

THE CANADIAN FORWARD

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

Correspondence—

All correspondence should be addressed to
THE CANADIAN FORWARD,

397 Spadina Avenue, Toronto, Canada.



A BRUTAL INJUSTICE.

According to press reports, conscientious objectors to military service in Britain are feeling the iron heel of Capitalism. We were under the impression that only one penal term could be administered for one offence against the law. We were apparently, under some misapprehension in this regard, as a precedent has been set by the British military authorities by sentencing objectors to a second and a third term for refusing to undertake military service. Under the present method a man can serve his first court martial sentence, be re-arrested on release, and sentence again for a period of one or two years—ad infinitum. This we consider to be practically synonymous with the death sentence or penal servitude for life as several have died as a result of prison privation.

British administration was always supposed to temper "Justice with mercy." These men have a moral, human right to ask of the British Government what protection they are receiving from the "Rapacious Hun."

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We regret to state that the recent orders-in-council make it necessary for us to eliminate certain statements that are considered objectionable under these orders—contained in correspondence sent in. It will save us much time and the correspondents much useless labor if they endeavor to act in accordance with the recent orders. The editor of this paper is possessed of the normal amount of courage and devotion but we cannot afford to have the paper stopped at the present time.

SAM GOMPERS—A TOOL OF REACTIONARIES.

The Canadian Parliament has been honored by the presence of Mr. Gompers, prospective senator for the City of Washington, and president of the A.F. of L. His visit was at the express invitation of the Canadian Parliament and he addressed both sections of that democratic institution on "Labor's War Aims." We are not informed whose "Labor War Aims" he represented, in fact, we are led to believe that he repudiates the war aims of the British Labor Party and so far as American labor is concerned, we have not been informed that they had defined their war aims—this is of course unnecessary for Sam, as the A.F. of L. is subject to his prerogative (official Ring). That the supporter of reaction should slam the Canadian Labor Party, on the ground that it would ultimately become a Socialist Party, leaves no room for doubt as to where he stands, and who he represents.

His officials have been responsible for preventing the organization of an American Labor Party. In the State of New York at least it was so reported by one of their own delegates at the Convention of Labor, Socialist and Radical Societies which

has just been held in New York City, notwithstanding that the last convention at Rochester voted in favor of forming a Labor Party. The honorable gentleman got tired while addressing a gathering of Plutes in Montreal, too much popularity is calculated to affect a man's head. The laborious duties he has performed, with such satisfaction to the Political Bosses, surely will be rewarded by a seat in the halls of the mighty—if that is not considered a losing hazard. He is so tired that rest is absolutely essential. Well, the workers can afford to give him a rest—a long, sweet rest from his labors when the next convention comes round.

A REPLY TO THE "RAG-TAG" TELEGRAM.

We have on several occasions made mention in these columns of a certain Anti-Democratic, Imperialistic, Scurrilous (rag) newspaper—published in the City of Toronto, in defence of Reaction, Plutocracy, Race and Class hatred. The special characteristic with which the editor of this paper is so richly endowed is the servile menial capacity with which he supplies such voluminous methodical doses of prosaic "Tar and Feather" to every honest, clean-living and truthful individual who postulates any theory, or principle, which is not acceptable to the egotistic unbalanced mind of its editor. The latest emanation from the editorial sanctum of this capitalist squeal is contained in its issue of May 9, 1918. It is evident from the following that the growing power of the sane-minded and the inevitable reaction which is following in the wake of war is responsible for this latest ebullition: "Rag tag and bob tail," "Pacifist, Pro-German Ramsey Macdonald and Arthur Henderson."

Probably we ought to sympathize with the editor of the "Telegram" in his dementia. It must indeed be hard to fight in what he recognizes as a losing game. His brutal attacks upon his political opponents is the best demonstration of the hopelessness of his case—we know of no analogy except it be, the brutal and vicious manner in which the enemy army are struggling for a smashing victory—or at the worst a draw, against the allied forces. "Whom the Gods would destroy they first make mad." For the gradually augmenting army of workers generalised by Ramsey Macdonald there need be no fear. No denison of the underworld need affright them. Truth is mighty and must ultimately prevail.

Have you noticed how a thing that favors or defends Capitalism, or the master class, is always sacred, but if it favors or defends the workers it is anarchy. Great logic, is it not?

The workers want something besides the right to work. They want the right to put in a part of their lives without work.



(By Phillips Thompson, Oakville, Ont.)

Sam Gompers, in his zeal to do the dirty work of the capitalists, has rather overshot the mark. The prostitute press have been encouraging the formation of a "Labor" party, but Sam evidently did not know this, and strongly denounced the scheme. Even Sam Gompers' opposition to it doesn't convince me that it is a good thing.

The following lines by Walt Whitman are specially applicable to present conditions, when men are imprisoned for following their religious convictions and exercising the right of free speech:

"Of detected persons—To me detected persons are not in any respect worse than undetected persons—and are not in any respect worse than I am myself.

"Of criminals—To me, any judge, or any juror, is equally criminal—and any reputable person is also—and the President is also."

Socialists in the Reichstag have been denouncing the Government for gagging the press and forbidding the criticism of official "stupidities." From which it would seem that the freedom of the press is being steam-rolled out of existence in Germany almost as thoroughly as in Canada. No doubt for the same reason.—Edmonton Bulletin.

But unfortunately Canada has no Socialists or any other representatives in Parliament who are sufficiently courageous to stand up for free speech and publication.

It used to be the fashion to denounce the "alien laborer" because he worked for starvation wages—now the cry against him is that he is too highly paid.

The worst enemy of the working class is the man, or newspaper, who tries to rouse antagonism between Britishers and aliens, Protestants and Catholics, English and French-speaking workers. It is the old capitalist device of keeping labor divided by race and religious issues to prevent their uniting to stop the labor-skinning process.

It is quite natural that Sam Gompers should oppose Socialism. He has the same interests as the capitalist. Should Socialism prevail the plutocrat could no longer exploit the worker, and Sam would lose his highly paid job.

The American Government, which, like all governments, represents the profiteers, is taking advantage of the extraordinary powers granted in war time to suppress Socialist newspapers and fill the jails with Socialist speakers and editors. The Russian Government did the same thing for many years—with what result the world knows. But some people are too stupid to profit from any other experience than their own—and then it is too late.

How history repeats itself. In ancient Rome under the despotic rule

of the Caesars the old democratic formulas were still maintained, and men threw but their chests and boasted of their Roman citizenship when they were liable at any time to be robbed, tortured and murdered at the mere caprice of Nero or Domitian. Things are not quite so bad, yet in the Anglo-Saxon world but we are rapidly retrograding in that direction.

And now we are warned to prepare against a "peace offensive." Strange perversion of language

There is no pleasing some people!

Gleanings by the way

BARONS THREATENING.

Not the Bolsheviks, but the generals, admirals and barons are threatening to disrupt and Russianize England just now, and not win the war at all unless they win it on the lines they lay down.—Toronto Star, May 8, 1918.

GOMPERS MAKES THEM SICK.

The report that Mr. S. Gompers of Washington was taken sick just at the zenith of one of his grandest flights of oratory while holding the assembled multitude enthralled at Quebec, the other day, turns out to have been incorrect. He was merely tired, so much so in fact, as to be brought to a condition of almost speechless collapse. We can sympathize with Mr. Gompers, because we know just how ill and tired he must have been feeling. Every time he speaks we feel the same way, only perhaps more so.—B. C. Federationist.

GOMPERS CALLED TO OTTAWA TO SIDETRACK LABOR.

Sammy Gompers was called to Ottawa to help sidetrack the insistent demands of Labor for better conditions, and to put a crimp in the new Labor party. The Canadian situation was too tough for Sammy to handle. He went away a sick man.—G. Pettipiece in B.C. Federationist.

"Earth is sick
And Heaven is weary of the hollow words
That States and Kingdoms utter
when they talk
Of truth and justice."

G. S. W.

Said a youth to me to-day with infinite bitterness in his tone: "It's a fine thing to be young to-day!"

What do the old men of the "civilized" world say?

G. S. W.

A REMINDER FROM SPENCER.

"Whatever fosters militarism makes for barbarism; whatever fosters peace makes for civilization. There are two fundamentally opposed principles upon which social life may be organized—compulsory co-operation and voluntary co-operation, the one implying coercive institutions, the other free institutions. Just in proportion as military activity is great does the coercive regime more pervade the whole society. Hence to oppose militarism is to oppose return towards despotism."—From "Social Statistics."

The mule gets his pay in keep. The worker gets his keep in pay. Both amount to the same thing—hay and oats, or a bare existence for the working class.