



### A REPLY TO PHILLIPS THOMPSON.

(By Harriet Dunlop Prenter.)

Sir:—

One of the darker prophecies, which runs as follows: "And a man's foes shall be they of his own household," is being constantly proved and the despicable slander on James Simpson in a recent issue of your splendid paper only adds a little more testimony and would scarcely be worth notice had it come from any other source; but the fact that the writer has lived long enough among us to be well acquainted with both the public and private life of James Simpson, tempts one to try and find some excuse for Mr. Phillips Thompson's very unworthy action. Can it be that the forces of reaction—so vicious and so powerful just now, have affected the one-time clear and honest mind of our old friend? Reaction seems to be a very contagious disease, and very few are immune, or has a remote and placid existence in quiet Oakville dulled or corroded his class consciousness. It is true that Mr. Thompson has not, of late, been sufficiently in touch with industrial life to understand the present day psychology of the working class movement, but he certainly should have wits enough to know that if a man with the acknowledged ability of James Simpson wished "to gratify his personal ambition" he would have taken a much easier, shorter, and more direct route than the "Socialist highway." The suggestion is so base that it can hurt no one but the writer of it, while it adds one more ally to the "Evening Telegram."—for shame, Mr. Thompson.

### THE 5,000 DRIVE.

The total subscriptions for the last month amounted to \$87.50. A. C. Johnson, of Edmonton, Alta., leads the drive upon "Dubbville" and returns with twelve captives. W. Westbury, Neudorf, Sask., D. Lamberton, Ormiston, Sask., and O. Halten, Winnipeg, Man., have been using the club to good advantage, in securing \$5 each. N. Saehle, Red Willow, Alta., uses shrapnel to good advantage by returning four dollars and two bits. P. Grausdin, Lettonia, Man., returns \$3.50 as a consolation. The running at this stage is pretty even, Comrades A. B. Freer, Toronto, Ont., and M. Okosh, Thistle Creek, Y.T., are developing their resources, returning three each. At this point the forces advance in open order, many of the supports being responsible for one, and the net laid for another catch. This has been a fairly good month for our snipers in the open, and we are developing our resources in order to forestall the enemy by a mass attack on the whole front. Keep your powder dry and pay due attention to the ammunition column.

Montreal May 7, 1918.

Dear Comrade:—

We had a splendid celebration on May Day. It was the first time in the history of Montreal that a parade of Socialists has been held in the day time—the participants taking a holiday for the purpose. It was

a huge success. Comrade Bruce, of Toronto, addressing the mass meeting in the evening. Marx buttons and red ribbons were much in evidence, we only regret that the Forwards did not arrive in time.

We celebrated Marx Centenary on the 5th of May and had a fine, enthusiastic meeting, Asseblman Waldeman, of New York, addressed the meeting, which was interspersed by a musical programme. By the way, we had Sam. Gompers here a few days ago, and he got a very cold reception. In the hall we had a poster bearing the inscription—"Sam. Gompers: What is the A. F. of L. going to do for Thomas Mooney? Answer: The press eulogies do not give a true picture—Sam was a sick man, his 'camouflage' did not fool any one. He had better look out, the workers are waking up.

One of our Russian Comrades was arrested on account of his participation in the parade, he is interned with the so-called "alien enemies." I must compliment you on the Centenary number of the "Forward," it was excellent. It was like old times to hear from Lansbury, Fairchild, etc., as my brother had worked with them years ago in London. Joe Fineberg, whose articles on Marx you are reprinting was a particularly close associate of ours' as we all belonged to Stepney branch of the B.S.P. We are delighted to read of his progress, especially his appointment as secretary to Litvinoff, the Russian Bolshevik Ambassador.

Editor's Note.—The April 4th issue of "Forward" was mailed on the 25th, enquirers are being made as to why the copy to Montreal took more than six days in the mail.)

Niagara Falls, Ont.,

May 5, 1918.

I. Bainbridge,  
Dominion Secretary,

Dear Comrade:—

At a meeting of the local held today, I was instructed to advise the Dominion Executive Committee of the following resolution which was passed unanimously by the members of Local No. 60. That the secretary of the Ontario Section of the Canadian Labor Party be notified that the programme and standing orders of the Ontario Section of the Canadian Labor Party were read to the members of Local 60, Niagara Falls S.D.P. of C., and accepted by them as satisfactory with the exception that it was thought that Canadian Forward which is the official organ of the S.D.P. of C. should receive as much recognition and consideration in matters pertaining to the Ontario Section of the Canadian Labor Party as does the Industrial Banner until such time as an official organ of the party is established.

Also I was instructed to convey to you, in view of the suggested appointment of Comrade Stirling as Editor of the Forward, the deep appreciation of the good and invaluable work you have accomplished while the paper was under your care. While we may not be able to comprehend the worries and anxieties of such a charge, we want you to know that we appreciate what you have done for the cause, and in the

spirit which seeks to cheer and encourage a faithful and loyal comrade now, instead of waiting till he is dead to drop a bouquet in tribute on his casket; we convey to you our admiring tribute to your devotion to principle and duty. May you long be spared to the greatest cause in all the world, and hoping you will be able to enjoy many years the blessings of a society such as we seek to establish.

Yours in comradeship.

Chas. H. Newman,  
Secretary.

Hamilton, Ont.,

May 2, 1918.

Dear Comrade:—

Pressure of work prevented an earlier acknowledgment of your valued favor of the 24th ultimo.

I must first congratulate you on the excellence of the literary contents of the May Day number, which sets an excellent standard in the eminence of the contributors and their international position in the movement, that few Socialist papers could do more than equal. It is an issue that all readers will surely value and preserve.

I am sorry that I had no opportunity of preparing any contribution in the line of illustration in time for that issue, but it would, in any event be regrettable to have displaced a single column or line of the reading matter which appeared.

J. A.

### Labor & New Social Order

(Continued from last issue.)

But nothing is more dangerous to the standard of life, or so destructive of those minimum conditions of healthy existence, which must in the interests of the community be assured to every worker, than any widespread or continued unemployment. It has always been a fundamental principle of the Labor party (a point on which, significantly enough, it has not been followed by either of the other political parties) that, in a modern industrial community, it is one of the foremost obligations of the government to find, for every willing worker, whether by hand or by brain, productive work at standard rates.

It is accordingly the duty of the government to adopt a policy of deliberately and systematically preventing the occurrence of unemployment, instead of, as heretofore, letting unemployment occur, and then seeking, vainly and expensively, to relieve the unemployed. It is now known that the government can, if it chooses, arrange the public works and the orders of national depart-

ments and local authorities in such a way as to maintain the aggregate demand for labor in the whole kingdom (including that of capitalist employers) approximately at a uniform level from year to year; and it is therefore a primary obligation of the government to prevent any considerable or widespread fluctuations in the total numbers employed in times of good or bad trade. But this is not all. In order to prepare for the possibility of there being any unemployment, either in the course of demobilization or in the first years of peace, it is essential that the government should make all necessary preparations for putting instantly in hand, directly or through the local authorities, such urgently needed public works as (a) the rehousing of the population alike in rural districts, mining villages, and town slums, to the extent, possibly, of a million new cottages and an outlay of three hundred millions sterling; (b) the immediate making good of the shortage of schools, training colleges, technical colleges, etc., and the engagement of the necessary additional teaching, clerical, and administrative staffs; (c) new roads; (d) light railways; (e) the unification and reorganization of the railway and canal system; (f) afforestation; (g) the reclamation of land; (h) the development and better equipment of our ports and harbors; (i) the opening up of access to land by co-operative small holdings and in other practicable ways. Moreover, in order to relieve any pressure of an overstocked labor market, the opportunity should be taken, if unemployment should threaten to become widespread, (a) immediately to raise the school-leaving age to sixteen; (b) greatly to increase the number of scholarships and bursaries for secondary and higher education; and (c) substantially to shorten the hours of labor of all young persons, even to a greater extent that the eight hours per week contemplated in the new Education Bill, in order to enable them to attend technical and other classes in the daytime. Finally, wherever practicable, the hours of adult labor should be reduced to not more than forty-eight per week, without reduction of the standard rates of wages. There can be no economic or other justification for keeping any man or woman to work for long hours, or at overtime, whilst others are unemployed.

### SOCIAL INSURANCE AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT.

In so far as the government fails to prevent unemployment—whenver it finds it impossible to discover for any willing worker, man or woman, a suitable situation at the standard rate—the Labor party holds that the government must, in the interest of the community as a whole, provide him or her with adequate maintenance, either with such arrangements for honorable employment or with such useful training as may be found practicable, according to age, health and previous occupation. In many ways the best form

(Continued on Page 8).

## POVERTY and RICHES

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Scott Nearing tells why the rich are getting richer and the poor poorer; shows the vast wealth produced in this country and who controls it; proves that the heaven of the rich is founded on the hell of the poor. He argues that when one marvelous machine will do the work of many men, there is no reason why everybody should not have comfortable and easy lives; no necessity for people to lose their homes and become anxious renters; no justice in the unequal distribution of wealth; no excuse for the man who owns a living instead of working for it. And he points out a cure for the rising cost of living; he demands that honest industrious men be spared the exhausted faces of their women and the sobs of their underfed children.

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