

OUR LITERATURE

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Make all Money Orders payable to C. Stephenson, 401 Pender Street East, Vancouver, B. C.

Some of the French armament firms must make the shareholders in British companies green with envy. The Societe Hotchkiss, according to a French paper, is paying 200 per cent. for 1918. This compares with 100 per cent. for 1917, 75 per cent. for 1916 and 8 per cent. for 1913. In September, 1916, and in May, 1918, additional shares were created, and on each occasion a bonus of 100 per cent. on the existing shares was given, the required amount being taken from reserve and made payable in cash or shares.

"THE UNSOLVED RIDDLE."

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ownership must operate the machinery of production for a mere livelihood.

The case then presents itself, as that the productive forces are not allowed full and free play to satisfy the needs of society, because they are bound by the rules of the institutions of class ownership of the means of production and production for sale. The solution almost states itself. Free the productive forces from these bonds. Let the already socially operated means of production be also owned socially for the benefit of society as a whole. Beyond the general proposition of freeing the productive forces from the capitalistic bonds, the socialists do not lay down details, any more than the protagonists of the bourgeoisie in the eighteenth century could have laid down the details for future adaptations in the developing capitalist society. We have something to say, however, as to what must be done before these productive forces can be freed. First, the masses of the people must be brought to a knowledge of what is wrong both by education and through bitter experience. When the people realize that it is class ownership of the means of production is the cause of our social troubles, then they will take steps to remove that cause and substitute in its place social ownership of the means of production and so free the productive forces for exercise to their full capacity in behalf of society as a whole.

Labor Officials Are Now Out on Bail

A press despatch dated Winnipeg, Sept. 10, reports that after 20 days' imprisonment the eight strike leaders who have been held in the provincial jail pending their trial on charges of seditious conspiracy, were at 5:20 o'clock, in judges' chambers, granted bail. Chief Justice Mathers, who, together with Mr. Metcalf, heard the arguments of counsel, read the decision of the court.

Bail was granted in the sum of \$4000 each and two sureties of \$2000 each.

The court found that it had not been proved that the accused would not appear to stand their trial, and the decision went on to state:

Not Justified in Refusing Bail.

"The court would not be justified in refusing bail on the sole ground that public safety might be endangered by permitting the accused to be at large."

The decision as read by Chief Justice Mathers: "Because of the great public interest involved in this prosecution, and because bail has once been refused by a brother judge, I asked my brothers, Macdonald and Metcalf, to sit with me while hearing this application, and had the satisfaction of knowing that both concurred with me in the views herein expressed.

"I, therefore, order that the accused be admitted to bail in the sum of \$4000 each, and two sureties of \$2000 each."

The liberated men are due for trial at the Assizes in October.

Everyone will be glad to see the imprisoned officials free again, as they will now be able to present their side of the case to the people in opposition to that of the prosecution which alone has been presented in the capitalist press. In addition to this they will be of great assistance in raising funds for the defence.

We again mention that besides the defence of these officials, the defence has also been taken up of numerous individuals, mostly Russians, throughout the country, who have been arrested under the provisions of the Amended Immigration Act. The best that can be done, under the extraordinary conditions of these provisions, is being done, and much expense is entailed. The defence is heavily handicapped. The sole evidence against those in Vancouver is that of secret service agents who had wormed their way into intimacy with the prisoners. This evidence mostly consists of scraps of conversation and in general is of such a character as would not secure conviction in a regularly constituted court of law. In view of the fact that those men who are deported to Russia, will most surely be executed on arrival in Kolchak territory, they should at least have had a fair and open trial before a judge and jury. This, they are denied by the Government, however, and so what can be done in their defence must be done. In Vancouver, so far, the release of three or four of them has been secured, and about twelve have been sentenced to deportation, which means, as we said, death or worse. The case of Romeo Albo who was sentenced in Nelson, B. C., to deportation is awaiting the result of an appeal to Ottawa. Unfortunately for these other men their case seems hopeless, because of lack of public support in their behalf. The press by the nature of its reports of their case having turned public opinion against them.

Our heartiest thanks are due to all contributors and workers for the defence fund: Keep it up.

Send all money and make all cheques payable to A. S. Wells, B. C. Federationist, Labor Temple, Vancouver, B. C.

Collection agency for Alberta: A. Broatch, 1203 Eighth avenue east, Calgary, Alta.

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NEWS AND VIEWS

The world's merchant shipping tonnage is now larger than it was on the eve of the war. In 1914, the gross tonnage was 49,454,000; in 1919, 50,919,000. In 1914, British shipping was 41.6 of the whole, and American 4.6, in 1919, the British percentage has fallen to 34.1, and the American risen to 20.4.

"John Stuart Mill Was Inclined to Question the Sanctity of Landed Property"—Professor Leacock

In questioning the sanctity of landed property he was but viewing the matter from the same angle as the rising manufacturing capitalists, who look upon the landlord as a mere tribute taker from production without rendering any service in return. His rent is viewed by the manufacturers as a charge upon production and a handicap on successful competition with foreign capitalists.

Professor Masaryk, President of Czecho-Slovak, has declared against intervention in Russia. He is of opinion that it is the duty of the State to enter into relations with all Russian groups and with all existing Russian Governments. "I should like to see the Allies entering into relations with Lenin, Kolchak and Denikin. The Allies must help Russia, but by peaceful methods." This is rather remarkable testimony coming from such a quarter.

Mr. Glenn Plumb, author of the U. S. Railway Workers' scheme for nationalization and tripartite control, has charged the 18 representative railway companies now controlled wholly or partly by the Morgan, Rockefeller and Gould interests with giving away bonus shares aggregating over 450 million dollars, from 1900 to 1910, and with paying millions in dividends on these bonuses. He demands that Congress should immediately investigate these charges.

BEWARE OF THE PROVOCATEUR.

A man who is paid to find plots as a rule does not spend his time urging his neighbors to remain quiet. There is danger that the lives and liberties of men will be swept away by spies and agents provocateurs.

IRELAND.

(Says the Glasgow "Forward," of August 23.) There were tar barrels in Derry last week. And English regiments were fighting Irish citizens on Irish soil. There were British machine guns blazing at civilian riflemen. Every day we hear of meetings being suppressed and newspapers silenced. And, of course, small nations are sacred.

BELGIAN ACTION.

BRUSSELS, Sept. 9.—The Miners' Federation at Charleroi has adopted a resolution in favor of the nationalization of mines, a minimum wage scale, free fuel for all miners, control of production and the creation of an organization representing both the miners and the government.

The decision of the miners is considered an important prelude to the approaching Miners' Congress to be held in Brussels.

LONDON, Sept. 3.—A wireless despatch from Moscow received here reports that Admiral Kolchak, head of the All-Russian Government, has evacuated Omsk and transferred his headquarters to Irkutsk.

Defence Fund, Room 12, Labor Temple, Winnipeg. Contributions will be acknowledged through Labor and Socialist Press.

Lawyers for the defence in Vancouver, Bird, Macdonald & Earle.

Because of discrimination against contributors, whose names have been published as sending in moneys for the defence fund, acknowledgment in future will be made by mail.