

Communism and Christianism

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PLATFORM

Socialist Party of Canada

We, the Socialist Party of Canada affirm our allegiance to, and support of, the principles and programme of the revolutionary working class.

Labor, applied to natural resources, produces all wealth. The present economic system is based upon capitalist ownership of the means of production, consequently, all the products of labor belong to the capitalist class. The capitalist is, therefore, master; the worker a slave.

So long as the capitalist class remains in possession of the reins of government all the powers of the State will be used to protect and defend its property rights in the means of wealth production and its control of the product of labor.

The capitalist system gives to the capitalist an ever-swelling stream of profits, and to the worker, an ever-increasing measure of misery and degradation.

The interest of the working class lies in setting itself free from capitalist exploitation by the abolition of the wage system, under which this exploitation, at the point of production, is cloaked. To accomplish this necessitates the transformation of capitalist property in the means of wealth production into socially controlled economic forces.

The irrepressible conflict of interest between the capitalist and the worker necessarily expresses itself as a struggle for political supremacy. This is the Class Struggle.

Therefore we call upon all workers to organize under the banner of the Socialist Party of Canada, with the object of conquering the political powers for the purpose of setting up and enforcing the economic programme of the working class, as follows:

- 1.—The transformation, as rapidly as possible, of capitalist property in the means of wealth production (natural resources, factories, mills, railroads, etc.) into collective means of production.
- 2.—The organization and management of industry by the working class.
- 3.—The establishment, as speedily as possible, of production for use instead of production for profit.

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NANAIMO RIDING

(Continued from page 5)

W. A. Pritchard, Socialist candidate for the Nanaimo division, addressed a full house last night at the Columbia Theatre, J. Stevenson in the chair.

Reviews World Conditions.

Continuing his review of world conditions and the disarmament conference, Mr. Pritchard quoted extensively from a series of articles by prominent British, Canadian and American representatives in a recent popular magazine, and also from other publications, explaining that he had discovered that it was quite possible for one person safely to make utterances that another might get in jail for.

He remarked that William Allan White, speaking from his experience as American reporter at the Versailles Conference, prefaced his discussion of the Washington meeting by the pertinent query, "Will they fool us twice?" "We in America are all right," says Mr. White. "We want no more territory; we only want peace and reconstruction; but Europe will send men with axes to grind: we have no axes to grind."

Comparing this with the almost identical protestations of the other nationals, Mr. Pritchard pointed out that each was endeavoring to overcome or over reach the other, and that the necessity for at least partial disarmament was because the military and naval forces intended as a club to protect commercial interests, had now grown like a Frankenstein monster to such enormous proportions that it threatened to absorb all the surplus value which it was supposed to protect. Hence the cry for the cheapening of the cost of power. In the above quoted article Mr. White was confident, he declared, that while preachers and reformers clamor for the dawn of a better day to result from the Washington Conference, there will be intrigues and plans which the public will know nothing about, just as at Versailles, where, for instance, President Wilson was induced by a clever "arrangement" to surrender any claim to that very island of Yap that there was now so much trouble about. "The sham of Paris hypnotized the world," Mr. William Allan White said, according to the speaker.

Well-known British Publicist.

Mr. Pritchard went on to quote A. G. Gardner, the well-known author of "Trophets, Priests and Kings," late editor of the London "Daily News," as a British contributor to the discussion: America and England should take the lead in disarmament; the seas were the property of all nations and should be open to all; the freedom of the seas was challenged by America and England; it is up to them to make the great renunciation. He objected to the unvarnished statement of Mr. Churchill's that superiority in armed force was an essential preliminary to England attending a disarmament conference, and predicted that "there are lean times ahead for the flag-wagging demagogue," as Lloyd George is commencing to foresee. Mr. Gardiner said in England they were living on their fat, and it's getting mighty near the bone; 2,000,000 unemployed, and there were two missionaries continuously touring the land: unemployment preaching to the poor and the tax gatherer preaching to the rich.

"And so," said Mr. Pritchard, "we find the problems which in 1914 were demanding solution which the Great War postponed, still confronting us, still unsolved and still growing more acute and insistent; like Banquo's ghost, they will not down, "if navies are scrapped, armies reduced, arsenals slowed down, powder factories, ammunition and chemical works closed, all in the interest of "Peace"—what then?"

"Still more unemployment, in a world where already the workers cannot purchase what they have produced, and yet where trade as at present conducted must inevitably lead to war—and the vicious circle all over again."

"There was never in history so ludicrously sad a paradox," he argued. "The only solution," in his opinion, "is to realize that there is plenty for all. The means of production are already adequate and more than adequate; it is the distribution that is obsolete and unscientific. The whole question is one of ownership of the wealth produced by labor." "The issue in this election," he declared, "is not between any candidate, but between your masters and yourselves."

A collection was taken up and several interesting questions were answered by the candidate, who will speak at Tillicum to-night and Marigold tomorrow.

One question, however, failed to get a satisfactory reply, and that was "Where is Mr. Bray, who challenged Mr. Pritchard to lend his platform to an opponent?"

As to Prospects: As no canvassing is being done and no vote catching tactics indulged in, it is idle to prophesy. But we can testify to the certain interest shown everywhere, and educational work is being done that will show sooner or later. Literature sales have been satisfactory and all the members of Victoria local along with others are working harmoniously together, each doing his best to spread our propaganda.

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