

through to see them seeking "thrills"; and box office receipts are maintained at a high level. The excitement at such games naturally leads to great activity in the brothels after the game.

The pursuit of money has been so long admired that in "boom times" stock brokers offices and the offices of large commercial and industrial plants are the scenes of a feverish activity that in intensity and abandon compare favorably with any genuine human passion.

Of course in such a society people of intellect and fine feeling are easily driven to suicide or insanity; or survive as "failures", living throughout their lives in despised poverty. They serve their purpose however in providing warning examples of the consequences of insubordination.

In the centres of higher learning there is the same careful channelling of impulse to social and economically advantageous ends. Promise of "better jobs" is held out to the "educated" as an incentive to socially and economically approved modes of behavior. Tea dances, fraternity jealousies and the cultivation of the "rah-rah" spirit keep the passions divided and harmlessly dissipated; while the ceaseless frown of authority and the constant threat of expulsion and social ostracism, ensure that the speech of the few who think is measured. Scientific research has come as a boon both to society and to free spirits. Here in the realm of dead matter and natural phenomena society felt that curiosity and free opinion were permissible. Scientific circles therefore are loud with decisively-expressed and widely divergent opinion; and traditions are uprooted with impunity."

The letter stops here rather abruptly. But — Ah, there is a P.S. on the other side of this page. It reads — "As I prepare to leave Kurrand-a-Vayres, I get rumours of unlooked-for complications, in what had seemed to me to be a 100% rational and efficient organization of humanity. It seems that the whole system is threatening to cease functioning owing to an unaccountable mental lethargy amongst the ruling classes, and an equally unexpected insistence upon "life" from the working classes many of whom society was preparing to starve to death. In addition, in the course of making perfectly innocent experiments upon the chemical and physical properties of living organisms, scientists are discovering facts which suggest that the social-economic organization of Kurrand-a-Vayres is grossly vicious in many respects."

## THE C. C. F.

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tion to the socialist state.

5. Equal economic and social opportunity without distinction of sex, nationality or religion.

6. Encouragement of all co-operative en-

terprises which are steps to the attainment of the Co-operative Commonwealth.

7. Socialization of all health services.

8. The acceptance by the Federal Government of responsibility for dealing with unemployment and for tendering suitable work or adequate maintenance.

As will be clear from the reading of the above proposals, these can be no doubt as to the distinction between the new party and the two older parties, particularly when it is realised that these steps are only intended as the first moves in the direction of the fully developed Co-operative Commonwealth. The C.C.F. is not attempting to patch up the existing economic system, but rather to effect an orderly transition to a new type of society.

What is a Co-operative Commonwealth? It is essentially a community where social privilege has been destroyed; where there are not some children born to good food good housing and good education while others are born to slums and a factory job at the age of 14; where millionaires and bread-lines do not co-exist; where natural resources make public wealth and not private fortunes; where goods are produced to satisfy human needs, not for private profits; where business is run according to some general national plan, not according to the guesses of a thousand and one separate boards of directors; where the social risks of disease, accident and unemployment are shouldered by the community, not thrust upon the individual; where there are no corporations with watered stock exploiting the public behind tariff protection; no 'milk-rings', bread mergers or coal-barons; where no manufacturer is competing with another by trying to put him out of business in order to grab his market; where the continued improvements in economic technique result in a fair distribution of new wealth and leisure and not in a further concentration of luxury and unemployment; where, in short, the state becomes a true community knit together by a common purpose and enterprise.

## WHY I MISSED THE OTTAWA CONFERENCE

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the Canadian Scene with information that many of the interior parts of China are already organized as soviets and that the tradition of communism is very strong amongst the Chinese people; that the city of Hamburg is now in the hands of the workers and really being operated communistically, for even the police are in favour of revolution; that many of the armies of the more important capitalistic nations include a large proportion if not a majority of communists and communist sympathizers, who in the event of a war of any importance would be scabs of the most admirable sort in refusing to fight for the bosses; that the hundreds and thousands of suicides

now taking place in all parts of the world and especially in Europe are committed almost exclusively by members of the disinherited bourgeoisie and not by the proletariat, whose lifetime of hardship has taught them to endure adversity stoically however large the dose. And he added that he and his companion, as well as many of their associates in the working class struggle having been through the war and having knocked about scratching their own living in the cities and frontiers of the country ever since, could readily endure the hardships, inconveniences, and discomforts of transcontinental journeys on freight trains, and could understand what things were all about in a way unrevealed to a youngster like myself and most of the others riding the freights. My interest in his earnest remarks prevented me from taking time out to resent this probably justifiable patronizing, which seemed to look right through my overalls and windbreaker at the semi-respectable suit hidden thereunder.

This lecture was interrupted after an hour when we stopped to change engines at Coquitlam, where with the rain falling heavier than ever we scattered severally to look for shelter in an empty. (It does not do to take anybody's word that there are or are not empties in a train; you have simply got to look for yourself.) Soon I found an unsealed reefer into which I scrambled only to find several dozen men there already. More entered after me. Shortly before the highball a brakeman shone his light in and told us that we could not leave those doors swinging once she pulled out, and since no one could succeed in securing them any way on the inside, one of the men said he would ride outside and latch us in between stops. I was probably the only traveller who was not going at least as far as North Bend, but I looked at that rain and decided to take a chance on this chap's opening the door at the next water tank.

During the next hour I pondered this possibility, which seemed to become more and more remote. And I also pondered the remarks to which I had listened on the first lap of the journey, the dreary outlook for salvation from the bull-headed deliberations of Empire Partners in the conference chamber, and the smug satisfaction that might be derived from joining a workers' protest movement which could not possibly approve anything that the other conference might do unless it were to disagree violently. After a few minutes of inconclusive banter during one smoke all around, most of the fifty or more men in the pitch-dark car stretched out as best they could and slept. By the merest chance I found myself again beside the man who had told me about things while we were coming up the Inlet, but he soon dozed as he had no reason to concern himself about anything for about ten days — or shall we say until dawn? By the time