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CLEAR THE WAY FOR THE CO-OPERATIVE COMMONWEALTH

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## A CURIOUS MISSIVE

I have received a curious letter from a brother advocate practising in Montreal. In the letter appears this paragraph, "I see that you are taking the public into your confidence with regard to the financial standing of your paper. I hope this will prove effective, but I must remember that the moral leaders have to bear the brunt of the fight."

In the first place, I was not aware that the socialist movement was a moral one. In the second place, I was not aware that the socialist movement had leaders. In the third place, I was not aware that leaders bore the brunt of the fight.

The socialist fight is an economic fight. It is a campaign of education. It is a struggle to stop the labor thief on the part of the Forgets, the Manns, the Strathconas, and the lesser labor thieves together with the parasitism of their henchmen, the advocates, the stock brokers, the rent collectors, the commission agents and so on. The socialist fight is neither moral nor immoral. Of course, individuals can join the socialist movement because they possess the idea that socialism is a moral force and they want to experience the pleasure of sentimental emotionalism. But such individuals do not represent the socialist philosophy.

As to leaders, owing to capitalist forms of government, there must be the form of leadership. Thus, the socialist representative in Parliament is there for five years. He is officially the political leader of his county and his county cannot get rid of him by any legal means. Again owing to capitalist laws, the socialist papers must be owned by some individual who will be responsible in case of libel suit. This, however, is due to capitalism. The socialist philosophy recognizes no leaders. Those socialists who are prominent in the movement are not prominent by their own efforts, but by the force of environment and the efforts of others. The flag waving upon the top of a tall building is seen and admired. No one, however, holds that the flag sustains the building, but they hold that the building sustains the flag. In the same way in a movement the so-called leader is where he is because of the movement back of him.

As to the brunt of the fight, the capitalist class think they are the whole push. They are very careful of themselves. If their stomachs ache, they run to the doctor. If they cannot get a good fat income from the work of others, they think they are abused and bemoan their sad lot. If a war comes on, a plute general will leave his comfortable quarters at home and move to comfortable quarters some where in the rear of his army. He will stay behind and send the fool soldiers ahead to get killed. If twenty thousand soldiers are murdered on the battle field, and through their death the victory is won, the general will go home and tell how he won the fight. His plute friends will tell him how he bore the brunt of the fray and will give him a big pension, although he may already enjoy great revenues from his labor thieving operations, meanwhile the widows of the soldiers who were killed on the battle field have to take in washing to keep alive.

I am not bearing the brunt of the fight. It is the men on the firing line who get the scars. It is the men who work all day and then hustle half the night for subs for Cotton's who bear the brunt. It is the men, who, out of their scanty wages, take a dollar to send Cotton's for three months to ten of their unwakened comrades, who are setting the hard knocks of the battle. It is the men who speak on street corners and get clubbed by the police, who face the rifles of the soldiers at Sydney or Fort William, who talk socialism to their fellow men in the workshop and get fired by the boss, and who are put on the black list and see their wives and children suffer for food, these are the men who are bearing the brunt of the fight.

I live in a quiet village. I board at a good hotel. I have leisure to read the books I want. I can work when I

like and loaf when I like. I am my own boss. I am not bearing the brunt of the fight.

But the capitalist henchmen, the advocates, the paid preachers of a corrupt Christianity, the men who live soft lives and have little to do but to imagine themselves having a hard time of it, these men cannot get it out of their heads that they are bearing the brunt of the fight for liberty, when as a matter of fact their whole occupation is to see how easy they can live at the expense of others. Their activity is pernicious parasitism. Their morality is sentimental emotionalism. Their religion is the selfish saving of their own dirty little souls.

## McKEES ROCKS

McKees Rocks, has been the storm centre of the class conflict. The struggle has been important inasmuch as revolutionary unionism has spontaneously developed in that region.

President Hoffstot of the Pressed Steel Car Company, a subsidiary branch of the steel trust, started out to make profits irrespective of the lives of the workers. Under his management the wages were cut down below the cost of living. The men were being worked to death. So careless of the lives of the men were the bosses that fatal accidents were taking place in the mills at the rate of one a day. The foremen were tyrants. The workers in many cases had to hand their wives over to these petty bosses before they could get a job.

Conditions were unbearable and the men struck. There was no organization and the strikers were mostly foreigners. Sixteen different languages were spoken among the strikers.

Everything possible was done to break the strike. The state constabulary were imported who shot strikers in cold blood. Scabs were imported and locked in the mills. Families were evicted from the company's shacks.

The strikers met blow with blow. The strikers were Europeans with all the knowledge of the European workingmen of how to deal effectively with the masters. Sixty strikers volunteered to go in and become strike-breakers. They did so and in the shops they got the scabs who were working in filthy surroundings at the pistol point to break out. Three of the sixty were caught by the strikebreakers' guard and were shoved alive into the flaming furnaces. This is the uncontradicted charge brought against the company. The statement put forth by the company was that the men were cremated after they had died owing to poor food.

The constabulary had to be dealt with and the secret six sent a message to the state troops that for every striker killed by the cossacks a cossack would be killed. The state troops did not like the prospects and stopped killing the strikers.

The strikers won out. The Company agreed to take back the strikers and to allow the union. It also agreed to ship all the scabs. The company of course did not keep its promise and the men went on strike again. They went to work as usual but at ten sharp they all stopped working. They would not go on with their jobs until the strikebreakers were all sacked. Those who would not go were chased out of the mills at the point of red hot bars.

The men wanted a half holiday on Saturday. The company put them off. With one accord the men quit work on Saturday afternoon. The Company is powerless and has to give in.

The strikers have joined the Industrial Workers of the World and that organization is increasing by leaps and bounds. The Socialist Party is fighting the workers' battles on the political field while the I. W. W. fights it on the industrial.

One of the arguments advanced in slave days was that it was good to bring slaves from Africa in order that they could be brought under Christian influences. The same guff is put out to day that it is good to have labor thieves so that they can build churches in which workingmen can get religion.

## HALF-CENT COINS

The National Trades Federation which met at Ottawa passed a resolution that the government should put out a half cent coin for the benefit of the working class. This is a fine example of the punk resolutions passed by this Federation. This Federation is the special pet of the bosses. It can be guaranteed to act as a strike breaking concern. When the bosses whistle it waggles its tail and looks up, expectantly to get the orders of its masters. It is patted on the back by the political lackeys of the financiers and the capitalist press keeps saying, "Good dog, good doggy."

Being the pet of the bosses it has to stand the kicks and cuffs that comes the way of labor. Do its leaders think of rebelling against the slavish condition of its members? Not at all. They seek to temper the wind to the shorn lamb. Labor produces all and the master class gets all that is worth while, while the labor dog gets the scraps. Now the Federation dog has been looking at the scraps that is flung labor. It does not growl for more but waggles its tail and begs the master that the scraps that come its way may be divided into smaller portions so that they will last longer.

The master class spend hundreds of dollars for diamonds and automobiles and palaces. The laborers spend cents for the necessities of life. The master class feel ashamed to give a five cent tip to a lackey that will fawn upon them. The laborers are anxiously begging their masters, the labor thieves, to kindly make a half cent coin so that they will not have to spend a whole big cent all at once.

When labor wakes to its own power the whole parasitic class of industrial lord and banking magnate and corrupt priest and advocate and flunkey will be swept into the things of the past.

But labor must awake. It must get rid of the gang of traitors who are at the head of the national organization. These men are doing the dirty work the laborers to their economic death. They are like the old hardened bulls who in the slaughter pens of Chicago lead the herds of cattle under the slaughter clubs.

Can't you working plugs see farther than a blind bat? Can't you see that when your bosses, the parasitic labor thieves grow rich on what they steal from you, are cunning brutes who will be only too glad to divide your forces and get you to betray one another? Stop your fooling. Study your own interests and then, instead of fawning upon false officials who fawn upon your masters and betray you into their hands, you will organize for your own economic liberty and you will be out to get all you earn. When you get all you earn the parasites who like vampires drain your labor power to their profit, will be an order of the past.

The Swedish strike is still in full blast. The master class would not agree to the terms dictated by the strikers and it is probable that the workers who went back to work will be called out again. The police and soldiery are in sympathy with the strikers to a great extent. The spectacle of three hundred thousand slaves quietly ceasing to work for their masters in order to starve their masters into submission is an inspiring sight.

Reformers are always trying to catch up with the times. When they get the reforms they have been crying for, a whole host of other evils have arisen and taken the place of the abolished evils. The only logical remedy is the remedy of revolution and the substitution of the worker in power in the place of the drone and the robber.

Four-fifths of the value of what the workers produce is stolen from them. If you workingmen like to be robbed like that, just keep on voting for the Liberal or the Conservative party. It does not matter which. Both parties are the vest pocket properties of the men who rob you.

## RETAIL STORES.

The retail stores of the small town are feeling the pressure of competition from the big departmental stores of the city. The mail order business is cutting into the trade of the local merchants. The local papers, in whose columns the local merchants advertise, are squealing against the local residents who do not buy from the local merchants.

The Union Advocate published at Newcastle, N. B., until recently had a socialist editor. The editor saw the trend of events and commented on it. His attitude displeased the advertisers of the paper and a man has been installed in the editorial chair whose writings are pleasant to the Newcastle merchants. The editorial columns of the Advocate have since been filled with squeals about patriotism and the necessity of trading with local merchants.

The Watchman, published at Arnprior, Ont., is also squealing. It states that fifty thousand dollars a year are sent out of the town by the Arnprior residents to city departmental stores. It declares that the trouble lies with the people. It advises its readers to pay more to the local merchants in order to support home industries.

The little country papers are squealing for themselves. The local merchant is doomed. He is inefficient, wasteful and costly. The big departmental stores will crush him out. With the crushing out of local merchants, will go the local paper. The local paper depends upon the local merchant for advertising and job printing. When these go the local paper has to fail.

Wherefore the little papers squeal mightily on behalf of the local merchants. The squealing is in vain as vast changes are taking place in our industrial organization. The big departmental stores and the big city dailies are expropriating the local merchants and the local editors of their jobs. Let these individuals join in the socialist movement that aims at the expropriation of the expropriators.

The Chicago Daily Socialist for the past three months, has been exposing the graft of the city of Chicago. State Attorney is tackling some of the smaller grafters exposed by the Chicago months ago and swells out his chest because of his righteousness. He is a pitiable object with his self-conceit and his cowardice.

The Chief of Police of Stockholm, Sweden, is asking for more police because of the anarchists. This is one of the plute methods of trying to discredit the strikers. The universal strike in Sweden is still on and is thoroughly peaceful.

A coffin combine has been formed. This does not hit the plug workers much. When a worker dies he ought to be happy if he can take his last long sleep in a plain box. His masters work him to death and he has little care after his carcass is worn out.

The U. S. judges are asking applicants for naturalization whether they are anarchists or socialists. If they are either of these the judges refuse to make them citizens. The capitalist courts of the United States are working for the plutes allright.

The plute government of Chicago is forbidding the poor children to hunt for food in the garbage barrels of the city. It isn't healthy. But the plute government does nothing to provide other food for the starving children.

In Greece the soldiers revolted and the government had to yield to their demands. An armed force of repression sometimes turns on the masters and rends them.

Socialism is the continuation of the industrial evolution.

There is said to be a great moral wave sweeping over Canada. This simply means that the little grafters must go. The big plutes feel themselves strong enough to dispense with the service of the little grafters. Therefore their paid preachers are tackling the small men. But the big grafters are not being tackled. Our multimillionaires are still busy cutting coupons and living off the laborers. Not a word is raised against their labor thieving. They are respectable and patriotic. If the workers are wise they will not be led aside by the moral reform schemes. They will organize for their own emancipation.

## CAPITALIST ACCUMULATION

The capitalist system cannot last. It has inherent defects in it which will destroy it. Owing to capitalist accumulation the profits from industry are becoming so enormous and concentrated that the system is becoming top-heavy.

Under the present arrangements goods are produced for profit. Workingmen are employed for a wage and the goods made are sold for more than the labor cost of production. The hunt for profits is fierce and the capitalists fight among themselves for the surplus profit.

In warfare the one wins and the other loses. The little capitalist manufacturer has been squeezed out by the big manufacturer. In the same way within the big companies the little stockholders get shaken out and have to join the ranks of the workers.

Industry has been concentrated to some extent and that concentration is still going on. The trusts are forming rapidly. These trusts are being dominated by the big financiers more and more.

When the big interests have killed out the little fellows in business the little fellows have to work for the big fellows. They become wage earners. Wage earners are those who work for less than the value of the goods they produce.

The trusts produce goods for profit. They cannot get that profit unless they sell the goods. They must sell therefore to the wage-earners.

Now the wage earners have not been given the wealth of their product. They work for two dollars a day and produce values to the extent of six dollars. That is to say, the workers must work three days to get a wage that will buy back what he himself has produced in one day.

He works three days and buys back one day's product. The other two day's product goes on the market to be sold. The worker cannot buy it back. The worker may want shoes but he cannot buy them because he has not the money. The stores therefore become full of all the things the workers have produced and which the workers need but cannot buy. The faster the workers work the more goods accumulate on the market and the quicker the mills will shut down.

When the mills shut down the workers earn nothing. They have therefore to sell whatever they have to get bread. The man is compelled to pawn his watch or sell his coat off his back. If he has nothing to sell he is thrown on the streets as a tramp. The woman must sell her honor to some labor thief who goes to church on Sunday and listens to the parasite preacher tell him how he is a Christian.

With the concentration of industry and the growth of profits the capitalist system is becoming more and more unworkable. The bigger the profits the less the wage earners can buy back what they produce. The less they can buy back the quicker comes the shutting down of mills. Is not this a senseless system that throws men out of work because they have produced too much? Is not the socialist idea the better one which says that the workers shall be given all they earn, that rent, interest and profit shall be abolished and men shall produce for use and not to let other men selfishly control the mills to shut them down when people are most in need of the necessities of life?

## ATTACKING RELIGION

Attacking religion is one of the charges brought against socialism. Socialism is an economic doctrine, a philosophy. To some it is the basis of a new-old religion. But socialism does not attack religion any more than good religious people do.

Every religion attacks every other religion. The Roman Catholic religion has attacked all other religions and called the religious people of other faiths infidels, and called the religious people of other Christian denominations heretics. It has burned the heretics by the hundred. The Calvinist religion attacks all other religious beliefs. The Episcopal doctrine with the idea that King Eddy is a little pope all to himself, also attacks other religions. The Mohammedan religion attacks all other religions and orders the conversion or killing of all who do not agree with the Koran. The Christian religion is one of the worst offenders in attacking religion. It sends men and women into outlandish places in order to attack the religions of those places. The Christian religion sends its missionaries into China for the special purpose of stirring up religious strife.

These religions attack other religions. It is one great fight between the religious followers of the various sects. The Christian religion takes its symbols from war. "I'm a soldier of the cross." "Onward Christian soldiers." "Only an armor-bearer." These are some of the lines of Christian hymns. When a Christian missionary goes to stir up religious strife in a far country and gets killed for his intermeddling, the Christians of his country send soldiers to kill the people who killed him, and then the Christian merchants come after and sell rum and opium to the people who do not like the conduct of Christian missionaries and Christian soldier murderers, and Christian robber merchants.

Just recently the King and the Pope sent fraternal greetings one to another. The King Pope and the Pope King are at the head of antagonistic religions. They fraternize. This proves that these two leaders do not believe the religious guff they pretend to teach. If they did they would be out to fight each other for the glory of God. Their religion is a sham.

As a matter of fact both Edward and the Pope are labor thieves. They are at the head of two great organizations for the robbery of their respective working plug followers. They do it to perfection too. So bold have they got in their operations that they greet each other almost as brothers.

But when the socialists come along and point out the robbery which the parasites are carrying on the parasites get huffy. They say that it is a part of their religion to rob and plunder the workers. They say they have a direct permission from God to live in idleness on the labor of others. They say that the workers should be willing to be robbed because it is the command of God. They can't prove that God ever said one word to either of them.

Every religion attacks every other religion in theory but in practice the religious labor thieves become hypocrites and join forces to maintain their plundering operations. When the socialists come along to tell them to quit their labor thieving they reply, "Don't attack our religion." It is to laugh.

Socialism does not stand for dividing up. Capitalism stands for that. Socialism aims at preventing the dividing up scheme. Socialism aims at giving each worker all he earns. Of course if socialism triumphs then the idlers who are forcing the workers to divy up will have to go to work. That does not suit them so the idlers howl that socialism means that the hard worker would be forced to divide up with the lazy drunkard. Don't believe their lies, workers. The lazy drunkard of a rent collector or coupon clipper is sharing your earnings now. Join the socialists and help to stop the robbery you are at present subject to.

Ninety-five per cent of human energy is wasted under the capitalist system of production.