

The Cause and the Remedy

By H. Martin, Berlin, Ont. Ask the first man you meet if he is in favor of war and he will tell you he is not. Kings and emperors do not want war—everybody, everywhere, is opposed to war. Yet in face of this opposition, on the part of everybody, the nations of the earth have kept right on arming themselves to the teeth until today the whole of Europe stands an armed camp with twenty millions of men, either in actual conflict or held in reserve to augment and replenish those annihilated. — "Hiring out the guns." Somebody says: "A world war is something mystifying — a world that wants to stop fighting and cannot. Why cannot it stop fighting? Your politicians cannot tell you. Your statesmen do not tell you. Your clergyman has not told you. Your learned men who ought to know seem to know. No one who should know seems to know. Yet they must know. The men who make wars know why they make them. Wars do not simply happen to happen—they are made. Somebody says: — "Hiring out the guns." Somebody says: "The shooting is about to begin." What is it about? Don't say "the flag" has been insulted. Don't say "the national honor" has been assailed. These are old reasons, rather they are excuses, they are not the true reasons. We Socialists are willing to stake everything on the statement that they are not true reasons. If we are right, we are worth listening to. In spite of the millions slaughtered in war during the past one hundred and fifty years, in the face of the blood stained battlefields, the machinery of distribution has been so improved that the slaughterer will be tremendous. The destruction will be so great that little attempt will be made at burial; bodies will be thrown on a pile, saturated with oil and burned. War is hell. But it will not be hell for the man who makes it. It will be hell for the man who fights it. The men who make it stay at home. Their blood will drench no battlefield. Some say the race is bad. Its brain is full of greed. Its heart is full of murder. The mind of the race is not, nor ever has been, filled with the greed that kills. The heart of the race is not, nor ever has been, filled with the black blood of murder. It is only a few whose minds and hearts have been thus poisoned by greed for gain or lust for power. Probably we should all have been thus poisoned if we had been similarly circumstanced—if we had been great capitalists. We Socialists make this charge freely. We smear the monstrous crime of war over the face of the capitalist class, whose pockets are filled with gold and whose hands are covered with blood. The facts are the facts of colossal murder for gain. The small rich class that lives in luxury from the labor of the great poor class has a reason for clinging to the control of government. That reason is not far to seek. Without the control of government, the small, rich class would not be rich. This minority class through the ownership of the instruments whereby wealth is produced, protected in the ownership by the governmental power and the forces of the state, reap the entire wealth of this and every other country, over and above the ever decreasing portion necessary to sustain life of the laboring classes. One nation cannot make laws for another nation. But the capitalists of one nation may possess property that is wanted by the capitalists of another nation. Wars are commercial at root economic. That is why Great Britain made war against the Boers. Certain rich English gentlemen believed they could make more money if the British flag waved over the diamond and gold fields of the Transvaal. For a similar reason, for trade expansion and larger territory, the capitalist class of Japan made war against the capitalist class of Russia. Korea belonged to the Koreans, but that made no difference. Two thieves struggled for it, and Japan proved to be the stronger. The moment that the capitalist class of one nation determines to rob the capitalist class of another nation, the machinery for inflaming the public mind is set in motion. This machinery consists of tongues and printing presses which immediately begin to instill patriotism. The flag is waved and thousands of men take the bait. They bid farewell to their homes. They embark upon transports. They sail strange seas. They disembark upon strange shores. They see strange men, men whom they never saw before, men against whom they have no possible sort of grudge, men who never harmed them, common workmen like themselves. But they shoot these men and are shot by them. They spill each other's blood. They break each other's bones. They break the hearts of each other's families. And, when one army or the other has been crippled beyond further fighting, there is peace. The peace of the sword. The peace of death! The peace that leaves the working classes of both countries poorer and the capitalist class of only one country richer. It was a great victory to the capitalists of the world who lent money to both belligerents. It was a great victory for the capitalist class who plundered and got it. But it was not a great victory for the workmen who, at those quarters, fell before the guns and were either burned or buried where they fell. Great Britain whipped the Boers, but the British working class did not get the gold mines and diamonds. The Japanese whipped the Russians, but the laboring classes of Japan, working as they do today for from 20c to 45c a day, did not get any of the plunder for which the war was fought. The Japanese capitalists got all the plunder. The common people of Japan are poor and in the face of this, within six months of the termination of the war, the Mikado used the sternest self-denial upon them as the only means of saving the country from bankruptcy. And, notwithstanding the victory of the British over the Boers, the common people of England were never before so poor as they are today. The American civil war abolished chattel slavery and instituted wage slavery in general. The American working class never benefited by the general institution of wage slavery. Yet the working class fought the war. Seven hundred thousand men followed the stars and bars to bloody graves. Not one of these would have been killed in war if the common people controlled the government. The common people never owned slaves. They do well if they own themselves. The blowing up of the Maine, which to this day there is no proof that the Spaniards destroyed, was not the underly cause of the Spanish-American war. It was but the pretext seized by the Sugar Trust, which held large interests in Cuba, trying to foment another revolution for the purpose of bringing about annexation and thus hiding itself of the 50 per cent tariff that was levied upon American sugar.

Under our present form of producing the material necessities of life, the capitalist method, the capitalist always makes the laborer work longer than is necessary for the reproduction of the value of his labor power. This surplus created accrues into the hands of the capitalist class, for which a market must be found. Failing to find a market, a panic ensues, hard times set in, production slackens down and a period of unemployment replaces the feverish speed of commoditization. The sum of money which the worker receives for his daily or weekly labor, forms the amount of his nominal wages and will buy back only a portion of the wealth created, the purchasing power being regulated by the conditions prevalent in the market. The tendency is the accumulation of wealth into the hands of an ever increasing minority. Modern labor saving machinery and the speeding up system has brought in its train a reserve army of unemployed which further acts as a lever and keeps wages at a bare subsistence level. Capitalist production as a continuous process, must continue to go pediculously through the same phases. The conditions of production are also those of reproduction. No society can go on producing, unless it constantly reconverts a part. It must expand. It must unfold. When a capitalist society has reached a point where its technical process can expand no further, it becomes a fetter, its instrument (shell) is burst asunder, the knell of capitalist property sounds, it is the beginning of the end. It is a commonplace today that wars are fought for markets. It is a safe guess that if Austrian capitalists had not felt that their interests were menaced by the capitalists of Serbia, Austrian troops would never have entered Serbia. Kings are but figureheads, and are moved by big business. Germany is the most highly developed industrially of all the European countries. Her advanced methods of technical education have been of great service to her capitalists, but have left the masses in an ever increasing measure of misery, oppression and exploitation. Out of this misery, oppression and exploitation has grown a revolt of the working class, ever increasing in numbers, organized by the very pressure of the process of capitalist production, until one hundred and eleven members of the working class represent their interests in the Reichstag. Without parallel among European nations in the process of industrial development, with an ever-increasing surplus product on their hands for which to find a market, with the British navy in control of the seas and on the other hand the Social Democratic Party representing four and a quarter millions of electors, organizing, agitating and organizing the German worker, the holding of mass meetings and anti-war agitation, the German capitalists have found themselves between the devil and the deep sea. So far as the capitalist class of Germany are concerned, this war, then, is but the max of long years of preparation. Driven by stern economic necessity, Emperor William, the puppet of big business, is making a fight for his life, but more particularly for the development of the system, which has reached a stage where it must expand or decay. The capitalist class of Russia do not look favorably upon Teutonic expansion. It may mean lower dividends. This then explains the mobilization of five millions of men armed to the teeth on the Russian border. George A. Dorsey, curator of ethnology, Field Museum, Chicago, says I am fairly certain that there are very few really decent people in England, France and Germany who really want this war. The Socialist movement is permeated all through these countries, and numbered hundreds of thousands of adherents who are not only conscious of the folly and wickedness of the war, but realize that they must bear an undue share of the cost. And they are bitterly against the whole vicious game of military competition. But the public opinion is not yet strong enough, nor the world of science, art and commerce or the social movement yet powerful enough to stay the arm of the war locust. What is the answer? More rational public opinion. And that can only come from education. Faith and Christianity have failed to check war. We need something stronger. And that stronger thing is knowledge, and the power that comes from elastic minds and the knowledge of understanding. And by education I do not mean the curriculum of Latin, Greek and other dead languages, but rather the broader education which brings the factors of our own life—psychic, political, material and biologic—into our consciousness and lets us see just who and what we are, where we come from, how we get here, and where we may end, and where we may not end. I mean the education that comes from the field, the lathe, the scalpel, the test tube, the microscope; that comes from the observing phenomena in relationship to time, space, that acknowledges the relativity of all things. Fellow Workers.—The Social Democratic Party of Canada appeal to you to get a clear understanding of the commodity nature of labor power, your class position in society and a knowledge of the true meaning of the class struggle. In this connection we advise you to read Socialist Revolution and Internationalism, 10c; The State and Socialism, 10c; Value, Price and Profit, 10c; Wage Labor and Capital, 5c. We would also call your attention to War—What For? 60c; by mail 75c. Address, Social Democratic Party, Berlin, Ontario. Would the Socialists take the horse of a poor man? That is one of the whimsical questions sometimes asked. The British government has commandeered the horses of London and elsewhere for war. The capitalists condescend. The Socialists of Buda-Pest, Hungary, plundered the city with anti-war posters, while the war with Serbia was on. This is the kind of news the capitalist papers suppress. If you kill a man in a private quarrel you are a murderer and are hung. If you put on the king's uniform and kill a hundred men you are a hero and are decorated. Behind the veil of the censor we know little of what is happening. But undoubtedly the social revolution is brewing. Some female wage slaves get married in order to escape slavery, and find they have become frying-pan slaves. The Kaiser is no more the cause of the war than is George, presently called King of Great Britain. The war news in the capitalist papers is mostly lies.

THOUGHTS IN WAR TIME

Phillips Thompson, Oakville, Ontario. This war will destroy many illusions. Canadians are in the habit of boasting that they live in a free self-governed country. Yet Canada was committed to the war, the troops enlisted, and all preparations made for their departure before even the so-called representatives of the people were consulted. What a farce! Thousands of young Canadians are being sent off to die to preserve the independence of Belgium, who, if they had been asked a month ago, couldn't have told you whether Belgium was a country, a city, or a patent medicine, or whether it was in Europe, Asia or Africa. Workingmen who cheer the departing contingents forget Nakhimov, Port Arthur and St. John, and don't seem aware of the fact that at the word of command these uniformed murderers would shoot them down as readily as they would Germans and Austrians. After all, young Canadians are not such utter fools as might be supposed to judge by the number of enlistments. A scrutiny of the published lists shows that only about one-fifth of them are Canadians. The large number of recent British immigrants who are out of work accounts for the patriotic eagerness to serve the Empire which delights the hearts of the stay-at-home heroes by proxy. The effervescent patriotism of the war-rage crowds who hang around the bulletin boards, cheer lying announcements of victories, and damn the Germans, has received quite a damper from the advance in price of whisky and beer owing to the war taxes. This has brought the horrors of war home to many a mouth-valiant boozier in an unexpected way. Funny thing about patriotism. It is about the only quality which a man can loudly and persistently boast of, and get himself taken at his face value. If a man boasts of his honesty he naturally suspects him of being tricky; if he vaunts his morality few people will credit him with anything but sufficient shrewdness to conceal his vices; if he makes great pretensions to bravery he is set down as a braggart. But he can parade his patriotism all day long and win applause and admiration. Being a Socialist has its disadvantages, but is not without its compensations. Many a stalwart young Canadian will owe his life to having assimilated sufficient of the Socialist philosophy to make him realize the folly of fighting for a capitalist government. The decision of the military authorities to accept only physically perfect men as food for powder, gives a lot of the anaemic, lip-sided, tuberculous, and otherwise defective shouters for war a chance to pose as real heroes. They can offer to enlist and after getting turned down can boast for the rest of their lives of how they would have fought if they had been there. If Kaiser Wilhelm is a madman, so are Asquith, Kitchener, Borden, Laurier, Hughes, and the whole bunch of British and Canadian war lords. Kaiser Wilhelm as the representative of the military aristocracy and big business of Germany in seeking to extend the boundaries of the Empire, is doing exactly what the rulers of England have done for generations—stealing territory whenever the opportunity offered. If it hadn't been for this kind of lunacy there wouldn't have been any British Empire.

LABOR LAWS OF ONTARIO

On the 16th of March last, the Banner Limited, a weekly Liberal paper of Dundas, Ont., made an assignment, and the assignees informed me that up to May 29th no offer had been made by anyone for the plant sufficient to pay secured claims, to say nothing about preferred (wages), or ordinary claims, and if the creditors or other parties did not take over the business by June 10th, the assignees would turn over the plant to the mortgage holders and holders of liens on the machinery. Having heard nothing to the contrary from the assignee, I take it for granted that the labor laws of Ontario look after the rich ruling class and let the working class look after itself. According to the laws of Ontario rent and taxes come first, after that comes mortgages and liens, and then wages as the last of the preference claims, so you can see where the working man gets off at. A workman can depend upon his wages to buy food, clothing and shelter for his family and himself, and at least should get slave pay. It is not time, comrades, that the working class send more of their class to the Federal and Provincial Assemblies? At the present time Ontario has one labor member in the Assembly and one in the Federal House, and not a Socialist in either. When the working men become class conscious, they will send nothing but their class to represent them in parliament, and then tables will be turned, and the working class will be in the van, and the leaders in the rear.—Arthur Rice, Leamington, Ont. I SING THE BATTLE By Harry Kemp. I sing the song of the great clean guns that belch forth death at will. Ah, but the waiting mothers, the lifeless forms and still! I sing the song of the billowing flags, the legions that cry before. Ah, but the children's flapping rags, the lips that speak no more! I sing the clash of bayonets, of sabres that flash and clatter, of sabres that And will then sing the maimed ones, too, that go with the pained-up alive? I sing acclaimed generals that bring the victory home. Ah, but the broken bodies that drip like honeycombs! I sing of hosts triumphant, long ranks of marching men. And will then sing the shadow hosts that never march again? The old cry that Socialism will break up the home is pure mockery now when capitalists are plucking hundreds of thousands of husbands, fathers, brothers, sons, to a terrible death! The war means the beginning of the final collapse of the old system.

SOCIALISM AND INSPIRATION

By Thomas W. Williams. Socialism is the most inspiring thing in the world; it includes all that is good and eschews whatever is vicious and bad. It embraces every purpose for the human uplift. It is not circumscribed by creed nor embarrassed by organization. Socialism is bigger than party and far beyond the power of man to destroy. Socialism is a world power. It is the constructive forces of the Universe impelling the "Next Step." Socialism is the dream of tomorrow, the stimulus of today. It takes the individual outside of himself and overwhelms him with the bigness of the whole. His correlation with all other things is discovered. His interwoven interests with all other beings is revealed. Socialism is the antithesis of selfishness and self ascendancy. It is altruism made sane and practical. It does not destroy hope. It materializes anticipation. It brings the goal within reach. Socialism makes for better manhood. No man can work with Socialism who is not moved by high and lofty purpose. Its program is positive rather than negative. It displaces. It does not destroy. It creates. It does not annihilate. It rearranges. It brings things into relation. It reverses incentive. Under Socialism the overcoming passion of the part of the individual will be to contribute instead of to receive; to bestow rather than to acquire. Honor will be the reward of service, not pelf or gain. Men will not be happy in the selfish holding of something to the exclusion of others, but their joy will be full in mutual possession and interest. The Social Democratic Party is organized to interpret Socialism. It is a voluntary organization, giving expression to the political phase. Socialism does not spring out of the Social Democratic Party. It is not dependent on the dictum of a few men; nor is it circumscribed by party devices. Socialism is a science. Socialists are merely students striving to master the science. The Social Democratic Party is because Socialism was. Socialism is all embracing. It is inclusive, not exclusive. It is creative rather than destructive. It makes for peace rather than for war. It begets love rather than hate. Socialism stands between the world and chaos. It is the one great star of hope in the dark night of capitalism. Socialism is the universe working with man and man with the universe. The British Independent Labor Party, in a Manifesto declares, "Out of the darkness and the depth we hail our working class comrades of every land. Across the roar of guns we send sympathy and greeting to the German Socialists. They have labored unceasingly to promote good relations with Britain as we with Germany. They are no enemies of ours, but faithful friends. In forcing this appalling crime upon the nations, it is the rulers, the diplomats, the militarists who have sealed their doom. In tears and blood and bitterness, the Greater Democracy will be born. With steadfast faith we greet the future; our cause is holy and imperishable, and the labor of our hands has not been in vain. Long live Freedom and Fraternity! Long live International Socialism!" The Socialist Party of America has adopted as its election slogan for this fall, "Starve Russia and Feed America!" The party calls upon the American government to seize the stores of food supplies, the sources of credit, the railroads and all means of transportation and communication and use them to break the grip of trusts and speculators, and prevent food going to the battling nations, thus starving them into ending the war. Since the war broke out the German government is distributing telegrams to everybody free, giving out official news. As the Socialist papers are suppressed or heavily censored, the Socialists have gotten out manifestos which resemble the official telegrams externally. These have been spread broadcast. The Socialists of Europe have not lost their heads over the war, is the message of the American, Algernon Lee, from Amsterdam, Can. If Canada can give a million bags of flour to feed the British, why cannot the Dominion government provide bread for all her own people?

SOCIALIST DIRECTORY

ALBERTA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE S.D.P. of C. meets every first and third Thursday evening at 7.30 o'clock in Moose Hall, Prater Ave., Edmonton. Consistent meeting Sunday in evening. Local press write Soc. C. Bureau, 114 Clara St., Edmonton, Alta.—38. BRITISH COLUMBIA Executive S.D.P. of C. meets in Trades Hall, 205 Foster St., West Vancouver, on the first and third Sunday of every month at 2.30 p.m. (General Business Meeting on third Sunday, & Wash. Prov. Soc. City Heights P. O., Vancouver, B.C.—38. DOMINION Executive Committee, Social Democratic Party of Canada meets every first and third Monday at 8.30 King Street East. H. Martin, sec., 6 Weber St., East, Berlin, Ont.—38. MANITOBA Executive Committee S.D.P. of C. meets every 1st Monday night of the month at Headquarters Hall, 124 Main St. For information and literature, write to Prof. Sec. H. Reinhart, 22 Manitoba Ave., Winnipeg, Man.—38. ONTARIO Province of C. meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday evening at 8.15 p.m., Labor Temple, 267 Chest. St., Toronto. Secretary, P. C. Young, 21 V. Peter Avenue.—38. AMHERST, N.S. Local No. 1 S.D.P. of C. meets every Thursday evening at 8.15 p.m. on Sundays at 1.30 p.m. in the old school. D. Please regard it as your duty to be a regular attendant. All are cordially invited. H. D. Sec., 12 Lundy St., Amherst, N.S.—38. BERLIN LOCAL No. 4 S.D.P. of C. meets every Sunday business evening at 8.15 p.m. at Headquarters Hall, 124 Main St. For information and literature, write to Prof. Sec. H. Reinhart, 22 Manitoba Ave., Winnipeg, Man.—38. COBALT LOCAL No. 8 S. P. of C. holds business and Propaganda meetings every Sunday evening at 8 p.m., Miners Union Hall, Cobalt, Ont. I. G. Sec., 25 Main St., Cobalt, Ont.—38. FINNISH SOCIALIST ORGANIZATION OF CANADA. The Secretary, J. W. Ahlgren, 21 Albany Ave., Toronto, Ont.—38. LOCAL VANCOUVER, No. 12, meets every Thursday at 8 p.m. for business and propaganda. (Labor Temple, Dundas St., Vancouver, B.C.—38. NANAIMO LOCAL No. 11 S.D.P. of C. Business meetings—Thursdays, at 1.30 p.m. Propaganda meetings—Sundays at 1.30 p.m., at West St. Hall, William Watson, Sec., Box 123, Nanaimo, B.C.—38. PORT ARTHUR LOCAL S.D.P. meets in Labor Temple, Bay St., second and fourth Wednesday 8 p.m. for business and first and third Wednesday to discuss matters of interest to every worker. Workers unite and run Post Office for the benefit of the workers. Herbert Barkley, 21 Rutland St., Port Arth.—38. TORONTO Christian Socialist Fellowship, Local No. 1, meets every second and fourth Wednesday 8 p.m. sharp, in West End Y.M.C.A. (second floor) College St. and Devereaux Rd. Public cordially invited. H. Connor, Sec., 25 Ossington Ave.—28. COTTON'S WEEKLY is published in the interests of Socialism by Cotton's Co-operative Publishing Co., Inc., Cowanville, B.Q. W. U. Cotton, Pres., Roy Winn, Sec. Treas.

COST OF A DREADNOUGHT

Ten million dollars, or a sum equal to two-thirds total valuation of grounds and buildings of all the colleges and universities in Ohio or Massachusetts. Or cost of 500 locomotives at \$20,000 each. One million dollars per year to maintain. Its life, ten to fourteen years, then the scrap pile. The Austrian war against Serbia was declared without the intervention of parliament and immediately war was declared, parliament was suspended. The Austro-Hungarian Socialist issued a strongly worded manifesto against the war. The people do not want the war but are dragged into fighting by the ruling class. The only hope against war is the capture of the political power by the producing class and using it for the useful people. "The three nations who began it, Austria, Russia and Germany, are governed, the first by a doddering imbecile, the second by a weak-minded melancholic, and the third by an epileptic degenerate drunk upon the vision of himself as war lord of Europe."—Upton Sinclair. The Russian Czar has promised Poland autonomy if the Poles will support the Russians in this war. This sounds as though the great Polish revolution had been successful. For when did the bloody czar ever grant free institutions without being compelled thereto? The first property, it is reported, which was seized by the Austrian government, was the automobile of the Austrian daily Socialist paper, the Arbeiter-Zeitung. In Germany it is considered a crime to express Socialist or even democratic sentiments. Nevertheless the German Socialists are at work spreading the anti-war agitation. Suppose the present war should obliterate all monarchies. The capitalist class would still rule until Socialism triumphed.

FACTS ARE SELDOM USED IN AN ADVERTISEMENT.

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS BASED SOLELY UPON FACTS. WE ADOPT THIS UNIQUE METHOD BECAUSE WE HAVE AN UNIQUE PROPOSITION. JUDGE, AND ACT ACCORDINGLY. THE NEW REVIEW, "the indispensable Socialist Magazine," has recently published three splendid issues as follows: SEPTEMBER ISSUE. "The European Explosion, on the War," by Frank Bohn; "British and American Socialists on the War," by William English Walling; "Socialist Anti-War Manifesto"; "Russian General Strike"; "Carnegie, Man of Peace," by Eugene V. Debs; "The Coming Elections," by Charles Edward Russell; "Recent Expressions on Racial Inferiority," by Prof. Robert H. Lowie; "The Revolt in Dnieper," by an impartial and trained investigator; and the splendid "Socialist Digest," a thorough survey of the most progressive Socialist thought of the world. AUGUST ISSUE. Contains: "Movements of Migratory Unskilled Workers in California," by Austin Lewis; "Direct Primaries," by Isaac A. Hourwich; "I.W.W.—The Greatest American Scapgoat," by Max Eastman; "Plutocratic Socialism of H. G. Wells," by William E. Walling; "A Feminist Symposium," four fine articles; Emily Vandevelde on "Socialism vs. the State," and the "Socialist Digest." JULY ISSUE. Contains: "Daniel De Leon," by Louis C. Fraina; "Class Lines in Colorado," by Max Eastman; "New Phase of the Contempt Cult," by Frederick Haller; "Why a Socialist Party," by William E. Walling; "The Drama of Dynamite," by Floyd Dell; "Another Study in Black," by Prof. W. E. B. Du Bois; "Labor in the Roman World," and the "Socialist Digest." A WEALTH OF MATERIAL INDEED YOU CAN GET THESE THREE ISSUES (VALUE 30 CENTS), BY SENDING US TWENTY CENTS, OR YOU CAN SEND US ONE DOLLAR AND TWENTY CENTS FOR A YEAR'S SUBSCRIPTION, STARTING WITH OCTOBER, AND GET THE THREE ISSUES FREE. ADDRESS, NEW REVIEW 80 FIFTH AVE., NEW YORK CITY, U.S.A.