



OUR BOOKSHELF

"The War of Steel and Gold," by Hendry Noel Brailsford (Fifth Edition). Published by G. Bell & Sons, Ltd., London, England. Price 50 cents.

It is a well accepted theory among Socialists that wars are the result of the antagonisms that tear Capitalistic society asunder, and a book such as this one will render valuable service to our cause by providing the materials upon which a well considered judgment can be based. For instance, the writer shows that the causes of wars have shifted with economic development. In the old days wars were made to assist the trader in his search for new markets; they are now made to protect and enlarge the dividends of the investor, to promote the ambitions of private capitalists. Incidentally Brailsford scores a point when he declares that Germany could not conquer France without injuring herself almost as much as she injured her enemy. All this is quite true, and Mr. Brailsford shows what may be folly for a nation as a whole may be very good business for that portion of a nation that is engaged in the production of war material. These interests deliberately encourage war, and they pour subtle poison into the minds of the people by suborning the press and tampering with every other source of public education.

Mr. Brailsford is an eminent journalist and for more than a generation a close student of the question dealt with in his book. He knows as much about the problem and intricate controversies that surround it as anyone outside of the carefully guarded diplomatic clique can know, and he has given in his latest volume a very valuable glimpse into the secret chambers where the nations' destinies are settled.

A chapter is given over to Socialism and anti-militarism in Europe, and the opinion is expressed that the issues of peace and war are slowly passing into our hands.

The cause of the present war is discussed, in which the writer says:—"Germany unquestionably pursued economic and imperialistic aims. The other powers were also influenced in some degree by similar ambitions. If the German powers sought, by crushing Serbia at once to free Austria from the risk of disintegration and to open the way to the economic control of Turkey, it is equally true that Russia was bent on obtaining mastery over the straits, not to mention Constantinople itself, and Armenia. Russia was obliged to support Serbia, not merely for reasons of sentiment and sympathy, but even more because Serbia was the necessary barrier to German expansion in the Near East. Italy entered it largely because she claims a share in the partition of Turkey and meditates acquisitions in Dalmatia; most of her claims, based on nationality, could have been met without war. France is defending her colonies, and especially Morocco. Germany is attacking and the allies are maintaining the present distribution of colonies and dependencies. The stake lies outside of Europe, though the war is waged on its soil."

Mr. Brailsford declares that the only alternative to an endless struggle for the "Balance of Power" is to unite Europe into a Federal League. In the appendix he has very ably sketched an outline of such a league.

The book is packed with useful information, and I venture to commend it to the attention of every Social Democrat and to every speaker who is doing service for Socialism in our time. Locals could do no better than use it at

IS SOCIALISM WORTH WHILE?

A Clarion Call to the Disheartened, by "Tush."

Years ago, what was Canada, what was the condition of its people? Those of us who have read Gustavus Myers' "History of Canadian Wealth" will recall the days of the fur traffic, will remember the open fraud and deceit practised upon those who toiled. In those early days the wealthy capitalist used the power of his wealth to win for himself more—profit. The greed for profit was not merely a personal greed—it was innate, natural to the economic system that had been instituted.

Then came the railroads, the mines, the land proprietors, each and all instinctively using their powerful position and their controlling wealth to take from the worker the just recompense for his toil. And now, with the influx of foreign money, with a steady invasion of all-powerful capital from Great Britain and the United States, Canada has developed an important industrial system.

Here, briefly stated, are the foundations of the Canadian social system. In a future article I hope to give a more detailed analysis of this development. At the present moment I merely set down this brief sketch as a reminder that capital—mobile, foreign, capital—governs Canada, controls (and cheats) its toiling classes.

Look for proof of this statement to the financial columns of your ordinary daily newspaper. Examine the enormous dividends now being paid to shareholders in the steel companies, the oil trust, the coal companies, the cotton magnates, the shipping combines, the wheat brokers.

Remember, the prime necessities that every man must provide—food, clothing, shelter. And in your financial news you will find each and all the commodities you need are controlled by companies and corporations, that, by their very purpose and existence, must make profit. Even the price of the paper from which you read is controlled by a combine that must make profit.

Leave your paper now and ask your wife what she now pays for the food you eat. Ask her how the price of flour, butter, milk, meat compares with the price she paid for these items of daily nourishment three years ago. Then you will realize the trend and significance of the capitalist system—the relentless hunt for profit at the expense of those who produce and use.

Here now you have presented to you the system under which the men and women of Canada must live. Do you realize its unjust, futile, inhuman character? Can you deny that the wage system, the production of commodities for profit rather than for use are innate to this system?

The day is fast coming when this system shall crush itself by its own weight. Competition has already killed itself—small combines have merged into larger unities, mergers have become trusts, and trusts will now become—what?

The answer lies in the counterpart to this picture. High finance goes higher; working class depression goes lower. The cry of prosperity is but short-lived—it scarcely amends the condition of the toiler.

The break must soon come. Speed the day. But not till those toilers in whose hands lies the solution of the problem are educated to the inevitable result. Not till men are prepared by

their economic classes in the study of the problem that is confronting the nations at the present time.

J. M. C.

Obtainable from I. Bainbridge, Literature Dept., along with "Ten Years of Secret Diplomacy."

foreknowledge to make this revolution a bloodless revolution of economic change instead of a transference of tyrannical power.

That spreading of the light of wisdom lies with the Socialist movement. What a life of comradeship, what scenes, what adventures in the S-D-P. we have shared together! What days and nights of campaigning it has been—buffeted about in all the great political storms, all the parties of the state arrayed against us!

What hours of brain-exacting controversy we have co-jointly spent! What themes, and plans, and ideas we have discussed! What sacrifices we have made!

Are these to be fruitless? Are these to be dead, forgotten memories? Look at the glad joy of our battle for justice and right dealing. Turn your mind back to the inspiring healthfulness of seeming always in the wrong and ever in the fight.

Shall the present once more see us in the fray? Surely the future will not find us wanting. Gird yourselves, comrades. Unite now for the conflict—always the open Capitalist foe charging us in front, always the dissentients cleaving in upon our flank, always the renegades pelting us with mud, spearing us with their pens from behind!

Always, nevertheless, making headway, forcing them all to follow! Always each and all in the thickest of the fray.

THE SPICE BOX

A wealthy Italian in New York has directed by will that \$10,000 be spent on his funeral. He has not been anxious about the high cost of dying.

The Bethlehem Steel Corporation, under the management of Charles Schwab, has bought, in New Jersey, a tract of land eighteen miles long by six miles wide for testing large guns made

by the company for any Government that buys from it. The aim is to rival the Krupps of Germany.

Butter in state politics has been supplanted by Greece in international affairs as the most absorbingly interesting topic of the day.

Want among the children of men is criminal. The workers who permit it to continue are the responsible criminals. Quit your crime fellow-worker. Get down now to organize.

A mere fight for higher wages can never settle the class struggle. It is always to the interest of one side to lower wages and of the other side to increase them. The only remedy lies in ending the wages system.

Every tramp and hobo is a proof of the failure of capitalism.

The average worker votes for nothing plus windy words—and then kicks because he gets it.

The worker makes others rich and himself dies poor.

If you want absolute militarism in any country you can easily get it. Just fold your arms, say nothing—and it will come. The old parties will bring it.

"Man is a fool," say some. When you notice the fact that people are on the verge of starvation while abundance is on all sides, perhaps they are right.

When you pity the poor dog that licks the hand that strikes him, you should think of the poor dabb who votes for the class that robs him.

Blessed are the weak for they shall inherit the earth—when the rest are conscripted.

There are volumes, aye tomes, of laws to keep workers from raising wages. How many are there to keep their masters from raising profits?

The weakest living creature, by concentrating his powers on a single object, can accomplish something; the strongest, by dispersing his over many, may fail to accomplish anything

PLATFORM

Social-Democratic Party of Canada

We, the Social-Democratic Party of Canada in convention assembled, affirm our allegiance to and support of, the International Socialist Movement.

By virtue of the ownership of the means of production and distribution (natural resources, factories, mills, railroads, etc.) all wealth the workers produce, accrues into the hands of the capitalist class. This property the capitalist-defends by means of the state (the army, the navy, the judiciary.)

The object of the Social-Democratic Party is to educate the workers of Canada to a consciousness of their class position in society, their economic servitude to the owners of capital, and to organize them into a political party to seize the reins of government and transform all capitalist property into the collective property of the working class. This social transformation means the liberation not only of the proletariat, but of the whole human race. Only the working class, however, can bring it about. All other classes maintain their existence by supporting the present social order.

The struggle of the working class against Capitalist exploitation produces a constant state of warfare between these two forces for the control of political and economic power.

As a means of preparing the minds of the working class for the inauguration of the Co-operative Commonwealth, the Social-Democratic Party of Canada will support any measure that will tend to better conditions under capitalism, such as:

- (1) Reduction of hours of labor.
- (2) The elimination of child labor.
- (3) Universal adult suffrage without distinction of sex or regard to property qualifications; and
- (4) The Initiative, Referendum, and right of Recall.