In the year before the war this influx reached over 150,000 in number. The annual number of immigrants may be much greater after the war. It should be one of the outward signs of the new, onward spirit animating the party to formulate some scheme by which as many of the comrades as possible will be kept within the folds of Socialism.

Patriotism has two aspects. In some people it represents a stage of development and is a serious conviction. But with some patriotism represents profit. Both these classes can be found in the membership of the Canadian and other patriotic clubs. I remember that among the speakers invited to address the Canadian Club as being the embodiment of patriotism was Admiral Lord Charles Beresford. Cut away the glamour surrounding the old sea-dog's name. It is not long ago since the breezy Admiral was urging the British Government to place large orders for a more efficient automatic rifle. The thoughtful man wonders why and turns to "Who's Who in Business," where he finds: "Admiral Lord Charles Beresford, chairman of Henry Andrew & Co., Ltd., of Sheffield, specialists in steel for rifles, swords, shot, and shell." Which class of patriot was being honored in the invitation given by the Canadian Club to Admiral Lord Charles Beres-

One of the most difficult tasks a Socialist can undertake is to try to make a convert of a farmer. Here is a line of thought which should prove helpful. Under Socialism the farmer could own his own farm. though nominally the final title might be vested in the government. He could borrow money from the government and do away with the present extortionate rate of interest he now has to pay. Freight charges would not be levied on the basis of profit for the railway company, but on the basis of cost of service of a government-owned railway. His implements and machinery could be bought at a price which included no profits for idle shareholders. A cream separator now costing him about \$60 can be produced for \$15. The 45 extra dollars charge is incurred in useless advertising, salesmen's commissions and travelling expenses, and repaying the idlers in the form of rent, profit and interest. And the farmer would be rid of the obnoxious landlordism.

Ontario has at last achieved another of those reforms which we are d to look upon as epoch-making, rev lionary, "indisputable evidence that the whole (!) community is prepared at last to do its utmost for social amelioration." Maybe it is unfortunate that I'm a Socialist, because the only epoch-making feature about prohibition that appeals to my mind is this: The anti-Socialist hitherto has always fallen back on the argument that the chief cause of poverty lies in drink. Of course, it is well established that that argument is simply a confusion of cause and effect, that drink is the effect of poverty and not the cause of poverty. But with prohibition adopted and poverty, misery, distress and every evil of the capitalist system still rampant, the anti-Socialist will have to fish around for another red herring. Really it is a wonder that the old argument was not killed by the Bible long ago. But the truth is many Socialists know their Bible better and could always turn to the passage in the Book of Proverbs which says: "Let him drink and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more." An apt paraphrase of which occurs to me as I write: "Let him PHINK and remember his poverty, and forget his misery no

It is to be regretted that exponents of Social Democratic ideals should have been brought into conflict with the churches. It is to be regretted—but only because of this one reason—that whereas Socialism deals with the political and economic well-being of a nation, the church has one specific province—that of religion and things spiritual. Yet such a conflict is almost inevitable when the church deliberately widens its province and tries to enter into alien ground, as recent conventions of the church have done.

Now that the churches have declared themselves in favor of registering non-fighters so as to enable discrimination to be used in future, let us, too, declare ourselves. Perhaps we shall read one of these days some such resolution as the following: "St. Ann's wishes to place itself on record as having vigorously condemned the action of Dr. Karl Liebkknecht, who strenuously opposed the voting of war credits." Poor passion-blinded idiots who have not the breadth of vision to apply their arguments to themselves and see their ridiculous side!

. . . It is difficult to obtain statistics that show any amount of completeness at the present time, but such as are available show that in all the belligerent countries the death rate amongst the children born during the war is going up at an alarming rate. Relatively speaking, this casualty list is higher than amongst the armies on the Continent. This deplorable slaughter of the innocents is brought about because of the accentuated poverty prevalent in the countries at war, which drives out mothers to earn their bread and

leave their babes to—chance. Meantime our war profiteers are squabbling as to the division of their spoils.

The U. S. Government has at last passed the bill appropriating \$11,-000,000 for the erection of a government-owned armor plant. The Steel Trust and Armament Ring-including Bethlehem, Carnegie and Midvale -tried their utmost to prevent its passage, even to the extent of making a price-cutting offer and investing in a national advertising campaign. They realize that they stand to lose a substantial and profitable slice of their business, to counterbalance which they have undertaken a "preparedness" campaign. It is well known amongst thoughtful people that the leading spirits behind the national defence organizations throughout the world are the same as the interests behind the armament ring-for obvious reasons. When will it dawn on the peoples of the world that to pile armament on armament, to fling away millions of the nation's wealth in trying to prevent war by conglomerations of armor plate and big guns is no more a guarantee of peace than buying a hundred horse-power automobile for speedway exhibits is a successful form of life insurance? When willthey rise up against this folly?

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Why should there be war? Reason a-plenty-under capitalism. In the first place, war gives something to do to the millions that were out of employment and sets them to killing each other rather than the masters. Then war provides investment for idle capital, in the way of war loans. And the investment comes right back to the bankers, while the people are tied up in interest forever and ever. War creates a market for battleships, for guns, for ammunition, for food, and for wearing apparel, sold by wholesale. War affords a reason for stopping embarrassing agitation. War makes it possible to censor the news and let the people know only what the masters want them to know. War affords opportunity for some to become heroes and others millionaires. There is every reason for war-from a capitalistic standpoint. The more war they can provoke the more business it means for them. Get this groundwork principle of capitalistic institutions clearly in your mind. By this standard of "profit" you will solve the problem of this war's duration, now so much a matter of speculation amongst the ordinary newswriters.

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