

THE CANADIAN FORWARD

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

Correspondence—

All correspondence should be addressed to

THE CANADIAN FORWARD,

397 Spadina Avenue, Toronto, Canada.



APOLOGY AND APPRECIATION.

In our last issue, we promised to give a detailed statement with reference to the editors imprisonment and release. We find however, that publication of this matter at the present time would take up much valuable space that can be used to better advantage in the present crisis by giving as much foreign news as possible. We read so much these days as to "what's so and what isn't" that we may invariably reverse the order morning and evening and be quite in line with capitalist conceptions of truth—that we are again led to advise our readers not to believe anything that comes through the ordinary "Press dispatches". They are invariably manifestations of the political necessity of those who desire to control, in order to achieve their own purposes. We tender our hearty thanks and appreciation for the generous response to the "Bainbridge Defence" and promise to give a full report in the near future.

REFERENDUM BALLOTT.

On Labor Party Affiliation.

The National Executive Committee has decided to take a referendum vote of party membership in order to settle this important question, and to give status to the party's position. We take this action after much delay.—necessary delay in our judgment, as the membership has now had ample opportunity of deliberating and discussing this question and forming mature judgment upon this important matter. We have had Ontario, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan provinces in-convention to take this matter up—and many of our locals have taken the matter up with the local labor party bodies in their respective districts; consequently the time is due for us to decide.

Ballots have been sent out to all locals. Language locals being supplied through their Executive secretaries. In order that language sections should be fully informed we have directed insertion to be made in their language "Official papers" giving all necessary and detailed information upon the general question involved. The charge has been laid against your executive by one of our retiring locals that we have attempted to influence the party membership toward affiliation. We repudiate any innuend of this character as a base fabrication, and call upon all members to give a conscientious expression of opinion upon this matter. Bearing in mind the state of flux through which all organizations are passing at the present time owing to the abnormal conditions arising out of war, the imperative necessity of some practical form of working-class cohesion by which we shall not sacrifice our identity as a socialist body but still advance the mass movement of labor toward its Indust-

rial Political and Social emancipation; bearing in mind the combination of our historic enemies the propertied class, and their political jobbers—The "Conservative" and "Liberal" parties, it behooves every advocate of the workers cause to strive for unity and co-operation in the ranks of labor in order to defeat the forces of reaction. Your vote will decide this matter so far as the S.D.P. is concerned. Voting will take place by local, and number of votes tabulated. Local secretaries are requested to return all ballot papers to headquarters as early as possible.

INDUSTRIAL WORKERS ON TRIAL.

At the time of going to press I am in receipt of a letter from Cook County Jail, Chicago, Ill. The writer of this letter is an old member of the Socialist Party in Canada. This is the second letter I have received from this Comrade—whose name I may not mention for obvious reasons. Complaint is made that we have not given due publicity to the imprisonment of these Brothers and Comrades and I beg to state in reply that this omission is entirely due to my own imprisonment. Socialists of all parties in Canada are deeply interested in the trials and persecutions that the members of the I. W. W. have suffered, and although we may differ some with respect to their "tactics", we have the deepest admiration for their courage and sacrifices, and sincerely hope that their activities may result in advancing the cause of labor and hastening the fall of "Wage Slavery" and the abolition of all forms of Capitalist oppression. I gladly make insertion of information (re) "British Laborers Attitude" to the trial which is now taking place in Chicago and would, and will, all they can render all possible assistance—Financial, Moral and in any other way they think best.

Union Railway Men of England demand that Trial be Fair.

The latest aid to be extended the I. W. W. members now on trial at Chicago comes from England. The British National Union of Railwaymen are determined that the I. W. W. shall have a fair trial. It is this international support that is daily spelling v-i-c-t-o-r-y for the workers. The solidarity of labor knows no defeat.

This letter speaks eloquently of the determination of the British workers that we shall secure all the protection which they can give. The letter reads:

"BRITISH CONSULATE GENERAL
CHICAGO
806 Pullman Building
Telephone Wabash 8546

June 29, 1918

"Dear Sir,

"I learned from the District Attorney that you are representing the defendants in the I. W. W. trial and I therefore venture to give you below

the substance of a communication which I have received from the National Union of Railwaymen, 13 Cecil Street, Hawthorne Avenue, Hull, England:

"The Hull District Council of the National Union of Railwaymen have had brought to their notice at a meeting held on June 2nd, 1918, the fact that several British subjects have been placed in prison in Chicago and district on various charges of conspiracy, etc. I am instructed by the members of my council to request you as the British Consul to look after the interests of these British subjects at their forthcoming trial, the names of whom are as follows:

"Ted Fraser, Richard Brazier, Charles Ashley, George Hardy, Bert Lorton, Harry Lloyd, Sam Scarlett, Archie Sinclair, Herbert Mahler, Peter McEvey, James H. Manning, Joseph Oates, C. L. Lambert, Donald Sheridan and Wm. Moran."

"I shall feel grateful if you will be kind enough to let me know whether the names mentioned are those of your clients and whether you are actually defending them in their trial.

"I am, my dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

LEWIS G. BERNAY,

British Vice-Consul.

"Geo. F. Vanderveer, Esq.,

9th Floor,

19 S. LaSalle Street,
Chicago."

IS THERE A CLASS STRUGGLE?

"Many ill informed people assume that the class struggle of which we speak is merely an attempt on the part of the Socialists to create "Class Antagonism". Let it be said here that this is not so as we socialists merely point out the economic causes of class Antagonism.—We do not create them.

The industrial strife that is rampant from one end of the country to the other at the present time is a proof of our promise. No person fit to be outside a "Lunatic Asylum" (and there are many such) will suggest that the socialists are the cause of the present social discontent. There is very little difference between socialists and non-socialists in the degree of discontent manifested, although we do claim to better understand the cause.

Our opponents have not even the logic of Professor Jevons when he advanced the theory that "Poverty" was due to Sun spots. We have been held responsible for most things. First the German Socialists were responsible for the war they could not prevent. The Russian Bolsheviks are now held responsible for the deferred Allied Victory. "Jimmie Simpson" is responsible for the Scavengers strike in Toronto and is therefore responsible for the increased tax rate.—notwithstanding the fact that he took no part whatever in the dispute. Of course we appreciate the tribute so ungraciously tendered, and only regret that the administration of our political affairs has not been placed in such able hands, we might even have prevented an increase in the cost of living, or at least have alleviated the overburdened taxpayer with a generous use of the German gold we are supposed to be receiving. Even in these tactics the capitalist press merely demonstrates its acceptance of German philosophy. It was the old German professor Kopenick who, in advising his students how to debate said:—"If you are debating with an opponent more powerful than

yourself, make as many charges as possible against him in order that the greater part of his time will be taken up in defending himself—rather than attacking you". (quotation from memory):

All social disturbances generally, primarily, and fundamentally arise from economic causes. The present disturbance is due to the disunity of economic interests. The antagonism of classes is but the reflex of the competition for property rights, in the products of human labor—as Kautsky states.

"The elevation of the working-class is a necessary and inevitable process. But it is neither peaceful nor regular. The tendency of the capitalist system is to degrade the proletariat ever more and more. The moral regeneration of the working class is possible only in opposition to this tendency and its representatives, the capitalists. It cannot come about except through the new tendency developed in the working-class by the modern conditions of labor. But the two tendencies, the one upward and the other downward, vary constantly in different places and at different periods. They depend on the condition of the market, the organization of industry, the development of machinery, the insight of the capitalists and workers, etc., etc. All of these conditions vary from year to year in all the numerous branches of industry.

But fortunately for human development there comes a time in the history of every section of the proletariat when the elevating tendencies gain the upper hand. And when they have once awakened full class-consciousness in any group of workers, the consciousness of solidarity with all the members of the working-class, the consciousness of the strength that is born of union; as soon as any group has recognized that it is essential to society and that it dare hope for better things in the future,—then it is well nigh impossible to shove that group back into the degenerate mass of beings whose opposition to the system under which they suffer takes no other form than of unreasoned hate."

Until such time that the workers receive their social value in the products of their own labor the struggle between the possessors and dispossessed must, and will go on.

This year's excess profits and income taxes in the United States will yield \$3,200,000,000, which is more than the entire cost of the Civil War to the Northern States.—Toronto Globe.

The Globe will be the last to inform its readers that this vast sum must first be taken out of the bodies of the toilers by the capitalists before the Government can take it away from the exploiters.

The Toronto Globe suggests that the reason the contribution to the Prisoners of War Fund by the churches was so small was because the rich members were mostly out motoring that fine Sunday. No wonder the joy killers are attempting to stop the sale of gasoline on Sunday. The working people have about ceased to listen to the voice of the church because it no longer has a living message for them. If the sky pilots now lose their grip on the rich formalists, that institution will be in a bad way. The church will soon have to choose between Good and Evil (God and Mammon).

He serves himself best who serves humanity first.