

## CLIP AND COMMENT

We take this opportunity of presenting to our readers the resolution presented to the Board of Education, Toronto, by the Educational Forum of the Social-Democratic Party. Also the "bull" criticism of that august assembly upon the question under consideration. We also append our reply to same, which the paid press refused to publish. And a little comment of our own to fill in.

### Resolution.

363 Spadina Ave., March 20, 1917.  
Board of Education, City Hall, Toronto:  
Dear Sirs,—I am instructed to forward you the substance of a resolution passed at the Social Democratic forum meeting, held in the Musicians' Temple, University Avenue, Toronto, on March 11, 1917.

Resolved, that this public meeting call the attention of the Board of Education to the lack of facilities in the education of our foreign fellow-workers. And that, whereas no provision has been made to educate our immigrant foreign population on the history, language and traditions of our country effecting detrimentally the life of these new inhabitants. And, further, that illiteracy having exceeding baneful effects on the character of these people, often causing misdemeanor of the legal statutes because of lack of knowledge on the before-mentioned subjects, and that the Board of Education consider the advisability of opening up schools for this purpose; and that teachers be selected with a knowledge of the different languages in order that a common knowledge may hasten the unification of the different races in this city and country, on those things that are essential to their social welfare. And would suggest, that an investigation be initiated by your board in order to find out how best to meet this great educational need.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration and action.

Yours sincerely,

J. BAINBRIDGE,  
Secretary.

### Telegram's Report of Adverse Criticism, April 12, 1917.

"Bah! They want to get one of their men in here to teach," declared Trustee Noble.

"We have our day schools and our night schools, that is surely enough to accommodate all those wishing to learn," commented Trustee Steele.

Trustee Dr. Brown—"Insist on teaching English, and English teachers to teach it. It can be done, even if the teacher doesn't understand the language of the student, he can teach him by object lessons."

Trustee Noble—"Certainly, that's the way our babies learn to talk. They don't know the English language beforehand, but they pick it up mighty quick."

"I think we are doing all that can be done as it is," agreed Chairman Hopkins, "but we might write and ask them for more particulars as to their proposition." The rest of the committee, however, preferred not to bother with the matter at all, so the question was dropped.

### Reply Sent to the Evening Telegram Which They Refused to Print.

April 13, 1917.

Editor of Telegram,  
Toronto.

Dear Sir,—

I note in your issue of April 12, 1917, a report of the attitude taken by the Board of Trustees, arising out of our resolution of March 20th (re Education of our foreign people).

Permit me to reply briefly to the criticism (if criticism it can be called) that was levelled at the suggestions con-

tained in the said resolution. Trustee Noble seems to have fallen into the error so common to politicians (of misconstruing the intent of such resolutions). In your report, Trustee Noble's statement, "Bah! they just want one of their men in here to teach," is a reflection upon his intelligence—and a censure upon the sincerity of our motives. I would be very much obliged to Trustee Noble if he will point out when the Social Democratic Party has lowered itself by supporting the patronage system or exerted any influence for the purpose of securing jobs for its members. It is admitted by all intelligent people, "that the problem of assimilating the foreign elements as a part of the Canadian nation is very complex."

We presented this resolution for the purpose of bringing this important matter to the attention of the board, in the hope that something might be done to meet the great need, as approximately 75 per cent. of the people referred to cannot read or write in English, and a large percentage do not possess even an elementary education in their own language. We fail to see how a resolution to refer this matter to their consideration can affect the appointment of teachers, and with the Harry Lee case fresh in one's memory, we are not so foolish as to imagine that a Socialist would have a ghost of a chance at the job, anyway.

That Trustee Noble should fall to the level of ox-language in order to shelve a very important question is not very complimentary to those who elected him to attend to the educational needs of the community. Pooh, "Bah" Noble!

If the Board has already provided such opportunities for the education of our foreign-speaking people, it is evident there is something lacking, as we have frequently been approached with the request to provide such teachers by the people desiring this education.

The insistence of Trustee Brown to teach English with English teachers is partially beside the question at issue, our main suggestion was: (1) To teach English to the foreign-speaking people; (2) That the teachers should understand the native language of the student. We do not say the latter cannot be done, but it could be done more effectively if the teacher understood the native language of the student. If the trustees are doing all that can be done, as stated by Trustee Hopkins—there's an end to it, but the problem remains.

So far as the present administration is concerned, the features we complained of will apparently receive no consideration, and the lives of these people will continue to be sacrificed needlessly in following their daily avocations—which sacrifices can in many cases be attributed to illiteracy.

Yours for education.

I. BAINBRIDGE,  
Secretary Social-Democratic Party.

This same Trustee Noble has again been in the limelight. This time he is advocating sending the children out to the farms in order to facilitate production. This is quite in harmony with Trustee Noble's language, and it would probably be more in harmony with his educational abilities if he was put to mucking out the pig-pen; rather than fostering the kind of mal-education he is so insistent upon. Sample:

#### History.

1. How much French territory is at present controlled by the Germans?  
2. Who are the commanders-in-chief of the French, British and German armies?

3. What is a torpedo-boat destroyer?  
The piffing Telegram, April 20, 1917, reports this gentleman as stating: That 75 per cent. of the pupils never reach high school, and less than one per cent. ever pass the high-school examinations; therefore, "Back to the land."

Is it any wonder with the subject taught that the mentality of the pupils

is so low? The admitted ignorance of the pupil is the exact compliment that that should be paid to the "Pooh-Bah-Nobles" of our educational administration. We proceed at once to pay our compliments to Trustee Noble and those other Noble-ties who think like him, in the following Burnsian satire dedicated to "Brown and Boyd":

"There's Parson Brown and Parson Boyd,

A sense and learning, they are void;  
They're like the Bulls among the kie,  
They say 'Bah' as we go by."

Mr. L. Trotzky and several other Russian Comrades have been arrested at Halifax and interned with enemy subjects. It appears from press despatches that these comrades were intercepted on their way from the United States to Russia by the Canadian authorities. It has been stated that the reason for their detention was due to the fact that they were opposed to the War. In view of the amnesty granted by the new Russian administration to Political prisoners, it would be interesting to know why these men have been deprived of the Liberty we are supposed to be waging war for. The Minister of Justice is being interrogated upon this question.

## DO WE WANT WANT ?

Wall Street and the ruling class in general are seeking to have it appear that we must go to war with Germany. The freedom of the seas, they tell us, has been denied us, and we must therefore, rush into the European war and have hundreds of thousands of human beings sacrificed to wanton slaughter.

The people of the United States and the people of Germany have not the slightest grievance against one another. Left to themselves they would be on terms of perfect amity and peace. They would not dream of flying at one another's throats and tearing at one another's vitals like wild beasts. It is not the people, but the ruling class of the United States and Germany that want the war, and they want it for purposes entirely their own. The people of both countries have everything to lose, including their lives, and absolutely nothing to gain by such a war.

We are opposed to plunging this nation into the European slaughter. Every workingman should cry out against this unspeakable crime.

The false cry of "patriotism" and "preparedness" and "defense of the flag" and "honor of the nation" should not deceive anyone not feeble-minded. Patriotism for their own profit is the real shibboleth of the capitalist class. They want war to serve their own ends and they declare it at their own sweet will. But they do not rush to the front themselves and have their own bodies shot into bloody tatters. They remain safely in the rear enjoying their luxuries and egging on their slaves as they slaughter one another without knowing why.

Let every workingman and every other man who abhors war and slaughter raise his voice in protest against the threatened war with Germany. There is absolutely no excuse for it. The working people will furnish the great bulk of its victims.

If the miserable pretext that is urged for hostilities is permitted to serve its satanic purpose and war is declared it will be not only the costliest war this country ever waged in respect to blood and treasure, but it will be to the eternal disgrace of the United States.—Social Revolution.

When the plutocrats who own the country are in the front ranks of the army raised to wage war it will be time enough for their wage-slaves to bring up the rear.

The patriotism of the ruling class is spelled p-r-o-f-i-t-s.

EUGENE DEBS.

April, 1917.

## GATHERING THEM IN.

A recent cable despatch from London says:—

"A Reuter despatch from Berne says the German authorities have suddenly called to the colors all officials of trade unions and socialist organizations. These officials, who aggregate 10,000 in number, have previously been exempt from military service."

The war grows more and more interesting. The trade union and socialist officials are not to be slighted. They, too, are to be given a chance to prove their patriotism by getting shot into tatters for their masters. The next in order will be the chambermaids and next the wet nurses, and finally the orphans. They all have blood in their veins and they all need to be called to the colors.

Great is war! The European massacre proves it beyond doubt. Hurrah, for wholesale assassination! Hurrah, for the grand army of armless, legless, eyeless cripples! They are all patriots and heroes—in fragments and tatters. What a glorious spectacle, and how proud we should be of it! Now turn to the numberless widows with breaking hearts and the fatherless children thrown upon the world. Glory Hallelujah! Capitalism and slaughter forever!

Those who declared war still have all their fingers and toes intact. They are safe in their armored trains decorated with a basketful of hero's medals.

—By Eugene Debs, in Social Revolution, April, 1917.

## SOCIALIST BULLETS

The human race must first be sure of bread and butter before it can be sure of much else.

If Turkish rule ceases in Asia, it is likely that there will be development on a large scale, which will give employment to a large population.

If capitalists were the sole defenders of capitalism a Socialist victory would be easy of attainment.

Under Socialism the lazy man can be just as lazy as he pleases but his laziness will all be at his own expense.

The great conscripting law may take  
Within its vice-like grips  
The nation's men, but let it dare  
To touch the nation's ships!

It were better to have no opinion of God at all than such an opinion as is unworthy of Him.—Bacon.

A good book is the precious lifeblood of a master spirit, embalmed and treasured up on purpose to a life beyond life.—Milton.

No strike is lost that teaches the strikers that there is but one way to win a strike—at the ballot box.

Some of the craftiest scoundrels that ever crawled and crept through life by its dirtiest and narrowest ways will gravely jot down in diaries the events of every-day, and keep a regular debtor and creditor account with Heaven, which shall always show a floating balance in their own favor.—Dickens.

Let us all be students and all teachers; let us study capitalism and wage-slavery and teach Socialism and freedom.

We must reach and leaven the mass; we must generate our own educational current and turn on the light in every brain.

Let us all unite in the great work of educating our class that it may fulfill its mission and bring freedom to the world.