

Chance

HERE is no question in anyone's mind but that the struggle for existence in highly developed Capitalistic countries is growing more acute each day. For the worker this is especially true. When land—good fertile land—was given away free both in the U. S. and Canada, the chances for a worker to emerge from his class were excellent. With a few years of hard work a worker had an opportunity to become a fairly prosperous farmer. Today, however, the situation is reversed. Land is offered free for the asking but the quality is extremely doubtful or else, even if the land is fertile, it is situated miles away from a railroad or the money required to put the farm on a profitable basis is beyond the means of the embryonic farmer. No longer do we see huge caravans blazing a way to the Golden West. No longer do we see workers trending either by foot or wagon with their eyes lit up by its rosy expectation. Where once were wagon trails we now see snorting, smoky locomotives rushing through pell mell. The west is still here but it lost its golden garments—its golden lure—that is, as far as the worker is concerned. Gone are those days of hope; gone forever.

Robbed of his opportunities in the west, the worker sought other means through which he might emerge from his class. He sought the glittering gold of the Klondike—but generally left his bones glittering on some lonely Klondike trail. True, a few attained wealth, but they were very few. The great many starved and suffered untold pains so that they could become rich overnight. They either remained to work for some exploiter of labor or left, rich in experience. Even now workers are sacrificing their all, their very lives, for a chance to find some gold in the dreary and icy lands of North Ontario for a chance to escape wage slavery.

The days of the gold rush are over. So the ambitious worker tries to become a petty capitalist. Sometimes he succeeds, but in general he fails. Not being able to escape wage slavery by means of so-called hard work and frugal habits, he relies on chance. He becomes a gambler, a petty gambler if you will. It seems to the writer that gambling increases directly in proportion to the increase of poverty among the masses. In European countries, gambling is a craze. The peasant or worker will spend his last sou on the lottery. Why? Because the lottery gives him a chance to become rich immediately. In reading about loteries we learn how certain peasants or workers become rich through possessing lucky numbers. That seems to be a strong magnet for the masses. Lotteries are very popular in Europe, so popular that recently even German municipalities are using them as a means for raising revenue.

In this country horse racing is a very popular sport. Thousands attend the average horse races. Horse racing is a profitable business not only to the proprietors of race tracks but also to the government. Those who are familiar with horse racing know that the thousands who attend them are not interested in the game from a sportsmanship stand. They go there for one thing—and that is to win money, and win it quickly. With two dollars, one

may win hundreds at a race track. True the great majority do not win, but that fact does not make much impression upon the minds of its devotees. A few win, and that is sufficient. Although the average bettor on horse races realizes in a dim way that horse racing is more or less "crooked" he still keeps betting expecting his chance to come any day. He is a worshipper of the Goddess of Chance.

Oil stock investments also seem to lure a large number of workers. Here again we see a few workers suddenly become rich through the ownership of oil stock. This is also a gamble. Most of the time the stock the worker buys is valueless. The fact that John Jones or some other miserable worker made a fortune out of oil stocks is more than sufficient evidence that the oil game is reliable as far as the average worker is concerned.

Barnum was credited with the statement that a sucker is born every minute. It is only a part truth. A sucker it seems is born every second. A suit of good clothes, a pleasant smile, a good line of chatter, a few pieces of beautiful engraved paper and presto! you are a stock salesman. It requires very little effort to find dupes. They are everywhere and many are workers.

Real estate seems to attract many unsophisticated workers. Without hesitation they will buy lots in some forsaken place, always waiting for the so-called land values to rise either through the erection of some large factory near by or through some miracle. Most of them are very conscientious in their payments. They live in an unreal world. They have dreams—dreams unfortunately based on thin air. Any land shark will tell you that the average purchaser of lots invariably quits making payments. He soon becomes discouraged.

And then again we have such petty gambling games as cards, roulette wheels and dice. Here we see workers trying to get rich at the expense of their fellow-workers. Here again we find card sharks and dice shakers who use the average player as a dupe as a means of earning easy money.

Despite all their efforts, the fact still remains that the workers as a class are doomed to stay workers the rest of their natural lives. The adage "Born a worker, die a worker," seems to hold true in this country. Gambling on chances is a poor way of getting rich. The game is controlled by unscrupulous men who in the main profit at the expense of millions of dupes. Even if gambling were put on an "honest" basis, it still would help the worker very little as a means of escaping the hard knocks of life. A dollar won today means two lost tomorrow.

Why then depend on luck or chance? Why not depend upon science, which is based upon real, hard, cold facts. Socialism, that is, the science of human society, teaches us that the cause of all the poverty existent in modern society is due to certain well-established causes. The elimination of these causes means the elimination of poverty. Socialism also teaches us that these causes can be eliminated only through the concerted action of the mass as a unit and not through the action of individuals, microscopic parts of the mass, who base their actions on mere chance.

JOHN TYLER.

standing of the proposition and should make a good team mate for Armstrong.

The I. L. P.

Two conflicting elements are trying to reconcile their differences in the I. L. P. organization, the pro and the anti-Socialists. The "pros" are of the Blatchford type and the "anti's" of the Henry George brand, with a dash of Dixonism thrown in. The pro's are in a majority, but the anti's have more hot air and the latter dominate. Some members of the outfit recently wavered and strayed into the Workers' Party, but their love of liberty was so strong that the Dictatorship of the Workers' Party executive caused them to return to their Utopian home, wagging their democratic tails behind them.

The S. L. F. was the ghost of the S. D. P. This organization lost itself in its pants during the war, Queen, Heap, Blumberg and others were members, and when the Workers' Party cleaned it up Heaps and Blumberg found their way to the I. L. P., while Queen, not able to stomach either the I. L. P. or the Workers' Party was left high and dry and is running on his lonesome. The attitude of the I. L. P. towards us is one of fear. The average member of this outfit knows that his knowledge is not equal to that possessed by the average member of the S. P. of C. He is fully conscious of his mental inferiority.

The Dominion Labor Party have two candidates in the field. This bunch is the wreckage left when the I. L. P. was formed. The latter took upon the D. L. P. as reactionary. The difference between them cannot be perceived; they are both on a vote-catching ticket. The feud between them is due to personal matters. Officials of the A. F. of L. are at loggerheads with the O. B. U. The I. L. P. is heavily represented on the O. B. U. central council; the D. L. P. on the Trades and Labor Council. The two men who are running were nominated by a call of Trade Unions by the Trades Council where 30 responded out of 7,000.

Workers' Party.

The Workers' Party depends for its existence here in Winnipeg upon a fight between a Ukrainian unit of the O. B. U., mostly lumber workers, and the executive of the O. R. U. The latter decided they would not stand for a separate language unit, and demanded that the Ukrainians become part and parcel of the general organization. Mr. Popovich, whose history is one of exploiting the national Ukrainian sentiment, and whose record during the war was a series of retreats into the backwoods every time any patriotic Britisher raised the cry of "foreigner," was not prepared to let the bunch get out of his hands and succeeded in holding them. This was the nucleus of the Workers' Party. Mr. Kaplan, of whom much is known, together with others, not lumber workers or any other kind of workers, dropped into a home amongst these people, and started their machinations. They tried to levy blackmail on Bob Russell during the last Dominion election, and are an unprincipled gang. I have no respect for the Workers' Party. The I. W. W. were bad enough, but they had at least courage. The Workers' Party are yelling about Moscow and the Third International, but they are too cowardly to join it. It is a fly-trap, and may function as a reform agency for a while, but it has no future.

You will see by the above what we are up against and I sincerely hope that the boys in Vancouver will do their best and raise what cash they can to help in the fight. We are putting all there is in us into the conflict, and although we are small in numbers yet we have behind us all the social forces on the planet.

The S. P. of C. never was so strong as now. Amid the wreckage of freak parties it stands amid their ruins stronger in knowledge and consciousness than ever before. Events have vindicated our position and left all our opponents with nothing but a platform of helpless ignorance to stand upon.

Editor's Note.—On account of the deposit required by the Provincial Government of Manitoba, \$200 for each candidate, Comrade Armstrong's name was the only one the Comrades of the S. P. of C. in Winnipeg managed to put forward in official nomination day, July 8th.

Manitoba Election Features

THE stage is now set for the Manitoba Provincial election, and the prospective candidates are already beginning to take the stump and peddle the political wares of the parties they represent. Polling day is on the 18th of July. Up to date there are forty-three chosen for the 10 vacant Winnipeg seats.

Liberal, Conservative, Progressive, Workers' Party, Dominion Labor, I. L. P., Independents, Moderation and S. P. of C.

"You gets your ballot and takes your choice."

There is one thing about it: We shall know how many real Socialists there are on the voters' list in

Winnipeg after this election.

The S. P. of C. candidates are George Armstrong and Sydney Rose. Armstrong, as the Comrades know, served a year in jail following the Winnipeg strike. It was during his incarceration that he was elected to the Provincial house. George is universally respected, even his political enemies paying tribute to his sterling worth and honesty of purpose. He is an old soap boxer of the plug variety, and is one of the best known men in Manitoba. Sydney Rose, the other S. P. of C. candidate, has been a member of the Party for many years, and has done much work for the organization. He has a clear under-