

leading an active existence but would, on the contrary, tend to favour those degraded creatures that possessed the least efficient limbs and other organs so useful to their freer ancestors. The nourishment necessary to maintain locomotive and other structures quite valueless to parasites that permanently attach themselves to their victim, would be better utilised, from the parasite's stand-point in sustaining other and more essential parts of its body. Again, unused organs probably deteriorate through disuse but, in any case, the selective factor would cease to operate, and, in truth; the whole selective process would become reversed. Instead of the possession of appendages conferring an advantage on such creatures they will prove a hindrance and thus tend to dwindle and disappear.

As is now clear the struggle for existence, promotes the survival of organisms adequately adapted to their habitat, and eliminates those forms indifferently equipped to meet the exacting demands of their environment. Exotic forms of life, when introduced into new surroundings flourish exceedingly, and frequently drive the original inhabitants to the wall.

It has been justly emphasised that out of the myriads of structures and habits, so marvellously suited in most cases to the plants and animals possessing them, there is no certain instance of a single organ which is employed for the sole benefit of another mode of life. Darwin attached so much importance to this remarkable fact that he offered to surrender the theory of selection if only one case of this character could be discovered. From his day to ours no such example has come to light. The great naturalist was so firmly convinced by his own multitudinous researches that natural selection constituted the main means in the evolution of adaptive

structures that he was fully prepared to stake its validity on the discovery of a single instance in which such characters had been developed for the sole benefit of a separate species, and logically so, for it is indispensable to the truth of his doctrine that all adaptive features should render some assistance in life's struggle to the organism presenting them. The most sanguinary beasts, in common with the most gentle creatures, are endowed with special organs and instincts which minister to their own interests alone. That the adaptive structures of floral and faunal forms are sometimes utilised by other organisms is of course quite true. The point, however, is that such structures were developed, and are maintained primarily in the interests of the organisms possessing them.

The almost boundless capacity for variation in the living domain has been dealt with in abundant detail by Darwin, Bateson, and Wallace, and these remarkable phenomena have long been familiar to plant and animal breeders owing to their ability to seize upon variations, reproduce them, and extend their range. All species and varieties of cultivated cereals, fruits, and flowers, together with all the great array of domesticated animals have been derived from wild ancestral forms. It is only necessary to compare the odious crab apple with the choice pippins, or any of our garden flowers with their comparatively insignificant ancestors, to realise what has been accomplished in the vegetable domain. Our various strains of sheep, oxen, horses, goats, pigs, dogs, etc., have all arisen from widely different forerunners. So immense have become the modifications that anyone unacquainted with their mode of origin would unhesitatingly consider them as entirely distinct species. Yet these, and many additional organisms, were selected, generation after generation by man, to please his fancy, or to minister to his utilitarian needs; while in a state of Nature, those organisms would have been selected and preserved which proved themselves best fitted to the habitat in which they dwelt, without paying any attention to the comfort and convenience of man. But the underlying principle is the same both in natural and in artificial selection. The tendency to vary is ever present in all means of life, and when we reflect on the innumerable races of pigeons, fowls, rabbits, canaries, etc., which have been evolved through human agency in a few short centuries we may in some measure estimate the tremendous transformations which nature was capable of accomplishing in the course of the unspeakable aeons during which mother earth has been the arena of life and death.

Once more, the theory of selection provides the most satisfactory explanation of the curious fact that animals are frequently so coloured that they completely harmonise with their surroundings: These protective colourings and markings are positively advantageous to the animals displaying them. Nature utilises these seeming defences extensively, and they are deliberately employed in modern warfare, for the uniform worn by the troops is so shaded that the soldiers cease to be conspicuous objects in the landscape and are therefore less likely to be seen by their enemies.

(To be continued in our next issue.)

REVOLUTIONS, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL.

(Continued from page 6)

Russian troops, and so the few Baden regulars with their proletarian badly armed comrades were forced to contend with disciplined, well armed troops, outnumbering them six to one. Engels tells us, and he was a participant in the struggle, that with reaction triumphant East and West and North, the fight was nothing but a bloody farce.

"Stupidity and treachery ruined it completely. With the exception of a few, the military chiefs were either traitors, or officious, unlearned, cowardly office seekers. . . . The whole revolution resolved itself into a comedy, and the only comfort was

that the six times greater opponent had six times less courage."

And so Mieroslawski brought his army together at last under the walls of Rastatt and there after many a panic and head long flight, the tired out and demoralized army of workers demonstrated that fighting is their natural trade, and on the 23rd of June the revolution in Germany was at an end. Two months later Bene, after superhuman efforts against traitors within and the combined Russian and Austrian forces, surrendered. And all that remained of the most widespread revolutionary movement of all time was the freedom from feudal dues. The Frankfurt Parliament had, during these months of spring madness, stood like Hood's unfortunate with amazement; they met the same fate as the state parliamentarians and were dissolved, part rushing to Wurtemberg, there, to the jargon of the fancy writers making a final gesture of magnificent impotence, and finally kicked out, unwept, unhonored and if we accept Marx on the matter unfortunately, unhung.

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PLATFORM

Socialist Party of Canada

We, the Socialist Party of Canada affirm our allegiance to, and support of the principles and programme of the revolutionary working class.

Labor, applied to natural resources, produces all wealth. The present economic system is based upon capitalist ownership of the means of production, consequently, all the products of labor belong to the capitalist class. The capitalist is, therefore, master; the worker a slave.

So long as the capitalist class remains in possession of the reins of government all the powers of the State will be used to protect and defend its property rights in the means of wealth production and its control of the product of labor.

The capitalist system gives to the capitalist an ever-swelling stream of profits, and to the worker, an ever increasing measure of misery and degradation.

The interest of the working class lies in setting itself free from capitalist exploitation by the abolition of the wage system, under which this exploitation, at the point of production, is cloaked. To accomplish this necessitates the transformation of capitalist property in the means of wealth production into socially controlled economic forces.

The irrepressible conflict of interest between the capitalist and the worker necessarily expresses itself as a struggle for political supremacy. This is the Class Struggle.

Therefore we call upon all workers to organize under the banner of the Socialist Party of Canada, with the object of conquering the political powers for the purpose of setting up and enforcing the economic programme of the working class, as follows:

- 1—The transformation, as rapidly as possible, of capitalist property in the means of wealth production (natural resources, factories, mills, railroads, etc.) into collective means of production.
- 2—The organization and management of industry by the working class.
- 3—The establishment, as speedily as possible, of production for use instead of production for profit.