

THE CANADIAN FORWARD

To Our Contributors—

The columns of The Canadian Forward are open to contributions from all friends of the cause. Though we can by no means undertake to publish all we may receive, everything, by whomsoever written, will receive careful attention.

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"The ignorance of the so-called educated classes is colossal."—Thomas Huxley.



MR. JAS. WINSTONE, C.C., J.P.

The British Fraternal Delegate to the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress of Canada is in Toronto, and will address a public meeting on Thursday night. Mr. Jas. Winstone is president of the South Wales Miners' Federation and is nominated as the Parliamentary candidate for the late Mr. Keir Hardie's constituency in Wales, "Merthyr Tydvil." Born in Risea, a small town in Monmouthshire, in 1863, he went to a national school until he was eight years of age and then started to work in a brickyard, to help support his mother, who was left a widow when he was three years old. At an early age he entered the pit, and his fellow-workmen elected him to be a member of the Miners' Executive Council in South Wales. Later he was elected organizer by the miners of the eastern valleys of his native county. During all these years he has been an active member of the Baptist Church and a very prominent local preacher. His speech at the Ottawa Congress created a sensation when he declared that the Labor Party in Britain would go to the Stockholm Conference and that, finally, the war would have to be settled by negotiation. Mr. Winstone is a powerful Socialist orator, and sat for some time in the National Council of the Independent Labor Party, the strongest Socialist organization in the United Kingdom. Mr. Winstone found time while in this country to see our National Secretary, Mr. Isaac Bainbridge, whom he shook by the hand heartily, declaring he was a man after his own heart. In the name of the members of the Socialist Party we greet him, and request him to carry back our greetings to the workers in the Motherland at this trying hour.

DEMOCRACY AND EDUCATION

The present period of the world is truly a juncture at which the duty of holding alertly to the essentials of the democratic spirit is of peculiar importance. The prevailing movement among the most influential classes in modern society, a movement which will prevail still more strongly in the so-called reconstruction after the war, tends to the establishment, in the very name of democracy itself, of schemes of organization foreign to the real spirit of democracy. Many of the men

who lead this movement believe in democratic "forms," and regard themselves, sincerely enough, as liberals and democrats. But of the inner spirit and faith of democracy they know little or nothing.

The movement towards an "efficient" population, which is receiving in varying degrees the almost unanimous support of the ruling classes, may be regarded as an up-to-date expression, in our highly organized, industrial society, of the same undemocratic spirit which has never been lacking in human society, and which during the course of history has shown itself in feudalism, bureaucracy and under other aspects. The general tendency towards what is variously known as the servile state, industrial feudalism, bureaucratic socialism, the efficient nation—it is not yet differentiated sufficiently clearly to have a generally recognized name—calls for considerable alertness on the part of social democrats, if it is to be combated effectively.

As an example of the undemocratic movement towards "efficiency," I note the recent remarks of Dr. C. A. Prosser in an address at Iowa State College. Referring to the necessity of "combating with our woeful lack of industrial efficiency against Germany's efficiency," he said, "vocational education is the only education that will meet the social growth after the war. We must develop an education that will improve the ideal of democracy, that will stifle strikes, social unrest, radical socialism, by giving the workingman an opportunity to freedom, better wages and promotion."

The idea of training men in order that they may be more efficient tools in the process of capitalist industry is far removed from the true democratic ideal in education. The democratic spirit is diametrically opposed to the spirit, which is expressed alike in militarism, in capitalism, and in the newest movement towards "efficiency" and "organization," and which considers men as tools to be used for the purposes of others and not as individuals to be given opportunities of development for their own sake. The democratic ideal in education aims not at producing efficient workmen or, rather, aims only secondarily and incidentally at producing them; it aims at developing the faculties of intellectual and aesthetic enjoyment in all men and at producing men of

capable, independent, and critical minds. The intellectual subservience of the people to the classes in power and their bondage to the ideas and opinions suggested to them, through almost all the media of publicity, by the ruling classes are essential to the maintenance of the present order of society; and the importance of educational progress on truly democratic lines in freeing the people's minds can hardly be exaggerated. It is essential to the successful overthrow by political means of the capitalistic order of production and its replacement by social democracy.

G. Stafford, Whitby.

Class-Conscious Comments

(By Phillips Thompson, Oakville.)

There is a law in the United States compelling newspaper-publishing firms to make periodical statements giving the names of their principal stockholders. If this were the rule in Canada we should know what Big Business interests are responsible for the course of the Globe and the Star in advocating conscription against the traditional policy of the Liberal party.

There are lots of people who repudiate the principle of Economic Determinism, but exemplify it in the most of their actions.

The Prohibitionists are very sore over the course of the Government in sustaining the action of the censor prohibiting the circulation of "The Fiddlers." "Curses like chickens come home to roost." Prohibitionists as a class supported the arbitrary and reactionary war measures of the Government and are now getting a dose of their own medicine. They should take it without squealing.

The fact that the Government is making no provision for enlarging the jails would seem to indicate that conscription is not going to be enforced yet awhile.

The hundreds of millions of dollars, the so-called "wealth" that we read about, is nearly all fictitious. It has no real tangible existence. Bonds, stocks, title deeds, etc., are merely mortgages on the labor of future generations. Should the workers in the meantime get wise and refuse to hand over the greater portion of the products of their toil to the exploiters all this alleged wealth would vanish into thin air.

If W. A. Douglas and the other Single-Taxers want to bring their movement within the scope of practical politics they should drop the sentimental talk about "right," "justice," "good of humanity," etc., and address themselves to the capitalist class and talk straight business. If it was squarely put up to them, they would find the large and increasing number of capitalists whose investments are in business, bonds, stocks and other things than land, quite eager to shift their share of taxation onto the lease-owner and land speculator. As land is a relatively decreasing factor in the total of so-called "wealth," subject to taxation, as compared with other forms of capital, the Single-Taxers are likely to win out in the long run. But the workers need not worry. It makes no difference to them how the spoilers divide up their plunder.

The Globe recently devoted half a column to telling its readers how Stewart Lyon had been converted to a belief in conscription. Lyon is, nominally at least, editor of the Globe,

though temporarily absent as special war correspondent. I wonder how long he would have held his well-paid job if he had refused to be converted.

Here is a nice, cozy conundrum for the Reds. Why are the editorials of the Mail and Empire like the dew on the gowan?

Some Socialists take the doctrine of Economic Determinism too liberally. They are so determined to economize that they fail to subscribe for Canadian Forward. That isn't what it means at all.

"In vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird," according to Scripture. The writer would probably have modified his statement if he could have seen the stupid Grits walk right, straight into the trap the Tories set for them in introducing the conscription measure.

In a sermon recently preached in Toronto, Rev. Dr. W. J. Dawson, of Newark, N.J., said that nations were sometimes redeemed by war, and urged his hearers to "look up to the moral convalescence of the nations." Rev. Dawson is either a hypocrite or a fool, and is evidently as ignorant of history as he is of human nature. War is a moral moratorium. It is invariably accompanied and followed by a period of corruption, vice and general demoralization.

Some of the Toronto newspapers are getting hysterical over the alarming increase of venereal diseases and crying aloud for preventive measures. The spread of this insidious malady has been particularly noticeable since the outbreak of the war. Is this an indication of the "chastening and purifying effect of warfare," of which we hear so much from "bloodthirsty parsons and editors?"

Now that a halt has been called in the manufacture of munitions we may expect a considerable slump in the perfervid patriotism of the profiteers, who have to close up their factories, and a good many workingmen who have been making big wages and are now out of a job, will begin to wonder whether war is worth while.

INFORMATION WANTED.

Can any reader who gets Continental newspapers supply us with press cuttings about the recent International Financial Conference in Switzerland? Particularly we want the names of the financiers from belligerent countries, and any references to an item on the program dealing with means to check the spread of Socialism in Europe after the war.—Glasgow Forward.

INFORMATION WANTED

Will A. E. Medley, of Harris, Sask., please communicate with the Dominion Secretary, as we have lost track of him, and communications sent to Harris, and Saskatoon have been returned.

Socialism is an economic movement. It concerns your bread and butter, not your way of worship or your taste in ties.

UNKIND OF HIM.

Old Lady—Here's a penny, my poor man. Tell me how did you become so destitute?

Beggar—I was always like you, mum, a-givin' away vast sums ter the pore an' needy.

The Women's Trade Union League of Chicago succeeded in organizing the washerwomen of that city, and the price of washing will be advanced from \$2.10 to \$2.60.