

## A SIMPLE LESSON IN SOCIALISM

By W. H. LEFFINGWELL

This is a very difficult thing to make people believe, but once their eyes are opened to its truth, "the beginning of the end is near." In these short lessons it is impossible for me to give you very abundant proof of this, so I suggest a few thoughts, leaving you to do a little investigating for yourself.

Today there are two "great" political parties. In Canada? Yes, and in England, France, Germany and every other civilized country. The names are different in different countries, and in some countries these parties are divided into several factions; but the class interests are the same. One is the party of the large capitalist and the other is the party of the small capital.

A good way to show the class interests of a party is to notice the stand it takes on questions of taxation and of the laws of an industrial nature.

Today the "just question" is upmost in the mind of the people. The one party says trusts are bad. The other party says they ought to be abolished. Why? Because they crush out the middle man, the little capitalist. The other party says they are good, a sign of progress. They cheapen production. They are enabled, through the large factories, to increase production with less labor than before. These little attitudes show plainly the class interests of the two parties.

Now you are neither a capitalist, great or small, are you? No; but you perform a very useful function. You are the fool workman who makes these parties "Great." Suppose all the big capitalists voted for one party, all the little capitalists for another, and the workmen for a third. How many "great" parties would there be? Only one. The others wouldn't amount to much, would they?

"The poor ye have with you always"—that is, so long as you have the rich.

In America enough food and clothing can be produced to supply the entire world; coal and iron in sufficient quantities to last a thousand generations. There is land enough to give each of us a farm, machinery enough to produce all we desire, and labor enough to make the task very simple. Yet thousands die of hunger, many freeze to death, many are forced to steal—and often murder—on account of their poverty. The extreme poverty causes drunkenness and disease, and crime is rampant. Is this not a terrible condition, when all might be happy and comfortable? Something must be wrong. What is it? All of the lands, mines and the means of production (factories, etc.) are owned by one class of men. The other class is therefore compelled to contribute four-fifths of what it produces to the owning class in order to get a chance to live. Pretty system, isn't it? You see what it leads to.

If the system is wrong, it can be changed. If a man is hungry, he tries to feed himself. If he is cold, he tries to get warm. He knows what the cause of his misery is, and he tries to remove that cause. If the cause of all our evils is the private ownership of the means of life, why not abolish the cause? That is simple enough for any one to understand. But if certain politicians tell you that the system is all right, when you know and they know perfectly well that it is all wrong, the logical conclusion of their arguments is that it is proper that we should have crime, disease and poverty.

Many of them even come out openly and argue that there are things which cannot be helped. Are they? These politicians and the capitalists have very good reasons for not wanting to abolish the evils mentioned. They know that the evils of this system are but the effects of the system, and that the effects cannot be abolished except by removing the cause; and as they are benefitted by the cause (private ownership of the means of life) they do not want the cause removed.

If capitalism, whether under the administration of the liberals or con-

servatives, starves you and your family and grinds your children up in the mills for profits, and you do not approve of such things, it is up to you to make a change. There is only one political party that wants to change the system, and that party is the Socialist party. All others, by whatever name they are known, or whatever reforms they propose, are capitalist parties or factions thereof; for if they do not want to abolish capitalism, they want capitalism and must consequently justify its evils, while we poor devils must endure them.

This simply means letting the workmen look after their own interests. They are in the majority and they can have anything they want if they know how to get it. There is only one right way, and it is as follows: first, unite into a political party organized strictly on class lines, then capture the powers of government by means of the ballot. Then change the system under which we are living from a system of private ownership to one of collective ownership. Such a party is already in existence and its votes are multiplying very rapidly. It is the Socialist party.

Now, to close, if you do not believe what I have said to be true, or if you do not agree with my conclusions, can you answer the following questions with "Yes?"

Does it benefit you to be robbed?

Do you like it?

Would it harm you to get the full value of what you produce?

Is it right for a class which does nothing useful to live in luxury?

Is it right for a class which produces everything to live in poverty?

♦♦♦

The Alberta coal miners struck and the Sydney miners kept on working. Then the Alberta miners went to work and the Sydney miners struck. Did you ever see a team of horses pull a heavy load by starts and jerks? One horse would jump into the collar and back up again and the other horse would start ahead and stop, the load being too heavy for one horse to move. That is the way with the sectional strike. The workers get no farther forward on the road to economic freedom.

The capitalist novel deals with the fortune of one man and one woman or with the fortunes of a few men and a few women. The novel is supposed to end well if the two chief characters find themselves in happy circumstances in a world of misery. The capitalist novel shows that society is radically wrong when only two persons can find happiness in it.

The present organization of industry is based upon legalized labor stealing. Under such a system a man must either steal or be stolen from. It is useless for those who are stealing to pretend to be moral. Let them recognize that they are forced into thievery and let them help to change the system which forces them to steal.

Humanity is good, not bad. But the capitalist system so twists the aspirations and hopes of men and so abuses and ill-treats the great mass of men that men are forced to do those things which they do not like to do. After a while they get hardened and then do not want to see society get on a firmer foundation.

Under socialism the doctors will have little to do. Men, women and children will have an opportunity to live fresh, wholesome lives and disease will disappear. The doctors will be turned into sanitary agents to see that the disease breeding material in a community be not allowed to accumulate.

The Canadian protectionist papers point to the evils existing in Great Britain and demand protection. The Canadian free trade papers point to the evils in protectionist America and demand free trade. And both classes of papers keep mighty quiet about the robbery of the workers.

Industrial disputes and agreements carried on locally and made locally will always make labor dependant and cowed. This is the function of the Ottawa Labor Department. The bosses need it, and support it for this reason.

The King of Sweden in speaking of the universal strike now on, declared "it should be stated to the honor of the workmen, that no disturbance of public order worth mentioning, has yet taken place."

Editor Macdonald of the Toronto Globe declares that its hell in England because of the poverty of the masses. The Toronto News quotes Macdonald as a text for yawning for protection.

## PROPAGANDA HINTS

By W. R. SHIER

et meetings at which socialist and papers are not sold are

als spent as much money on circulating Socialist literature as on employing lecturers from distant towns, they could have more to show for their work.

Literature agents should organize some scheme for placing socialist books for sale in stationery stores, barber shops and all places that can be induced to handle them on a commission basis.

Soap-boxers should always conclude their speeches by urging their auditors to purchase Socialist literature and subscribe for Socialist papers, selling the pamphlets and taking the subscription right there and then.

The people who attend hall lectures and who linger at street meetings are mostly socialists already. Hence their propaganda value is only slight. We must reach the millions who won't attend socialist gatherings in some other way.

Every comrade should have a little library of his own. It is not sufficient to read papers. To get a thorough understanding of the philosophy and aims of modern Socialism, one must read the works of Ferri, Kautsky, Marx, Engels, etc.

In advertising hall lectures on the away cards, both sides should be used, the one one side to announce the meeting, the other side to impress upon people the importance of understanding socialism, and to advertise some socialist paper.

The most effective propaganda is for comrades to go out in the evenings canvassing, that is, calling upon people in their homes, arousing their interest, and selling them there and then socialist books and securing subscriptions to socialist papers.

The emancipation of the workers must be achieved by the workers themselves. That means agitation, education, organization. Are you doing your share of this work by organizing meetings, advertising lectures, stimulating discussion in the capitalist press, selling socialist pamphlets and papers.

## Cost of War in Money

Turning now to the cost of wars in money, the figures are staggering, and would be more so if they could be fully obtained. Only approximate correctness is claimed for the following statements:

The Napoleonic campaigns, covering nineteen years, in which France, Great Britain, Germany, Italy, Austria, Spain, Russia, Turkey were involved, \$15,000,000,000.

The British-American war, 1812-14, \$3,000,000,000.

The United States-Mexican war, 1846 to 1848, \$180,000,000.

The Crimean war of 1854 to 1856, \$1,666,000,000.

The Italian war of 1859, \$24,000,000.

The Schleswig-Holstein war of 1814, \$3,000,000,000.

The American civil war of 1861 to 1865, North and South, \$8,000,000,000. (A recent estimate places the cost of this war, including pensions and interest since paid, at \$13,000,000,000.)

The Prussian-Austrian war of 1866, \$325,000,000.

The expeditions to Mexico, Morocco, Cochinchina, etc., 1861 to 1867, \$200,000,000.

The Franco-Prussian war of 1870 to 1871, \$3,000,000,000.

The Russo-Turkish war of 1877, \$1,100,000,000.

The Zulu and Afghan wars of 1879, \$150,000,000.

The China-Japan war of 1894 to 1895, \$60,000,000.

The British-Boer war of 1899 to 1901, \$1,300,000,000. (Great Britain, \$1,250,000,000; Boer republics (estimated,) \$50,000,000.)

The Spanish-American-Philippine war of 1898 to 1902, \$800,000,000. (To the United States for five years (Edward Atkinson's estimate,) \$700,000,000.)

The Russo-Japanese war of 1904 to 1905, \$1,735,000,000. (To Russia, \$935,000,000; to Japan, \$800,000,000.)

Wars are brought about by the avariciousness of the ruling classes, but it is the workers that do the fighting and get killed. Socialists are opposed to war, and when the Co-operative Commonwealth is inaugurated war will be no more.

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The Province of Quebec is not so ripe for Socialism as is the other provinces. In this backward place the Catholic clergy consume the surplus product in the name of religion. The result is that capitalistic accumulation is not so rapid. We have big churches, fat priests, and little capital. The bourgeoisie protestant ministers mourn over the big churches and fat priests and long for these things to be transmuted into vast accumulations of capital. The priests are wise in their generation. They know that the capitalist is an enemy of the revenues of the church. So the Catholic church falls on the neck of labor and weeps for love of him while at the same time it picks his pockets.

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The Catholic church is beginning to move with the times. The laborers of Thetford Mines, Quebec, are starting a savings bank. The local priest is the chief mover in the scheme and chief officer. At Oka a society called The Experimental Union of Quebec has been formed to promote the interests of agriculture. It is a sort of Co-operative affair. Among its directors are, Canon Dauth, Very Rev. Father Dom. Antoine Oger. Its secretary is Brother Ligouri. The church picks the pockets of its adherents by tithes, masses for the dead, etc. The church turns round and helps the laborers to fight those capitalists who are inimical to the church. Economic determinism every time.

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Under Socialism the disputes about titles of land and squabble over the ownership of stocks and bonds will have disappeared. The mills and machinery of production being publicly owned, there will be as little chance for two private persons to go to law over the ownership of a factory as it is at present for two private individuals to squabble over the ownership of a government post-office. With the disappearance of the cause of legal squabbles the profession of law will cease. The age-old undignified squabbling of two lawyers before a wigged old fogey will have disappeared.

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The August Labor Gazette published by the government has this to say: "The strike of the employees of the Dominion Coal Company has had a very disquieting effect on the coal mining industry. On the other hand the establishment of industrial peace in the Mines of Alberta and Eastern British Columbia has had a very satisfactory effect." Is not this nice? The Labor Department glad because all the miners do not strike at once but strike at different times so that the strike of one set of miners will be broken because another set stay at work.

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It has been announced that the strike of the Japanese on the Honolulu plantations has been abandoned. The terms on which the strike was called off are not given. As the International Socialist Review remarks, "Whenever the Associated Press is silent on that phase of industrial adjustments it can usually be taken for granted that the workers have secured some advantages that the capitalists prefer that the public know nothing about." The strikers have lost nothing by the strike.

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The workingmen live where their jobs are and the plut in his dividends. The struggle is on the industrial plane with the political as a powerful assistant. A modified form of political democracy has been acquired by the laborers with blood and tears. They will acquire a voice in the management of industries by the same sacrifices. The strike shows the idealism and solidarity and morality of the working classes.

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The Latin countries, Spain, Italy and France, have developed rapidly along the lines of revolutionary syndicalism. The general strike counts for more in those countries than do political efforts. Perhaps the syndicate methods are right. The ignorant foreigners, without votes and without organization struck and brought the Pressed Steel Car Company to time in Pennsylvania.

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The man who limits the range of his ideas by any creed or dogma is dead wood. Ideas are fluid and when they stop flowing they die.

## THE RIGHT TO WORK

By SARDONICUS

The right to work these hands demand,

We shall not cringe like slaves much longer

Take notice masters here we stand,

A mighty army growing stronger,

Which shall like locusts sweep the land.

The right to work these brains insist.

Hail toilers, now for freedom headed!

Tell it to the tyrants with your fist,

In every fist a ballot dreaded,

To give the Pluties a final twist.

The right to work these voices urge—

Let's put it in the Constitution;

See to the polls the masses surge—

To wipe out all their destitution—

And freemen from the pooties emerge.

The scene is more than prophecy

It points the way to Labor's glory.

When every man at work shall be

And drones shall live in vanished story,

And parasites in like degree.

Then done shall be the weary quest—

For every weaver now a spindle;

The starving armies shall have rest—

To nothing shall the bread-line dwindle—

Labor, a curse no more but blest.

Judge Pontius Pilate Pollock of Kansas and a packed jury of Kansas Republicans have found Warren of the Appeal to Reason guilty of circulating defamatory literature and have condemned him to six months in jail and to pay a fine of \$1500. The Appeal to Reason has been flaying Pollock and his packed jury unmercifully. It's circulation in Kansas has jumped from thirteen thousand to sixty thousand. Pontius and his puppydog jurymen must be catching it. The Kansas brand of local humorist is caustic and the humorists are many. Just think of hundreds of alkali natured leathery Kansas reading the Appeal and working off their slow biting wit on Pollock and his jurymen to their faces. Every one of the jurymen must be hunting a cyclone cellar or a lonely spot of alkali to get away from the humorous caustic tongues of their friends. There is nothing so wearing to a man as stale jokes at his expense constantly repeated, and the jurymen have been getting their fill of that treatment.

The little storekeeper will find great happiness under the socialist state. The little storekeeper will no longer worry over bills and debts and the big departmental stores. He will no longer be a storekeeper but will have some occupation that will be healthful and not overburdensome and to the good of the community.

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The laborer cannot get justice before a capitalist court because the courts are made to enforce the labor plundering laws.

♦♦♦

Children Cry

FOR FLETCHER'S

CASTORIA

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The man who limits the range of his ideas by any creed or dogma is dead wood. Ideas are fluid and when they stop flowing they die.

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The Tailors' International union which met recently at Buffalo has declared itself in favor of socialism. They're coming one by one.

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