

# PEN PUNCHES BY THE LOCALS

Montreal, June 20, 1917.

Dear Comrade Editor:—Replying to your valued favor with reference to the fight against conscription in Quebec, allow me to state that our agitation slackened down somewhat. We had a lecturer from the States here and as his lectures involved much work and effort we couldn't be so active for a couple of weeks. Tomorrow night, however, we are holding another large Mass Meeting at The Champs de Mars, our last meeting there was very successful and we hope this will be even more so. Literature and petitions have been circulated and signed all around here and will most probably issue more shortly.

Our lectures were a great moral success. About 900 people attended the three paid lectures. The Casino Theatre was crowded for the Sunday lecture, which was entitled, "The Russian Revolution." All the lectures were very interesting and instructive.

We must all cheer up no matter what may happen immediately. The great news from Russia. The Socialist victories at the elections in Petrograd were stupendous, and give us much cause for encouragement in spite of the darkness of autocracy here and the States (or perhaps because of it) Socialism is making headway, and I hope and feel that we in Canada, too, will shortly have a few victories.

I will let you know how our meeting comes off, and also any further news.

By the way, we heard the reports of your Toronto outrages through the lips of two Toronto comrades who were present there. They are in Montreal now, and one retained the legacy of a black eye.

Yours for Socialism,

REBECCA BUHAY.

June 20th, 1917.

To the Editor of the Forward.

Dear Sir,—We hear a lot of talk these days from politicians of both parties about conscripting wealth as well as men, but great care is taken not to say anything definite about conscription of wealth. Such statements as, "You cannot take the poor man's all and leave the wealthy at liberty to pile up immense fortunes," without any definite statement as to what measures should be adopted to conscript the wealth of the wealthy seems to me to be merely hypocritical snivelling in order that the workers will more easily swallow the bitter pill of conscription.

I venture to say that unless the workers make a mighty, concerted and definite demand for the conscription of wealth nothing will be done. The poor man who is conscripted yields his all, and is forced to leave his wife and family at the mercy of the good pirates whom the Government seems to protect. Before he is conscripted the average worker has to struggle along on less than \$1,000 per year. Now, if these politicians are sincere in their talk about conscription of wealth, and not trying to humbug the workers again, let them come out and demand that the Government confiscate all incomes above \$5,000 per year. If they really mean it when they say the rich should bear their fair share of the burdens of the war, they surely cannot object to such a demand, for even if such a measure were enacted the rich would still have five times as much on which to live as the average worker has.

What mockery, what hypocritical humbug to say that the wealthy should bear their share of the war's sacrifices, and leave the enormous

disparity in incomes such as now exists. Here's the chance for the politician to show some sincerity if he knows what sincerity really means. Here's the chance for the rich to display some true patriotism, providing they really have any.

If we are to have conscription of the poor man's all, let the people's slogan be "Confiscation of all incomes above \$5,000 per year."

Yours for fair play,

"SOCIAL DEMOCRAT"

Winnipeg, June 20, 1917.

Dear Editor,—I notice that the returned soldiers in Toronto have gone the length of breaking up union meetings. They have not quite reached that stage here yet. I suppose, though, that you will have learned that an open air meeting which we had arranged for last Sunday had to be called off owing to the prohibition of the police. The police had no desire to prevent us from holding our meetings, but they knew that both sides were prepared for battle, and fear of the consequences led to the prohibition. I am afraid there would have been very serious results if the meeting had been held—more serious than most of us care to contemplate. I would like to write you more, but piles of work prevent me.

Yours in the fight,

R. A. RIGG,  
Secretary.

Chicago, June 20.

Dear Editor,—We have just received the information from the Chicago Post-Master, acting upon instructions received from Washington, not to mail any more of the June issues of our International Socialist Review. We do not know what objectionable matter is contained in this issue, but have been notified to show copies of the July issue for approval before mailing.

Yours in the cause,

CHAS. H. KERR.

Kitchener, Ont., June 20.

Dear Editor,—We have added 10 members since the hoodlums attempted to break up our meeting. Please ship at once 200 Forwards. The matter you are printing is just the right kind of stuff for the edification of the open-minded.

A. W. BOWLES,  
Secretary.

Wyman, Que.

Dear Editor,—I have just received the Toronto Globe report of the soldiers' activities in breaking up your Socialist meeting. Since the outbreak of the war I have become deeply interested in Socialism, but literature is scarce around this burg.

The people in this County of Pontiac are mostly English, but are distinctly opposed to conscription. I am opposed to conscription for both moral and economic reasons, and in the event of the passage of such a measure it will bring with it economic ruin, because we are a borrowing country. Material resources should be conscripted before man power.

I shall be pleased to render any assistance to the great movement of which you are the executive head in Canada, and if I can do anything to help organize a local down here I shall thank you for all information.

Trusting that the cause throughout Canada will prosper and that the day of Social democracy may be enhanced by the work you are doing.

Yours in the cause,

S. W. MacKECHNIE.

GREAT INTERNATIONAL

P I C - N I C

SATURDAY, JULY 14th, 1917

Grimsby Beach

All Ontario Locals are expected to be there in force. Special invitation to our Foreign Comrades.

Special arrangements have been made with shipping company.

Return Fare from Toronto, 75c.

Winnipeg, June 9th.

Dear Comrade,—At a convention of the S.D.P. held in Winnipeg on Friday, June 8th, it was moved and carried by a very large majority that we ask the Dominion Executive Committee to do their utmost to send a comrade to the International Conference at Stockholm to represent the Party.

J. BROWN,  
Secretary.

TORONTO THE MAD!

Editor of Forward:

Dear Sir,—In the name of progress, tell me who or what rules the censored city of Toronto? Is it secret societies, clergymen, militarists, or capitalists? A Toronto citizen refuses to be abused by an imported militaristic clergyman, who admits he served a prison sentence for abusive language, and is immediately arrested by military police, taken before Toronto's military chief of police, then is tried before one of Toronto's military magistrates, and as soon as the man admits he is a Socialist, he is sentenced to thirty days in jail. The case was appealed and lost before a judge, who a short time ago was mayor of Toronto, and who was nearly defeated by a Socialist candidate for the Mayor's chair.

While the above case was sub judice a number of soldiers raided Toronto hotels, restaurants, and munition plants and no soldiers were given thirty days. And some patriotic manufacturers who refused to employ returned soldiers, but hired Austrians and imported Chinamen, were not jailed. Neither were the capitalists who raised the price of necessities to the soldiers' widows and orphans, etc.

In Russia they have freedom of press of conscience and free speech, but the freest things in Toronto are the piles of paunchy preachers who cackle for conscription for young men, work on the farms for old men, and munition work for weak women, while they themselves will neither work, pay, or fight, but instead stay in the city to juggle the collection plate and guzzle the grub, and when tired take their vacation as usual, war or no war.

But there is hope for Toronto when Ottawa tenders a public reception to Viviani the Socialist, ex-premier of France.

Yours truly,

JUSTICE.

HAMILTON LOCAL, No. 61.

From the public press you will have learned of the prohibition by the Chief of Police of our anti-conscription meeting. He sent orders to the hall people to keep the doors closed. In addition he had four of his men there to protect the hall (not us). The police's first move in the case was to raid the premises where the International Federation holds its meetings. They got nothing of consequence. The mayor, after side-stepping our interrogations as to the legality of these proceedings, now

TORONTO CENTRAL COMMITTEE

P I C - N I C

High Park

MONDAY, JULY 2nd

Bloor St. Entrance

COME and have a good time.

announces his approval of the police chief's actions. These are little incidents in the "war for democracy," freedom of assembly being denied us on the question of conscription, we are now considering a new course of action.

Our big sub-drive is now in full swing as the enclosed bunch of names indicated. We hope to improve on this as we expect better results in the districts yet to be canvassed. We met with a good reception from the ex-subscribers and would urge other cities and towns to undertake a like canvass. We hold our picnic on the holiday, July 2nd, on the mountain (head of Wentworth Incline). All our friends are cordially invited. It is hoped that a good representation of Hamilton Socialists will join their Toronto comrades at Grimsby Beach on Saturday, July 14th. We have invited the Rev. W. E. Gilroy to give an address at our hall on Sunday, July 1st, on "William Morris." A large attendance is looked for. Comrade Gillon's talk at our last meeting on "Robert Owen" was much appreciated and caused a good discussion.

J. A.

POLICE SPIES PREVENT PROPAGANDA BY UKRAINIANS.

The arrest of approximately 95 Ukrainians in the city of Toronto, June 10th, appears to have been a preliminary to the well conceived system of suppression. No doubt the authorities have got a good excuse for these drastic measures under the name of "Defence of the Realm" for carrying out the democratic principles of which they boast.

To the man in the street it has occasioned much questioning as to why these people, descendants of the Slav race and forced against their will to live under an Austrian administration to which they owe no fealty, be treated like prisoners of war. We have not heard of any arrest having taken place of people belonging to the same race who have other political affiliations, and consequently the only answer that is forthcoming that in any sense merits the claim of veracity is (they are Socialists). The English Socialists, of course, being citizens of this country may be left to the tender mercies of the G.W.V.A.

These are times when no Socialist should be unattached. Organized action is vitally necessary. Join the S.D.P.