

WORKERS
OF THE
WORLD
UNITE!
THE WORLD
FOR THE
WORKERS

THE CANADIAN FORWARD

IN THE SPIRIT OF THE PROLETARIAT

THE REVOLUTION MUST FIRST ARISE

OFFICIAL
ORGAN
OF THE
SOCIAL
DEMOCRATIC
PARTY

LABOR
PRODUCES
ALL WEALTH
—UNTO
LABOR
IT SHOULD
BELONG

New Series, VOL. 2, No. 12.

TORONTO

CANADA

Published twice
a Month

June 24th, 1918.

THE BAINBRIDGE TO DATE.

BAINBRIDGE MAKES PERSONAL APPEAL

To Members of Socialist Locals, Labor Unions, all Progressive Individuals.

The following letter and statement was prepared by Comrade Bainbridge at the time he was notified to appear before Judge Latchford. It will be read with interest by all readers of the Forward. We trust that all who read it will do all within their power to give it the publicity it deserves. As you are all now aware, the Judge gave our comrade three months on the old suspended case. The response to this appeal to date has resulted in strong resolutions from many labor unions, Socialist and labor party locals, and the Toronto-District Trades Council and the Farmers' Convention, demanding Bainbridge's immediate release.

397 Spadina Ave., May 22, 1918.

To the Members of Socialist Locals, Labor Unions and all Fairminded Individuals:

I am taking this opportunity of informing you that I am under instructions to present myself before Judge Latchford in Courtroom No. 3 on May 27th. The Judge has something important to say to me in relation to my suspended sentence of one year ago. Bluntly speaking, it looks as though they intended to sentence me to a term in jail.

The reason for any such action has not been explained up to the present time—and in all probability there will be no defence permitted. I am going to ask you to watch the papers, and in the event of sentence being passed, that you will make it your duty to bring the matter to the attention of your local union.

For your information I will recite a few details of the insistent prosecution with which I have had to contend.

1. The publication of "Fenner Brockway's Defence," who was tried before a military court in Chester, England. Reprinted from the English Labor Leader which circulated throughout England and Canada. I was permitted my liberty on suspended sentence, the judge stating that I was not a criminal and he would not send me to associate with criminals. It is in relation to this that I am called to appear. This article was reprinted by the British Columbia Federationist after it was suppressed by the Censor and no action was brought against them.

2. The publication of an article entitled "The Price We Pay," written by the Rev. Irwin St. John Tucker, of Chicago. At the preliminary hearing the prosecuting attorney refused bail stating that I was a dangerous man, and had I been in Germany I would have been shot (perhaps the wish was father to the thought) and this before the trial had taken place. I was then held in custody in Toronto Jail for three and a half weeks, pending trial. On my second appearance in court, bail was again refused, and I was remanded. On my third appearance the charge was quashed as being illegal.

Within half an hour of the quashing of the first charge, the same charge was laid again, only under the Criminal Code Act, and not under Order-in-Council as was done in the previous instance. My counsel decided to take this over to the high court, and note what takes place—instead of having one indictment as the original charge called for, I had to defend myself on seven seditious libels; and strange to relate one of them was based on a speech delivered in the British House of Commons by Philip Snowden, entitled "Dreadnoughts and Dividends," a copy of which I had in my possession. Another was the publication entitled "The Call," official organ of the British Socialist Party. A third was a publication entitled "Social Revolution," printed in Kansas. I was found guilty on three counts and sentenced to nine months. The case was appealed and we won on four points presented by defending counsel. I was liberated after a period of four months in prison, and now I am called up on the first charge.

It has been suggested that this is not a prosecution—but a persecution. I want to know if the labor movement of Canada is going to permit my imprisonment again on any ground in relation to this old case. Are you going to permit this without protest. I claim the reason why I am being persecuted is because of my outspoken statements, and my hostility to undemocratic measures. Try and think what my wife and three children will have to go through, none of whom are able to look after themselves, and this I claim is for being an outspoken defender of the workers and my opposition to the capitalist frauds and liars who control the destinies of this country at the present time.

I appeal to you as the court of last appeal. If you will not help me, no one else can. I have put up a hard fight against tremendous odds, I have nothing to relent—errors I may have committed, but my motives were right. Do you find me guilty? Your answer to this question will determine my future.

Thanking you in anticipation,

ISAAC BAINBRIDGE.

THE BAINBRIDGE CASE TO DATE.

Friends Hope to Secure His Release Without Much Delay.

On Friday, June 14th, Mr. Robert Harding, accompanied by Mr. James Simpson vice-president of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, and John Bruce, national organizer of the International Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters' Association, went to Guelph to present the resolutions passed by the Toronto District Trades Council and the United Farmers' Convention, before Attorney-General Guthrey. These resolutions, together with a largely signed petition and a specially prepared general statement of the case, was presented to Mr. Guthrey. The attorney and delegation were given a respectful hearing, and it is the reasonable hope of the friends of justice that our efforts on Comrade Bainbridge's behalf will result in his release and restoration to his family and loved work in the near future.

Mr. Bainbridge is spending his time as pleasantly as the circumstances will permit of at the Industrial Farm at Richmond Hill. The friends of Mr. Bainbridge everywhere will be pleased to learn that his brave wife and children are bearing their cruel punishment with courage and fortitude worthy of the great cause for which they are called upon to suffer. This petty persecution by little minded men that find themselves for the moment clothed with power, will in the end only cast a dark shadow over the judicial history of Canada and write Bainbridge's name in letters of gold in the history of social progress in Canada.

All fair-minded men and women know that Bainbridge is not being persecuted because he is "hindering the war" or is in any way inclined to be pro-German. He is a Socialist who uses his pen, voice and influence to enlighten the toilers as to the causes of wars, the cost of wars and the only remedy to prevent future wars. So long as the struggle for markets is the driving force of international diplomacy, there will be wars, and rumors of wars which will perpetuate militarism and the imperial jingo spirit which is now driving the best in all lands to the slaughter.

All lovers of liberty and admirers of a brave spirit that is too strong to be crushed can show their appreciation of his work by sending a mite to H. Perkins, treasurer of the Bainbridge Defence Fund, 393 Spadina avenue.

SOCIALISTS' GREAT OPPONENT PASSES ON.

John Ross Robertson, editor and proprietor of the Toronto Evening Telegram, and the arch opponent of Socialism in Canada, has passed to the great beyond. As capitalist despots go he was not a bad sort. He was by nature, in the best sense of the word, a benevolent despot. He spent much time and money, both of his own and others he could interest, in building up the most worthy charity in Canada—the Sick Children's Hospital. But with all his compassion for sick children he was entirely unable to understand the thoughts and aspirations of people who were longing and striving for the time when the children of the toilers would receive the same or better care than they received in the Sick Children's Hospital without undergoing the feeling of being the recipient of charity and under obligation to benevolent exploiters. John Ross has gone. May the good he did live after him. It is up to the toiler to see to it that the evil he perceived as good is not permitted to perpetuate itself.

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP.

The Canadian Forward would like to see someone jump up and start a good rousing, big agitation for the public ownership of the Canadian Government. That would put the nation and its inhabitants on its feet for good and all. Too long has private ownership monopolized and owned the Government.

THE WOMEN'S CRUSADE.

We, the members of the Women's Crusade believing that men and women of all nations are the Brotherhood and Sisterhood of the great family of humanity, assert our opposition to all war, and slavery.

We pledge ourselves to support, by our influence and voting power, only those who will work for peace and freedom, and the suppression of militarism, under all forms.

We desire social and political purity, the world for the workers (to whom it belongs), the true religion, that is the fulfilment of the Golden Rule, and the creation of a safe and happy world for the unborn.

TORONTO SOCIALISTS WILL PIC-NIC AT HIGH PARK JULY 1st, 1918

On the grounds located here near the Bloor St. Entrance. All Socialists and their friends are invited to come and help make the occasion an enjoyable one. Pic-Nic will be opened at 11 o'clock a. m.

Every reader of this paper should immediately send a contribution to the Bainbridge Defence Fund and also write a letter to the Minister of Justice at Ottawa, demanding his immediate release. Send all contributions to H. Perkins, Treasurer of the Bainbridge Defence Fund, 397 Spadina Avenue, Toronto, Ont.