

Heroes And Rewards

In its issue of January 29th the "London Daily Chronicle" has blazing headlines "MILLIONS FOR LAND FOR EX-SOLDIERS."—"BOLD GOVERNMENT SCHEME TO HELP FIGHTING MEN."—"A COTTAGE AND AN ACRE." One feels inclined to laugh at the "bold government scheme" but the tragedy of it all strikes one cold and dumb, for as we peruse the article we find that the scheme is intended to provide returned soldiers, who are desirous of taking up land, with a cottage and an acre of land, part of which will be garden land and the remainder to be used for keeping poultry or pigs.

We are interested to note that our far-seeing statesmen on the other side of the duck pond realize that even an ex-soldier cannot exist on "a cottage and an acre" for to quote from the "London Daily Chronicle" "the occupier or owner will have the MAIN (emphasis ours) part of his living by seasonal work, either in the neighboring town or on the land.

This is indeed a different story to those published by the Capitalist Press when calling for recruits. It is necessary here to repeat the promises made then, but one phrase will bear repeating "Nothing will be too good for the men when they return." What of the fulfillment... "a cottage and an acre" and "seasonal work." The blood-thirsty and anarchistic Bolsheviki in Russia also have a land settlement scheme. No, not similar to the Canadian one, where a sum of money is loaned to the men who have fought for their country, and wish to go on the land, at 5 per cent interest and same loan to be paid back in a specified time, no nothing like that in Russia. There all who are desirous of working on the land are granted as much as they can cultivate and instead of a Government loan being granted to them at 5 per cent interest they are supplied by the Soviet administration with implements, seed, etc., to carry on the necessary work. These are free grants, the only recompense required being the cultivation of the land to its full measure. The Soviet administration guarantees insurance against frost, drought, or any other form of crop failure. But this is in the land of the dictatorship of the proletariat accompanied with all the ghastly horrors that the kept Press never tires of enumerating. Mr. Harold Kellock in an article in "Good Housekeeping" tells us "The first

thing the new government (Bolsheviki) did was to turn over to the peasants the land for which they had been waiting for hundreds of years. . . . The great estates were confiscated without compensation. The district soviets apportioned the land among the village soviets and these turned over the plots or farms to Peter and Ivan and Paul, not to own but to work, and they began planning for co-operative buying and selling and so forth. This was the beginning of bolshevism."

Of course this was in Russia and the hateful Bolshevists are always doing unheard of things. Why even in the Decree of the Soviets of Russia, we read "The right to use the land belongs to those who will cultivate it with their own labor." The land-owners and Capitalists are now in the same position as the peasants, if they desire land they can have just as much as they can manage by their own labor. Previously they possessed hundreds of acres which was tilled and worked by the peasants who usually got recompensed by lashes from the whip accompanied with kicks and blows.

Of course we in Canada don't want any of that Bolsheviki stuff here, no, no, certainly not; we prefer to pay 5 per cent interest on a loan. We like speculators to hold large tracts of land and rent or sell at exorbitant rates. We must exert ourselves in this country, because the Capitalist Press says that it is not good for us and the Press should know. Is it not owned by the Capitalists?

A system of land settlement where the soldiers and workers would have land given them, also machinery, grain and stock free from mortgage. Outrageous! Bolshevism! Anarchy! but "nothing was too good" in 1914 and 1915.

Maybe they thought that we would forget and not ask for any of the good things when the war was over or at most "a cottage and an acre" or a land settlement with a big mortgage, and the grain markets glutted and the packing plants bursting with cattle and hogs, and no fixed price for grain.

Yes, everything is all right we have no reason to worry, our Masters are going to settle the whole matter for us at the Peace Conference.

"Ours not to reason why; Ours but to do and die;" Slaves to the Master class.

RECONSTRUCTION

Reconstruction is the magic word of today. It is literally showered upon us. Newspapers and magazines reek with the word and many books are published which purpose to tell us all about it. Politicians and pedlars of religion punctuate their speeches and sermons with it, while cabinet ministers and labor leaders vie with each other in characterizing it as a sure cure for Bolshevism.

"What is it that needs reconstructing—Capitalism? Ye Gods! Imagine the convicts in a penitentiary where time and the elements have rotted, weakened and loosened the iron bars which stand between them and freedom, petitioning the chief warden to reconstruct the jail!

Reconstruct a system of wage-slavery! Perpetuate your class bondage! Make the world safe for mansions and shacks, for private parks and slums, for millionaires and paupers, for \$10,000 poodles and underfed children!

Slave, the day of your emancipation is dawning. Throw off the spell of the dead past; drink deep of the glories of your future freedom, and tune your whole being to the task which the historic development of the human race has thrust upon you.

Your mission is to pry up the very foundations of Capitalism, i.e., private and corporate class ownership of the natural resources and the means of wealth production, and having secured the social ownership of the means of life to construct entirely new institutions to accord with the needs of your new found liberty.—J.R.K.

A GALAXY OF STARS

The Alberta section of the Dominion Labor Party is to be congratulated upon the calibre of the men who dignify its membership

roll; men whose activities with the Union, Conservative and Liberal machines in the past well fits them to guide the destinies of the long suffering working class. Their change of allegiance must be a tremendous loss to the old parties, but they can obtain some consolation in the thought that like the prodigal son, they may sometime have visions of the fatted calf and straightway hustle home full of repentance—with their mouths watering for the feast. Still for the moment the Alberta section of the Dominion Labor Party reflects the radiance of their presence so we will not allow future possibilities to cast a gloom over the present.

True it is that the B.C. Federated Labor Party occasionally secures the services of a few shining lights to address their meetings, and so assist in moulding the ideals of the poor benighted workers, but they have not yet succeeded in turning them into membership with the party and in this respect they lag far behind their kin organization of Alberta. There is no room for question on this point, the mere mention of a few names being sufficient to decisively award the honors to Alberta. Alex Ross, liberal M.L.A.; Alfred Farmilo, Joseph Adair, Ald. James A. Kinney, Mayor Joseph A. Clarke are names to conjure with, and too, it is confidently expected by the faithful, that ex-Attorney General Cross will eventually add his name to the list.

A CHANCE TO HELP

Dan MacPherson, arrested last November at Trochu for having on his premises four copies of the burned Western Clarion, is now free. His case was dismissed. This result was not due to any benevolent intervention of the Despots of Ottawa, but to the untiring efforts of the Alberta Provincial Executive of the Socialist Party of Canada. MacPherson was freed on February 24th and the party is faced with a \$300.00 obligation, and you are now called upon to pay it. Send your contributions to J. M. Maguire, Box 785, Edmonton.