

Correspondence

BREAKING UP THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM BY TEACHING THE CITIZENS TO PRODUCE MORE.

Editor Clarion:—

At a lecture given by Professor Boving on the 22nd February 1924, on Manure and Manuring at the Municipal Hall, South Vancouver, some ideas were given forth by him which I think were very crude from one of his high professional standing.

The professor began his lecture with a short talk on the present economic situation and was really in earnest and talked in a dogmatic manner about it.

He said, after some introductory remarks, that what we the audience (back yard gardeners) were doing was just making a bad condition worse. We were, he said, producing goods for which there was not any need, as the market was already glutted with all manner of agricultural and horticultural produce. He seemed to think that we were only aggravating the situation.

He said also that there were times where we performed a useful function; for instance: when the war was on and all the goods produced were needed we performed a national good (these are not the words used but express the same meaning). That is, when we were helping the ruling classes to kill and maim a large portion of society we were the best kind of citizens, but now if one produced goods that another citizen had to sell in order to live we were less good than we were before. What do you know about that!?

Professors have queer ideas sometimes!

Now, I will try to show here that it doesn't matter whether we back-yard gardeners produce or refrain from producing; the same bad conditions will prevail as long as capitalism lasts. The professor led me to think that he thought we would be much better off if we had a lesser production, also that the reason the farmers were in such a sorry plight was on account of over-production. I will ask the professor and other of like opinions to draw a triangle and just think for a spell that it contains inside of it all the goods produced by the workers, farmers and gardeners in this Canada of theirs. All the commodities in Canada are in that triangle. By whom was this produced? The workers surely; all the workers in Canada produced all that is in this big triangle. Now (Professor and others) just draw a triangle half the size of the first, and since you seem to think that we would be better off with less commodities in the market we will say that this second triangle has only half as many commodities as the first triangle. It will be obvious to every one that it would only take half the workers to fill the second triangle that it took the first, since it is only half the size. The workers get wages for producing goods and farmers get what they can for their product; they take these wages and buy goods with them, but wages only buy a portion of that great amount of produce. There is a large stock of goods on hand after the workers and farmers have exhausted their buying power. Who else need goods after the workers are supplied in any country? Only the bourgeoisie; that takes in all the capitalists and their henchmen of all kinds. Well, this portion buys all it wants and still there are a lot of commodities left over. What means have nations of disposing of this surplus? There is only the foreign market left, and if there is a large army of workers producing goods we will want large and wide markets; with a curtailed production, we will need a lesser market but it will be just in proportion to the producers in any given capitalist country.

But now (Professor and others), these markets are not in existence. All other capitalistic countries have this same large volume (speaking relatively) of goods, and all have their large surplus to sell with nowhere to sell all of it. That is the trouble, Professor; a curtailing of production will not solve the problem; but production for use and not for profit will solve it. "There isn't any one so blind as those who do not wish to see." These are not all highly paid Professors. No: many of them are slaves.

If Professor Boving could find those required markets in which the surplus goods could be disposed of, the capitalists of the British Empire would take the crown off King George's head and place it on the Professor's, and I think they would also give him a larger salary than they are now giving his royal ribs.

A word now about his lecture proper. With my knowledge of agriculture I realized that he knew his subject very thoroughly, and it should help many of the amateur gardeners to grow two spuds where they only grew a small one before, thereby increasing production, and by increasing production we will, in my opinion (and I have given this part of economics a lot of study), end the awful mess of capitalism we are in very much sooner than in any other way we can go about it, and what we produce we should see to it to the best of our ability that society does not waste it. The capitalist system lives largely by wasting useful products. This is incontestable. Strikes only prolong the awful agony that the workers suffer and at this late day only work in the interest of the capitalist class; they get the chance to use up the surplus wealth (goods) thereby getting a new lease of life.

P.S. So you see Mr. Editor and readers that the learned Professor although he thinks that by curtailing produc-

tion prosperous conditions would come about, yet all his work increases production, for which I for one am duly thankful; may he keep on with the good work!

Vancouver, B. C. Wm. P. BLACK.
February 29, 1924.

BY THE WAY.

Editor Clarion:—

You wouldn't be interested in a dream I had recently would you? It has the merit of being true. Dinkum. I had been much impressed with C's series of articles headed, By the Way, in the "Clarion." They were so well reasoned, so sane and practical, so fascinating. Regarding many points he made had I not thought often on similar lines myself? And, you know, there are none think so true as he who thinks as I do. I went to bed with my head full of it. I dreamt I could fly and set off to your country to get a copy of this wisdom for use at home. I was courteously received and welcomed by Mr. C. It seemed he had been expecting me, for he already had what I required tied up in a neat little bundle and label "A Working Class Philosophy, a Programme and Tactics," by C., as previously published in the "Western Clarion" under the heading, By the Way. He assisted me to strap it across my shoulders in such a way as not to impede my flying. How snug and cosy it felt, so soft and comforting. I felt very happy; I had got what I wanted and, thanking Mr. C. for his kindness, with a light heart I headed straight for home. I flew strongly for a couple of hours or so when suddenly I became aware that I was returning to where I had left Mr. C. Of course I felt disappointed to find I had flown so long in a circle and wasted so much time. I would be more careful next time, and I set off again; but to my amazement in a shorter time I found I had again gone in a circle. I was much annoyed for I had been flying well. I set out again determined I would reach home this time, but it was of no use; in ever narrowing circles I would keep returning to my starting point until it became impossible for me to progress. I began to "get the wind up," I could not understand it; my wings were in perfect order and working well. I had previously felt a slight movement within the bundle on my back; surely that could not have anything to do with it? I alighted, and, taking the bundle off my back opened it to examine its contents. There it lay, each item neatly packed and fitting nicely one against the other, the whole enclosed in an old copy of the "Clarion." As I opened the packet every item fell apart from its fellow and commenced to roll all over the place; they seemed like a lot of mischievous shining littleimps out to enjoy themselves. I tried to tie them up in the bundle again but do what I would I could not get them

to set into their place; some would always roll out to tantalize me. However C. had managed to get them all to lie so snugly together beat me. I could not control them. It seemed to me that a central imp was wanted to act as a ring pin to hold them together, but I could not think of its name. I searched closely throughout the packet for one that might fill the bill but there was not a suitable one there; surely C. had not forgotten to put it in. It was while making a closer search that my eye fell on a line in the "Clarion" wrapper: it read, "All written history is a history of class struggles." Ah! that was it. The Class Struggle, that was the missing imp, the Ring-pin so necessary to control and direct the others. C. had not included it in his outfit. Unknown to me its absence had unbalanced my load and caused me to fly continually in circles. It was no use my trying further to hold the otherimps in control without it, so, much to my disappointment I was forced to leave them where they were. Tell C. he will find them lying on the road leading to the local dope factory.

New Zealand 24/2/24.

A. H. G.

ALBERTA NOTES.

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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 irrepressible 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 upon 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.