

THE BALDWIN MINISTRY.

(Continued from page 1)

American concessionaire, Admiral Chester. Behind him was, undoubtedly, denials notwithstanding, the Standard Oil Company. Under the pressure of other circumstances connected with the British debt to the United States, the Government of the latter, was able to induce the British to make concessions of a political character, affecting the financial administration of Persia and to allow the Standard interests a participation in oil tracts in that country.

Meanwhile Stanley Baldwin has been to America and has arranged a settlement of the British Treasury's debt to the United States Treasury and to the bankers of New York. When the United States Treasury has issued script to the New York bankers to the amount of the U. S. claim on the British Treasury, the said bankers will sell these to the investing class of the whole world and the bondholders will have secured a sixty years' claim on the British taxpayer guaranteed by the U. S. government, a claim to be settled not in £ sterling—which may depreciate very rapidly "when Labour rules"—but in gold dollars.

Baldwin has made a contract with American high finance agreeable not only to the latter but, also, to Baldwin's own class, the British section of the international bondholding fraternity. Baldwin has, it is most important to observe, asked to become his Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Reginald McKenna, the chairman of the largest of all the British joint stock banks, the London Joint City and Midland Bank. Mr. McKenna has been to America just after Lord Balfour wrote a very displeasing note concerning the British Debt to America. Immediately on his return to England, this life long Liberal, formerly Chancellor of the Exchequer in Mr. Asquith's Ministry, went upon the platform of a political meeting addressed by Mr. Bonar Law in the City of London.

Now, passing over the conservative Austen Cham-

berlain, Baldwin has invited and secured as his second in command, Mr. McKenna.

Baldwin and McKenna, the two men who negotiated the contract with the American creditors, are to be the two men to administer "tranquility" in such a way as to assure "economy" and to make sure, not only that the creditors get their money, but that British finances are so re-organized as to ensure that the debtors have the best of the bargain so long as the British bourgeoisie maintains control of the British Government machine. By concerted action alike on the economic and the political planes, the banking oligarchy of this country, has been winning its way back to its former pre-eminence in the financial City of London and the governmental City of Westminster.

The Banking oligarchy is determined to consolidate its power at home and to prepare to assert once more its prestige abroad. Stanley Baldwin is orienting the policy of Britain towards France. This does not mean that either the problem of the Ruhr or the question of the Straits and of Mosul is near to a settlement. What it does mean is, that the triangular contest between Britain, France and the United States for the mastery of steel, coal and petroleum is entering upon another phase. France is in financial difficulties. She is being pressed by her creditors, i.e., by the United States. American steel capitalism has no intention of permitting French high finance to unite the iron ore of Normandy and Lorraine with the coking coal of the Ruhr unless American big business is permitted to enter as a participant.

British high finance knows this and knows that French high finance also knows it. Severally, they are, if weaker in volume of money, stronger in the experience of handling in conjunction money power and state power.

Already in the near East, a British group comprising Rothschild (the ally of "Shell" oil), Schroeder (the ally of Anglo-Persian oil), and Lloyds Bank (the ally of big Indian interests) has acquired from a Swiss bank the reversion of certain German interests in the Anatolian (i.e., Bagdad) Railway, which should, normally, have passed to France.

Following upon this, Venizelos, the political cat-paw of Anglo-Hellenic capitalism, has come to an understanding with Ismet Pasha. The latter has waived the Turkish claim to an indemnity.

Britain and France are drawing together in the East. Britain and France will draw together in the Ruhr. Baldwin and McKenna are preparing to keep faith with the United States—just as long as it pays them to do so!—"Inprecor."

THE SOLAR SYSTEM.

Editor's Note: The following essay is contributed by a schoolboy, thirteen years of age.

ONE of Nature's most interesting studies is that of Astronomy, or the study of the stars.

That part of the ocean of stars in which we live is called the Solar System. Therefore, what part of space is better to select for study than this?

The great centre of all life and light on the planets (at least on the earth) is the sun. This vast globe is flaming at a mean distance of ninety-three million miles from the earth, and around it the planets, of which there are eight, circle.

All the planets except the earth are named after Greek and Roman Gods and Goddesses, i.e., Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune. The earth is the only one known to be inhabited, although many scientists state that conditions are such on Mars and Venus that life may occur on them.

There are some very small planets, or planetoids, circling around the sun between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter. These planetoids range from ten to about five hundred miles in circumference, and are thought to be the remnants of some planet that may have exploded. But did this planet explode? Maybe. On the other hand, when the vast nebula, or cloud of gas, shrank and became more solid, (the nucleus or centre becoming the sun) these minor planets may simply have been thickening in the enormous cloud, that, when the other thickenings

became planets, they, also, became part of the present Solar System.

But perhaps it would be of interest to some to know how the distance of the sun is ascertained, for the accurate measurement of the distance of the sun is one of the important problems in astronomy, and is determined by triangulation, using the largest baseline we have—the earth's diameter. The planet Venus, at intervals, passes between the earth and the sun, producing a transit. At these times Venus is seen as a black spot on the bright disc of the sun, and by observations taken at the moment the required angle may be taken. Roughly stated; it is by accurately noting the times of the planet first coming in contact with the sun's disc on the one side, and emerging again on the other, (by observers stationed at opposite sides of the base line) the angle produced can be accurately measured.

By the most accurate observations the sun's horizontal parallax — that is, the angle that would stretch from an observer on the sun to the half diameter of the earth—is found to be 8' 78" and the mean distance of the sun is therefore about ninety-three million miles, the difference between minimum and maximum being about three million miles.

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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.