

Labor Produces
All Wealth
Unto Labor It
Should Belong

THE CANADIAN FORWARD

"WORKERS OF
WORLD UNITE"
YOU HAVE NOTHING
TO LOOSE BUT
CHAINS, AND A
WORLD TO GAIN.

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SOCIAL - CRATIC PARTY

New Series, Vol. 1, No. 26

TORONTO, CA

NOVEMBER 24TH, 1917.

"THE LIBERTY OF THE PRESS HAS BEEN IN EVERY COUNTRY THE LAST LIBERTY WHICH SUBJECTS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO WREST FROM POWER. OTHER LIBERTIES ARE HELD UNDER GOVERNMENTS, BUT THE LIBERTY OF OPINION KEEPS GOVERNMENTS THEMSELVES IN DUE SUBJECTION TO THEIR DUTIES. THIS HAS PRODUCED THE MARTYRDOM OF TRUTH IN EVERY AGE, AND THE WORLD HAS BEEN ONLY PURGED FROM IGNORANCE WITH THE INNOCENT BLOOD OF THOSE WHO HAVE ENLIGHTENED IT." --Lord Erskine, Defence of T. Paine, 1792.

Socialist Peace Attitude Vindicated by Asquith

The advance which Mr. Asquith's speech at Leeds revealed towards a negotiated people's peace based upon genuine endeavors to cut out of the life of nations the cancer of militarism was a remarkable sign of the times, and Mr. Asquith will receive laurels for speaking, rather late in the day, just those truths which have earned mud for Mr. MacDonald from the beginning.

The world needs immediate peace, an end to this long agony, and if Mr. Asquith is ready—his speech offers indications that he is not altogether unready—to seize the hour to lead the movement in our own land to the opening of negotiations he will ride back on the crest of the wave of popularity.

A Blow to the Fight-to-a-Finishers.

Mr. Asquith struck the peace note in his opening sentences: "One does not need to witness with one's own eyes, as I did myself last week when I went over the French and Flemish villages in actual dissolution of war, to feel that the attainment of peace is at this moment the supreme necessity of mankind." Of course, he laid it down that the peace must be based on a "solid rock of right internationally recognized and guaranteed," and there is not one of us who will dissent. More explicitly he added:

You cannot look to a peace which is worthy of the word in any arrangement imposed by the victor on the vanquished which ignores the principles of right and sets at defiance the historic traditions and aspirations, and the liberties of the people affected. Such so-called treaties contain within themselves their own death-warrant, and simply provide fertile breeding grounds for future wars.

That is a tremendous admission, and, as Mr. Asquith assumes that victory can only be for the Allies, it is a heavy blow aimed against our own blood-and-iron fight-to-a-finishers. It is a clear and emphatic repudiation of the "knock-out-blow" philosophy.

The late Premier cited the peace of 1871 in support of this view, as Mr. MacDonald has done a score of times before him. The appropriation of Alsace-Lorraine without any regard to the will of the inhabitants, "that act of high-handed and short-sighted violence" was, he said, "the primary, though, of course, not the only, cause of the race in armaments which went on in ever-accelerated pace between the Great Powers for 40 years before the outbreak of this war," and "by far the larger share of the calamities which are now devastating the world

has to be traced, directly or indirectly, to that single act of spoliation and its inevitable consequences." Thus is the imprisoned Morel vindicated by a high authority. He said long enough ago that for France this was primarily a war for Alsace-Lorraine, and now it is being revealed to us that the rallying cries of "liberty" and "democracy" were but the noise and clamor of Imperialists to divert attention from the territorial hunger that really led to the war.

The Grave Danger.

Mr. Asquith, in urging consultation of the will of the peoples concerned before any territory is handed about from one Power to another as the spoils of war, is taking to himself one of the first principles of a people's peace.

A Frank Invitation to Germany.

The invitation to Germany to state plainly her intentions in Belgium, as a first step to peace negotiations, is almost undiplomatic in its commendable directness, and—another powerful blow at the knock-out school—he makes it plain that with a few first conditions offered and accepted negotiations might be begun. "There are questions which may, and indeed must, be left over for discussion and negotiation after the combatants have agreed to drop their arms." That, at least, is facing facts, and it gives ground for hope, after the sickening repetitions of a desire which meant, if they meant anything at all, that the "victory" was to be so much that of a dictator that no question would be left open for discussion, and no German left to discuss it with.

"It is no part of our war policy," Mr. Asquith declares, "to aim at the annihilation of Germany or the permanent degradation of the German people," and in a wonderfully significant sentence he argues that the experience of the war "shows, for the instruction and warning of others, whither a na-

many years' purchase—and I lay stress upon this—if it permits the opening and the re-opening of an era of what I may call a veiled warfare. It is immaterial by what methods, whether of so-called precaution or of overt preparation, or in what forms—naval, military, diplomatic, economic—the disturbing and disrupting forces are allowed to operate. We must banish once for all from our catalogue of maxims the time-worn fallacy that if you wish for peace you must prepare for war.

It is not many months since Mr. Asquith was courageous and frank enough to announce his complete conversion on the question of women's suffrage. This magnificent assertion of pacifist principle seems to imply another conversion, for the record of the Foreign Office when he was Prime Minister, in intimate association with Lord Grey, certainly does not disclose a policy so pacific.

His present policy at least offers hope for a nobler relationship of nations, and he expresses it in terms which will be accepted and endorsed by all who base their political philosophy and social theories upon the sacredness of human life.

For the first time in history, he says, we make an advance towards the realization of our ideal—the creation of a world-wide policy uniting the peoples in a confederation of which justice will be the base and liberty the corner-stone. The limitation of armaments, the acceptance of arbitration as the normal and natural solvent of international disputes, the relegation of wars of ambition and aggression between States to the same category of obsolete follies in which we class the faction fights of the old republics and private duelling—these will be milestones which mark the stages of the road.

They will also be milestones on the road to Socialism, for goodwill among the peoples must be established before the seeds of the Socialist ideal can fall on fruitful ground.—Labor Leader, England.

GEORGE DID IT

George Clarke, a celebrated negro minstrel, on one occasion when being examined as a witness, was severely interrogated by a lawyer.

"You are in the minstrel business, I believe?" inquired the lawyer.

"Yes, sir," was the reply.

"Is that not rather a low calling?"

"I don't know but what it is, sir," replied the minstrel; "but it is so much better than my father's that I am rather proud of it."

The lawyer fell into the trap.

"What was your father's calling?" he inquired.

"He was a lawyer," replied Clarke, in a tone that sent the whole court into a roar of laughter as the discomfited lawyer sat down.—Hyde Reporter.

Bainbridge Sentenced

Just as the Issue of the "Forward" went to Press, word was received that Judge Hodgins has sentenced Comrade Bainbridge to 9 months to the Jail Farm, Richmond Hill. His Attorney will appeal his case to Higher Court and expects to have him out again on bail in a few days.

Send all contributions for Bainbridge
Defence Fund to H. Perkins
363 Spadina Ave.,
Toronto.

Our governing principle is one which I believe all the free peoples in the world are ready and even eager to accept, that you must proceed on the lines of racial affinity and historical tradition, and, above all, of the actual wishes and inspirations of the inhabitants.

The grave danger of the moment is that the Imperialists who have snatched the seats of power in Europe will strive to cheat the world out of the applications of that principle, and to arrange a peace in accordance with the old vicious ideas of plunder and aggrandisement which are the very essence of Imperialist thought.

tion is bound to tend when it submits itself for a generation to the guidance of militarism and materialism walking hand in hand." Let Britain take the warning. It comes at a critical moment in her history.

Repudiation of Paris Resolutions.

It is a little curious, and decidedly puzzling, to find one of the engineers of the famous Paris Conference resolutions making so fine a protest against the "veiled warfare" these resolutions were meant to initiate. The Liberal leader said:

When we are endeavoring to forecast the lineaments of an enduring peace, such a peace will not be worth