

DEFENDING THE EMPIRE

Ten Millions for Soldiers

The Hon. Sam. Hughes, Minister of Militia, succeeded in getting parliament to pass a grant of \$10,500,000 for the Department of Militia for the coming year.

The daily papers praise the militia. The necessity for armed men is constantly insisted upon. At present the "German scare" is being frantically worked.

A workingman who cheers the militia, who thinks that the militia is to defend him, should study the problem a little deeper.

The railroad magnates ask parliament for millions of dollars, and they get them. The banks ask for the monopoly of money functions and they get it. The manufacturers ask for protection and they get it.

The workingmen ask for the eight hour day on government works, and they do not get it. They ask for the abolition of the election deposit required to run for member of parliament, and they are refused.

What the employers of labor want, they get.

What the employees want from the government, they do not get.

When parliament passes a vote of \$10,500,000 for the maintenance of a military force, it can safely be considered that the employers of labor want a military force.

The Reason for Armed Men

The capitalists who control our government are not going to fling away ten millions of good hard dollars their government controls without good reasons. Those ten millions could be given away to their railroad, or used as bonuses to the owners of steel mills, or spent in teaching the farmers how to raise more crops for less money so the price of foodstuffs may fall and slaves may live cheaper.

The reason is not far to seek. The workers work for a wage. They want shorter hours and more pay. The masters do not want to pay more. The workers strike.

The masters shut down and let hunger drive the slaves back to their work. Or they gather together a body of scabs and let one section of the working class force the other section back to their slavery.

Under such circumstances the strikers will endeavor to use other means than folded arms to keep their jobs for themselves. They will probably interfere with the scabs. If there are enough strikers and sympathizers, no doubt an attempt will be made by the workers to seize the mills and run the mills for the benefit of the workers. Then the strikers are dubbed "anarchists," troops are called out, and their purpose of shooting at workmen is clearly revealed.

A despatch from Barcelona, Spain, dated August 8th, declared that 90,000 workers were on strike there and 337 factories were closed. The government arrested the "ring-leaders" of the strike, suppressed the newspapers, rushed troops to the city and mounted machine guns on the principal streets, and patrolled the city with cavalry. The Socialists of Madrid have resolved to join hands with the strikers and the government regard the movement as of a revolutionary nature. Wherefore troops are called out to protect the ownership of the non-producing capitalists against the wealth-creators of the country.

A press despatch from Milan, Italy, also dated August 8th, declared that 150,000 men and women were on strike there. The general strike drew out of the streets of the metal workers. Hundreds of women and girls lay down on the railway tracks to prevent the trains running and many were injured by cavalry charges to clear the tracks. Five hundred strikers are under arrest. The government have muzzled the press and have moved large bodies of troops from other quarters into the strike zone.

In Canada, during the Grand Trunk strike the military were called out to fight the strikers.

In Great Britain the troops are called out when the coal miners or railway workers or other workers strike. Tom Mann was sentenced to six months in jail for treason because he issued a pamphlet to the British soldiers begging them not to shoot their fellow Britishers.

The ten million dollars voted by the Canadian Parliament towards the maintenance of a military force in Canada is voted by the politicians at Ottawa in order that the Canadian capitalist class may have a force with which to shoot down Canadian citizens when they go on strike against too severe slavery.

The Socialist Army

The Socialists would like to see the army abolished. Yet in a practical world this may be impossible. So the Socialists of the various countries demand a citizen army for home defense, no army for foreign aggression.

In Germany, France and England the practical Socialists want to see a nation in arms, a citizen army. If we must resist foreign aggression, let the whole nation be called to the defense. Let every citizen bear arms and have them in his home. Then if a foreign invader the country, the whole nation can resist.

But a citizen army is impractical under capitalism, and even if it were practical, the British or Canadian capitalists would not allow it while they controlled parliament.

When the Welsh coal strike took place a couple of years ago, the government called in the rifles distributed to the territorials who were also striking miners.

If the strikers of Barcelona or Milan were armed and trained to shoot, they would not allow their women to be trampled by cavalrymen called from other cities to Milan for that special purpose.

If, in the last coal strike in England when a million men were out,

the strikers had been armed and trained to shoot, the capitalist owners of the mines would not have retained the ownership very long.

Under Military Law

The capitalists dare not allow the nation to be armed. They would not dare face a citizen army.

So they call a few of the population to arms, or they take the young into conscript army, before the boys have formed their own opinions.

These soldiers they place under special law. An ordinary citizen is denied the opportunity of murdering a fellow man. He is hung for it. The soldier is granted and ordered to murder his fellow man, and is granted medals and decorations if he proves himself a specially fit murderer.

The ordinary citizen can appeal to the civil law. He can go to the Courts and be tried by a jury of twelve men if he breaks the law. Not so the soldier. He cannot appeal to the Civil courts. He is under military law and if he disobeys his officers, he is tried by those officers and shot without a fair and open trial.

In the old Roman days there was a class of men called gladiators. They went into the arena to fight other gladiators to amuse the spectators. They had to kill or be killed. They were kept in cages between combats and not allowed their freedom.

We consider the Romans to be barbarians. We look with disgust upon them. Yet we have the same class today who fulfil their functions for the profit of the masters.

The soldier is kept in cages, or barracks while not at work. When called upon to do his profession he must kill or be killed. If he refuses, his fellow butchers shoot him at the command of the officers in charge.

Our Notable patriots

Our noble patriots, those capitalists who reckon their fortunes in large figures, and their political adherents like Sam Hughes, Borden, Laurier, McRide, talk loudly of the glorious empire and the necessity of defending it from foreign attack.

Yet they maintain a system by which the great majority of the citizens of the empire are debarrd from defending it.

The working class are forced to work long hours at exhausting toil and they get only living wages. The rest of the wealth working class create, the noble patriots and their associates take unto themselves through rent, interest and profit.

The workers, exhausted by long hours of labor, have no energy left to defend the empire.

And the chief incentive to defend the empire, a stake in the country, is denied them.

In reading the military poems of the past, how often we come across the exhortations of the leading peasant fighters to their followers to strike for their altars and their fires, to defend their homes.

Alas, the modern Canadian working class have no homes. They live in rented houses. They are crowded into slums. They own no tools. They go wearily into the mines or factories to work for the benefit of the master class and receive as their reward the slave's portion—enough to barely live on.

Consequently they have no time and no incentive to arm themselves for the defence of the country—and would not be given a chance by our noble patriots if they showed a desire to bear arms to defend their own interests.

Our noble patriots are noble only in name and they are no patriots at all.

They love their large revenues, they do not love the welfare of the empire.

If they loved the empire and the wellbeing of the dwellers therein, they would see to it that the citizens thereof were well-housed, well-clothed, and had plenty of leisure to develop their higher natures.

Instead, they resist the desire of the working class to improve their condition. They extend their tentacles more and more over the working class.

Should the working class rise and say, "We want homes of our own to defend, we are tired of paying rent. We want the six hour day, and we will no longer tolerate being robbed through rent, interest and profit," our noble patriots would resist the working class to the utmost of their ability.

If the working class won out, and abolished the slavery which they suffer, our noble patriots, who enjoy the proceeds of the slavery, would flee to America, to Germany, to France, and would call upon these countries to invade Canada to protect "vested interests."

Would it not be a sight fit for the gods of laughter and tears to see Lord Strathcona appealing to the German Emperor for aid to force the C. P. R. workers to still yield him tribute?

Would it not be a pitiable sight to see our flaunting and loudmouthed rulers rushing as emigres to the foreign courts like the ancient nobles of France!

If we look at the questions of patriotism and militarism in their true light, many Canadian public men would shrink to very small portions in the public estimation.

More Judicial Injustice

Judicial injustice is as bad in our little town as down your way. The police arrest master seakers and take what little they have. The police arrested two chaps lately. One had \$3.75, and the other \$10. The J.P. and the police took \$3.75 from each man, seeing that one of them had no more. It is claimed that the lady had taken a free ride on a freight.

Horror!

I know of one case where a homesteader's wife has taken to prostitution in this vicinity, in order to buy food for her little ones.

In another case where a man asked the government for food for his family, a R. W. M. P. officer came up and told him he had better keep quiet, or take the consequences.

The life of the homesteader, male and female, is getting worse each year. The masters have the hip and lock on us all. Some win out, and secure an existence; but more fail utterly, and despondency and melancholia serve to make the list of suicides great and greater as the year goes by.

If the people of the east who paint the life of the homesteader in such glowing colors were forced to spend the years on the lonely prairies, and see the results of their toil going to the masters of the country, while they themselves are on the verge of starvation, they would have their ideas changed—A Saskatchewan Comrade of the revolution.

OWNERSHIP

By Herman Kobbé, in the New York Call.

There is no use arguing with a capitalist as to whether the capitalists are necessary or not. They are necessary under the present system of industry. It is not hard to see that you cannot have private ownership of land and machinery unless you have private owners.

But the Socialists point out to the workers the express companies, and the parcel-carrying industry, is just now being changed from a privately owned business to a public owned business right under your noses.

How was it changed to a publicly owned business? Not hard to see. A law was made that the government should henceforth carry parcels in the Postoffice Department. Immediately the business of the express companies was cut down. And if the government should make a further law that no one shall be allowed to compete with the government service (as is already done in the case of letters), the express companies would then be dead on the spot, and we would all be rid of a public nuisance, and glad of it.

Of course, we are familiar with the old arguments that workers in governmental industries are not much better off than in privately owned industries. That is true as long as the political parties controlled by the capitalists. Under capitalist government, "public ownership" is really only "party public ownership."

The capitalists still own the industry pretty completely, even when it is a government industry. They hold the government bonds, and the finance, and consequently control, the actions of the Legislatures and courts.

So long as they can hold political control in their own hands, they cannot much care if all the industries become departments of the government. In fact, the more, the merrier.

Popular discontent has reached such threatening proportions that the capitalists feel themselves much safer when they operate under the name of government than when they have to operate their businesses as free enterprises, subject to meddlesome control.

But this capitalist government ownership is not what the Socialists want at all. They want complete public ownership of the industries. They want no bond holders at all and no wealthy class to bribe and cajole the public servants for favors.

They want the workers in each industry to form a department of the city or State or nation (according to whether the industry is local, State or national in extent), and to manage that industry democratically. They want each worker to have a legal right to vote upon every matter affecting his own industry. The unions of today practice this very thing.

The members vote democratically upon any matter that comes up affecting the conditions of labor.

But today the workers have to fight for every bit of betterment against the capitalists who own the industry. A union may decide on a certain rule to govern their conditions of labor, but they cannot enforce the rule unless they can bully the capitalists into accepting it.

Thus every law made by the workers today is the occasion of a fight between them and the capitalists.

But if the capitalists were abolished and the industries publicly owned and democratically governed by the workers, then when the workers make a law, there will be no one to stand in their way.

"Thou shalt not." Instead of a fight between workers and owners, conduct of industry would take the form of reasonable discussions among the workers, in union meetings, and the passing of laws by the workers to govern themselves.

The capitalist, you see, is not necessary to the carrying on of industry. On the contrary, he is a constant source of irritation to strike, and ought to be abolished as speedily as possible.

An Omaha laborer has fallen heir to nearly two million dollars in Germany, and has thrown down his tools and taken up the new life. This man has ceased being a wage slave and will henceforth be of the master class. He will employ men to attend to his wants. He who formerly was ordered, will now order. Wage slaves will be at his beck and call. He who was looked down on as a common mutt of day laborer, will now be looked up to as being a man of brains and power. He will be fawned upon by the foolish people who worship money, and the politicians who know that the money is the power they can wield to keep the working class in subjection. Has the man any more brains now that he is possession of two million dollars than he had when he wielded a pick on the streets of Omaha?

The masters do not respect the flag. They are willing to fly any old flag so long as profits come from it.

It is claimed that six thousand people have applied to Ottawa for jobs on the Intercolonial owing to the anticipated strike. This is what the masters have been working for a long time. They import workers from the old countries by the tens of thousands. They care not whether the workers starve or not. The closer they are to the bread line the more the masters are pleased.

Low bids for jobs are the joy of the capitalists. When six thousand slaves are willing to sell their birthright and scab on their fellow workers long before a strike is called, it betokens a condition of affairs in Canada which is directly opposite to what is generally believed to exist.

The country is overflowing with workers, and thousands are coming in every week. They are in the majority poor, and must have work at once. The masters extortingly auction off their jobs with the surety that they will be taken at the lowest possible figure. What chance have the slaves of the International to secure their rights from the capitalist Borden government when six thousand other slaves are already applying for their jobs? None. Borden and his trailers will smile with joy, squelch the International slaves and ask them for their vote at the next election. Good politics.

THE DAY HAS COME

Despite the fact that science has so cunningly induced the world of its correctness, despite the fact that the priest and minister preach daily from the pulpit, nevertheless slavery exists. But Oh, what kind of slavery? Slavery with hunger, slavery with prostitution, and slavery with a hundred and one other evils.

What matters it if the earth makes so many revolutions per hour, as long as the worker is enslaved? It makes no difference to the worker when you tell him of "wonderful nature" with its green fields, large forests, little rivulets, and the glorious fields, as long as he cannot enjoy them.

Instead of the sun he has a dingy little electric light; instead of a forest of trees he has a forest of machines, which daily give out their deafening noise; instead of the running water he has the running sweat; instead of the sweet song of the birds he has the harsh voice of the foreman; instead of enjoying the products of Nature he eats adulterated food stuffs.

Day in and day out he toils, day in and day out he goes through this everlasting hell. His uneducated brain cannot conceive it all. Why do I work such long hours? Why do I work at all? Why do I receive such miserable wages? It is all a misery to him.

In the morning at 5 he gets up to go to his daily regime, slaves all day, comes home and eats a miserable meal and then "retires."

When he goes to work his children are asleep and when he comes home he lives in a dirty shack called a home.

When Sunday comes he goes to church and sits there with a dull ignorant look on his face, and listens to the priest tell him about "God," "Trinity," "immortal soul." He cannot conceive the meaning so he goes home and sleeps it off.

But the day is here. The worker is beginning to realize his power. Through hunger he has been pushed in to the ranks of his fellow workers for organization. He is beginning to realize that his place is with us, the Socialists, and his duty is to help the revolution.

The masters are beginning to tremble, the system is tottering; masses are stirring, the hordes in the slums are murmuring.

The dawn of day is here, the masses of "vive la revolution."

The very buzzing of the machinery seems to hum the Marseillaise.

The day has come. The day has come, the system has fallen.

And from the distant workshop in the dim twilight far away, one hears the lusty voices of a thousand workers, "March on, March on, all hearts resolved on victory or death."—C. Yale Harrison, New York City.

COURAGE COMRADE

By Bill Uno

Courage, Comrades; still grows brighter

Hour by hour the cause of right. Those who struggle at the forefront, Swept about by mammon's might, May perchance forget the grandeur Of the cause for which they fight.

For the moment lost and groping, Through the despair of overwhelming night. Courage Comrades; if the battle Were so short, so early won, Unto those who bravely go on, Risking all and more, believing That our legions must fight on, Gaining strength with every onset, Till shall break the glorious dawn

That the seers of the ages Have looked forth in gladness to; Though their names are high forgotten And successive sun and dew, Long ago concealed their hearthstones.

From the idle thoughtless view Of the millions whose their struggles Helped to better paths and new. Courage Comrades! Greater courage Never was the need so strong. Some must fall before the victory, But the fight will not be long; O'er the hills the day is breaking And the bitterness and wrong Shall be buried in the tumult Of the toiler's triumph song.

Judge Morson says: "We cannot ignore contracts. They are the basis of society." What about a contract which brings Britishers over to Canada with the understanding that there is no trouble in the shops to which they are to be assigned, and when they arrive they find that they are supposed to act as strikebreakers?

Dominion Sec'y States Position re Unity

Dear Editor Clarion:—In your issue of July 19th I note the criticism of Comrade C. M. O'Brien, in reference to an expression of opinion given by the Executive S.D.P. of C. "That the time for the unity of the two parties has not yet arrived."

Comrade O'Brien is labouring under a misconception that Executive committees are elected to initiate. The constitution provides for their procedure. "To accept all proposition for referendum, and when such propositions are endorsed by three or more locals, and are in harmony with the constitutional provision to submit same to general vote of the party."

It is the duty of the rank and file, the membership, or some unit, to initiate. And when such proposition are in harmony with the constitution to submit same to general vote of the party.

Comrade O'Brien states that the S. P. of C. NEVER DID DISCOURAGE "UNITY" but ALWAYS HAS, and DOES NOW, offer a welcome to all comrades to join with them. "He does Comrade O'Brien know that the membership of the S. P. of C. are prepared to have the two parties amalgamate? When has an expression of the wishes of the membership of the S. P. of C. been made through the ballot? Comrade O'Brien is for UNITY. So is the writer.

At no time has the organ of the S. P. of C., Cotton's Weekly, expressed the slightest sentiment against unity, but has at all times strongly advocated that steps be taken to bring about the unity of the two parties. Cotton's Weekly has gone as far as to analyze the relative position of the two platforms. The actions of its parliament.

mentary representations showing that as a matter of fact, both platforms are practically identical, since they advocate such measures as are beneficial to the working class, and the actions of its parliamentary representatives have at all times been in keeping with the platforms and have declared themselves in debating the questions before the House, and in introducing measures for adoption by the House, that would tend to ameliorate the struggle of the workers in that particular industry, who by force of necessity, found sale for their commodity—labor power.

On the other hand the organ of the S. P. of C., The Western Clarion, has pooh-poohed the idea of unity. I am safe in asserting that within the past eighteen months, five or six articles have appeared strongly colored against unity. Perhaps the most sarcastic was the one by "Me."

If Comrade O'Brien or any other comrade of the S. P. of C. ARE SERIOUS about UNITY, let them fulfil the provision of their constitution, have the proposition properly placed before the membership, the writer will vouch that three locals within the S. D. P. can immediately be found to initiate and endorse a similar proposition and that the same will immediately be placed before a general vote of the party.

In reference to LAWYERS TRICKS, I may say, the shoe does not pinch with the Dominion Executive, as Charlie well knows that we are keen students of proletarian science, although perhaps not quite as much time on hand for study as he has. The writer alone having 450 volumes of which 350 are on Socialism and other kind sciences.

Yours for a united working class, H. MARTIN.

A FABLE OF SUCCESS

Once there was a bright young man who set out to make his way in the world. Various people gave him various kinds of good advice, and finally one kindly old gentleman said, "Remember, my son, that there is always room at the top. You can get there if you try."

"I know a better way than that," promptly replied the youth. "My tastes are simple. I will occupy a room lower down and let out all that room at the top at a good figure." This he did, and accordingly, none of his descendants from that time forth ever had to do a stroke of work.

Moral—There are always better ways than good ways.—Judge.

The Daily Telegraph of Montreal is in reality a new paper in Canada. They have bought out the old Witness, but the officers of the company are new, and the policy of the paper is different. The Telegraph men earnestly know their business as regards keeping in close touch with the capitalists. They never let a chance slip by which they might show their masters they are eager to carry out the paper on the lines approved of by those masters. In the Children's page of a recent issue appeared the following:—"You see Prince Alfons will be the next king of Spain—so he has to begin very early to learn to be a soldier." Why does not the Telegraph explain to the children readers why the prince "has to" be a soldier? If the Telegraph printed the reason from the editor's own heart, it would probably prove interesting reading to others than children. The editor knows, but he knows that such reading would not be sanctioned by his masters, and he has no desire to get into close touch with the bread line, therefore he will continue to poison the minds of the child readers with the spirit of militarism. Economic determinism.

The following appears among the classified advertisements in one of the German papers:—"Three thousand artificial legs are wanted by the government of a nation at present in war. Estimates considered only from concerns who are able to deliver this quantity. Address Dr. Richard Mauch, Cologne, Germany." Artificial legs are no doubt wanted by one of the Balkan states. Does an ad like this help to bring home a realization of the horrors of war? Who will wear these artificial legs? Not the people who have benefited by the war. They will walk on the two sound legs which they were born with. The working men who fought the foolish war will hobble around on the wooden legs from door to door begging for bread from the masters they fought for.

Coal will advance 50 cents per ton on September 1st. If it went up a dollar a ton you would have to pay for it. If it rose two dollars a ton you could not help yourself; you would have to come across with the extra money. Burn wood? In the majority of towns and cities in Canada the coal men also have control of the wood business. They keep the prices of wood and coal at the same point. There are towns in Canada right in the heart of the wood country where wood is shipped away by the carload every day, and where the price of wood is kept right up to the coal prices year after year. You vote for these conditions and are yourself to blame.

We say that the people should have homes to live in, that no man should control another man's home. We say that under the present system where land lords are allowed to own the homes of many people, that the home is not safe, but a man's home can be broken up by the caprice or greed of the man who owns the homes and collects the rent. Our reasoning is so sensible and just that our opponents cannot answer us, so they lie about us and foolishly say we want to break up the home life.

Great countries are those that prodig of the people.—Mascally.

THE IMMIGRANTS

Immigrants come to this country by thousands and thousands and transport themselves, a few at a time, to the ranks of the unemployed. The fate of the immigrants in the extreme of the go hardships is strange people in the same other countries in the immigrant unless it be the John Proster workman. He winters in Canada family have times in security. He has been out of the street and day out became a discomfited man. He is arrested, charged with a crime, and his wife is informed that he is dying. He leaves the state through the officers in charge to see his John Proster for a master. One that has been arrested because master in a forced to sit in a chair while his picture which capitalist art Canada. The immigrant is glorious-land of the immigrants. The women they women? The shores? The shores? The shores? But still the suffer and plenty; trying in the face of odds. Canada the moneyed in a nice case. The immigrant to the in submission to Money there the useful part a byword, it.

BONNIE

The Montreal Liberal paper Sam Hughes Bel-Air Scam for \$180,000 for a military training a hundred is \$1,200 per man is many mil.

The gentle government seventeen day the government at an advance they paid for. Here is a Liberal paper are in opposition serve the capitalist class to get back show—222—Conservative cards, letting into the c favors, their round and claims more which to voters so the to the govern Whether it \$150,000, they not feel their wage. for military tary forces If the mil the capitali money than service? So the master class wasting the military force awe the Ca

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