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Saskatchewan Labor's Realm

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Justice, Truth, Fraternity "Labor Omnia Vincit"

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Socialists and The People's Platform

The People's Political Association has not been in the field a full month yet, it is only a few days old, but it has already become the target for severe criticism and of condemnation from one of the existing parties. Not one of the old capitalistic corporation-ridden parties either, for those two parties are smugly content in their old though unhonored age as permanent institutions to be in any way upset, or to allow their outward decorum to be in any degree ruffled by the advent of a new party. No, it is our friends and compatriots, the Socialists, who have hailed the advent of the new political organization with derision.

Speaking of the platform of the People's Political Association, the editor of the Western Clarion has the following to say:

"This platform speaks of public ownership of public utilities, but its public is a capitalist public. Its ownership a state ownership, with wages for workers and interest on bonds for idlers. It stands for that economic absurdity the minimum wage. For abolition of child labor—under fourteen; of prison labor—when it competes with 'free labor.'"

So far from embodying Socialist principles, it is the antithesis of Socialism. Socialism means the abolition, lock, stock and barrel of all these things; of prison labor, of child labor, of taxes, of "currency," of wages, of interest, of rent, of profit and of state ownership too. Actually this new party is not helping us to attain our ends. It's in the way.

To all of which we answer with the most fervent enthusiasm—Amen. It is evident that our zealous fellow worker in the cause of humanity has been carried to some slight degree of excess in his zeal for the cause, inasmuch as he has overlooked the only too painful and self-evident fact that the platform he so much abhors and ridicules as the perpetuation of a belief in capitalistic domination, is the only platform that could be formulated to meet conditions as they exist. There is not a wage earner in the Dominion of Canada to-day who is not consumed with a bitter hatred for the condition of society as it now obtains, but there is no gainsaying the fact that the evil of capitalism is so deeply entrenched, and the ignorance of the great mass of wage earners so profound, that it will take many more years of education before the great heart of the proletariat can be brought to feel that it throbs for something grander and nobler than wage slavery. But in the meantime, whilst we regale ourselves with dreams of hope and look forward to the day when the abolition of all these things, lock, stock and barrel will be consummated, we must work to accomplish that object, not by the inauguration of any revolutionary doctrines which have ended in failure on every page of history, but by the sure and natural process of evolution, which is slow and irksome, but as sure as death in the end.

Appeal to Young Men

Much has been said and written of late in this and other journals to induce the farmer and trade unionist to join the P.P.A. and sever all connection with the old parties, whose records of graft and political corruption are a disgrace

to the country. The records of these two parties are well known, and to spend more time and space airing their doings would be superfluous. Each have proven that the other is crooked, and two wrongs don't make a right. But, why honest citizens, anxious to see a change, devote all their attention to the grown farmer and old trade unionist, men who almost without exception have been steeped and dyed in partizanship all their lives; men who were born, bred and reared strong and stout Grit or Tory, for the simple only reason that their fathers were party men; yes, men, who see and recognize the wrong doings of these party machines, and who turn away in shame from the records of their party, but when elections come round, the heeler with a flowery speech, stampedes them to the poll, like so many frightened sheep. These men, as above stated, are born to the party, not made, and it will take years of educative work to free them from this shortsighted partizanship, and while this great educative movement is going on, let us not forget the young man, he who is yet full of the disinterested enthusiasm of youth, and inspired by high ideals and zeal to conquer a proud destiny for the land of his birth and affection. There is, besides this youth, the thousands of new settlers from foreign lands who are not yet acquainted with our system of government, or rather mis-government. These men too, are in exactly the same position as the youth of our country. These are the class of men we must not lose sight of, and the very class that should be given the most attention. The "older heads" referred to above, are either dyed-in-the-wool partizans, or hero worshippers, and to convert them will take more time and money, with poorer results, than to educate the new and growing population.

But, don't let me be misunderstood as saying that the majority of the old timers are rank partizans, for there is every reason to believe that there are largely increasing numbers of citizens all over Canada who have grown restless under the present system of partyism which practically means extravagance and jobbing for political friends. These men have educated themselves, they have watched how party was placed before country. They have seen the servants of the people sent to Ottawa to act in the interests of the country violate every pledge, promise or contract that, in the opinion of their leaders might prove detrimental to the party, no matter how beneficial to the country. As experience is the best teacher, no time need be spent on these people.

The very fact that young Liberal and Conservative Clubs are being organized and made as attractive as possible to the young man, is sufficient evidence that the old parties recognize in the young man of the day, the veteran and citizen of the future. It also proves, that more especially in the western towns, the vote of the young man is the greatest asset any party could gain. There are enough young men in the City of Regina alone to not only switch an election, but to elect a candidate of their own.

To educate these men is a hard proposition, not only because it must invariably be done through the medium of a club or some other attraction, but because the employees of these young men keep a "fatherly" eye on their hired help in the matter of politics, and more than one young man, has in days gone by, lost his position through his political views; hence the young man, working for a wage, is reluctant to take an active part in any movement that might meet with the disapproval of his Grit or Tory employer.

This movement to get the young men into the fold must be carried on slowly, through the unbiased press and public

meetings, and once the movement is systematically and earnestly started, there is not the slightest doubt but that all young, ambitious and patriotic men, will belong to the party that has for its ultimate aim the purging of Canadian politics of the grafters, corruptionists and boodlers, who have so long controlled the destinies of Canada, with resultant shame instead of honor, and who have honeycombed the machine called Government like a malicious cancerous growth.

THOS. M. MOLLOY,
Vice-Pres. People's Political Association.

W. R. Trotter Addresses Halifax Audience

A splendid reception was accorded W. R. Trotter on Wednesday, June 24, when he addressed a large gathering of trades unionists in the Carpenters' Hall, Halifax. He spoke for two hours, dealing first with a comprehensive review of the trades union movement in Canada, then the movement in the British Isles and the United States, and closed with an eloquent peroration of the present and future of the working classes of Canada.

The Congress now represents 40,000 workers of Canada, stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific. It has been in existence twenty-five years. There was a time when attention was devoted only to the populous centres, such as Ontario and Quebec, but the time has long passed for such provincialism in the trades union movement, and now we see all the provinces of Canada getting in line for what soon will be a great forward movement of the workers of Canada. The time when the Congress was dominated by Ontario unions has passed, and now we see the extreme east as well as the west taking part in its deliberations. At the last convention at Winnipeg when the two Halifax delegates, John Jay and James Flanagan, presented the claims of Halifax for consideration, it was felt then that it was due to the east that the convention should be held there in 1908, so it came to be that Nova Scotia this year for the first time will be able to give welcome to the Congress.

Mr. Trotter dealt with the immigration question in a manner that showed

light on the methods of the Manufacturers' Association in importing labor into Canada.

When the Canadian Manufacturers' Association learnt that Mr. Trotter had been sent to Great Britain by the Trades Unions of Canada to investigate conditions there, they declared the office of their London agency closed. Upon investigation it was found that the office was run under Leopold's successor, and is still doing business at the old stand.

Mr. Trotter toured England, Scotland and Ireland in the interests of the Canadian Congress and came in touch with the union men there and addressed many meetings and told them the truth about the Canadian labor market, which was already glutted—with soup kitchens in Toronto and men walking the streets of Vancouver.

Mr. Trotter then took up the Asiatic question and showed how the white man was being ousted from every job because of his inability to compete with Asiatics on their terms.

A white man cannot subsist on a handful of rice; a white man must have a house, not a shack, to live in; a home to bring his children up in; a school to send them to. When white men come into a community it has meant, and means, streets, buildings, the home, the family civilization. All these things that go to make importation of this foreign element had stopped. In ten years we should have had an Asiatic province in the west. He thought now that the wages in some industries have been brought to such a low level that it will be a hard task to restore them to an equitable and just basis.

The platform principles endorsed by the Congress and advocating the formation of a third party, were read. Each clause was read and clearly explained. Free compulsory education, he felt, was one of the chief planks in the platform, and he hoped to see the day when children shall have the chance of remaining at school until they are sixteen. Free text books was also needed.

We have broken away from the old parties now and forever. It is a new day that is breaking for the Canadian common people. Let a man once taste of his independence and power, and nevermore will he consent to be used by any politician.

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