

The Firing Line

WHAT ABOUT THOSE 500 SUBS?

Last week we started the agitation for 500 SUBS to put the list over the 3,000 mark and enable us to produce a very much better paper.

So far there has been no response more than ordinary. There is an increase of about 70, and a good start made on a bundle brigade by Montreal comrades, which is encouraging. We are hoping that the coming week will produce a decided movement towards giving us confidence to put in the much needed Monoline and produce a paper worth while.

The U. S. Socialist Party have just learned that about 85 per cent of its members have been made Socialists by reading the party papers and literature. So we urge renewed activity in pushing your Canadian Socialist papers. Several comrades report good results from selling and distributing Cotton's at their open air propaganda meetings. Get your local to order a bundle.

A Canadian paper appeals to Canadians and the price is so reasonable that the most unreasonable mortal cannot kick.

\$1.00 provides Two Subs for a year, Four Subs for six months, and Ten Trial Subs for three months.

\$1.00 will give you a bundle of 10 for Three Months, or a bundle of 25 for One Month.

MAKE A DETERMINED EFFORT TO GET YOUR SHARE OF THE 500 SUBS SO BADLY NEEDED

Comrade Richer tallies two more from Rossland, B. C. These yearlies are very comforting.

Cotton's circulates from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The latest arrival is Comrade Vineberg, of Halifax.

Camrose, Alta., tallies one more on Cotton's sub list. Comrade Mrs. Shirk will take a copy for six months.

Comrade Blumberg, of Grand Forks, got after a copy of Value, Price and Profit. Plenty on hand at 10c per.

Comrade Chapman of Bolton, Ont., received a sample of Cotton's and as it fitted in with his views he immediately sent in his sub. One more friend for Cotton's, and we hope for more in that spot.

Keep the 500 subs in view. You will get all the benefit, not us. You will get a much better paper. We get all the worry.

A copy of Cotton's wandered under the eyes of Comrade Naylor, of Nanaimo, B. C., and he got busy and sent in his sub.

That determined member of the silent army at Winnipeg, Comrade Krupp, gets in with another sub. For an old Lib, now enlightened.

Another one added to the Victoria, B. C. list. Comrade Staples is the lucky one. The letter had three trips across the continent.

Three subs from Montreal for the Monoline Fund via Comrade Schuster. They are urgently needed. Spread the light.

Comrade McNeill sends in a reminder that he is still in the game at Star City, Sask. This time it is two yearlies.

Another whack from Berlin. Com. Martin still at it. One yearly and a

trial to his tally. All towards that 500.

Comrade Jules Lavenne keeps plugging in the post-cards. He also sent in six plunks on that account. No truce or rest in Springhill.

Two more for the Yukon, and it took them a month to reach us. Comrade Sandquist, of Dominion, is the comrade doing the stunt.

Comrade Norwood sends in from Elmira, Ont., two trials for Cotton's "Tonic for Tired Workers." Got a May Day copy and found it good.

There have been a few kicks about not getting papers. These seem to have been unavoidable. We hope to have remedied the trouble with this issue.

A copy of Cotton's wandered into the hands of Comrade Mast at Michel, B. C., and of course the result was a sub. Hits the spot every time. Hit us for 500.

No better way to make Socialists than by getting subs for your party papers. Cotton's is so reasonable in price and long in value that it should sell on sight.

Cotton's is well thought of in Claresholm, Alta., according to the statement of Comrade Wooster. Says it is doing good propaganda work, and backs it up by sending two subs.

A quarter received from Com. Riggan, of Kincardine, Ont., for good literature. A little later we expect to print some copies of that poem, which will be sent along.

Very glad to hear again from Comrade Orchard, of Kamloops, B. C. One full and two half subs. A dollar goes a long way in Cotton's. A paying investment.

And still another copy of Cotton's strayed into the hands of Comrade Gowler at Vancouver. Oh yes, he sent in his sub. Funny how these stray copies do wander.

Comrade Johnson of Montreal favors Cotton's with a sub and a book order. These book orders all help out comrades. Sometimes we may not have a book in stock, but it helps our advertising.

Comrade H. H. Stuart, of Newcastle, N. B., sec.-treas. of Fredericton local sends in three more subs from his town—two yearly and one for six months. This makes a total of six he has sent in lately.

Comrades, it comes right down to this. That the more readers we get for Socialist papers the more Socialists there will be in Canada. If you cannot use Cotton's to break the prejudice we would like to know why.

Comrade Lawrence keeps up the good work at Winnipeg. He has made substantial additions to the list, and the latest is a bunch of eight for twenty-six issues each. Success to him. Help along for the 500.

Another bunch from Michel, B. C. Comrade Evans got a copy of the May Day edition, and found it the proper stuff. Sends in one full, two halves and three trials. They will help some on that extremely necessary five hundred.

Have you noticed that on the other side of the line they have got onto the fact that the largest part of the socialists have been made by the Socialist periodicals. Get wise and learn from their experience. Push Cotton's around your town. You cannot do more effective propaganda work.

WHY NOT A SOCIALIST?

You cannot deny that there is plenty in the world for all. If you are a workingman or woman you know you do not have plenty.

With industry economically and co-operatively conducted there would be no uncertainty about every person receiving the means of life. Today if you are a member of the working class you are surrounded with uncertainty.

No one has ever disputed these assertions. No one can successfully dispute them.

Why, then, are you not a Socialist?

The answer is not hard to find. There is a class in the community that live in luxury without work because you work without living decently. This class lives because it is able, under the present management of society, to take a portion of the product of your labor from you. The members of this class wish this condition to continue. They control the press, the platform, the schools, the majority of the churches, and nearly all the things through which society speaks and thinks collectively.

So they are able to put the thought into your mind that Socialism is impracticable, impossible, immoral, indecent, undesirable, and all the other things that would prevent you from becoming a Socialist or from finding out what Socialism is.

Just as soon as you have independence enough to investigate for yourself and intelligence enough to think for yourself you will be a Socialist.

These are the great obstacles to Socialism—ignorance and prejudice. It is to remove these that Socialists conduct a campaign of education—Exchange.

Proposition for Referendum

Resolution passed by the Finnish Socialist Local at Port Arthur.

"The Canadian Socialist Party, like the Socialist parties of all countries, is working with the present conditions under consideration. At any rate it should so work. This program provides that the platform all the time must be kept in accord with the present conditions. It is to be amended as often as the state of things requires. Now is our Canadian Platform defective, regarding some important matters, not in its principal but on its practical side? In the Canadian platform none of the immediate demands, which are at present found in the Socialist Party platforms of all other countries of the world and which the proletariat of every country need very badly, is mentioned. The platform does not once say what kind of legislation the party advocates. It only declares that the S. P. of C. stands for such legislation as will benefit the proletariat in their class struggle. A superficial statement like this explains nothing and it does not satisfy in the slightest degree the workers. We cannot get them with us if the platform is not enlarged.

"We are convinced that the party platform must contain at least some of the very important measures, by means of which we are to reach the winning post, the socialist society. It is not sufficient that the platform contain only a few principal sides of the last stage of the social revolution, as the platform now does. Only by the means of a practical platform can we get the masses with us and put a stop to the reactionary work of the bourgeoisie in which it is busily engaged, encouraged by its own class interests.

"Another important question which ought to be especially considered is the arrangement of the propaganda work on a more practical basis and more in accord with its purpose. The state of things in Canada requires large exertions for the organization of the propaganda work. But just for this reason as much attention as possible ought to be given to this question.

"Wherefore, in view of all the above reasons, the Port Arthur Finnish Socialist Local decided at their meeting held the 24th of April, 1909, to move for a referendum in the S. P. of C. on the matter of holding a general party convention for the whole country.

"The matters to be submitted to the convention to be, as above mentioned, the enlargement of the party platform and the organization of the propaganda work.

"For the convention to be thoroughly successful it needs great preparation. To have sufficient time for preparation we submit that the convention be held on or about the 15th of September next. The meeting place of the convention, we submit, to be the City of Port Arthur, Ontario.

If this proposition is favorable acted on, the Port Arthur Finnish Socialist Local together with the other locals of this place will promise to arrange the practical business for the convention.

Returns for this referendum to be sent in on or before July first.

Take up therefore this question in your local and mark the returned list with the number of votes for and against the holding of the convention.

Dated at Port Arthur, Ontario, Canada, this 26th, day of April 1909.

PORT ARTHUR FINNISH SOCIALIST LOCAL.

How many beautiful homes we have in town! Is your's beautiful? Would you like to have it beautiful? Give it a coat of paint. Ramsey's Paints. They are so reasonable and they last so long. Go and see Soule & Christie about Ramsey's.

LITTLE LUMPS

GERALD DESMOND

The survival of the fittest is a great idea for those who have the fighting strength of a million or so dollars behind them.

We socialists are camping on the plute's trail. It is a pretty easy trail to camp on too, plenty of worker's bones to keep it well defined.

Capitalism, they tell us, "brings out the best there is in a man." Well its exponents certainly do manage to grind out the best part of the brain and muscle of the toilers.

If that bloodthirsty old reprobate Strathcona were made to get down in the stokehole of a torpedo boat destroyer, which is akin to hades, he would be a little less enthusiastic on the subject of war.

According to reliable authority the cost in labor-time of a loaf of bread is two and one-half minutes. How long does it take to earn it? About fifteen minutes at the least I reckon.

Teddy Roosevelt is in Africa now, and in the country where the hyenas abound, which goes to show that beasts of kindred fur, as well as birds of a feather, will somehow manage to get together.

About the only time the plute indulges the toilers with the good things of life, chicken and fizz and all the rest, is when he is endeavoring to corrupt a labor leader or seduce a working woman.

Some day we toilers will choke those bells and whistles which call us to ten hours of slavery for a miserable pittance. Under socialism, with three of four hours a day work in decent conditions, it won't need bells and whistles to make a man do his bit.

An intelligent farmer was telling me the other day that, as soon as the G. T. R. gets through it will start to compete with the C. P. R. and as a consequence freight and rates will be cut in half and the farmers will have a good time. And he really believed it.

Ye editor of ye weekly has been "shot in" and come before "the beak" on the heinous charge of obstruction or something of that kind. Of course it is pretty tough for ye editor, but still that functionary can figure he got off lightly anyhow. A thousand years ago ye editor's views would have got him crucified at the very best.

Socialist Directory

Cards inserted Under This Head 75c per Month

MONTREAL LOCAL NO. 1

SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA, meets at Socialist Headquarters, No. 19 St. Charles Borromeo Street.

M. WAYMAN, SECRETARY.

715 Wellington St., Montreal

Kamloops Local No. 50

S. P. of C.

Meetings held every Tuesday night at 8 o'clock, in rear of D. D. Robinson's Furniture Store, Main Street.

C. F. ORCHARD, Sec'y, P. O. Box 321, Kamloops, B. C.

READ

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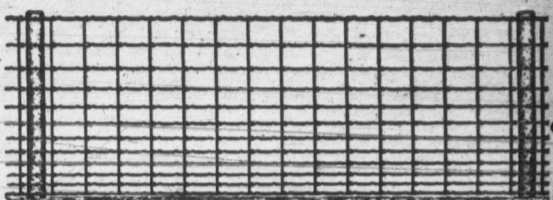
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Talking to the Point

Is the main thing in talking Socialism, whether on the platform, through the press, or in propaganda literature.

The little books mentioned below, are nicely printed, convenient for the pocket, and convincingly clear and to the point in regard to Scientific Socialism.

SOCIALISM MADE EASY.

By JAMES CONNOLLY. The latest and best book to put into the hands of workingmen who have as yet read nothing on Socialism. Straight-from-the-shoulder talks, simple and scientific.

THE SOCIALISTS: Who They Are and What They Stand for. By JOHN SPARGO. Admirably concise and clear. States the principles in brief, crisp chapters, and is a good introduction to the heavier books.

THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO. By KARL MARX and FREDERICK ENGELS. This book, prepared in 1848, has for more than sixty years been the accepted text-book of all International Socialists. An indispensable book to the student.

SOCIALISM, UTOPIAN & SCIENTIFIC. By FREDERICK ENGELS, translated by Edward Aveling. A classic that should be read by every socialist intending to talk or write on Socialism.

VALUE, PRICE AND PROFIT. By KARL MARX. A book addressed to workingmen, clear and direct in style, which explains surplus value, especially as it affects the wage-worker.

ALL THESE BOOKS 10c PER COPY

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Hingston Building COWANSVILLE

Our deliberate opinion is that the poor babies of Montreal suffer more from capitalism than from impure milk.