

# Vancouver Island Defence Fund

Cotton's Weekly has received the following appeal from the defense committee of the Vancouver Island striking miners. A good plan for the comrades would be to paste the appeal on a piece of paper, and tackle Socialists and union men for contributions, sending them forward to the Secretary of the Defense Fund.

## FELLOW WORKERS—

We, as brothers of the two hundred miners at present in jail awaiting trial on Vancouver Island, at this time appeal to you members of the working class for moral and financial help, that we may free from persecution and the brand of criminality men whose chief offense is their prominence and activity in the labor movement on this portion of the Pacific Coast.

The miners, in their dealings as individuals with the corporations in the past, have realized their utter helplessness. Time and again explosions occur with the loss of human life. The mining laws provide for the appointment of a Gas Committee by the men. This committee on examining the mine and reporting gas, was discharged. The Government, in lining up with the mine owners, refused to enforce the laws. They are therefore the violators of their own laws.

The men were thus forced to organize, and on this day of May last the mine workers of this Island came out for recognition of their union.

The governments, Dominion and Provincial, in their eagerness for industrial expansion (profits for the master class), encourage a constant stream of immigration from Oriental countries. With the aid of this reserve army of labor, whose wants are few compared with those of white men and the enactment of

drastic criminal laws, which are intended to render the workers powerless during a strike, all the forces of the State are at the disposal of the capitalists involved.

Today the militia are encamped in our streets, and bodies of them with fixed bayonets patrol them, and act as a shield to hundreds of special police who are here to guard strike-breakers.

The jails are crowded with our most active workers. With the exception of a few, bail has been refused. Among the men in prison are many earnest and active workers, who are eligible for provincial and municipal office. Also J. Place, M.P.P., the working class representative in the Provincial Parliament. The workers of this district have attained the most advanced political position of any of the Dominion. In the event of these men being convicted, they are deprived of all political rights for five years.

**FELLOW WORKERS—**  
In this life and death struggle with the Master Class, help us to keep the Banner of Labor flying triumphant over what we have already attained. It is our turn today; it may be yours tomorrow. In the name of the solidarity of the working class, help is urgently needed at this time. Do all you can, and aid us to hurl those from place and power who, in their greed would force us to the standard of Orientals, or to become homeless tramps.

Forward all monies to Defense Committee, G.A. Moore, Secretary, Box 830, Nanaimo, B.C.

Donations will be acknowledged in Western Clarion, Cotton's Weekly, Appeal to Reason, and other Labor papers.

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Finnish Local No. 20, S.D.P. of C., Webster's Corners, B. C. ....                    | 23.60 |
| Finnish Local, Keewatin, Minn., U.S. ....                                            | 11.65 |
| Frank McKee and Axel T. Johnson, Main, Sask. ....                                    | 2.00  |
| Green Valley Socialist Party, Rocky Mountain House, Alta. ....                       | 3.20  |
| Finnish Socialist Local, Port Arthur, Ont. ....                                      | 23.40 |
| Local No. 9, S.D.P., Victoria, B.C. ....                                             | 30.00 |
| Finnish Socialist Local, Mullan, Idaho, U.S.A. ....                                  | 3.60  |
| C. G. Johnson, Carmi, B.C. ....                                                      | 1.00  |
| S. S. Osasto No. 4, Cook Co., Chicago, Ill. ....                                     | 10.50 |
| Local No. 21, S. D. P., Edmonton, Alta. ....                                         | 6.50  |
| Finnish Ex. Com., S. D. P. of C. ....                                                | 32.50 |
| Trades and Labor Council, Regina Com's Crook and McCombs, Sillico, Alta. ....        | 10.00 |
| John Heaton, S.P.C. Local, Kenora Milwaukee, Wis., Finnish Local, per Arvo Saro .... | 5.50  |
| Vancouver, B.C., Patternmakers' Association ....                                     | 7.50  |
| Finnish Local, Port Arthur, Erick Korkala ....                                       | 2.40  |
| Per A. G. Godfrey, South Wellington, N.Z. ....                                       | 22.00 |
| Finnish Local, Mond, Ont. ....                                                       | 12.65 |
| T. C. Wood, per Western Clarion, Co., Minn. ....                                     | 2.00  |
| Finnish Socialist Local, Toimi, Lake Co., Minn. ....                                 | 3.00  |
| United Bro. Carpenters and Joiners, Nelson, B.C. ....                                | 7.00  |
| S. S. Osasto, Garson Mine, Sudbury, Ont. ....                                        | 7.65  |
| Local 134, Sheet Metal Workers, Victoria, B.C. ....                                  | 10.00 |
| S. S. Osasto, Cobalt, Ont. ....                                                      | 33.00 |
| Greenwood Union, W.F.M., Int. Union No. 510, Steam Engineers, Prince Rupert ....     | 5.00  |
| Miners, Cardiff, Alta., per A. Fleming ....                                          | 57.80 |
| Finnish Local, Eckville, Alta., C. S. Randall ....                                   | 11.00 |
| Local 495, Journeymen Plumbers, New Westminster, B.C. ....                           | 10.00 |
| Local Union 138, Vancouver, Paint-                                                   |       |

## The Wrong Track

In conversation with our Socialist comrades I often notice, that they are practically harsh in their sayings about the parasite portion of the present capitalist society; and I often think they go to extremes. Personally I have not much room to kick for I love to get after these gents of a slimy nature. Again I wish to state, that we spend too much time and breath tearing them to pieces and not half enough time cutting up the system, that allows these gents to thrive. As for Carnegie, Borden, Laurier, George the Fifth are part and parcel of the system. Just as much as the poor half-starved creature in the shack.

Capitalism was in full swing years before these gents were ever thought of, and they like ourselves are part of the system. The only difference is, that they get the plans and we fight for the stones.

Who is to blame for the present state of affairs? You can't blame George, Laurier or Borden, you can't blame Jack Eaton for exploiting those who work for him, in fact we must give these gents credit for being able to white wash the workers with their smooth tongues, notwithstanding the good swift kicks they are handing out to us especially at the present time.

Capitalism was a necessary system, but thank heaven we now know of a better.

Whilst penning these few remarks there are thousands out of job and starving, yet every day in the week you can hear men talking of the grand army and navy England has got, of the dandy palace Lord so and so has got, what a fine lot of horses Sifton has, and ought to see the dandy auto Mr. Skins has just purchased. What's the good of half starved homeless workers' loitering about what these gents pretend to own. Why not get after the system that allows them to own so much of other peoples property, whilst you own nothing.

The most wonderful thought of my mind today is, that millions of useful workers allow a mere handful of Parasites to own and control every blamed thing that is worth owning and controlling at all.

Our forefathers fought hard for the privilege we enjoy today, of the ballot. The ballot box has become a joke instead of a duty, and most men are waking up to the fact that the Grit and Tory parties are a great big bluff, and quite a number look out for the best price for their vote.

Now workers ease off a bit on the parasite and go right after the system. Tear it to pieces; expose its rottenness; show its in-

justice; pick at its foundation, and before we are aware of it the structure will fall, and in its place we can build up, a structure that for many centuries to come will make the life of the worker worth living. All is yours for the asking. All you have to do is to study a bit, you already feel your wants and when the opportunity comes hit capitalism an awful blow with your ballot. May the time soon come, when he that sows shall reap and not another; When all will be able to say as Andrew Carnegie is quoted to have said "Truly earth is heaven to me." With one great shout let the workers reply "Yes, Andrew and shall be heaven to millions more who today find it nothing short of 'hell.'" H.B.F. Brockville, Ont.

## Comrade Martin in Montreal

Comrade H. Martin, Secretary of the Dominion Executive Committee, S.D.P., has been appointed delegate to attend the annual meeting of Cotton's Co-operative Publishing Company, which meets February 2nd. He will represent the shares held by the D.E.C., and the other Comrade shareholders who have sent him their proxies. On the way to Cowansville he will probably address a meeting in Montreal on February 1st.

## Port Arthur Reds Advances

The municipal elections in Port Arthur are over, and while we only got one man in the council out of the ten we ran, it is important to note that our lowest man received more votes than the highest vote we got last election. There were ten aldermen to be elected, and we had four among the first thirteen out of 23 candidates that ran. On the school trustees we had three candidates including myself. Fourteen candidates altogether ran for three positions, and while we just failed to secure a seat, our three men were in the first six. This has given the other side an awful scare, and it is the most hopeful sign to me that the working class are getting sick of the parasites round here.

When you take into consideration that a great number of the working class have no vote on municipal matters unless they have property taxed at \$400 or are paying a house rental, our vote was splendid. Fred Urry was the man elected, and while he is not a member of our party, he on every occasion that he spoke at election meetings absolutely ignored the local issues and preached Socialism. S. Wilson, a member of our party, was next up to the lowest man elected. Our Finnish comrade and Scandinavian candidates polled well. In fact Peter Katamen (Finnish) doubled his vote of last year. All round, the vote we got was more solid than on any previous occasion. It is very promising to the party in my opinion, for the future.—H. B.

## What Does it Conserve

Irwin Friday, Fertility, Alta.

Is it not the declared policy of the Conservative party, "That Canadian resources" should be conserved for Canadian investors? Now, Mr. Conservative Voter, please permit me to ask, how much of Canadian resources are you able to buy? You know as well as I that the workingman who votes the Conservative ticket is not able to invest in mines, sawmills, etc. Now, then, is a policy of conservation which applies only to investments going to benefit you when you cannot invest? What difference is there in its effect on your pocketbook or mine if the factories, mines, mills, etc., are owned by Canadian millionaires or United States millionaires? You cannot own them, and hence you cannot draw dividends, and if you could own them and draw dividends you would be robbing your fellow men. The rich class is the class that can and does invest in the resources of this country. What is the difference if the capital invested in the resources comes from the United States, from England, or is furnished by our own beloved plutocrats?

If a Canadian investor sees in the United States or Mexico a chance to make an investment that will pay bigger dividends than an investment here will pay him, he will not hesitate an instant in taking the dividends here reaps by his ownership of stocks and investing in the U. S. or Mexico, thus robbing this country to that extent of funds derived from the sale of our resources. When a Conservative capitalist sees a chance to fill his purse he doesn't hesitate an instant in turning our resources into manufactured articles (Cock-shutt plows for instance) and selling them abroad, thus turning our resources into the hands of the foreign user.

Conservation is a farce and a snare to catch the vote of the man who cannot understand just as the red rag and fish-hook is a device for catching the frog who is not wise to what he is biting on.

Conservative capitalists are jealous of foreigners and want to conserve the cream of everything for themselves. For this reason they try to snare the voters into their party. Socialists have no intention of allowing themselves to be fooled into such a shallow and selfish farce. The Socialist says: Under Socialism we would not permit any of these grafters to own factories, mines, or mills or any other thing publicly used. The squabble to see who is to be allowed to invest would be an impossibility. The collectively controlled state would furnish the capital needed to develop our resources. Development under such a system means development for use, not to make the rich richer until they own the world.

If the Conservative party is conserving anything for the man who has for many years faithfully swallowed the bait, I would be pleased to have my attention called to it. Both the Liberals and Conservatives open the homestead lands of Canada to all the world and say, come and take a homestead—first come, first served.

Have you noticed any homesteads or pre-emptions being conserved for Canadians especially? Have you noticed any coal mines being conserved until you accumulate the cash to invest in them, Mr. Conservative? The only thing that is being conserved for you is a rectangular spot in a buying ground three feet by six, upon condition that your relatives pay for it after you die. There is no peace and contentment away from the idyllic warble of the Liberal orators and Conservative spellbinders, you may rest assured you have received all that comes to the average voter under a rotten system that is rotting itself away.

In the name of all that is good I appeal to the voters of Canada to take off their intellectual shackles and help us make this world a world in which poverty and injustice will be unknown. Do not shun us Socialists—help us.

## New Locals

New Locals of the S.D.P. have been formed as follows: Eagle Hill, No. 23, English, Alta.; Dundurn No. 13 English, Sask.; Merritt, No. 36 English, B.C.; and Kamistikiwia, No. 93 Finnish, Ont. What places are next? If you want to form a local and do not know how, send ten cents to Cotton's Weekly for a How To Organize Envelope.

## Montreal Organizing

Montreal is organizing S.D.P. branches. An English local is in process of formation. Comrade W. E. Thomas is organizer and can be communicated with at 31 Butler Avenue, Point St. Charles. A German and a French local are also in process of formation. A Jewish one is already in existence.

## Scandinavians Organizing

Comrade Bergstrom is making a three months tour from Port Arthur west organizing Scandinavian Socialist locals. New local at Winnipeg, 60 charter members.

## Labor the Only Right

If every man received what he really deserved, there would be no millionaires and no underfed and ill-housed working people.

Socialism is going to establish a social system by which every person will receive what is due to him, and none will get more than he is entitled to. And every man and woman willing to work is entitled to as good a living as society is able to provide for all. This is no means a question of charity, but of social justice. It is simply the realization of the universally recognized proposition that what a man produces by his own labor is his rightful property.

## Why not Emulate the Germans

A study of the German Socialist educational methods proves that the success in organizing the party is due to the careful and intelligent employment of the party's resources. When a certain work is to be done those best fitted to carry it out are assigned the task, and they work in the manner that has been tested and shown to be the best one. If the men and means are not at hand the party goes ahead to develop them. The party does not sit down and wait and wish, but goes ahead and does.

Consequently, we see a great and powerful press, a steady growth in the number of the buildings owned by the party and used for party purposes, and in other evidences of the party's growth. The acquisition of wealth by the party is not an end in itself. The wealth that it has is used for the furtherance of the party's campaign against capitalism, and by acquiring wealth the party finds it can work most economically.—Labor Advocate.

## News From Owen Sound, Ont.

I am not in a position to get in the front rank with you and fight for the emancipation of the working class, the only useful people on this planet, and who, I am glad to see, are intelligently organizing along class lines to secure political dominance for the purpose of making restitution to the working class of the wealth they have been creating, since the birth of capitalism, in the form of all the machinery of production and distribution which is in existence today, and of which they have been legally robbed.

The capitalists, or present owners of this wealth, use it to continue the robbery of the working class for the benefit of their class. The arguments put forward by the working class to defend their program are unanswerable and logical. They ask and assert that there is no other possible source of wealth than production except by the use of human effort applied to raw products. And it logically follows that if labor produced all wealth, to them should go all the wealth they create. We all know that labor does not get all it produces, but only a part called wages. The essence of the wage system is that the laborer is forced by hunger to go to the owners of the tools of production which it is necessary for him to have access to in order to live, and makes an unequal contract with them by which he agrees to surrender the whole results of his productive effort, receiving back only a part of the value he creates as wages. This is a dishonest contract as between man and man; and one that our savage ancestors would have spurned to make with a fellow savage. But in our enlightened stage of civilization it is the foundation stone on which capitalism is built. When the working class are educated to understand the rank injustice of the system they will all push together to overthrow the superstructure built upon this foundation, and will be surprised to see how easily it is done. It is impossible of accomplishment when one half of the working class are ignorantly assisting the capitalists to hold it up.

Here in Owen Sound there is an organized attempt by labor to elect to the council labor candidates. At the nomination, one of the labor candidates in his speech congratulated himself that he had as a boss man who gave him permission to run as a labor candidate for the council, and said there were few masters in Owen Sound who would give their men liberty to do so. After listening to this labor candidate's speech, which consisted entirely in an effort to convince the taxpayers electors that if he were elected he would be the watchdog of the council to see that every dollar of the taxpayers' money was economically expended, I came to the conclusion that the bosses who were present would vote for this labor candidate, for from his talk he evidently would be an efficient slave for them in the council as he had been for his own boss in the workshop, and who had so kindly condescended to grant him the privilege to run as a labor candidate, knowing full well he and his class had nothing to fear from labor candidates with capitalist leanings.

The labor candidate who ignorantly wastes his energy in working for the interests of the capitalists, is patted on the back by the capitalists, but if he recognizes the class division in our social system, and in his oratorical efforts shows to his fellow workers how he is robbed of the products of his labor by the wage system which divides the product of the laborer in two parts, labor receiving only sufficient to live and keep up the supply of laborers while the capitalists get the rest, he has touched a sacred spot in the capitalist system, and he has become an incendiary, a fire brand—an unrepentant, an undesirable citizen. His name is put on the black list by the employing class, and his chance of holding down a job in his home town is gone.

In conversation with a prominent Walkerston man a short time ago he said that labor organizing was forcing the capitalists to organize for self protection, that the breach between capital and labor was constantly widening and getting more bitter, and that we were rapidly approaching a conflict between the two classes that would mean a revolution of the worst type. He was, of course, in a short time, and he could see no way of avoiding it. Now, when the revolution comes the capitalist, to defend the system by which he builds up his wealth at the expense of the workers, will employ that ignorant section of his class, ignorant of the social system, to shoot down their fellow workers who are trying to make this world a better one to live in for themselves and children. This man was in the Cour d'Alene and Homestead dispute at the time of the strike in the Carnegie plectors that he saw, and said that the authorities did what was right and proper in shooting down the strikers at that time. So we can see from this admission the class of men we will have to contend with, and every Red should use his best efforts to spread a knowledge of Socialism among the ignorant working class who will be used by the capitalist class to fight to uphold a system under which they are robbed.

## Farmers Side With the Strikers

Editor Cotton's Weekly: Wheatland Centre Local No. 109, United Farmers of Alberta, affiliated with the Alberta Federation of Labor, has forwarded to the Federation the following resolution, requesting that copies be forwarded to yourself and other parties. The Federation of Labor in Alberta feels that the working miners now on strike have been given but very scant consideration at the hands of the authorities, and trusts that the many protests entered by various labor forces will have an effect.

The resolution:  
Moved by H. L. Wilson, seconded by H. Benkenberger, and unanimously carried.  
Whereas, the miners of Vancouver Island have been compelled to strike for the protection of their lives while earning their daily bread; and

Whereas, on account of this strike they have been continually persecuted by their masters; and  
Whereas, the Government of British Columbia has shown a partiality in favor of the mine owners, and persecuted and imprisoned the workers, as we believe, in defiance of law, order and justice; it is hereby

Resolved, that we, the members of Wheatland Centre Local No. 109 of The United Farmers of Alberta, extend to the persecuted workers of Vancouver Island our heart-felt sympathy in their struggle for life against their conscienceless exploiters; and it is also the duty of the law-abiding and fair-minded citizens of British Columbia to redeem their province from the brutal and disgraceful acts performed by the government and courts on Vancouver Island during the recent controversy.

Resolved, that we call upon the law-abiding and fair-minded citizens of British Columbia to redeem their province from the brutal and disgraceful acts performed by the government and courts on Vancouver Island during the recent controversy.

Wheatland Centre Local No. 109, F. F. A., Barons, Alta., Dec. 20, 1913.  
John A. Lund, Secretary.

## The Socialist Program

W. S. Morgan.

The Socialist program is based upon all that is best in human action.

It seeks to universalize opportunities and restore mankind to his natural estate. It is established on principles of justice and is invulnerable to successful attack.

It recognizes that the greatest problem of the age is production and distribution. All other so-called issues have their origin in this one.

The Socialist philosophy maintains that labor produces and distributes, and that those who own and manage the means by which the necessities of life are produced and distributed are exacting a toll equal to more than one-half of all the wealth produced.

This process has been going on until more than three-fourths of the wealth of this country is in the hands of less than five per cent of the people.

This uneven and unjust division of wealth has produced two classes, the owners of the machinery of production and distribution, and those who operate it and produce and distribute the wealth by their labor.

Wages is the name of that part of the wealth which the working men and women receive for their toil, and is the job which capitalism plays against the toilers.

Profits is the name of that vastly larger part of the wealth produced by labor that the capitalist masters put in their pockets.

This abnormal condition created a class struggle—a struggle between the exploited workers and the exploiting masters, each continually endeavoring to obtain a bigger part of the wealth produced.

Socialism boldly declares that all the wealth produced by labor belongs to the producer.

The Socialist program is to unite the workers in both the industrial and political fields.

The source of special privilege is in the power of money to corrupt.

Private ownership of the means of production and distribution is the means through which labor is robbed and the money obtained with which to corrupt the people's representatives and to control political parties.

By abolishing private ownership of these utilities only can we strike at the root of the evil.

Under the present system of capitalism labor provides the funds for its own undoing.

Strikes are only a compromise and are symptoms of the real cause of the working men's enslavement.

Wealth is power.

Concentrated wealth is concentrated power in the hands of those who own it.

Less than two per cent of the people own enough wealth to control the great industries of the country through their control of political power.

It is folly to think that this ruling class will not use the power they possess to still further increase their profits and their fortunes.

The only hope of the country is to give the power to the people, to seize the governmental powers and substitute a better for private ownership.

To accomplish this the conflict must be a class struggle.

The working men must unite.

Destroy the source of the evil and the evil will themselves disappear.

Great fortunes will melt away.

Poverty will be abolished.

Child labor will be a thing of the past.

The power to levy a toll upon labor will be destroyed.

Manhood will be restored to its inheritance and woman will share in all his rights and happiness.

Peace will reign on earth and good will to all mankind will bind all nations together in a universal brotherhood.

## Percy Didn't

By Will Sumner

Percy McCre was just forty two. When he found himself in a "carded stew," His Mary had said (after ten years' wait): "On one condition I'll be your mate—If you make fifteen dollars a week!" And he didn't.

So he heaved the boss in his private fair With a halting, nervous, diffident air. Respectfully bowed, "Good morning, sir! I've worked on the glove counter twenty years."

No doubt, you will give me a dollar more." But he didn't.

"Why, my dear McCre, I'm surprised at you! Get married! Well! Well! Why don't you? The thing up-to-date in a store like this? And be a 'friend' to a new young Miss P? His fist should have kept his smiling lip."

But it didn't.

For Percy had lost his manhood pride As a smirking slave at the counter side, So he gazed about at the sounder's "joke," Though his dream of a home as a wife went broke.

And raising hell was undignified, So he didn't.

But he went to his sensible Mary and said, "I have 'excellent prospects,' supposing we wed."

You hold your job till I get an advance. But Mary just hated to take the chance. She's seen so many burnt before.

So she didn't.

Then he got beat and sad and called it a frame. And Mary responded, "You sacking lump, frame. If you were a man, you'd stand up and fight. Not me—but your boss—let your primitive right."

If you don't do that, you'll never get me!" And he didn't.

On January 12th, a mass meeting of the unemployed was held in Hamilton, Ont., and was largely attended. Mayor Aikin, who had led a "mis strike," became the farmers' ally. Too much for the milk the mayor used in his tea, was present and gave a cold reception. If the Hamilton workers are wise, they will replace Aikin in the mayor's chair by a Socialist. They will suffer hunger and misery as long as they allow the political henchmen of the masters to make and run the laws of the country which give millions of unearned revenues to the non-producers and poverty to the producing class.

The police bulls of Toronto threw a lot of walls among a bunch of prisoners in a police station for the night. In the morning the oars were separated from the tars, and one of the tars managed to get mixed up with the oars and escaped. Old Archibald, the morality inspector of Toronto, thinks that people should walk the narrow path, yet allows young children to be thrown in police cells. The people of Toronto in general are about sick of Archibald and his capitalist hobbies.