

# The Rumbblings of Change

By H. M. Bartholomew

THE old metaphysician believed that things are static, unchanging, immutable and unrelated. He spoke much of the "eternal verities" and the unchanged and unchangeable moral concepts of religion.

Dialectics, on the other hand, comprehends the universe and the multiform phenomena thereof, as being in a continual process of movement and inter-relationship; as a continual procession of cause and effect.

The old methods of thought have been destroyed by the onward march of science. We now know that things are not static, but in a process of constant change; that the Greek philosopher who wrote "Nothing is so constant as change," was much nearer to a true conception of universal phenomena than the metaphysicians of the sixteenth century.

Engels wrote:

"Nature is, then, proof of dialectics, and it must be said for modern science that it has furnished this proof with very rich materials increasing daily, and thus has shown that, in the last resort, Nature works dialectically and not metaphysically; that she does not move in the eternal oneness of a perpetually recurring circle, but goes through a real historical evolution."

Since those words were penned the evidence supplied by all branches of science as to the correctness of dialectical methods has increased in such volume that it has almost become a "fashion" to "think dialectically."

Be that as it may, we must regard things, not as absolute and eternal, but as constantly changing and in relation to all other things. And when we apply this method of investigation to the capitalist method of wealth production we shall find that we obtain many and rich results.

Time was when politicians spoke of capitalist production as if that method of production "had been, is and ever will be." But the advance of scientific understanding of various phenomena has placed this view into the discard. We know that capitalism has not always existed, that social institutions have constantly changed and that the existing social order is rapidly changing under our own eyes.

Marx, in a famous passage (too long to quote in full) tells us:

"Centralization of the means of production and socialization of labor at last reach a point where they become incompatible with their capitalist integument. This integument is burst asunder. The knell of capitalist private property sounds. The expropriators are expropriated."

Marx here employs the famous "negation of the negation," which is such an important part of the philosophical system of Hegel. There is not the space necessary to analyse this particular concept in anything like adequate manner. It must be sufficient to the purpose of the present writer if he merely points out that each system of society contains within itself the germs of its own dissolution, and that the new social order develops "within the womb of the old," until it can no longer be contained therein. It is then that the new "becomes incompatible with the integument" of the old; the integument is burst asunder, the new order emerges into the light of day. It is the negation of the negation.

If we regard Capitalist production as something static and immutable, then can we argue regarding "eternal verities" and the "gross immorality" of the "wicked Socialist." But if we adopt (as we surely must) the dialectical method of reasoning, then we can ignore these appeals to "eternal rights" and examine the tendencies of capitalist production.

What is the general trend of the existing social order? Is it towards Socialism; or can it be said that the general tendency is away from that social system known as the Socialist Commonwealth? If the many writers in the press would try to confine themselves to these important questions when they are

penning their wild declamations against Socialists and Socialism, they would contribute something of importance to the world of political thought!

The analysis of capitalist production which enabled Marx to formulate the law of capitalist accumulation has proven correct. Trusts and cartels are to be found dominating the chief industries of modern production. **Something approaching industrial despotism can be found in the highly developed industrial countries of the world.**

This centralization and concentration of capital has gone hand in hand with increasing productivity of the workers, and with this "industrial reserve army" constantly growing in numbers. Surplus commodities are produced in quick order, and the markets for these huge accumulations of commodities are constantly becoming smaller. The inevitable result is long continued trade depression, with all the attendant evils of unemployed workers, idle factories, etc.

At the present time, if we take a bird's eye view of the world of capitalist production we shall find many facts which will reveal to us the chronic state of affairs from the viewpoint of the master class.

During the last week the writer has scanned the newspapers with great interest. He finds his "yellow sheet" containing reports of "13 Airplanes Sent to Mine Fields," and of "the invading miners forming battle-line to rush boundary." And when he reads the reports he finds that there is a battle royal going on in West Virginia.

On the same date he finds the same paper reporting to the effect that the German authorities have called out the police of Berlin to "guard against uprisings," and that the greater part of Germany is "seething with unrest."

In another issue we find that the workers of New South Wales would "rather go to jail than pay taxes," and that "government officials start to sing 'God Save the King,' but the band plays the 'Red Flag.'"

In Britain the unemployed situation is serious. Another issue of the same journal contains a photograph of "the serious riot of 5,000 unemployed returned soldiers." And when we read the report of this disturbance we find that 5,000 men applied for fifty jobs, and that the ensuing riot was so grave that 500 mounted police were employed, and even then the rioters did damage to the extent of \$5,000,000.

And as I write, I find that the latest issue of this wonderful "organ" states that unemployed riots have broken out all over Britain, that there are serious disturbances in India, that "the Irish question" has taken a turn for the worse, and that serious riots are taking place in France and America. And thus we might cover the whole world of capitalist production with our analysis and find that unrest is everywhere, that the misery and degradation of the working-class is such that "the integument of capitalist production" may soon be burst asunder.

Nor is the capitalist class enjoying its present position. The industrial depression has hit them very seriously. Bankruptcies are more numerous than ever, and the accumulation of capital into fewer and fewer hands proceeds apace. Verily was Marx correct when he wrote: "One capitalist always kills many."

Before the writer lie two reports in the press of recent date, which reveal the serious position of the capitalist class. The first reads:

"If Europe is to be saved from a wholesale bankruptcy two things are essential. It must have gold and it must stop printing paper money. Another year of the printing presses and all Europe will have paper money which never can be redeemed." (Austin Harrison).

The other report shows the bank clearings for the month of July, and reveals to us the extent of the deflation due to the industrial depression. It reads as follows:

"Bank clearings for the month of July show to what an extent deflation is proceeding in Canada and

the change which has come over the manufacturing areas of the Dominion.

"In Montreal the clearings for the month of July are reduced over \$148,000,000, as compared with the same month last year, in Toronto the reduction is about \$35,000,000. In Winnipeg the decline of \$6,000,000."

These are straws which reveal to us the way in which capitalist production is tending. The rumbblings of unrest can be heard on every hand, capitalist production is digging its own grave, and it remains for the working-class to give it a good hearty push!

## HERE AND NOW.

Following \$1 each—G. Beagrie, H. Harris, D. Stewart, W. J. Kenedy, G. Albers, R. Dickinson, A. Padgham, R. A. Fillmore, B. Dworkin, W. H. Camfield, Mrs. Cameron, J. Bennett, Mrs. Griffith, C. Shinewald, R. C. Mutch, R. Near, P. Brown, J. Young, M. A. Stewart, A. B. Sinclair, G. Morris, L. N. Olson, Wm. Bennett, H. Wallstrom.

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Above, Clarion subs. received from 14th to 28th September, inclusive—total, \$72.70.

Now that the winter season is approaching (with all its terrors) study classes will be forming all over the country. That is to say, we hope they will. Literature and Clarion sales are likely to climb up a little; certain it is that they can't climb down. The subscriptions total this issue shows a tendency towards 'steady' and we are in hope. We don't quite know the manner of extracting dollars for subs., it's something in the nature of an art and all Clarion readers should learn it. Forceful expressions, wheedling and persuasive eloquence—these have their uses at times—try them out, and if they fail, try the plain honest truth: the Clarion needs subs. and deserves to get them.

## Notice of Suspension of Robert Walker, of Cumberland, B. C.

In "The Cumberland Islander" (B.C.) of Saturday, August 20th, 1921, appeared an article entitled "Complimentary Dinner to Lieutenant-Governor." This was a report of a reception given to the Lieutenant-Governor of B. C. at Cumberland, 18th August. Speeches were made and a speech alleged to have been delivered by Robert Walker, member-at-large of the S. P. of C., is printed in the issue mentioned of that paper. Letters between Comrade Walker and the D. E. C. have been exchanged as the speech reported violates our principles, and he has been suspended for thirty (30) days dating from and including 20th September, or until such time within this period that he may publicly, within the columns of "The Cumberland Islander" issue a full denial of the report.

The managing-editor of the "B. C. Federationist" (A. S. Wells) and the "B. C. Federationist, Ltd." have been served with warrants by the City of Vancouver Police Department, charged with offering for sale a pamphlet the contents of which constitute an infraction of the Criminal Code. The pamphlet is thought to be "Left Wing' Communism, An Infantile Disorder," by Lenin. The case came before the Police Magistrate on the 26th, and was adjourned under request of Counsel for Defence, for a week. The "Federationist" last issue indicated that financial help would be needed. Contributions may be sent to this office and they will be forwarded.