

THE CANADIAN FORWARD

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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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Vol. 1, No. 1

TORONTO, CANADA

October 28, 1916



"The Encroachments of Capital can be defeated if the Workers Organize."



THE DEMAND FOR A DISTINCT LABOR PARTY IN POLITICS.

There is no mistaking the psychology of the wayfaring man to-day. Public opinion throughout Canada is turning against the machine rule which has dominated the two capitalistic political parties for the past generation. The ordinary man is frankly disgusted with the many recent exposures of corruption in high places. The exigencies of war have shown in all their naked ugliness the twin evils of favoritism and graft. Labor, temporarily relieved of the old dread of unemployment, is awakening to a fuller realization of its own strength, to a better understanding of the futility of looking to capitalistic profiteers and their myrmidons of the law for a just appreciation of its demands and aspirations.

Tired of the humiliating need of asking and toadying for whatever legislation it feels is due, Labor now feels the time has come to use its own power and initiative to force matters. In short, Labor is becoming more class-conscious. The recent congress held by the Dominion Trades and Labor Councils of Canada was told bluntly by Miss Laura Hughes that "they were the bosses." Before the congress broke up the executive body was instructed to report on the advisability of forming a distinct and independent Labor party in Canada. It is to be hoped that the decision arrived at will be free

from prejudices injected by the strategists favoring the continued regime of the capitalistic parties. It is to be hoped that those who sway the deliberations on this vital question will realize the significance of the appeals made in all parts of the Dominion. For weeks past the British Columbia Federationist has carried appeals from its correspondents, urging the formation of a political unit with a distinctively labor platform. In the East we have the Industrial Banner strongly pleading for the same ideal. The Grain Growers' Guide of Winnipeg, in an editorial strongly asserted that "the present condition of affairs will be hard to remedy until the rank and file of the people are prepared to contribute of their own money towards political campaign funds for the election of men who will be free to represent the true interests of the people." We are strongly of the opinion that the newly-formed non-partisan Farmers' League in Alberta and Saskatchewan is but an expression of this same undercurrent of feeling.

It is not going overfar to say that the Social Democratic Party of Canada looks favorably on the formation of a Labor party that will be truly a Labor party. Not only will the idea meet with hearty endorsement and prompt interest among the majority of Social Democrats, but, we feel confident, any virile class-conscious, untrammelled Labor party will find the S. D. P. of C. actively in the forefront of its propaganda work.

THE SPICE BOX

If big armaments are a guarantee of peace, Europe should be the most peaceful place this side of the pearly gates.

Krupp's profits in the year before the war were \$9,000,000. Heaven only knows what they are to-day. These are the people who in peace agitate for war and bloodshed—the people who profit by war's holocaust when it is kindled.

If this is true of Krupp's—is it not likewise true of Vickers in England, of Bethlehem Steel in the States, of Dominion Steel, Canadian Vickers, and scores of others in Canada?

Listen for the cry "Imperialism" that will go forth in a few months. With peace declared and the huge markets closed, these "patriotic" profiteers will set up a chorus for guns, ships, shells, and all the ghastly machinery of human slaughter.

Let the workers think, think, think, before they let their voices harmonize with this chorus.

We need not killing machines. We need only life-giving machines.

Capital is mobile. It is international. It knows not any country, any king, any patriotism, but—profit.

If capital can be international why should not the workers also break down the antiquated fictitious barrier of nationalism? Unite, ye sons of toil!

For, remember our high-priest's words, "Workers of the World, unite; you have nothing to lose but your chains."

It is interesting to note how the letter P serves its purpose in a Plutocrat's vocabulary: Preparedness, Patriotism, Plunder, Powder, Private Property, Profits.

Capitalism promotes honesty, integrity, and morality. That is why every capitalist concern that amounts to anything has a cash register in every corner.

What shall it profit a man if "his country" conquer the whole world and he remaineth a wage-slave—ever on the lookout for a job whereby he may earn the wherewithal to live, ever ready to beat his fellow-worker in the scramble for the job, ever and ever serving the purpose of the profit-loving capitalist?

It is said that the caterpillar cannot see anything at a distance beyond two-fifths of an inch. The man who works for wages or salary, therefore, who cries out against the worker of another country as his enemy, cannot see as far as—a caterpillar.

There are some who have gone to fight in France for their country and "their jobs." The only battleground for such a fight is in the worker's home country—your enemy the capitalist and his long-antiquated system of greed and graft.

If Samuel Johnson were alive now he would feel constrained to elaborate one of his famous sayings and declare that patriotism was the final refuge of politicians, munitions middlemen, lawyers, and some partisan newspapers.

The Socialist dramatist, George Bernard Shaw, in one of his best plays, "Man and Superman," creates a situation in which John Tanner's automobile is held up by the chief brigand, who introduces himself as follows: "I am a brigand; I rob the rich." John Tanner then answers: "I am a capitalist; I rob the poor. Shake hands."



OUR BOOKSHELF

"Ten Years' Secret Diplomacy—An Unheeded Warning" (third edition), by E. D. Morel, published at National Labor Press. Price 40 cents.

Here is a book that should be in the hand of every reader. It is delightfully written and interesting from beginning to the end. Mr. Morel in this book shows that he is an investigator, and that he has the courage of his convictions to tell the public what he considers to be the danger of the few who operate the diplomatic machine to involve the nations in war in which it never had an opportunity to express an opinion. The book is all the more interesting because it was written prior to this great war as "Morocco in Diplomacy," and has been republished as "Ten Years' Secret Diplomacy." J. Ramsay MacDonald in the "Foreword" to the book, says "that the events and the policy exposed in this book form an introduction to the present war."

The story of how the public law of Europe regulating the international position of Morocco (known as the General Act of Algeiras) were framed jointly with the Sultan of Morocco and by representatives of the powers, including France, Great Britain, Germany, Austria, Belgium, Spain, United States, Italy, Holland, Portugal, Russia and Sweden, and of how France (with British concurrence, and Spain following suit) by a secret agreement which in thirty years' time would exclude German interests from Morocco, is ably described by the author.

This work details in a convincing manner Germany's intervention in 1911 when she sent the Panther to Agadir, a step which nearly resulted in a European war at that time and of Germany's final breakdown.

Mr. Morel concludes with an appeal to reason, and one can only wish that it had been acted upon. The sorrow and devastation might not have come upon Europe as a result of the fear and suspicion created by this incident if the diplomats had taken Mr. Morel's advice.

"Let us hold out the hand of friendship to Germany, not ostentatiously, not by sacrificing in the remotest our self-respect, not by offering her absurd 'concessions,' but in a spirit of frank recognition that Germany's industrial progress does, but demonstrate the need for renewed activities of our own in a field of honorable economic rivalry—that as she has learned from us, so may we have to learn from her. * * * In a spirit of determination that we shall allow no influences on our side, no personal prejudices or excitement to suspicion and mistrust, to prevent a gradual but sure advance towards the establishment of those harmonious relations which are alone worthy of two great peoples * * * who come of the same stock, between whom association and history have forged innumerable links, whose respective prosperity and progress are indispensable to each other's welfare, and whose reconciliation would remove the mists of apprehension and uncertainty which weigh like a nightmare on Europe."

Many people, no doubt, will disagree with Mr. Morel's conclusions, but there is no doubt of the ability with which he musters his figures and facts, and the effective manner in which he has dealt with one of the most difficult of the European problems.—J. M. O.

Obtainable from I. Bainbridge, Literature Dept., along with "The War of Steel and Gold."