

From My Notebook

By H. M. Bartholomew.

I notice that Clemenceau told the Secretary of the French General Confederation of Labor the other day that:—

"I find your aspirations legitimate. In 1789 an unworthy nobility was wrecked. Today, the middle classes have shewn themselves incapable of rising to the level demanded by the occasion. *The moment has come for you to follow in due order of succession.*"

And that Lord Northcliffe told an American interviewer that:—

"As the result of my observations, I am convinced that the working men will eventually control the Government, and by their votes will demand a changed England, an England that will be as much a surprise to the present owners of capital as it may be to the present owners of land."

These statements are true. A change is rapidly coming. Capitalism will give place to the Social Commonwealth. The predictions of Marx and Engels, based upon a scientific analysis of the existing economic order are proving true. The seats of the mighty are trembling.

This change can come, however, only when the "present owners of capital" and the "present owners of land" cease to be the possessors of the essentials of wealth production. I wonder if that is the "surprise" of which the Newspaper King speaks?

Did you read the report of the Supreme Council on the present economic situation? It lies before me as I write these lines. I am informed that the Supreme Council is composed of the supreme minds of the world, and when I picked up this report I did so with due respect. But I might have saved myself the trouble.

The Supreme Council tells us that:—
"Since 1913 general wholesale prices have advanced 120 per cent in the United States, 170 per cent. in Great Britain, and 300 per cent. in France, Italy and Belgium."

A little further they gravely inform us:
"Excessive profit making, known as profiteering, has resulted from the scarcity of goods."

Dear me. What a wonderful discovery! Eighteen months has this Supreme Council been investigating, and they gravely inform us that there have been extensive profits. They will be telling us, after a while, that high prices are due to high profits. But, not yet, not yet!

The Supreme Supines recommend that:
"Not only the Governments of each country, but all those engaged in the task of production, should encourage better output, improved machinery and the elimination of profiteering."

And:
"Each government should at once consider means for urging upon its nationals, in every rank of life, the vital necessity of suppressing extravagance."

Dear reader, if I had been one of the Supreme Council myself, and had been paid a high salary for the purpose of fathering nonsense upon you, I am sure I could not have hit upon anything so indescribably silly as the above.

In the first place we are to produce more, use better machinery, work longer hours of labor, eliminate waste—we must produce more wealth. When more wealth is produced we shall all be richer and better.

But wait a moment. Shall we? If we work ourselves thin, if we pile wealth mountain high, have we any guarantee that all this wealth will not be diverted into the pockets of the possessors of land and capital?

Of course we shall "eliminate profiteering." There is only one way to do that—by displacing Capitalism by Socialism....And until we so do, it matters little whether we produce much or little—the great mass of the people will be poor.

But did you notice that we are not merely to produce more, but we are to consume less? Is not that a charming piece of economic nonsense? It reminds me of that learned professor who wrote a learned treatise to prove that industrial crises are due to spots on the sun!

But it may be that this Supreme piece of Wisdom is too Supreme for me! The high intricacies of the economics of the Supreme Council at Paris may be a

little too much for my small brain! Because I would like to know, if we are all to produce more and consume less, who is going to enjoy the ever-growing surplus of wealth?

Turning from the Supreme Stupidity of the Supreme Council to a little book written by Prof. Goode, entitled "Bolshevism at Work," I read a charming picture of the summer seat of the late Grand Duke Sergius, outside Moscow, which has been turned by the Soviet into a home of rest for the workers of the city.

"Where formerly were two people, waited on by an army of servants, were now 150 people of all kinds enjoying a well-earned rest, famous professors, and chauffeurs, high officials and children, Soviet workmen and women, and the chairman of the co-operative machine for all Russia.

"The only title heard was "tovarishtch"—comrade—no matter to whom it applied, and this, though it strikes queerly at first, ends by making its own appeal—it is so useful and all-embracing. And a moment's thought of the use formerly made of the vast green fields between river bank and forest opposite the terrace front of the house—Sergius used to send for soldiers, who had to march the 35 versts from Moscow to parade here and relieve his boredom—with the cheerfulness and joy around me, made me glad to have such a day with others in one of the homes of rest of the Soviet Republic."

I read that the total war debt of the world amounts to \$160,000,000,000. Truly is the downfall of Capitalism at hand.

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 irrespressible 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 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.

SUBSCRIPTION FORM.

WESTERN CLARION.

A Journal of History, Economics, Philosophy and Current Events.

Official Organ of the Socialist Party of Canada
Issued twice-a-month, at 401 Pender Street East,
Vancouver, B. C. Phone: High. 2583.

Rate: 20 Issues for One Dollar. Make all moneys payable to E. MacLeod.

Forenclosed herewith,
sendissues to:—

Name

Address

SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA Local (Winnipeg), No. 3

MANITOBA PROVINCIAL ELECTION 1920

CANDIDATES:

George Armstrong, E. J. Johns, W. A. Pritchard,
R. B. Russell

Campaign funds are needed. Collection Cards can be secured from, and donations made to:

ALEX. SHEPHERD,
P.O. Box 1762
Winnipeg, Manitoba.

(Continued from page 6)

"The ulterior norm to which appeal is taken is the instinct of workmanship, which is an instinct more fundamental, of more ancient prescription than the propensity to predatory emulation. The latter is but a special development of the instinct of workmanship, a variant, relatively late and ephemeral in spite of its great absolute antiquity. The emulative predatory impulse or the instinct of sportsmanship, as it might well be called—is essentially unstable in comparison with the primordial instinct of workmanship out of which it has been developed and differentiated."

What Veblen is trying to show is that inactivity is painful. The pain resulting from inactivity is called ennui. "While want is the scourge of the lower class, ennui is the scourge of the upper class and all the hope that is held out for the future is a choice between the torments of hell and the ennui of heaven." (Schopenhauer). The instinct of workmanship, if it be no other form than fear of the hell of ennui, is the great and unremitting spur that drives and goads all men to action.

The fact that the great majority of the men of renown are members of the ruling class has been used to disparage the intelligence of the working class. Is this phenomenon due to a biological difference between the classes? Assuredly not.

Prof. Odin shows that in order to be a man of renown, it is necessary to possess a thorough education. A thorough education is out of reach of the great mass of workers. Immediately after birth, the child of the worker labors under a heavy handicap. The failure of the worker to assimilate achievement is due to his economic position in society. Society has never and nowhere been so organized as to transmit the knowledge of the past to more than a minute fraction of its members.

"It was shown that about eleven times as many talented persons belong to the wealthy or well-to-do classes as to the poor or laboring classes, although the latter are about five times as numerous as the former. The chances of success for the same degree of talent are fifty-five for the former class to one of the latter. The extremes of course are very much greater and for absolute poverty or uninterrupted long hours the chance if success is necessarily zero no matter how great may be the native talent or genius. Indigence is an effective bar to achievement. On the other hand, the resources of society may be enormously increased by abolishing poverty, by reducing the hours of labor, and by making all its members comfortable and secure in their economic relations. Any sacrifice that society might make in securing these ends would be many times repaid by the actual contributions that the few really talented among the hundreds of thousands thus benefited would make to the social welfare. For talent is distributed all through the great mass in the same proportion as it exists in the much smaller well to do wealthy class and the only reason why the latter contribute more is because their economic condition affords them opportunity."

Lecter C. Ward (Applied Sociology), p. 228.

We therefore see that the real barrier to progress is the division of society into classes. Society cannot make any real progress until classes are abolished.

JOHN TYLER.

Labor Defence Fund

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.

Central Collection Agency: J. Law, Secretary, Defence Fund, Room 1, 530 Main Street, Winnipeg, Man.