

Labor Produces All Wealth Unto Labor It Should Belong

THE CANADIAN FORWARD

"WORKERS OF WORLD UNITE" YOU HAVE NOTHING TO LOOSE BUT CHAINS, AND A WORLD TO GAIN.

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"WITHOUT LIBERTY OF SPEECH, ALL THE OUTWARD FORMS AND STRUCTURE OF FREE INSTITUTIONS ARE A SHAM-A PRETENSE--THE SHEEREST MOCKERY. IF SPEECH IS NOT INDEPENDENT AND UNTRAMMELED; IF THE MIND IS SHACKLED OR MADE IMPOTENT THROUGH FEAR, IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE UNDER WHAT FORM OF GOVERNMENT YOU LIVE, YOU ARE A SUBJECT AND NOT A CITIZEN." ---Senator Borah, U. S. Senator.

CAPITALIST MILITARIST

There is a profound similarity in their attitude of mind towards their fellowmen between the capitalistic exploiter and the militarist. To both, the mass of men are merely tools for the achievement of their purposes.

Much is being proclaimed as to the necessity of guarding the morals of the soldiers, but it is not difficult to recognize in it the militaristic attitude. The "morals" of the soldiers are not to be protected for the men's own sake, but in order that the men's efficiency as soldiers shall not be prejudiced.

The capitalist regards those who work for him simply as his "hands". The militarist--no matter how much pomp and ceremony may seem to hide the fact--regards those who fight for him simply as cannon fodder.

The whole position of those whose solicitude to stem the advance of the "hidden plague" is joined with approval of war and military training is contradictory. For they are approving the most fertile source of the very evil which they are pretending to combat.

I take, as an example of this general attitude to men, recent references to the birth rate. It is not difficult to discern, peeping out here and there in relation to this matter, the implicit valuation of men as cannon fodder. Sometimes the essentially disgusting view that a higher birth rate is necessary for the sake of military strength and in order to repair the "wastage" occasioned by the war is proclaimed somewhat apologetically; and those proclaiming it, not untirely unconscious of its disgusting quality, stress rather the need for better births and for better nurture.

When you divest men of their individual responsibility and turn them into soldiers; when, to employ the phraseology of George Crile, a surgeon with the American ambulance in France) you place men in circumstances calculated to call forth from "the cultivated men of to-day . . . the beast of the phylogenetic yesterday," you inevitably generate a spirit of recklessness; of "eat, drink, and be merry, for to-morrow we may die"; and you must expect a crop of animal-ity, venereal disease, and sexual perversion.

MORAL DEGENERACY Again, just as in the matter of securing more and better births, even those who would most sincerely protest a moral and humanitarian concern with the subject are perhaps not entirely innocent of the militaristic attitude of mind, and are certainly associated with some who are quite definitely militaristic, so, in much of the prevailing concern with venereal disease, militaristic motives are associated with motives that are humanitarian.

"The greatest evil to society (of camp life)" says Dr. J. M. Exner of New York, in a report on the United States camps on the Mexican Border, "results from shattered ideals, lowered standards, sexualized minds and perverted practices which are brought into home life by these men who represent in large measure the cream of the young manhood of the nation."

The magnitude of the danger which this particular "faut" of war is bringing to men and women, both of to-day and of the future, should not be glossed over. It has been officially admitted in the British House of Commons that the percentage incidence of venereal disease in the British Army during the war has been as high as it was in the army prior to the war. The significance of this can be grasped when it is recalled that the rate in the small professional army prior to the war was notoriously higher than the rate in the general population. If the rate in the present army of five or six millions is as high as the rate in the old army, there must have been a tremendous increase of venereal dis-

ease in the British Empire. That there has been such an increase is generally recognized. In a series of articles on venereal disease which appeared in the New York "Evening Post" in July, we learn that it is "a matter of history that at one time the British had more men disabled from venereal infection than from injuries received in the firing line."

Imagine what this condition of affairs implies. Thousands of youths who would otherwise retain their decency and self-respect become mentally and physically debased and debauched; thousands of husbands will have indulged in conduct that will irreplaceably have drawn an element of sweetness from their future marital relations; thousands of men will have become infected with venereal disease and will spread it among the population; wives will suffer and, most lamentable result of all--babies still to be born will suffer from hereditary syphilis and other consequences of this time. One result of the war will be a wholesale poisoning of healthy stock; the fruit of war will be brought to wives and children throughout the Empire in the shape of the poisons of syphilis and gonorrhoea; and the task of building up a physically healthy and morally wholesome race will have been made more difficult than before.

It was officially stated recently that during the first five months of the present year 6,000 new cases of syphilis were treated in the London clinics alone, and that 1,000 were treated in a single large provincial town. So serious is the menace now seen to be that, I gather, soldiers arriving from France are in some cases quarantined for venereal disease at ports on the south coast of England. A similar story comes from Germany. Between 1914 and 1916 the number of cases of venereal disease in women in the large cities increased tenfold. Dr. Mr. J. Exner, speaking at the New York Hygiene Society a week or two ago, said that from 10 to 30 per cent. of the European soldiers are affected by venereal diseases.

THE LAW OF NECESSITY

The general attitude of the military machine to the human "material" which it employs is revealed clearly enough in the evidence which has recently been put before the Select Committee of the British House of Commons to enquire into army recruiting. Numerous scandalous instances of men in advanced stages of disease having been passed and having died almost as soon as put into the army or having spent the whole of their army life in hospital have been brought to light. Surgeon-General Bedford, who appeared to disapprove of the way in which things had been conducted, said: "Men almost totally blind, deformed, and of doubtful intellect; men almost unable to stand" have been taken into the army. It came to light that the War Office issued a notice

that fewer men must be rejected and saying: "Every man who can earn a living in civil life can do something in the army."

The weaklings may, of course, owe their weakness to our present-day system of democracy. But can it be denied that the world will be safer for democracy--better able to bear it, if they are eliminated?

Judge Mellor, the chairman of an appeal tribunal, giving evidence before the committee just mentioned, said that the men who came before him from one examining board had received no proper examination at all. I gather that there had been a certain amount of discontent among some of the British conscripts at having been compelled to live, under the close conditions of army life, alongside the syphilitics. Judge Mellor mentioned that several cases came before him of syphilitics who had been passed for the army. "The military do not seem to mind," he said; whereupon one of the committee pointed out that the War Office had issued specific instructions that syphilitics were to be accepted into the army.

Cannon fodder! Cannon fodder! Militarism and military organization and the democratic spirit are mutually exclusive.

G. Stafford Whitby.

TO THE WOMEN CRUSADERS

Comrades! Take courage. Our hearts are all sore because of the sufferings of the poor boys away at war, and of the brave upholders of the white standard of peace and freedom. But let us look up, there is so much to encourage us as we hear what the women of other lands are doing to-day.

The movement among women is increasing every day. The women of the United States are very courageous. The news comes from Los Angeles of a "Women's League for the Extermination of War," spreading to other cities along the Pacific Coast.

From all parts of Australia, Great Britain and Canada the news continues to be very gladdening.

The alarming report of the arrest of Mr. Bainbridge came just the day before a meeting of the Rainy River Educational League was to be held at my home. I read the account, and passed around the paper, and there was a unanimous desire to send protests to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice asking for his immediate release, and demanding the restoration of free speech. This was done.

At the time of writing I am unaware of the turn events have taken, but I have never been so proud of being a writer for any paper as for "The Canadian Forward," whose editor takes the leading piece for truth and fearlessness in the whole Dominion in this

(Continued on Page 3)