

PEN PUNCHES BY THE LOCALS

Organizers' Report

Calgary, Alta., Oct. 29, 1917.

Dear Comrade:

Herewith please find expense sheet for week ending Oct. 28th. I have been under the weather this past week. The sudden drop in temperature together with hot house trains fixed me and completely sealed up my speaking apparatus and confined me indoors for three days. I had to cancel meeting arranged at Kipp and also meeting in Calgary for Sunday evening.

I attended open forum meeting here Sunday afternoon. The speaker, Maj-Frost, was to give an address, "Why Not Win the War?" I was promised a few minutes to speak, so went, although my throat was still raw. The few minutes I spoke showed me that it was utterly impossible to attempt the evening meeting, much to my deep regret.

The Major's speech gave us no reasons whatever why we should win the war, but on the contrary, it was such a tirade against the graft and corruption in Government circles as to give a splendid argument why we should quit. The feeling of the audience (2,000 or 3,000 strong) was strongly opposed to the Major and his Union Government, although there was the usual sprinkling of ultra patriots. There was some very plain speaking from the audience, which bodes ill for the Borden bunch.

My reasons why we should quit the war, because justice was never achieved by violence; because the common people in all the belligerent countries were hoodwinked into the war by grafting and corrupt governments, such as the one we have, and which the Major described to us; because the people never benefit by war, but pay the price in blood and labor, were vociferously received by the audience, which augurs well for the opposition of Calgary to the bloody carnage.

These open forum meetings are held under the auspices of the Non-Partisan League, which is working along Social Democratic lines, but does not mention Socialism. The leader, Wm. Irvine, is a Social Democrat, but says the people are not ready for Socialism yet, and is trying to get the farmers interested in progressive politics. They are doing some good, and are certainly helping to wreck the old system.

I had a good meeting at Bellevue, though small, owing to the few English speaking men in the camp.

I have had no word from the Prov.

Sec., Mrs. Martin, which makes it difficult to know where to go. I shall go to the Drumbeller Coal Field tomorrow and see what can be done there. Then on to Edmonton.

Am in communication with the Prov. Sec. of Saskatchewan and am hoping for better and more profitable work there.

Yours in the fight,
George Stirling, Organizer.

Correspondence

Montreal, Nov. 5, 1917.

Dear Comrade and Editor:

Your communication with reference to the formation of a National Labor Party, on the lines of the British Labor Party, duly received.

This important question touches us very strongly, and while some of my friends may think that I am an opportunist because of my attitude on this subject, such is not the case. I am, however, in favor of some form of co-operation along these lines, as all men learn by experience; and especially is this true of those who call themselves Socialists. We may learn something from the history of a similar movement in England, and a brief review of the conditions relating to the same may prove useful to us in our deliberations upon this question. I was an active member in the Social-Democratic Party, then the British Socialist Party of London, England, when this important question was under consideration. At that time I was a bitter opponent of the Labor Party, as were also the majority of the B.S.P. members. After the first conference the only official Socialist Party that endorsed the Labor Party was the I. L.P., but life is stronger than theories. The very same members of the B.S.P. who had fought so bitterly against affiliation, decided at a later date to change their attitude for reasons that I will endeavor to enumerate.

We recognized that the Labor Party constituted of a large number of organized workers, had become a power in the land, and it became very obvious that if Socialism was going to triumph the organized workers must be won over to its side. This change of attitude had the effect of destroying the traditional prejudice of the workers against Socialism, and resulted in unifying their ranks because of the participation by the Socialists in the every-day struggles of industrially organized labor. The effect of this

The Book Shelf

Literature is a stimulant to the mind, just as food is a stimulant to the body. It is therefore necessary to have the best literature in order to get the best results.

"The Cry for Justice."

A gospel of new hope to the race, appealing to the growing sense of social justice in industry, politics and society; a rare volume of prose and poetry. It is selected for its literary excellence from twenty-five languages, covering a period of 5,000 years. An inspiring message from the master spirits of all ages to every thinking man and woman.

The Cry for Justice—Sinclair	\$2.25
Ancient, Lowly—Ward (per vol.)	2.10
Woman and Labor—Schreiner	1.75
The Crimson Fist—Neland	1.25
Call of the Carpenter—White	1.25
History of Canadian Wealth—Myers	1.50
Landmarks of Scientific Socialism—Engels	1.10
Socialism for Students—Cohen .....	.50
Stories of the Struggle—Winchevsky .....	.50
Evolution, Social and Organic—Lewis .....	.50
Socialism, Positive and Negative—La-Monte .....	.50
Common Sense of Socialism—Spargo .....	.25
Labor in Politics—Hunter .....	.25
Scientific Socialism—Vail .....	.25
Merrie England—Blachford .....	.15
Revolution—London .....	.10
Victims of the System—Johns .....	.10
Communist Manifesto—Marx .....	.10
What is Socialism?—Liebknecht .....	.10
Socialism Made Easy—Conolly .....	.10
Unionism and Socialism—Debs .....	.10
Introduction to Socialism—Richardson .....	.05

Order from Literature Department,
363 Spadina Ave., - Toronto

co-operation is to-day admitted by the capitalist press, and they surely have no interest or desire to tell us what has become the actual reality in this regard. The British Labor Party is now on the threshold of Socialism, and one thing remember—that the British worker, likewise the British Nation has had the reputation of being very conservative; and the great change that was brought about in the mental attitude of the organized workers was due to the influence of the Socialists within the ranks of the Labor Party.

Let us face the fact fearlessly. Our party is very weak, and it is evident that its lack of political influence is largely due to the fact of its separation from labor as a distinct organization. In the United States the line up is totally different. There the party has already become a power politically, and the unions are so constituted at the present time that it would be neither advisable or beneficial for them to co-operate; but here in Canada we adhere more closely to British traditions, and are influenced to a greater extent by the events which transpire in that country. The advent of a labor party in this country will ultimately mature, whether we like it or not.

Let no comrade misunderstand me. I do not suggest that we should become less revolutionary; we can still propagate and agitate as a distinct entity, as a party. I do not expect that they unions as they now stand will agree to this form of co-operation at the present time, but we must have patience and continue our agitation upon socialist lines within the Labor Party; and I am sure that the time will soon come when the organized workers of Canada will imbibe the spirit and knowledge of the Socialist movement, which will ultimately advance the great movement of which we are a part.

Yours for Socialism,
Rebecca Buhay.

BAINBRIDGE DEFENCE FUND.

Previously acknowledged ..\$ 279.90

W. Woolfe, Toronto	5.00
J. Allan, Hamilton	2.00
F. Horn, Kincardine	2.00
W. Mollard, Westhazel	2.00
W. Cole, Stratford	5.00
C. Borthwick, Hamilton	1.00
C. Johansson	10.00
J. Gleadall	5.00
H. N. Fisher, Sedalia	2.00
S. Lovatt, Local No. 61, Niagara Falls	10.00
L. Laychuck, Hoath	1.00
McKay, Toronto	1.00
S. R. German, Montreal	1.00
J. L. Thomson	1.00
R. McCutchan	3.00
G. Johnson	2.00
G. Ward	1.00
Mr. Woods	3.00
S. Mason	1.00
A. Jones	2.00
R. D. Puntun, Toronto	1.50
W. E. Carey, Windthorst	5.00
A. W. Bowles, Local No. 4, Kitchener	10.00

\$361.40

P.S.—Make all remittances payable to H. Perkins, 363 Spadina Ave., Toronto.

TO MATCH.

Life is short and so are most of us all through life.

Published at
363 Spadina Ave., Toronto

I. Bainbridge Business Manager
Dominion Secy.

THE CANADIAN FORWARD

SUB BLANK
Single Subscriptions, One Dollar per Year
Fifty cents per Half Year
In Clubs, Six for Five Dollars

You will assist our work by giving names and addresses as clearly and fully as possible

	NAME	STREET OR P.O. BOX	TOWN	PROV.
FIVE DOLLARS	1			
	2			
	3			
	4			
	5			
	6			

Sent by..... Street No.....
P.O..... Province.....
Amount sent \$..... How sent (cheque, postal note, money order or cash).....