

press all those who try to prevent this. This is revolution, and this course is the only one which will aid the workers."

Now as to the Skidmore case. The facts are very simple.

The accused was charged with having in his possession objectionable literature within the meaning of the consolidated Orders-in-Council respecting Censorship, promulgated with the authority of, and pursuant to, sec. 6 of the War Measures Act of 1914. He was found guilty, and on December 19th was sentenced to thirty days in jail, and a fine of \$500. There was no question as to jurisdiction.

The evidence for the Crown was clear and conclusive. On December 31st he was released from jail by orders from Ottawa, on the application of the Trades and Labour Council of which Skidmore was the local financial secretary. The president of the council met him at the door of the jail and congratulated him upon his release. The reasons for this act of clemency have not been disclosed, but it may not be far to seek when all the circumstances of the case are taken into consideration.

Skidmore was prominent in the socialist element in his neighbourhood. He and others had been seen to leave meetings when the audience rose to sing "God Save the King." He, with others, had made several excursions into the country around Stratford, for the purpose of forming branches of the Social Democratic Party amongst men of German origin, who, to say the least, were not of British sentiment!

It is noteworthy that the prisoner did not appeal from the sentence and did not apply for bail; if he had given notice of appeal bail would have been granted as a matter of course; thus giving colour to the statement, made at the time, that he desired to play the role of a martyr, true to his seditious and revolutionary proclivities.

More recently one Charles Watson, an ex-policeman, was found guilty by the Police Magistrate of the City of Toronto of having in his possession numerous copies of various objectionable and seditious pamphlets. He was sentenced to the penitentiary for three years, and to the payment of a fine of \$500. The public will watch with curiosity and interest the result of a probable application by someone for the release of this culprit.