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CLASS WAR!

Premier David Lloyd George has at last definitely and finally declared himself. In his attack on the Labor Party and his appeal to Liberals and Unionists to line up in an attempt to save Britain from democracy, the little Welshman has come out into the open on the side of reaction. Like many another opportunist with natural Liberal sympathies he has, as the Manchester Guardian put it, "got into the wrong box." Like the small boy who is caught in a guilty act he places himself on the defensive and endeavors to justify his position by wild and vehement talk. According to a dispatch The Guardian thinks the prime minister's denunciation of Labor in his address of last week are not to be taken as much more than a rhetorical exercise, and considers the Labor Party's tendencies on the whole as sane and moderate. It would be well if the Premier's speech could be as lightly taken as the Guardian would imply.

Other newspapers and Labor leaders, however, accept Mr. Lloyd George's address as a challenge or declaration of war. A boomerang of the reactionaries' found its way back when the Premier was accused of "preaching class war" in outlining his reasons for a new political alignment. The London Times considers Mr. Lloyd George's speech is expressed in the phrase: "Help Me Fight Labor Which is Socialism;" which attitude says the Times is a doctrine poor, false and dangerous. Arthur Henderson speaking for the Labor Party says: "Labor accepts the challenge of Mr. Lloyd George. We are arranging to appeal, not only to organized workers, but to every sympathizer." Meanwhile the Labor Party continues to grow in popularity. We have not forgotten the significant words of Lord Haldane who recently stated that the Labor Party was the only political group that had a programme with a vision. Rev. Canon Green speaking in Manchester, added one more word of praise when he said: "What was the attraction of the Labor party? Not their programme. It was their moral earnestness. With them there was something worth living for and something worth dying for." Even the London Times goes so far as to state that: "It is a fact that a considerable portion of the electorate has been drifting towards Labor because it could find a clear programme and policy based on principle." "Vision!" "Moral Earnestness!" "principle!" Surely no political party in history has ever had more reason to take pride in the terms used to express its outstanding characteristics.

A. F. OF L. POLITICAL TACTICS.

There is a great deal of criticism of the A. F. of L. political policy, especially on this side of the line where direct political action by the workers has found considerable favor. When viewed in the light of circumstances existing in the United States, however, there is not so much justification for criticism of the Federation's policy as would seem to be apparent to British eyes.

The Labor Party in the Republic is very young and very incompletely organized. It is possible also that in very many sections of the country no candidates will in the coming elections be placed in the field under its auspices. Therefore it is quite possible that with a non-partisan political organization Labor can do much to "defeat its enemies" in the primaries and throughout the contest. It is equally probable too, that in sections where Labor Party candidates are in the field they will, similarly to what was done in Edmonton in December last, be endorsed by the trade unionist body. As a matter of fact the A. F. of L. plan is, in one of its phases, identical with the clause contained in the constitution of the local Trades Council which gives that body power to endorse or denounce candidates for public office.

The Free Press does not agree with Mr. Gompers in his opposition to separate political action by the workers. We believe that the point is somewhat strained in comparing the experience of the prohibitionists with Labor. But there are thousands and possibly millions who agree with the venerable leader when he advocates adopting the policy of the prohibition forces, who failing to accomplish anything but failure by means of a separate party, adopted the non-partisan policy with tremendous success. The A. F. of L. are adopting similar tactics, but in view of wide difference in the principles involved, we are somewhat dubious as to the result. The Free Press is inclined to believe, however, that the lack of co-operation between the Labor Party and the trade unionists in the United States is more apparent than real.

FREE FROM RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS PREJUDICE.

One of the most outstanding features of the Labor movement is its absolute freedom from racial or religious prejudice. Men and women of every race and creed participate in the councils of trade unionism without discrimination because of nationality or religion.

All workers have an interest in common that is separate and apart from their views on other matters. Though relatively as far apart as the two poles with respect to other questions, the workpeople must stand united on the economic field. The trade union movement has only one aim in view. It seeks to better the working and living conditions of all workers. Experience has taught that organization is the means by which such betterment is to be accomplished, and no obstacles of race or creed must be permitted to stand in the way of working class progress. In the Labor movement all may stand shoulder to shoulder and thus unitedly march forward to a realization of the aspirations and ideals which inspire those who have caught the vision of a new social order.

THE CONSIDERATION OF PROPERTY

In discussing the question of a change in the social order, the argument is invariably turned to the consideration of things material; of property. This is not very surprising when it is considered that humanity under the present system of society is subordinate to things material. Industrially money or capital receives much greater consideration than Labor or humanity. Socially the same rule applies. On the whole a man is judged not by his personal worth, but by his rating in dollars and cents.

But in discussing the new, why think in terms of the old? A new social order must mean the subordination of property to humanity. The latter must, under a better organization of society, receive the greater consideration. Property, its ownership and administration, must only be considered to the extent that it would benefit or militate against the best interests of all the people. The establishment of social justice and equity, equality of opportunity, involving as it does the fullest development of the physical and mental resources of every person, the establishment of a national minimum comprising housing, health, and subsistence are some of the questions that come first in the consideration of a new social order. Property, its present ownership and its future administration, must not be permitted to stand in the way of human development. It must be controlled and directed in the manner that will increase human happiness. It must serve rather than be served.

EDITOR'S NOTES.

Labor and Capital may be partners, but Labor is the junior. Decidedly junior, we'll say.

David Lloyd George was once a Liberal; now he is making a bid for the leadership in the last stand of the British reactionaries. How are the mighty fallen!

Mr. Theo. H. Price, editor of the New York Commerce and Finance writing in The Outlook, says: "In every one of the profit-sharing schemes that I have examined there is some provision that is designed to deter the employee from quitting his job voluntarily."

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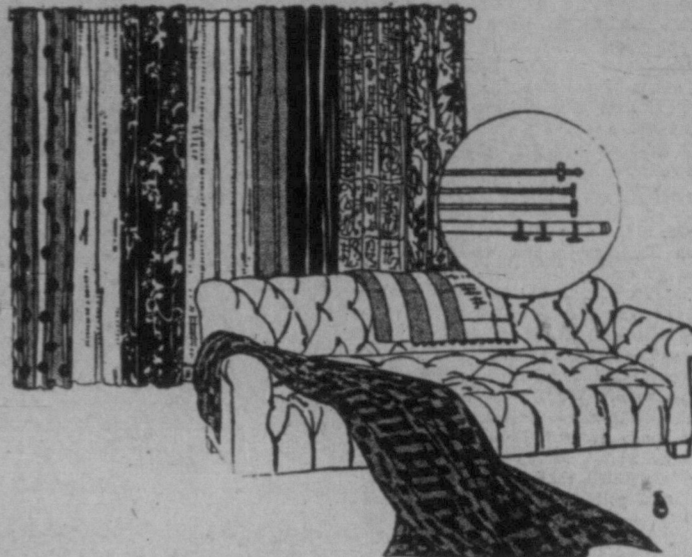
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An organization must have its balance wheels as well as its motors. The moderate is not necessarily less progressive than the radical, and the latter is usually in need of the steadying influence of the former.

We have heard employers make the statement that they did not intend to pay more wages than they had to. But what would they think if they overheard one of their workmen boast that he did not figure on doing or thinking any more than he had to? When we think of it, both are in the same class, and both are merely "getting by."

Says the Manchester Guardian: "The contempt which our noble ancestors expressed for those of their class who demeaned themselves by entering trade is nothing to the horror they would have felt at the idea of their entering trade unions. To judge by the speed at which things are now moving it will soon be as respectable to be a trade unionist as it already is to profiteer in food. Trade unionism is going up in the social scale, and the divinity that doth hedge a king is no longer claimed with the same assurance by the minor princes of industry and commerce. There is a levelling down as well as a levelling up."

The Labor Press

The reduction of the hours of labor, the securing of improved working conditions, and a higher standard of living have all been gained as the direct result of the activities of organized Labor, and as the price of increasing conflict and unrelenting determination on the part of the trade unions. The workers owe every advantage they possess today as wage-earners and self-respecting citizens to the power and efficiency of the world-wide Labor movement.—The Workers' Weekly.

If Abraham Lincoln could have come back on earth and heard all the piffle that was belched forth in his name during the past couple of weeks, the Great Emancipator would doubtless have said good-night to his smug eulogists and returned to the shades. Every sort of a greedy hypocritical chauvinist is nowadays seeking to steal the livery of heaven while serving the devil. Not only do the selfish privileged crowd pervert the views and principles of a Lincoln or Jefferson or Monroe or other real patriot to excuse their own corruption and malevolence, but Christ himself is not immune from misrepresentation and being cited as an authority who placed the stamp of approval on profiteering, oppression and persecution.—Detroit Labor News.

Editing a paper is a nice thing and no mistake! If we publish jokes, people say we are rattle-brained. If we don't, we are fools. If we publish original matter, they say we don't give them enough selections. If we give them selections, they say we are too lazy to write. If we don't go to church, we are heathens. If we do, we are hypocrites. If we remain in the office, we ought to be out looking for news. If we go out, then we ought to be attending to business. If we wear old clothes, they laugh at us. If we wear good clothes, they say we are extravagant. Now, what are we to do? Just as likely someone will say that we percolated this from another paper. SO WE DID!—Detroit Labor News.

The hog may be a squealer, but he seldom gives anything away.

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