

# THE CANADIAN FORWARD

## To Our Contributors—

The columns of The Canadian Forward are open to contributions from all friends of the cause. Though we can by no means undertake to publish all we may receive, everything, by whomsoever written, will receive careful attention.

No notice will be taken of anonymous communications.

All contributions intended for insertion to be addressed to the address given below, and must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication.

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## Correspondence—

All correspondence should be addressed to Business Manager, or I. BAINBRIDGE, Dominion Secretary, The Forward Press, 361 Spadina Avenue, Toronto, Canada.

Vol. 1, No. 11

TORONTO, CANADA

April 10, 1917



The saddest sight in all the world is not a grave of the dead, grievous as that might be, but it is a grave of the living—humanity sepulchred while yet alive.—Frances E. Willard.



## The Double Meaning of Patriotism.

The roots of true patriotism are to be found in the tribal state of mankind that exists upon a communal basis. The recognition of common rights in land and property. The overthrow of communism by the coming of civilized slavery, whether it be in form Monarchical, Feudal, or Capitalist, is a denial of the first elementary principle of human life and labor, i.e., the right to land and the products of labor as applied to land. Truly did the poet say: "He who owns the means whereby I live, owns my life."

True patriotism is embodied in the declaration of the slaves, viz.: The world for the workers. This is in itself a declaration of war, by the workers, upon the predatory class of brigands who have usurped the rights of the people to the land in which they live. Between these two classes there can be no compromise. Patriotism, to the ruling class, is the declaration to protect the property of robbers—and to the working class the taking of capitalist property for the use of the common people, "the working class," the only necessary class in society. To all other interests we are traitors.

## Conscription is Inevitable.

We can say now without much serious contradiction that conscription, both military and industrial, will be our lot in a few short weeks, and no serious opposition need be feared by the Government, as the poison has done its work. Our reasons for stating that the before-mentioned is inevitable, is because we know that the great shortage in foodstuffs necessitated by last year's low product and the shortage of labor at the present time, vying with the new conscript issue in Australia and the declaration of responsible Government officials in England, "that every available man will be needed in the firing line this summer," force us to accept this as the only inevitable solution if the Germans are to be fought to a standstill.

We have it on reliable authority that the registration cards are being used for military purposes at the present

time, notwithstanding the honorable word of our Cabinet Ministers that they would not be used for military purposes, and now they can say, Kitchener-like, we have got your names and the number on your doors "and if you don't come we will fetch you." And after that, the crucifixion, the prison and the firing squad. The situation is not entirely hopeless however. An intelligent man, armed, is a dangerous man to the capitalist vultures. Labor in Russia has overthrown the despotism of Czar Nicholas, and it may be our war before the deluge ceases. The situation is pregnant with possibilities. If the call comes we will rely on you to do your bit in true Marxian style, and determine that it shall not cease until the bulwarks of capitalism are for ever destroyed, and every gun is spiked as a herald of the coming day.

## The Government of the United States Declares War on Germany.

Some time ago we took the opportunity to point out in these columns "That the position of the United States, as a neutral, had become untenable," in so far as she had been supplying the belligerents with munitions of war since the first shot was fired; whatever international law may mean. We are not so presumptuous as to attempt an explanation; it takes a diplomatist to do that. And if we are permitted to express an opinion—Diplomacy has led us into this war (secret diplomacy), and at the best it appears in so many different roles—to wit, all the countries now at war (are warring) ostensibly to uphold the rights of international law. Well did Ramsey MacDonald ask—"Has Europe gone mad?" Our interpretation of neutrality is, according to every day Police Court proceedings, i.e., To aid or abett the doing of a crime, is to be found guilty of criminal intent. The logic of this being, as applied to the present situation, that the United States Government has for long taken sides against the Entente powers, and we welcome the unmasking of their hypocritical pretensions to neutrality. President Falconer, of Toronto Uni-

versity, has just been telling us that the people of the United States want war. If they do, then it is right they should have war. But, we are led to ask, is it not a truth, "that President Wilson was elected to keep the States out of war." Of this we have no doubt. How comes it, then, that the President declares war without consulting the people to whom he is responsible? The reason is obvious. No Government ever declared war by a democratic vote, of the people, consequently the munition vendors, seeing their trade dwindling because of the home production of the belligerents, must find some other means of boosting their profits. This can be done under two heads:

- (1) An army of 500,000 for Europe.
- (2) The Mexican troops are moving towards the United States frontier.

It is rather significant in this respect "That a banking corporation was at work six weeks before the ominous declaration to give to France \$100,000,000 to be expended in munitions manufactured in the States." The significance of these events cannot be underestimated, especially so, in conjunction with the incessant demand for 50,000 men for home defence in our own domain on the American frontier. Was Sir Sam Hughes bluffing when he said in the House of Commons "that the \$100,000 voted by the Toronto Board of Control at the injunction of General Lessard, was merely to benefit certain corporations." Or is there a real menace in Uncle Sam's war-like attitude.

## NEWS OF THE MOVEMENT

**Notice to Locals.**—We shall be glad to publish each week beneath this heading reports of the doings and activities of any local. Copy sent in should be written clearly on one side of the paper only. Reports should be brief as possible.

## CORRESPONDENCE

Edmonton, Alta.

Dear Editor,—I did not raise my boy to be a soldier.

When my boys watch soldiers march by, I teach them to see no glory in the spectacle, but pity for the delusions under which they are going to their doom.

Theodore Roosevelt declares that the old men should be the first to be killed. J. M. Work thinks those who want to make profits out of war should be the first. I agree with Mr. Work.

In 1898 the slogan in the United States was "Remember the Maine!" Years later it was admitted that the Spanish-American War was fought because American capitalists had investments in Cuba that would be more profitable under American control. In 1917 J. P. Morgan's and Chas. Schwab's millions are in danger, and the same "kept" press is urging American lives slaughtered to protect them, and Canadian mothers are urging conscription.

Only children and non-thinkers still believe that England and Russia are fighting for democracy and civilization, while Germany is fighting for militarism and barbarism.

England is fighting to keep control of the world's market, which it has had for over two hundred years; Russia is fighting for territory; France wants revenge; Italy wants to expand, and Germany wants its share of the world's trade.

If the Allies do win, J. P. Morgan and other capitalists will lose some of their ill-gotten wealth. Now, where does the working man of Canada come in? Why should he be forced to go to war to protect their profits?

If we must have conscription, let it be the food speculators, bondholders, and war-at-any-price capitalists; these people, according to Napoleon, should make good soldiers, for, he said, "the best soldiers started out as highway robbers."

AN EDMONTON MOTHER.

Y. P. S. C. JEWISH.

Toronto.

Dear Editor,—The Young Jewish Club is doing splendid auxiliary work in drawing the young folks together for the purpose of education and enjoyment. Their activities include physical culture, mental and moral development, as well as fulfilling a very useful purpose in collecting funds for the aid of strikers, and political campaigns in which the workers have direct representatives in the field. They collected a large sum of money to help the clothing workers of Montreal to win out in their big strike, and frequently organize lectures and debates.

(Meetings are held on Sundays at 194 Spadina Avenue, at 3 p.m.)

A. BLUGERMAN.

Hamilton, Ont.

Dear Editor,—The following most remarkable passage was written by Frederick Engels in the year 1892. It occurs in the course of an article in "Die Neue Zeit," discussing the probability of a general European war, just such as we are having now.

"No socialist of whatever nationality can wish the triumph of the present German Government in the war, nor that of the bourgeois French Republic, and, least of all, that of the Czar, which would be equivalent to the subjection of Europe, and therefore the socialists of all countries are for peace. But if it comes to war nevertheless, just one thing is certain—this war in which fifteen or twenty million armed men will slaughter one another, and all Europe will be laid to waste as never before—this war must either bring the immediate victory of socialism, or it must upset the old order of things from head to foot and leave such ruins behind that the old capitalistic society will be more impossible than ever, and the social revolution, though put off for ten or fifteen years later, will surely conquer after that time all the more rapidly and all the more thoroughly."

It was Engel's unrivalled knowledge of the laws governing social development which enabled him so correctly to predict this war, the question now is will this prophecy that socialism will be its outcome prove equally true. Let us sincerely hope so, for only socialism could compensate for the horrible suffering and sacrifice of this war.

J. ALEANDER.

Winnipeg, Man.

Editor of Forward.

I wish to call your attention to a couple of reports that have appeared in The Forward relative to Dixon and myself which have misrepresented the facts in a somewhat serious manner and which have conveyed erroneous impressions to readers. The last was printed in the issue of March 10th, and has reference to the action taken by myself in the Legislature regarding invitations extended to the members to attend a reception tendered by the Governor-General at Government House during his recent visit to this province. I do not know from what source you received your information relative to this matter, but I wish to call your attention to two features of the paragraph referred to.

The first is that the report represents me as lodging a bitter complaint against the insult offered to labor through Dixon and myself not being included in the invitation along with the other members of the House, and the other is that my speech was received by the members with jeers. Now, neither of these statements are true, or even approximately true. Taking the last first, I may say that, apart from a little interruption from the Speaker, who informed me that I could not criticize the Governor-General in the House, the speech was received with absolute silence. With regard to the other feature, it is quite untrue to say that I in any sense regarded the omission as an insult. I told

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