

## EDITORIAL COMMENT

## Socialism in Canada

Socialism is international. The shallow ethics of Socialism in each country call it a foreign production. The facts are, however, that Socialism thought, agitation and aspiration spring up spontaneously wherever the capitalist method of production and distribution of commodities gains a foothold. Socialism thought and aspiration are no spectators of national boundary lines, crosses or races. It is indigenous to the environment created by the capitalist mode of producing commodities.

It has come into the political, industrial and social life of the beautiful, proud and peaceful young giant—Canada, and now the Christian Socialist Fellowship is starting to carry it into the churches.

It is not only here, but to all appearances, it is to stay. If we mistake not, its mission here is to make Canada a fit home for industrious people to live and rear children in and to work and uncharitable climate for exploiters and parasites of every discoverable variety. With these purposes in view, the Socialist Party of Canada was organized.

So, but without such vision inspiring the ruling class minds that have been freed from superstition and faith in the old political parties, fair Canada would be, socially speaking, a barren desert and a frozen wilderness.

Give my people vision. To open up to vision of the toilers the splendid possibilities of life has been one of the great missions of the Socialist movements the world over.

Already there are some one hundred and fifty local organizations of the Socialist Party in Canada. With a total of 4,000 dues paying members, Cotton's monthly, the official organ of the party, is now over 17,000 subscribers scattered throughout every province of the Dominion, carrying the message of hope and enlightenment to exploited wage workers in the mills, mines, and on the farms.

The new management of YOUR PAPER so the hearty co-operation of every Socialist sympathizer in the task of making it a messenger you will be proud to send to a prospective convert.

It is not this alone. YOU, alone, can't do it. WE, all working together, CAN do it. Be busy on the job. Will you now try and send in the interesting labor story from your locality and a host of new subscribers.

Now, all together; EACH ONE DO SOME and the aggregate results will astonish and stagger the plates.

## Ed Apples the Solution

If the farmers' wives and daughters can be persuaded to dry all the apples we are wasting in the orchards of Canada, a way can be found to get them to ring city population this winter, to ring great triumph for "charity." If the faith can be accomplished all the charity will have to do will be to hand each employed a handful of dried apples to send them to the hydrant to drink and dried apples will then swell and clatter, clamoring unemployed and their ill imagine they have had a meal.

It is estimated that the European war so far has cost the fighting countries a million and a quarter men in killed, wounded and prisoners. This is capitalism.

Horror! Just think of what might have happened to the Belgians if they hadn't have had an army and great "impregnable" forts along their borders.

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If one man kills another in peace, he is a criminal and hung. Yet hundreds of thousands are being killed in Europe, and this is called patriotism. Why should one man be a criminal and another man be a patriot for killing a fellow man?

"Seas may purple with blood and flame," Clives Phillips-Wooler, wrote these words, has come to his death in one of the British ships sunk by the Germans. The fighter is necessary in a world run by greed. In a sane world he would be of no more use than a hangman in a country which has abolished capital punishment.

Archbishop Messmer, of Milwaukee, in a published letter, says he is praying for the annihilation of the Allies in the present war. Thirteen Anglican bishops in England recently announced they are praying for the success of the Allies. So there you are. What a queer noise the Almighty must be listening to these days. Seriously now, aren't these prayers outright blasphemy?

Real cause of the war in a nut shell.—Today, all Europe has gone to war to establish national supremacy in certain markets. I hardly dare hope that either this or the following statements will go unchallenged; still my study convinces me, at least, that they are true. That is, England has control of certain markets today; Germany wants them and has been a trifle too successful for Great Britain's comfort—in taking them.—George H. Cushing, in the Technical World.

If the countries had bent their energies in providing airy homes, plentiful food and good garments for all the people, there would have been no war. But the people were hived in slums, forced to work long hours for little pay, and the wealth they produced was taken by the master class. The master class of each nation then cast jealous eyes upon the wealth owned by the master class of other nations, and from that jealousy war arose. No sane mind and gentle heart but will be filled with an indefinite sadness at the folly of our present civilization.

When will such general sense? When will the church be the great leveller, where rich and poor are hived together, where the poor are as good as the rich? When will the church be the great leveller, where rich and poor are hived together, where the poor are as good as the rich? When will the church be the great leveller, where rich and poor are hived together, where the poor are as good as the rich?

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## The Government's Duty

By Alfred Russel Wallace.

If we review with care the long train of social evils which have grown up during the nineteenth century, we shall find that every one of them, however diverse in their nature and results, is due to the same general cause, which may be defined or stated in a variety of different ways.

1. They are due, broadly and generally, to our living under a system of universal competition for the means of existence, the remedy for which is equally universal co-operation.

2. It may also be defined as a system of economic antagonism, as of enemies, the remedy being a system of economic brotherhood, as of a great family, or of friends.

3. Our system is also one of monopoly by a few of all the means of existence: the land, without access to which no life is possible; and capital, or the result of stored-up labor, which is now in the possession of a limited number of capitalists and therefore is also a monopoly. The remedy is freedom of access to land and capital for all.

4. Also it may be defined as social injustice, inasmuch as the few in each generation are allowed to inherit the stored-up wealth of all preceding generations, while the many inherit nothing. The remedy is to adapt the principle of equality of opportunity for all, or of universal inheritance by the state in trust for the whole community.

These four statements of the existing causes of all our social evils cannot, I believe, be controverted, and the remedies for them may be condensed into one general proposition: that it is the first duty (in importance) of a civilized government to organize the labor of the whole community for the equal good of all; but it is also their first duty (in time) to take immediate steps to abolish death by starvation and by preventable disease due to insanitary dwellings and dangerous employments, while carefully elaborating the permanent remedy for want in the midst of wealth.

We have ourselves created an immoral and immoral social environment. To undo its inevitable results we must reverse our course. We must see that all our economic legislation, all our social reforms, are in the very opposite direction to those hitherto adopted, and that they tend in the direction of one or other of the four fundamental remedies I have suggested. In this way only can we hope to change our existing immoral environment into a moral one, and initiate a new era of moral progress.

I have shown that the well-established laws of evolution are all favorable to the advance of true civilization and of morality. Our existing competitive and antagonistic social system alone neutralizes their beneficent operation. That system must therefore be radically changed into one of brotherly co-operation and co-ordination for the equal good of all. To succeed we must make this principle our guide and our pole star in all social legislation.—"Social Environment and Moral Progress."

What I don't understand," said the girl under the velvet bowl, "is why they went to war in the first place."

"Oh, that's easy," replied the girl under the velvet bowl, "it was caused by the assassination of the Austrian Crown Prince."

"Yes, I understand that, of course," said the velvet bowl, "and I suppose the Pan-Slavs just had to be put down, but I don't see why Belgium should be treated so dreadfully."

"Well, you see, my dear, that is only because Belgium was neutral."

"What a pity, isn't it? If Belgium had only been neutral. I suppose that is what England tried to do. Hasn't England been neutral?"

"Hasn't she? I love Sir Edward Grey."

"He was the one who did so much for Belgium, wasn't he? Still, I don't understand even now why they went to war in the first place."

"Well, you see, they couldn't help it, because Germany was neutral."

"Of course, I understand it, when a neutral country meets one intensely military country, war must follow."

"Terrible!—Life."

## THIS IS IT.

The article on the front page of this paper, entitled "The Parable of the Hunter" is the opening chapter from Oscar Ameringer's famous Socialist propaganda pamphlet, entitled: "Socialism, what it is, and how to get it." It is, without exception, the most effective Socialist propaganda pamphlet on the American continent today. No one who starts to read the first paragraph will lay it down until he finishes reading it. Then his greatest delight will be to see that his wife, shopmates and neighbors read it. It is illustrated with many humorous cuts, and laughs the capitalists out of court.

Two million already sold, and still the best seller on the continent.

The editor of Cotton's will stake his reputation that you will be more than pleased with this pamphlet. It is the funniest, most logical, and most forceful argument for Socialism ever presented to the toilers.

For sale by Cotton's Weekly. Single copy 10 cents. Three for 25 cents. One dollar a dozen, postpaid.

CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION FOR A LATIER-DAY CLERGYMAN.

Can you run a moving-picture show? Can you list all the latest dances, beginning with the turkey-trot? Tell ten funny stories—or stories you think are funny?

What is the best golf score you ever made? Can you drive a motor-car? Use a typewriter? Have you contributed to the Hearst paper?

Can you cope with the Socialist agitators and other progressive thinkers?—Life.

## NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Since the latter part of August Cotton's Weekly has only been published once every two weeks, and will only appear every two weeks until further notice. Evidently many subscribers are unaware of this, for many letters are arriving complaining that the paper is only being received every other week. We will return to weekly publication as soon as the income justifies doing so. Perhaps you have heard of the doctrine of economic determinism. We at this office are learning about it. Send in a few subs. Remember four for a dollar. We need the money.

## SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM

By Ernest Untermann.

Scientific Socialism culminates in the understanding that the social revolution can not be carried through by conspiracies, barricades and noisy rowdiness.

The organic interrelation of human society compels the modern working class to understand the laws of economic and political development and to acquire the power to control these laws.

This requires above all a scientific investigation of the drift of social development and an ability to foresee the great lines of this drift.

From this point of view, the social revolution is not a short and sharp hand-to-hand fight of the two contending classes. It rather becomes a process of industrial and political development toward democracy extending over generations. It is an inevitable part of this drift that the ruling class should undermine its own economic foundation to the point of untenability, and that the working class should acquire the political maturity and the economic ability to manage the national life.

This conception of organic development toward a gradual displacement of capitalist rule by working class management does not exclude great acts of violence, but expects them as inevitable. But it attributes to them far less weight in the process of transformation than the old style revolutionists did. The working class should understand that the social revolution is not a sudden act of violence, but a process of development which shall determine the method of transformation.

## A NEW VIEW.

During the nineteenth century the scientific Socialists of the world have gradually adopted the view that the methods of the early revolutionists are not only useless but actually harmful for the class struggle of the modern proletariat. But in spite of this theoretical acknowledgement, a good deal of the old catastrophic utopianism has remained in the heads of many Socialists. They still hope for and wish for a final catastrophic collapse of capitalism in the same breath that they deny its scientific justification. Throughout the entire history of modern Socialism this note of an outgrown conspiratorial and violent revolutionism disturbs the scientific clearness of thought. Especially a great world war has always been the hope of secret admirers of a catastrophic climax.

But this idea does not take the actual facts into account. At the present time the conditions necessary for a complete breakdown of capitalism and of the existing rule do not exist in the world. And it is very unlikely that capitalist development will wind up in a world-wide assault of the working class on the ruling classes.

The introduction of modern election systems and of parliamentary regulation of industry and commerce has transformed the domain of the class struggle more and more from the field of direct action to the sphere of legal settlement.

During the last twenty years this tendency has become firmly established everywhere, even in Russia and Japan. Difficulties between employers and employees are settled through legislation and court decisions. The industrial interests of the capitalist classes themselves have been shifted to such an extent that the government has interfered more and more in the private affairs of business men, either with or against the will of the private owners. This tendency has become irresistible, and the present world war will promote it still more rapidly. The next step in the direction of Socialism will be taken everywhere by the capitalist governments themselves, and they will lead more openly than ever to more direct interference with private ownership of industrial wealth. The principal task of the class-conscious workers will be to capture the political powers and to eliminate the last vestiges of capitalist management from the government.

In proportion as the governments will assume the private functions of capitalist owners, the object of the class struggles will become parliamentary questions. They will be settled overwhelmingly by legislative action, and so the probability and necessity of violent actions will be more and more reduced.

## SUMMED UP.

The hopes and speculations of Socialists concerning a great collapse of the capitalist system are based upon false calculations. Their main reasons may be easily summed up.

1. The Socialist parties of the principal industrial nations have millions of adherents.

2. The labor unions have secured a position of power in the industrial life and can disorganize it to such an extent that a social readjustment can be forced through paralyzing industry.

3. Capitalism is so highly developed that it has produced its own worst enemies, in the shape of millions of unemployed.

4. A great world war will carry all industrial nations to the verge of bankruptcy. This will require a social reorganization, in order to prevent the desperate and suffering masses from wrecking civilization.

In reply, we may say shortly: If the last three alternatives are really possibilities worthy of consideration in the alleged collapse of capitalism, then a grand climax of direct action as a constructive force is at an end. For, if social development leads really to a grand climax or direct action as a method of abolishing class rule, then the Socialist party can not realize its aim of legislative and constructive action and the solution of the social question is in the hands of the anarchists.

## UNORGANIZED MILLIONS.

For the millions of Socialist voters have not been organized and drilled for any such direct action. They have been overwhelmingly prepared for the lawful methods of parliamentary action and generally of actions considered legal under constitutional guarantees.

If catastrophic action and the methods of old style revolutionists really take precedence over the methods of Socialist action, then there can no longer be any question of Socialist party action as the decisive factor in the social revolution. In that case all the Socialist training of the voters is a waste of calculation, and social development drifts away from the grasp of the Socialist parties.

A cataclysmic collapse of capitalism can not mean anything else, neither today nor any time in the future. If the Socialists have controlling majorities in the advanced nations there can be no such catastrophe. Violent mobs of the ruling class under Socialist majority are impossible, because there will be no ruling class. And the process of transition from capitalist to Socialist majorities can not be so sudden all over the world that it will result in a cataclysm. If this reasoning is wrong, then, instead of training the voters in

peaceful and lawful activities, we should prepare for violence. But, since this can not be done secretly, and will not be permitted by the ruling class openly, it seems evident that the emphasis of social development itself, is upon peaceful methods.

At all events, there is not the slightest probability today of any overthrow of any ruling class by violent methods, except for the purpose of replacing one ruling class by another.

The working class can not possibly get its power anywhere in the present-day world by a catastrophe development. The class-conscious proletariat everywhere is still in minority. So are the labor unions. Neither in the parliaments nor in the industrial life can any minority, however well organized, however daring, break down class rule.

Whether the anticipation of violent actions among the armed Socialists under colors is justified or not, it is certain that any mutinies of this kind will not overthrow the ruling class in any country, not even Russia, where mutinies at the very best bring more political rights to the business men and less power to the bureaucracy, can not realize any working class freedom from capitalist rule.

If any mutinies take place, it is far more probable that they will be suppressed by the iron hand of the government, and that then even the few political privileges now enjoyed by the European working class will be cancelled, so that the class-conscious workers will be set back for a generation.

From the point of view of the scientific Socialist, who sticks to the actual facts, a violent development initiated by revolutionary workers is neither probable nor desirable, except in Russia. It is very likely that the majority of the European Socialists will adjust themselves to facts, however disagreeable, and will soberly estimate the chances of social evolution. After the war, no matter what may be its results, the Socialists will return to their peaceful propaganda and organization, convinced that they can reach their ideal most rapidly and securely by this method.

The fruits of this policy will not be earned by the Socialists immediately after the war, but a few years later. Meanwhile the Socialists on the American continent have every reason for building our own organization better than we have heretofore.

## Hard To Make Ends Meet

By Carl D. Thompson.

HOW MUCH SHOULD THE WORKER GET? With the terrific increase in the cost of living, the problem of providing for his family is becoming a serious one to the wage-worker.

How much a year should the ordinary wage-earner have in order to supply himself and his family with the ordinary necessities of life?

A number of very careful, thoroughgoing students have been studying this problem for years.

Dr. John A. Ryan, a Catholic priest and professor in the St. Vincent seminary, in his book, "The Living Wage" (p. 109), after a careful investigation of all the elements involved, concludes that \$938 is the least amount that a worker should have in order to provide his family with a decent living.

Frank Storch, professor in the DePaul university, has also investigated this subject. In his "The Standard of Living," he estimates (p. 182) that "the extreme low limit" would be \$650 a year.

Scott Mearns of Columbia university is another authority who has studied this question and written a book upon it; and he estimates, in his "Financing of Wage-Earner's Family" (p. 97), that from \$700 to \$850 a year is absolutely necessary in order to supply the worker with a sufficient income to meet the ordinary requirements of life.

Taking an average of these estimates then, \$765 a year is required for each family of workers to supply them with the ordinary necessities of life.

This says nothing, of course, of the luxuries and comforts of life. It provides for nothing of education, culture or recreation—only the barest living necessities. For these it is estimated by three careful authorities at least \$765 a year is required.

## WHAT DO THE WORKERS GET?

The average wage of the working class in America is \$618 a year in the manufacturing industry, and \$537 a year in the mining industry. These figures are taken from various sources, such as census reports, special reports of the government and reports of the department of agriculture.

What, then, are the facts concerning the working class, in the aggregate, and on average, in the United States under the present capitalist system? The facts are these:

The working class on the average is living short more than \$250 a year of a decent income to enable them to live a decent life, and sufficient income to enable them to provide for themselves food, clothing, shelter, leaving them nothing for the things of life.

In other words, the present capitalist system is slowly, inevitably undermining the physical stamina of the nation.

Surely here is a matter worthy of attention of the greatest statesmen, as every true lover of humanity.

And upon facts like these rests the case of Socialism.

## THE FIGURES FOR CANADA ARE ABOUT THE SAME AS ABOVE, WHICH ARE THOSE OF THE UNITED STATES.

## A MATTER OF FACT.

You cannot win unless your class working class. You cannot win if you get together and stick together.

set platform is the only place y together without finding grafters men sandwiched in among you, party is a working man's and a man's party. Grafters have no Runtos men steer clear of it.

does not contain a splinter of any of them. It is on the level square. It will not breed do not blow up. If we had a ment today, this country w such an era of prosperity as saw. As a matter of fact never seen such prosperity The rest of the people are the hunger line.—Allan L.

## HIS CHO

The Nurse—A stock has holy brother. Would yo The Elder Brother—P stock instead?—Sketch.