

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.

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- Where You Get Off (J. M. Work) 10c.

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SECRETARIAL NOTES

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Comrade A. Ackerley has quit his post as manager of the printing plant, this resulting in a certain amount of disorganization at headquarters.

The Dominion Executive are negotiating for the sale of the printing plant, and I hope to be in a position by the time the next issue appears to report success. This will not affect the appearance of the paper.

In the absence of executive and local reports, I merely wish to present the following notes:—

Note 1.—All executive secretaries are requested to have their reports at this office the first week in the New Year.

Note 2.—All subscribers who do not receive their copy regularly every two weeks are requested to communicate at once.

I take the opportunity of extending to all comrades my best wishes for the year 1917, and trust that you will make it the most enlightening and encouraging that we have ever experienced. Let the watchword be "Forward!" to Labor and to victory.

I. BAINBRIDGE,
Secretary.

GENERAL NEWS

Looking over the speeches delivered on the "Naval Aid Bill" in the Dominion House of Commons, May 15, 1913, I find a remarkable forecast made by Mr. W. A. Charlton, M.P., for Norfolk County, Ontario, which is as follows:—

"Unless these immense armies and navies are abolished except in so far as they are necessary for public service or possibly coast defence, one or two things will happen in the near future. The crushing debts of the nation will cause bankruptcy and disaster and panic such as the world has never seen or a great war, on account of its horrors and expense, will impoverish the nations."

MAKING SHELLS AND DIVIDENDS

In a Sunday School paper circulated in Ontario a writer speaks of the prevailing munition industry. He writes of a great steel industry whose stocks are listed in all our leading exchanges. Business was dull. There was fear that the great steel plant would have to close its doors and turn adrift 1,200 men. Then the Great War broke out, and has brought that community such prosperity as it has never known before. The writer takes all this for granted. The company now employs 6,000 men his only regret being that the plants work Sundays making little presents for the German (workingman).

Uniformity In Correspondence

Party Organization is greatly facilitated by uniformity in the make-up of letter-heads, etc. Local Secretaries are urged to place their next printing order with the Party's own Press. They can thus adopt the standard Party letter-head and keep their own press busy—at a saving to all.

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The above remark again shows that in so far as the supplying of what is necessary for man's wants is concerned the present capitalist is a failure, and inefficient.

It required the event of a great war to bring unparalleled prosperity or as a Montreal banker more cautiously expressed it, "war-time activity."

This company and many others could not employ men because they could not make profits and pay dividends. No consideration, not even the appeal of patriotism, would get them to run their plants. Sir Sam Hughes has made that plain. The Canadian manufacturers, he said, would not touch the munition contracts because they thought there was not anything in them. As soon as they found out that they were highly profitable they pestered the life out of him for contracts.

The Socialist says that the workers should own the steel plants, flour mills, machine shops, food factories, and a shut-down would only come when all producing members of the community had been supplied, along with their dependents, with such necessities and luxuries as they desired, and were willing or able to produce.

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