

the working-man. That this class-consciousness was one of the most potent influences which helped to shape the modern industrial movement is a fact that cannot be denied, but it has undoubtedly caused many middle-class people—the shopkeeping classes, the professional classes, ministers, doctors, teachers, clerks, and the like—to feel that the organized workers pursued a policy in opposition to what these classes believed to be the true interests of the nation as a whole. It is difficult to convince them that working-class policy, both industrial and political, has been strictly of a defensive character. The workers have organized themselves in trade unions, have created their own political party, and have set the great co-operative movement on foot primarily for their own protection against the rapacity of other classes.

In fairness to the working-class movement, however, it must also be acknowledged that the reforms it has endeavoured to promote have been of a general social character. From the very beginning of its history the Labour Party has claimed to be something more than the party of a class. It has not concerned itself merely with the political aspects of industrial questions, with hours of labour, rates of wages, and conditions of employment. By common consent it has infused into contemporary politics a quality of idealism and generous feeling for the oppressed and overburdened masses. It has, of course, sought to protect the workers from exploitation, but its policy has always had a wider application. It covers the whole field of social life. Both in national and in international affairs it has always taken a large view, and has consistently refused to treat any problem from the point of view of class interest alone. It's criticism of existing institutions springs out of a conception of society which is fundamentally different from that entertained by the orthodox parties. But that conception does, at any rate, embody the idea of public right as opposed to the idea of class privilege. It puts the rights of the community as a whole above the claims of any class. It is pledged to resist the exploitation of one section of the community by another, and proclaims the possibility of a new social order, international in its scope, which does not involve, as the present system does, the oppression of any class; the subjugation of either sex, or the subjugation of any nation.

In harmony with this broad and generous conception of social reconstruction, the Labour Party has adopted a scheme of reorganization which is deliberately designed to unite all classes in a genuine national party. The new scheme, which was adopted with practical unanimity at a representative national conference held in London recently, makes it possible for every man and woman dependent upon their own exertions, either of hand or brain, for their means of livelihood to join the party. It seeks to unite them on the basis of a common interest in good government and a common desire to promote the welfare of all the people. The party invite the men and women who have hitherto stood aloof from the Labour movement to realize that their interests as citizens and as workers are identical with those of the manual wage-earning class. It opens its doors to those who do not belong to the latter class, because the new order of society which it de-

sires to see established cannot be built without their aid. It believes that the trading classes, the professional classes—in short, all those who live on an income of their own earning—like the mass of working people, require the protection of a strongly organized political party which will not direct national policy according to the wishes of the possessing classes, but will seek to promote the general welfare.

With the details of the party programme I may have an opportunity to deal more fully in a later article. Here I am anxious to emphasize the fact that neither the constitution nor the policy of the party is inspired by class feeling. What is aimed at is the establishment of a real national party pledged to promote the political, social, and economic emancipation of the whole people, and to create a new social order passed upon co-operation and mutual service rather than upon competition and ruthless individualism. In our view, the system of capitalist production which obtained in pre-war days, in which were bred the monstrous antagonisms that tore asunder the society of nations, has been finally discredited and destroyed by the war itself. The system cannot be restored. In its place we have to set up a political and economic system based upon a deliberately planned co-operation in production and distribution from which the profiteering element will be progressively eliminated, and under which every worker will be the servant of the community, and of the community alone.

In the effort to reconstruct society on these lines, what are called the middle classes are as much concerned as the manual wage-earners.

- Rubs by Rambler. -

It looks, at the present time, as if Pictou County Oil Shales were again coming into their own. For land containing shales there is at present an unusually active quest. A Halifax business man of high standing is inquiring into the possibilities of Pictou County Shales, and has brought an Oil Shale expert from the United States to look over the ground. He, in company with Deputy Inspector Gray last week visited the districts said to be underlain with Shales. Whether further action will be taken, will depend on two things; first the quality, and second the possibility of securing ground not already covered, or ground covered at a reasonable price. Mr. Walter McNeil, of New Glasgow, has secured right of search for Shale, immediately west of the Acadia Coal Co's property at Stellarton. From this it would appear that there is a possibility of there being a boom in Shale. Besides these two, other parties have secured rights on twenty square miles on the east side of the East River. I trust that holders of Shale lands, will not put too high a value on their properties, and thereby discourage those who desire to do a legitimate business.

Attorney General Daniels is showing style these days. For a while he was tried in the furnace