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COWANSVILLE, P. Q., THURSDAY, JULY 8, 1909

CLEAR THE WAY FOR THE CO-OPERATIVE COMMONWEALTH

VOL. XXXVIII No. 48

THE BRITISH BUDGET

The British Budget is not such a wonderful thing. The measures advocated are more or less commonplace. Asquith has given the very least the people of Great Britain would accept. What provokes the nobles is the things for which the money is to be spent.

The British aristocracy originated in theft. In fact all title to land is due to discovery or organized robbery or theft. The nobles got their land by enclosing commons, or killing the inhabitants and owners centuries ago. This land has gone untaxed and is to be taxed very gently indeed.

There are many things for which the government needs money. It needs it for the old age pensions and state insurance for the unemployed and for feeding hungry school children and many other things. When Asquith introduced the old age pensions the landed aristocracy and the capitalists loudly protested. They said the money could not be found. Asquith said it would be found and the measure went through. It can never be repealed because the people want it.

Now Asquith touches up the capitalists for some of the money necessary. He also hits the workers by higher duties and excise exactions. But the capitalists and landowners are furious. They do not object to the taxes but they don't want the ordinary people to have any of the money. Hence they cry for a larger navy and for more soldiers. If Asquith would raise a huge army the lords and nobles would rejoice and pay willingly. Soldiers are useful to shoot striking workers. Navies are useful to force loans at high interest on half civilized countries. The money for soldiers could be looked upon as insurance and a huge navy would be a good business venture.

Asquith gives a little better army and a few more ships. But he actually takes some of the taxes wrung from multimillionaires and selfish and degenerate nobles and gives it to people who are too old to work, who have never sought relief and who have never committed a crime. Hence the lords and money kings are furious. "The people be damned!" is their motto.

The budget cannot be called a socialist one. But it is a gentle beginning. It is not the budget the lords fear. It is the revolutionized sentiments of the people of Great Britain. They feel they are over a quaking inferno. They know that their rapacity has caused misery untold and they fear the day of vengeance. Asquith is not a socialist. The Lords have vexed him and he is just snapping the whip of revolution near their creepy backs.

ASQUITH

For those who like nobility and heroics Asquith is not a pleasant personality to consider. Asquith is the professional politician. He has no views of his own but is willing to sacrifice anything to hold office. He is the typical capitalist with his ambitions turned to political honors. He has the capitalist and bourgeois outlook upon life. He will only give what the people are clamoring for and he has the cunning to distinguish between the clamor of a lordly gutter press and the voice of the British people.

Asquith knows the moral peculiarities of the British nonconformist mind. So he introduced the license reduction act. He did this because he wanted the nonconformist vote. Besides the beer-lords are hand and glove with the Anglican church and the Tories. It was a sort of Gomperesque, "Reward our friends and punish our enemies" measure. The Lords threw the measure out. Another Gomperesque feature.

Asquith has his ear to the ground and hears the rumbling of the social revolution. So he tries the movement with old age pensions and so on and tames the labor party branch of the revolutionists. Hence he is satisfied in that direction.

He turns a cold ear to the clamor of the suffragists. He knows that their voting power is nil and therefore lets them rave. Again the calculating politician.

The lords and capitalists do not like him. The socialists despise him. The

suffragists hate him. The lords like a man who will be Tory and Church and will be dignified and antipeople. The capitalists want protection. The socialists want revolution. The women want votes. He has no personal views and tries to give enough to maintain power.

Asquith is not a strong man. He is cunning and pliable. The conflicting elements however will become so strong that he will not be able to hold power. He is good enough at present while the revolution marks time.

A STRAIGHT TALK TO LABOR

By WILLIAM RESTELLE SHIER

All self-respecting workpeople want the best of food, the best of clothing, the best of housing.

They want security of employment, short hours of labor, healthy conditions in the shops and mines and factories.

They want education for their children, freedom from the fear of want and a voice in the management of industry.

They want the means and the leisure with which to enjoy life.

But of these things they are deprived under the reign of Capital.

Notwithstanding the fact that it is they who produce all the world's wealth, they must be content to eat cheap food, to wear shoddy clothing and to live in tenements or miserable-looking houses.

They work in dingy factories, have long hours of labor, wear the badge of inferiority, are denied a voice in the management of industry and must cringe before their masters in order to hang onto their jobs.

They never know when illness, accident, hard times or the caprice of their boss may throw them into abject poverty.

Their children are often snatched from the home at a tender age to help eke out the family existence.

Their daughters are frequently forced into a life of shame thru the pressure of economic want.

Their higher natures are stifled in the sordid struggle for bread and butter.

They are hounded from city to city, from country to country, in the effort to make a living.

They are sometimes forced to beg or steal in order to avoid starvation.

And it is their own fault.

Nobody else is to blame for their condition except themselves.

They are getting exactly what they have voted for these many years.

By voting their masters into power election after election they have voted for the perpetuation of wage-slavery.

By supporting the old political parties they have supported the industrial system for which those political parties stand.

It is this industrial system which is responsible for the ruthless exploitation of labor.

As long as the working people are content to submit to robbery, this industrial system will last.

As soon as the working people decide that they have been duped long enough, they will organize into a party of their own, vote themselves into power and use the government as a weapon in the fight for industrial emancipation.

This large numbers of them are already doing under the banner of Socialism.

Perhaps you do not know what Socialism is. If you do not, you had better lose no time in finding out.

It is in your interests to do so. Why? Because in Socialism lies the Salvation of the working class.

Do not take my word for it, nor anybody else's word against it. Investigate the subject for yourself.

Attend Socialist lectures. Subscribe for Socialist papers. Purchase Socialist literature and digest it thoroughly.

The Christians say that salvation lies through Christ. No man can save himself; he must depend on another. Buddhists declare that no man is saved by another and no man perishes by another. Each man is saved by himself and each man perishes by himself. Both Christians and Buddhists declare that they are enunciating the doctrines of the only true and revealed religion. Which is right?

THE COAL STRIKE SITUATION

There is a strike on in great Cape Breton, in the coal fields. This strike is against the Dominion Coal Company on the part of the United Mine Workers. The members of the Provincial Mine Workers have not struck.

In a time of strike and turmoil men's minds, especially the minds of the strikers, are apt to want denunciation and bitterness. But a strike is an economic battle, and being such, it is well to find out the position of the enemy.

The general who goes blindheaded at the enemy may win if he has enough men and is willing to lose them. But as Leonato says in Much Ado About Nothing, "A victory is twice itself when the achiever brings home full numbers." Let us therefore examine the position of the company and of the men.

Money is the sinews of war. No nation can go to war without the sanction of the money kings of Europe. An economic war needs finances to back it as well as physical war. Last year the Coal Company received in profits from the carrying on of the coal mining industry, which industry was the result of the labor of the men, the sum of \$2,686,202.49. As the Coal company employs about seven thousand men it results that the company made a profit of over \$383.00 on the labor of every man employed. The men who work hardly get an existence wage. The money the company gets is clear profit.

As money is necessary for warfare and the company has the money, which side is likely to win out in the long run? The company relies upon its profit plundered from the workers to keep it going and it relies upon the belly-hunger of the strikers, the cries of their children and the suffering of the wives to drive the strikers back to their slavery out of which it can get \$383.00 or more on every wage slave employed.

The Company last year had a surplus on hand of \$4,253,471.03. But other things are good to have on hand in case of a strike, or economic battle.

The men live on food and the company lives on coal. The men eat the food and mine the coal. If the men do not have food and the company possesses mined coal then the company can sell the coal while the men starve. The company has seen to it that it has banked coal. This coal will continue to be sold while the men are idle. The company does not have to pay idle men.

Consequently the sale of this surplus coal will be pure profit. Undoubtedly, if the strike does not continue too long, the profits of the company will go up this year to four hundred and fifty dollars per man employed. Moreover, in the last annual statement of the company it is declared that the company has discontinued the long credit system at the company's stores. This means that the men pay cash. When their cash gives out they can go without.

Another thing that the company has seen to in order to keep its wage slaves tamed and non-rebellious. It has seen to it that it owns the houses in which its wage slaves live. The moment the wage slave uses the only weapon left him under our capitalist laws, the strike, the company's officials evict him from his home. Strike one day, eviction the next. This is done in Nova Scotia and the miners have to live in tents. In Alabama during a recent strike the men lived in tents on the common land. The militia came along and evicted them, cut the tent ropes and turned the workers with their wives and children out on the streets homeless. The men were driven back to their slavery like sheep to the shambles. Have the strikers land of their own upon which to erect their tents in Cape Breton? If not, is the militia under the control of the workers or under the thumb of the masters? Borden, the Minister of Militia, has publicly declared that the militia is useful in cowing strikers.

The Cape Breton county council have appointed six hundred special constables. These constables carry rifles and revolvers. The government of the county as well as of Canada is run for the benefit of the master class.

Now comes the Lemieux Act, that splendid example of class legislation hypocritically introduced for the alleged benefit of the working class. Strange,

is it not, that Canada should pass this law when New Zealand was relegating it to the waste paper basket? Hear G. H. Duggan, general manager of the company