

**THE BATS OF LIBERALISM**

(Continued from page 6)

he is doing his best to promote peace and harmony between the unruly factions in society, and this he is convinced he can do in the course of time by a judicious application of various nostrums and reforms. Of course it is annoying to have a Socialist pop up now and again, and ask a question he cannot answer, or make a statement he cannot refute. But it is worse than annoying, it is exasperating, to have a capitalist, or a group of capitalists, pop up and say or do something that confirms the contention of the Socialists. To show how this last is resented by the average Liberal, we will quote from two different Liberal magazines.

In an editorial in "The Nation," of January 17th, 1920, under the title "Whom the Gods Would Destroy," and dealing with the refusal of the New York State Legislative Assembly to seat the five Socialist members, we read: "The followers of Lenin contend that Socialism cannot be achieved through the ballot because, even if a majority is obtained, the present holders of privilege and power will resort to force rather than surrender. Karl Marx wrote in the 'Communist Manifesto' seventy-five years ago: 'Political power, properly so-called, is merely the organized power of one class for oppressing another.' Is the Assembly of the State of New York determined to prove that Lenin and Marx were right?"

In the "New Republic" of July 2nd, 1918, appears an article by Mr. William Hard, under the title of "Anti-Bolsheviks: Mr. Lansing," dealing with the recognition of the Mannerheim Government. Mr. Hard says:

"Mr. Lansing's recognition of General Mannerheim's White Guard government was revolutionary. It announced Mr. Lansing's adhesion to the analytical formulas of Karl Marx. . . . Karl Marx says to Mr. Lansing and to Mr. Wilson: 'You are bourgeois. The state, the international system of states, is the instrument of the bourgeois capitalistic class and will be used by you to promote bourgeois capitalistic class interests. You will recognize Mannerheim no matter how murderous he may be, no matter how anti-democratic, no matter how pro-German. You will refuse to recognize Lenin, no matter how impossible it may be for you to prove him any more murderous, any more anti-democratic or any more pro-German than Mannerheim. Proof in such details as murder is irrelevant. The pertinent and binding fact is class. . . . Mr. Lansing and Mr. Wilson listened and chose. They chose to act in precise accordance with the concept of class. Their method of fighting Bolshevism is to accept Bolshevism's analysis of the class nature of life and then hope to escape the cataclysm which an acceptance of that analysis necessitates."

And yet Mr. Hard, like the rest of the bat tribe, cannot see, or will not admit that there are classes in society, and a class struggle. At least not in America. Perhaps there may be something of that kind in Europe, but in the "land of the free and the home of the brave," never! If only Mr. Lansing and Mr. Wilson and the New York State Assembly could be persuaded to act as if there was no class struggle, there would be no class struggle.

If this is not the blindness of bats we would like to know what it is? But the time is past for such nonsense. It is obvious to anyone who has eyes to see, or wishes to see, that human society is divided into two conflicting economic classes. One class that does all the work of the world, and owns nothing. And another class that owns all the wealth of the world and does not work. The fact that along the line of demarcation between those two classes there exist large numbers of bats and hybrids, does not alter the classification, any more than the existence of a mule alters the classification of horses and asses.

It must also be remembered that the bat does not always call himself a Liberal. Sometimes he masquerades as a Socialist. Again he may be a prohibitionist, progressive, anarchist, radical, or reformer, etc. If you cannot locate a man by the name he gives himself, listen to what he has to say, watch his actions, and then read the fable of the bat, and you will have no difficulty in placing him.

Truly the Liberal is finding himself between the devil and the deep sea, and if he does not find out soon to which side of the fence he belongs, he is likely to resemble the bat in the fable in still another way, that of hiding "in holes and corners," and "never daring to show his face except in the darkness of twilight."

F. J. McNAY.

**Winnipeg News**

By Gordon Cascaden

(Special to the "Western Clarion")

Winnipeg, March 9th.

More than 1,000 exhibits were filed by the government in the trial of seven labor men charged with seditious conspiracy in connection with the big 1919 Winnipeg general strike.

Nearly all these exhibits were seized in the homes of men active in the organized labor movement, having passed through the hands of the best informed workers in every section of the Dominion. Most of them consist of economic works prohibited by the Canadian government at the time of the strike, but now let into the country because of a recent order issued following a general protest by both farm and urban labor men.

The other exhibits are made up of letters seized in the homes of these unionists as well as permit cards, copies of the Strike Bulletin, photographs, wage contracts and other documents in some way connected with the strike.

One hundred and thirty-five witnesses also gave evidence for the Crown, five of them, however, not appearing in person. They are in sunny California, balmy Florida, or sanatoriums outside Canada's boundaries, but each tells a story of the awful conditions which existed here when the workers decided they would all take a holiday at the same time.

The defence did not put on any witnesses or file any exhibits.

Following introduction of this mass of evidence, the jury retired while the Defence and Prosecution battled for more than two days regarding the subject matter of the appeals to the jury. The Defence fought strenuously for admission of everything within the covers of the exhibits, declaring it did not have anything to fear from a thorough examination of everything connected with the strike or the labor movement in general. It also wanted the scope of the trial broadened so that it might include an inquiry into every cause of the tie up. It charged that the employers' organization, which masqueraded under the sweet sounding name of "Citizens' Committee," really was the real instigation of any riots.

A. J. Andrews, K.C., one of the principal spokesmen for the so-called "Citizens' Committee" during the strike, and who has sworn as Crown prosecutor to see that "even handed justice" is received by the men on trial, and the battery of the legal fraternity at his command, fought successfully against admission of all this evidence, Judge Metcalfe upholding their arguments.

They filed certain books and certain volumes of the "Western Labor News" and the complete files of the Strike Bulletin, for example. But they marked only little parts from this article or that article and read them to the jury. They objected resolutely to the Defence being permitted to read other parts of the same articles or from other articles explaining the marked passages of the Strike Bulletin. "We are not afraid if everything is put before the jury," the defendants said. Judge Metcalfe refused, however, to let the defendants read what they desired, himself marking, with a black pencil, parts which they might use.

Efforts to settle the strike after it once began and any activities of the so-called "Citizens' Committee" would not be considered in this trial, Judge Metcalfe said, following lengthy arguments by counsel on both sides.

"We charge that another institution created those riots, and we ask the privilege of proving it," E. J. McMurray, of Defence counsel declared. "We are charged with the creation of violence, and in reply we say we did not do it, and that others did it. We say that an organization was formed here and that it precipitated this strike, and should be considered in this trial. We want to show who were the authors of this strike and the disturbances in Winnipeg."

"If we try to show that others, by newspaper advertising, set class against class, should that not be considered?" Ward Hollands, of Defence Counsel, asked. "Surely if we show everything we did to settle the strike that ought to be admitted in our favor."

"The Court of Appeal has already dealt with the matter," Andrews for the Crown, replied.

"We are not supposed to bring an indictment

against the "Citizens' Committee" or the newspapers, that surely should be the duty of our learned friend (Andrews) and of those in charge of the administration of the laws of the country," McMurray answered.

Metcalfe refused the application by the Defence. The addresses to the jury will take several days, and funds for the continuance of the work of the Defence Committee are needed.

**Labor Defence Fund**

Send all money and make all cheques payable to A. S. Wells, B. C. Federationist, Labor Temple, Vancouver, B. C.

Collection agency for Alberta: A. Broatch, 1203 Eighth Avenue East, Calgary, Alta.

Central Collection Agency: J. Law, Secretary, Defence Fund, Room 1, 530 Main Street, Winnipeg, Man.

**A Forecast**

The essentials of a democracy, of the civilized commune, are with us now, are clamoring for acceptance: only a little vision and the dream were reality.

I have an idea (a preconception, maybe), harboured in spite of reasoned theories and pessimistic belief, that when the crisis comes the change may be sudden, and by its very unanimity put to scorn the idea of resistance.

Movement, change, adaptation, it is true is the necessity of social, as of organic evolution, and it may well be that when the need arises, the new social adaptation will reflect the orderliness of a potentially intellectual, machine-bred and machine-disciplined society—a factor hitherto nonexistent in the fabric of human association.

At the same time, hopes, beliefs and prognostications are not facts, and the play of mentality cannot be measured in advance. Economic forces will convey man with unswerving footsteps along the historic pathway he must needs tread to that goal for which he must aim, and must needs strive to reach—his emancipation from the curse and thralldom of property rights and wage-servitude.

R.

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