

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.

No notice will be taken of anonymous communications.

All contributions intended for insertion to be addressed to the address given below, and must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication.

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Who overcomes by force hath overcome but half his foe.—Milton (Paradise Lost).



REAPING THE WHIRLWIND.

Sir Robert Borden has presented his Conscription Bill to Parliament. All the satellites of Capitalist Society were present in full dress regalia. An immense crowd of ladies were present. It might easily have been taken for a horse race or a dog show—rather than a Parliamentary court-martial of all Canadian able-bodied citizens between the ages of 20 and 45 years. The Premier, of course, was in fine form and made the (usual) greatest speech of his life.

From the character of the bill, especially that part relating to "Local and Appeal Tribunals," Sec. 5—Parliament might just as well be adjourned and the Government of the country vested in the hands of the militarists. The provisions of such tribunals as outlined give promise of being quite on a par with the English tribunals; and we have not the slightest doubt will be prosecuted with rigor by the selective judges of said tribunals.

Notwithstanding the solemnity of the occasion, borne upon us by the fact that such legislation is unprecedented in this country, we cannot fail to miss the "joker" associated with the exempt classes, viz.: Clergy, Ministers, Mennonites and Doukhobors. Why the Quakers are omitted under these provisions passes our comprehension, and we have no hesitation in saying that, as a body, no other organization has been so outspoken in its opposition to military service or stood more loyally in defence of conscience—notwithstanding the acid test of imprisonment that has been imposed upon them in different parts of the world. In Britain alone it is estimated over 10,000 are to-day rotting in duranee vile in defence of conscience, and we can look for similar occurrences in Canada with the passage of the Conscription Bill, in which case Sir Robert Borden will find out that call of conscience is to many people more powerful than the "call of the great Empiricists."

A DISCORDANT NOTE

From many parts of the Dominion we hear grunts of disapproval and rumb-

blings of social revolt against the conditions imposed upon labor in many fields of industry. The miners of Northern Ontario are putting up a great fight for better conditions, although we note regretfully that the prospect of conscription has had the much desired effect in Capitalist psychology "of inducing them to moderate their demands." We are also informed that labor in B.C. is not satisfied with the hand out they are receiving at the hands of their task-masters—to say nothing of the munition workers' attack upon the Flavelle ilk on the way they have mismanaged the affairs of the "Imperial Munitions Board."

The heroes of the Somme are also exhibiting signs of discontent, justifiable discontent we would call it. They are certainly receiving a raw deal, and we venture to predict that the ill-advised company they are now keeping will ultimately be reversed. We can assure them of our hearty sympathy and support when they have been disillusioned as to the sincerity of the politicians who are now using them for their own ulterior purposes.

The portents of the time are of such a character that the words of Sir Robert Borden may come home to him with borrowed interest unless he takes immediate steps to commandeer the monetary resources of the country to meet the stupendous problem of feeding, housing and clothing the derelicts of his ill-conceived policy for which he has made no provision. Be careful that you do not reap the whirlwind "Sir Robert," our hands are clean.

THE KIND CAPITALISTS.

We take issue with the Toronto Globe of June 12th in its editorial comment under the caption "Presuming on Kindness," in which the writer suggests that participation in political meetings by alien subjects is an abuse of liberty.

The arrest of 95 Ukrainians, mostly socialist, and anti-capitalist conscriptionists serves only to demonstrate the political nature of legal administration in the interests of the ruling class. We even go so far as to state that the so-called liberty of the British subject is not a liberty at all, but a privilege that

can be taken away any time it suits the politicians to do so. For instance, free-speech—free-press and assemblage; these are supposed to be liberties of British subjects, but there is not a sane man or woman in the city of Toronto who will to-day admit that these are features associated with our political life—to wit: A peaceful assemblage of Toronto citizens met to discuss compulsory military service were clubbed with chairs, crutches, and sticks, by a large number of soldiers in the Labor Temple on June 3rd. The police were in attendance and no person was arrested.

The fact that these same alien enemy citizens were liberated upon instructions from Ottawa, notwithstanding that the Chief of Police had expressed a desire to intern them, serves only to demonstrate that it is not the act of abusing kindness that is of vital consideration to the Government—but rather the possibility of rich profits to be made out of their hides by granting them (Liberty).

By the way, we understand that Sir Edward Kemp, Minister of Militia, employs a large number of these alien enemies at his factory on Gerrard St. E., Toronto.

Possibly this is an explanation of the liberation, deeming it more fitting to keep these boys making rich harvests rather than feeding, clothing and housing them at the public's expense.

Class-Conscious Comments

By Phillips Thompson, Oakville.

It will be time enough to send more Canadians to fight overseas when England has shown herself disposed to accept the socialist programme of "peace without annexations or indemnities," and Germany has refused to do so.

I have not always been able to see eye-to-eye with Comrade James Simpson, and have strongly criticized his campaign methods, but the stand he has taken against conscription, at no little sacrifice of popularity, is worthy of all admiration.

The mining operators of Porcupine and Cobalt are so intensely animated with the lofty spirit of patriotism that they are only willing to pay subsistence wages to alien employees.

Good old Quebec! She may yet save Canada from Imperialism.

I have always favored all reasonable restrictions of the liquor traffic, including the abolition of the bar, but the brutal harshness and severity with which the Ontario Prohibition Act is being administered by Denison and Kingsford of Toronto and Jelfs of Hamilton, are worthy of a Prussian governor of Belgium. But capitalism must have sober slaves.

England went into the war under the pretence of preserving the independence of Belgium, and proceeded to grab the German colonies, annex Egypt, and invade Mesopotamia. Rather a round-about way to Belgium, wasn't it?

Patriotism is about the only virtue of which a man can boast and be taken seriously. If he boasts of his courage he is apt to be ridiculed as a braggart. If he vaunts his virtue he will be suspected of being a hypocrite, and a secret sinner. If he praises his own honesty, he will be regarded as a sharper. But he can mount a platform and proclaim his intense devotion to his country and the dear old flag and get away with it every time.

It would, no doubt, be unfair to class Sam Gompers as a tool of capitalism. If he has shown ordinary prudence he ought to have invested enough of the

handsome salary he receives to be considerable of a capitalist himself.

Every Socialist or Labor man opposed to conscription should at once write to the representatives of his constituency at Ottawa urging him to vote against it. No need to write at length. A sentence or two will do if you make it strong enough. And it won't cost anything, for postage for letters to M.P.s go free.

Independent of this conscription question, Socialists should get the letter-writing habit anyway. Don't hide your light under a bushel. Write to the papers, to public officials, to the preachers, to anybody in positions of influence. The Single Taxers are great letter-writers, and it has evidently had its effect.

There is not the slightest reason to suppose that King George has not been absolutely guided by the advice of his responsible Ministers since ascending the throne.—Toronto Mail and Empire.

And for saying the same thing, though somewhat differently worded, Wilfrid Gribble was sentenced in St. John, N.B., to two months in jail. But then, Gribble is a Socialist.

"Absolutely guided" by the orders of his boss, Lloyd George, the King has created a new batch of Canadian knights, most of whom nobody outside of a limited circle ever heard of before. Some of the party journals appear to be worrying over it. It's a pity he doesn't turn out a new lot every week. When titles get as cheap and common as "Hon." and "Col." the whole business will only excite contempt.

Toronto will be sick of militarism before long. The brutal ruffianism of the baser element among the returned soldiers will find other outlets than breaking up Socialist meetings. An outbreak of all sorts of crimes and depravity, the inevitable result of all wars, will make the respectable "loyal" citizens, who smile approvingly when Socialists are the victims, laugh on the other side of their faces.

Precept.

The first and only consideration is to win the war. The war cannot be won without greater sacrifices than we have yet made. * * * Those who would shirk responsibility and seek their own comfort and peace are born too soon in human shape.—Toronto World, June 4.

And Practice.

Mr. Hugh John Maclean has recently sprung into prominence in Canada as a poet of considerable talent. He is the son of Mr. W. F. Maclean, M.P.—Toronto Globe, May 8. Comment is superfluous.

Whatever Labor may think or do, the Churches are lining themselves up in favor of conscription.—Hamilton Times.

And who outside of a few sentimentalists ever imagined that the Church cared anything about Labor, except to extract as many as possible of the workingman's nickels for the contribution plate?

The heavy burdens of war that fall upon the poorer classes of the community, contracted with the huge war fortunes that have been made by a privileged few, have sown the seeds of agitation and discontent that can be extirpated only by drastic legislative reforms and firm and honest administration. * * * The country is fighting abroad the battle of democracy against a despotic autocracy, while at home there is an intolerable autocracy of wealth, which is no less intolerable because it comes in the garb of democracy and under the aegis of democratic rule.—Toronto Globe.