

TO THE WORKING-CLASS ELECTORS OF THE PRINCE RUPERT ELECTORAL DISTRICT

FOREWORD.

J H. BURROUGH was nominated to contest this riding in the interests of Labor by a Labor Convention held in the O. B. U. Hall, McIntyre Block, Prince Rupert, on Friday, October 20, 1920.

In allowing his name to be voted on, he made it plainly understood that he was standing on the platform of the Socialist Party of Canada, with no reservations or subtractions therefrom, and it is on the principles therein set forth that the campaign so far as he is concerned, will be fought.

Therefore, the contest will be waged on a strictly class issue, and our candidate is put forward as a class candidate, expecting and seeking support from no other section of the electorate than that which recognizes the futility of attempting to reform the present system of wealth production in such a manner as will benefit the actual wealth producers.

THE CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE.

THE CANDIDATE'S ADDRESS.

The holocaust of death and destruction into which the capitalist imperialisms plunged the whole world in their insane competition for domination in the world's markets has nearly run its course.

Where is the "New World" which they told us we would be living in when the war was won? What is the position of the working class now as compared to the days before the war?

The struggle for existence is keener, the chances of procuring the prime necessities of existence during the coming winter are blacker—the whole outlook for the class that sells its productive ability for wages is more ominous and full of dire portent than at any time within the memory of those now living.

The so-called "rights" of free speech, free press, free assembly have been proved to be but privileges, recognized by the ruling class as a matter of policy in the "piping times of peace," to be cancelled in time of crisis by the stroke of a pen if exercised to question its right to rule and exploit, or used to contrast its professed love for "justice," "democracy," "self-determination," and all the rest of the high-sounding clap-trap, with the exhibition of sordid greed and cynical disregard of the elemental decencies so glaringly manifested in its acts. Individuals of the working class that dare to exercise such criticism have been dragged out of their beds in the dead of night and thrown into gaol, or their movements have been dogged and reported from point to point. Labor organizations that refuse to be pliant tools in the hands of the employing class are permeated with hired stool pigeons, spies and agents—provocateurs of a secret police system that bids fair to surpass in its brutal, dishonest and corrupt methods the "Black Hundred" of Russia under the Czars.

Reared on a basis of human enslavement, the capitalist system, following all previous slave systems, is fast nearing the abyss towards which it is being impelled by the force generated by and contained within itself. It is no longer able to justify its existence, for it can no longer meet the needs of the society it has created. The wealth producers, divorced from all title of ownership to the means of wealth production, and thereby forced to sell their physical and mental energies to the owners of industry at a wage that hovers around the cost of subsistence, are starving in their millions—because there is no gain in sight for the owners of industry in putting them to work. The inflation of the currency has intensified the distress by forcing the prices of commodities to the point where the wage received on a falling labor market is insufficient to provide the bare necessities. The raw materials, the machinery, the will and ability to operate and direct industry are present in as great a measure as ever—and the need is greater than ever—but instead of revolving faster to meet the increased need the wheels of industry are slowing down and stopping, increasing the distress by throwing multitudes of unemployed on to a labor market already congested.

Such is the position in Europe, and the black shadow of the approaching panic is making its advent felt in Canadian industry. The conditions that now face the wealth producers of Europe will shortly face those of this continent.

In view of these facts, the futility of advocating reforms that will leave untouched and unchallenged the control and ownership of industry by a small class in the community is obvious. Buttressed and entrenched by the forces of the State, the owning class will see to it that no reforms will be enacted that need cause it any anxiety.

The issue is a class issue, an issue between the class that owns and does not work, and the class that works and does not own.

The present election is one of the periodical opportunities accorded us of testing the growth of class intelligence in the mass of wage-earners in B. C. Candidates representing the different sections of the population that derive their sustenance from the exploitation of Labor are in the field appealing to Labor to grant a new lease of power and life to the system by which they profit and by which Labor suffers. That is their real appeal, but, as always, it will be camouflaged and disguised in a flood of flamboyant oratory and specious argument, designed to conceal the real issue from view.

The secret of the power possessed by the ruling class to exploit Labor lies in the possession of the political, repressive force of the State, which it can hold and retain as long as a sufficient number of its victims are ignorant of the causes of their condition. That power can only be wrested from the rulers by an intelligent working class, and the object of entering the fight in this election, as in all others, is to spread the knowledge of the true relations between the classes. With that knowledge as a guide, the workers will be qualified to act in accord with their class interests. The workers of the European countries are forging ahead as never before. While Canada is but "a village among the nations," we have a task to perform which devolves upon us alone as our job. That is to prepare the minds of our fellow-workers for the coming change by the dissemination of a knowledge of the principles of Marxian Socialism. Education is our task. All wild talk of "bloody revolution," "street fighting," "picking up the gun," etc., emanates from the frothy brains of enthusiastic idiots or from treacherous provocateurs. Our weapons are those which appeal to men's interest, reason and intelligence, not to their passions.

Ownership and management of industry by the workers, with its concomitant of production for use and benefit of the producers—or a continuation of the present system of ownership by the non-producers, with its wars, panics, unemployment, destitution and misery for the workers; this is the choice which is once again placed before us. The strength of the support given to the candidates standing squarely on this class issue will show us how far we have progressed in class intelligence and revolutionary spirit since 1916.

For the benefit of those enquirers who wish to know in detail what kind of a society it is that the Socialists wish to inaugurate, it must be pointed out that the Socialists are not in the business of making new societies. All institutions, conceptions, morals, and ethics that have a social validity are the product of the manner in which society produces and distributes the wealth created. Under capitalism the dominant institutions and codes of thought are those of the dominant (capitalist) class, owners of the means of wealth production. Consequently the institutions and codes reflect the wishes and material interests of the class that dominates. The fact that there exists a mighty volume of protest against the capitalist system is, therefore, evidence that the development of the process of capitalist production has evolved new interests, a new psychology and new points of view more in keeping with the developed mode of production than the interests and moral concepts that are accepted and imposed by the dominant owning class.

The revolutionary Socialist movement is the scientific interpretation of the factors that have created the movement of protest. Its function is to investigate, analyse and explain the economics of social

development, and inasmuch as its conclusions, scientifically reached, point to the ultimate ownership and operation by the producers, for themselves, of the whole socially operated machinery of production and distribution, it has become the class movement of the producing class. That is the sense in which the term "revolutionary" is applied to the Socialist movement, for the attainment of its objective entails the capture of the political power from the present owning and ruling class for the purpose of inaugurating a system of production under which the producer and the means of production will no longer be divorced. This will be the "social revolution."

J. H. BURROUGH

THE SOVIETS AND THE WOODPILE

(Continued from page 5.)

The objections taken to the principle of social control of industry on the plea of personal liberty, have validity only superficially. For in view of the advanced state of modern industry there is every indication that social control will increase the liberty of the individual in that he will have to spend a lesser part of his time as a mere appendage to the machine than he does now. This fact is demonstrated mathematically by industrial engineers. On the other hand, the evil effects of capitalism, unemployment, starvation wages, over-production, panics, and periods of stagnation, result from a lack of social control over the industrial system as a whole. These effects can only arise because the workers are slaves to the machine, instead of masters of it. Capitalism compels the worker to follow the movements of the industrial cycle from the periods of frenzied prosperity, during which, he usually gets the necessities of life, to the periods of stagnating depression, during which he lives in abject and miserable poverty.

We turn again to the Soviets and their woodpile. This woodpile makes it look as if the inhabitants of Petrograd are not going to freeze to death this winter. Moreover it appears as if the people of Petrograd have decided to get their wood while getting was good. If now the Allies would allow them to get some food, these same inhabitants of Petrograd might spend a real pleasant and comfortable winter. At all events this much is clear. The members of this community know they have to have wood for the winter. So they sent out the available labor force to cut this wood and to help bring it to the place where it is to be used. This is certainly a very practical way of using the labor force of a community for the purposes of the community. It is the very essence of production for use. Its advantage will become fully apparent if it is compared to the bungling, the delays and the incompetence that arise in connection with bringing coal from the mines at Drumheller to the capitalist ridden city of Calgary.

Capitalists condemn the principle that is associated with the Soviets and their woodpile. Ostensibly they do so on the plea of personal liberty; in reality it is because this way of doing the work of society leaves them no room for the extracting of profit from the process. They look upon social ownership of the means of production and social control of these means and social control of the laboring forces that must be applied to them, as a new form of slavery. In thus taking their stand squarely opposed to social ownership and control, the capitalists not only show an inveterate selfishness and an unholy greed for profits, but they display an absolute incapacity to appreciate the social forces which compel men to make necessary innovations in industrial organization in order that mankind may derive the greatest benefit from the machine process. It is for this reason capitalists proclaim as slavery the system which many workmen hail as their libertor from industrial despotism. And so, capitalist criticism and opposition to the contrary notwithstanding, workmen, who base their ideas on the hard facts of life and who do not feed on ideas which are long since the waste of the past, will go on to push to universal adoption, the principle of social endeavor which underlies the practice of the Soviets in getting together their woodpile.

C. M. CHRISTIANSEN.

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THE subject of Socialism. To possible in the hope to make clear conflict of ideals wh political creeds and trust to make clear liberalism, once the repressive movement, if any liberating movement in that respect developed upon the Before proceeding wish you to disconnection between Liberal and the Liberal parties. Those parties trading on the traditions are well recognized a cunning game for the significant of the de without distinctive real field today.

The roots of both systems are to be found in their respective epochs.

Karl Marx has a dramatic in the scientific true political representation, based on definition, or universal axiom, or universal of political economy, gains within it a activity.

The sixteenth century was a period of workshop production and craft production and a transition with it.

A rapid change in the middle ages had resulted in an evolution in the tools and methods in one place to manufacture operation of labor livelihood, which craft production, for profit character.

This was a shift in the consequences and consequences of the individual producer standing independent because of the machine process, is now being superior methods status of a dependent.

These great changes in the period marked the industrial middle in the State. The landed interest, but so important, but so power which has and to further