

Watch for
Red Week
Plans
Next Issue

THE CANADIAN FORWARD

Are You
Boosting
Your Own
Paper?

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SOCIAL - DEMOCRATIC PARTY

New Series, Vol. 1, No. 3

TORONTO, CANADA

December 2, 1916

A Rambler's Review

With what joy this news will be received by thousands of wayfaring and suffering human beings whose domestic happiness has been troubled by the high cost of living. The tidings are of such moment that the school children should be given a half-holiday; the emblems of justice flown from every flag-staff; and the Krupps in all the countries now at war, give command that the cannon cease their deadly slaughter for at least twenty-four hours in order to greet the joyful news.

Yea, let the rich forsake their plunder, and the slacker his case; those who are downcast and disheartened take cheer; for a wonderful thing has befallen the sinners in the seat of government.

No longer will the children die for want of milk, nor the housewife worry over the price of bread, sugar, potatoes, or Holy-oh-Margarine, for, have not those in high places spoken? (Ghosts of Sir Sam!) We are no longer to tread the wine-press in dishonor, for the ethics of property are now to be applied as a guard against extinction by the profit plunderers. The maiden may become a mother without any misgiving as to the economic results of such a holy bond. We shall eagerly scan the police court columns of the purified daily press to note the decrease of crime and the falling rate of those who seek destruction in despair, for the absence of poverty will help us to rise to the great nation-ideal of Ruskin. Carlyle's Hell will no longer deprive us of the happiness of a full stomach.

Rejoice and be exceeding glad! For the Government has passed an order-in-council giving city councils authority to gather together information in relation to the "High cost of living" and report to the Minister of Labor.

A recruiting advocate recently trying to impress on his audience that conscription was certain to come, declared that when that time arrived there would be two sorts of people in Canada, "wenters" and "soters." He forgot to mention that there are already two sorts to whom these titles might be applied—"wenters" who are offering their lives for their country, and the "soters," 4½ per centers—who are drawing "divvies" out of the nation's necessities.

Strange it is what memories and thoughts are aroused when one goes through a stock of old newspaper clippings. A few days ago my eye fell on a clipping from one of our Toronto papers which was evidently a piece of press agency copy sent out to advertise the United States Steel Corporation and its president, Mr. E. H. Cary. Three months ago he was being entertained and feted in Japan. Curious fact this because we are given to understand that Japan is the mortal enemy of the United States just as Germany for years was spoken of as the inevitable enemy of Great Britain. Of course he made a great hit when he declared that the business men of the United States would oppose any movement toward creating friction with the Flowery Kingdom. But let us point out that friction is inevitable from the very fact of Mr. Cary's visit. What was his idea in

visiting Japan except to see if he could not oust the Vickers-Armstrong combine from Japanese markets? Truly war between Japan and United States is inevitable, so long as the United States Steel Corporation turns a greedy eye on the enormous profits that Vickers-Armstrong are now reaping from the manufacture of guns and armour-plate for the Mikado.

While referring to the United States Steel Corporation, it is well to remind ourselves of the question of "Who owns Canada?" It is impossible to estimate the millions of dollars the United States Steel Corporation has invested in Canada. It is impossible also to probe thoroughly into the ramifications of this great steel octopus in Canada. It is well known that this powerful trust is holding in an undeveloped state several rich coal areas and ore-producing beds simply with a view to keeping them out of the hands of competitors. How closely the United States Steel Corporation is linked up with the Dominion Steel and Nova Scotia Steel, it is impossible to say; but if one studies the lists of shareholders and the directorates of these concerns, one notes an amazing identity of interests. Some day we hope to give a detailed analysis of the way in which twenty-three financial kings in Canada have transferred their enormous capital from land and other forms of investments to steel. It is indeed noteworthy how we have passed the iron age. Today steel is the basic factor in the economics of the world.

This war has indeed proved a splendid searchlight, seeking out the subterfuges of capitalist society. In their effort to eliminate German competition, our Imperial capitalists are now undertaking a scheme to provide technical education. In the words of a bill presented to the British House of Commons, this plot to educate the workers is conceived for "the interests of the trades, industries, and professions which particularly depend upon applied science." It is indeed worth while also to note that even in formulating a system of liberal education and a study of languages this phrase occurs: "an appreciation of the history, literature and civilization of other countries and to the interests of commerce and public service." It is needless to point out that behind this scheme, the capitalist is working to install the brain-worker in his factory roof alongside the manual toiler, where he can see that his brain works—by the results. The capitalist cannot soil his hands, cannot worry his brain over technicalities. It is almost needless to add that he must buy brains with, of course, the customary surplus value in return for his investment.

Ottawa has had its three days' wonder. Sir Sam Hughes is gone amidst the usual trumpet's blare and gaudy publicity. His place at Ottawa is said to have been taken over by F. B. McCurdy, around whose name there is a certain halo of financial strategy. It has been asserted that Mr. McCurdy has been closely connected with the Dominion Steel Corporation; and of course it has been denied, at any rate,

so far as present relationship goes. It is a curious fact that with the disappearance of the swash-buckling Sir Sam and the assurance of Mr. McCurdy's appointment, the stock of Dominion Steel becomes the best buy open to investors in Canada or in New York. So rapid was the rise in value of their steel stock that for a few days the financial market became quite excited. Have we here another opening for those "gentlemen's agreements" which are the fashionable methods pursued by the capitalist grafters?

Canada is once more about to face a second agitation promoted by the bankers and financiers to carry on a nationwide thrift campaign, the big idea being to provide the financial kings with more speculative material. Part of this campaign will follow the channel planned originally by the aristocrats and capitalist politicians in Great Britain who paraded the country urging the munition workers and plugs in every kind of industrial activity to forego their customary holidays and bank their money. In view of this it will be well if some of us look in the society and personal columns of our newspapers, where, of course, we shall find that "Lady Tweedledee has gone to spend the winter in Florida," while "Lord Tweedledee has just left for a vacation in California." Of course, we shall also find on the front page of our newspaper that the day before leaving, Lord Tweedledee made a tremendous speech calling upon every loyal citizen to make every possible sacrifice and put forth every endeavor to "see this thing through." And the unawakened, unclass-conscious plugs will fall for it as hard as ever!

At last even the small capitalist is realizing the process of economic evolution. For years those students of political economy who could probe economic questions without prejudice have asserted that the day of the small capitalist is past, that the day of the ombine, merger and trust is now here. In England and in Canada, as well as in most belligerent countries, hundreds of small factories on the outbreak of war, gave up their ordinary business and undertook the production of shells. Now we hear the plaintive wail of these small capitalists that they are threatened with death and destruction, not as a result of the establishment of socialism (which they used to cry out would be the end of all things), but by the establishment of great government-owned arsenals or by the growing power of the big steel corporations. What a wail it will soon become when the small capitalist realizes that he must fall within the working class.

The legal profession of Toronto, which is ever a good bolsterer-up of our capitalist system, has been scrapping amongst its members. Lieut.-Col. T. Herbert Lennox is a pugnacious soldier-lawyer, as one would pre-judge from his Irish descent. He is somewhat incensed at the fact that many young Toronto lawyers have so far hesitated to follow his lead and quite the statute books to take up the sword. His resentment has grown so strong that now he suggests compulsion for these slackers. Our interest is directed not in the question of compulsion, but in the remarkable fight which ensued because of Lieut.-Col.

Lennox's opprobrium. The legal profession took this attitude: "Why should one class be singled out for compulsion? When you cry slacker against a body you do a serious injustice." It is an ill bird that fouls its own nest, is the general retort. The oratory which this dispute brought forth was Billingsgate at its best. Of course our lawyer friends in their interviews to the press do not call to mind the many, many recruiting speeches addressed to Toronto audiences in which special attention was given to the necessity of conscription among the working class. They do not recall the scorn poured on the indifferent "unpatriotic" attitude of the workers, the resolutions and motions for a military and industrial conscription. When the taunt is levelled at their own class it reminds one of the bristles on a cat's back.

Socialism is making such strides these days that the churches are scared stiff. Recently I had passed over to me a pamphlet entitled "How God Sazed a Socialist," which is a four-page biography wonderfully entertaining in its view point, extraordinarily inspiring in its message. Indeed so attractive is it that I almost cast it aside as being a patent medicine advertisement. Evidently the writer has now reached the seventh heaven, for he looks back with dismay at the time when the vituperative element in his make-up had full scope, when his favorite papers were the Clarion, Labor Leader and Justice (in the Old Country), when Robert Blatchford's "God and My Neighbor," "Not Guilty," and other writings were his Bible, when Karl Marx's oft-misquoted statement suggesting that "the idea of God is a lie" constituted his creed of negation. But lo and behold that great day comes when John M'Neill, the well-known Scottish evangelist, carried him off his feet. "These Christians," says the repentant sinner, "are different from ordinary people. They seem to possess a peace that nothing could disturb; whereas now my life is soured. I delight in blasphemy and ridicule. The fascinating follies, which pass current for truth with so many Socialists, leave me bewildered as to where it will all end." When this brilliant renegade reaches the crisis of his narrative and career, he does it in these words: "On reaching home, I went alone with God; and never shall I forget the ecstasy of joy that flooded my soul as I knelt in prayer. It seemed as if the glory of heaven had flooded the room." I hope the room this hard ingrained sinner occupied was not one of those 8x5 dens which Glasgow citizens have to call their "home."

Roland Hill, the Toronto Star's special correspondent in Great Britain, certainly likes to give the dope good and strong. Our friend Roland visits Sir Percy Girouard. In the course of the interview he reports the following as a statement from Sir Percy: "Canada saved the situation for the munition workers in England by supplying machine tools and tool steel when there was a famine even in the United States. Canadian workmen have done well in munition factories." This is truly a soothing pat on the back from Sir Percy. It is an inspiring call to new efforts and patriotic fervor, especially from so high a dignitary. For was not

(Continued on Page Five)