

THE EMBLEM OF PLUTOCRACY

This old world is now entering upon the greatest crisis of human history. Greatest because universal and because the next surge onward must land us above Capitalism, the last phase of human slavery. Victory is mainly a record of class struggles and similar causes produce similar effects.

In our struggle upward from the animal world so far we have been ruled mainly by the more brutal types of man; the human tigers, jackalls, weasels and cuttlefish. The claw and fangs still dominate the jungles of civilization, while the Christs of reason and brotherhood are still crucified for sedition and blasphemy against Mammon.

The emblem which comrade Lester disrespected represents the state and the states are but the executive of the world's economic rulers, the capitalist class. In fact, the politicians have for the most part been purchased and are themselves among the exploited.

Sir Robert Borden, for instance, in 1913 had an income from Canadian bank stock of \$8,000 per, and from official reports we learn that 38 others, members of parliament, are also shareholders in the banking trust of "our Canadian Democracy." So we find that the emblems of the world represent interest on capital, and to the world's rulers a million men crushed in battle, a million children made fatherless, a million mothers and wives made destitute, and burdens of debt and toil for coming generations weigh as nothing compared with the unfolding of their emblem over a few square miles of added territory or additional opportunities for trade, and this is the class to which we must bow!

Through these ideals empires have developed. Invasion, slaughter, victory and "benevolent assimilation for God and Country," such is the process of growth. After all, the destruction and casualties of peace are about as great as those of war, and the grinding up of tender and tougher flesh and blood into dividends is the sacred process guarded by the forces of state and church. This is what our emblems to-day represent, and this is why it is so sensitive to insult. It rules through brute force, not reason.

Mr. Editor, we must remember that treason, sedition and patriotism are relative terms. They depend on what is in our opinion the most precious, property or humanity.

The thousands of Socialists and rebels against war and military autocracy now in jail are represented by men like Karl Lebnrecht, Bill Haywood, women like Gurdey Flynn, and British Socialists like Bainbridge and Lester, and we who are still at liberty are indeed traitors to the state which places property rights above human welfare. The Borden, the Hughes, the Roosevelts, the plutocrats and profiteers of Wall Street and Canada, the lords of Britain and the Junkers of Germany and their statesmen, press and pulpit all of one class, have said so and they are right.

We plead guilty of the charge. Our concepts of things material, mental and spiritual are antagonistic to theirs and to their interests as exploiters and rulers, and we stand for their overthrow.

We place property and dividends, territory and trade below human life and happiness. We would use material, mental and spiritual force to promote the happiness and progress of mankind, and we believe that the producing classes are in reality superior mentally and morally to the class that rules and rots them. Producers are always superior to parasites.

Mr. Editor, let us understand the

present from the past. The ancient empires, such as Rome, were also built on slaughter, conquest an exploitation. In ancient Rome the patricians and war lords and profiteers ruled, and their scribes and priesthood and officials are represented to-day by our press, churches and parliaments. But oppression breeds revolt—it is the law of life and progress. Primitive Christianity was a slave revolt. Jesus and His followers were traitors and blasphemers according to the standard of Rome. On the other hand the rebel Jesus, scourged the temple of priests and traders as a "den of thieves." He and thousands of His comrades were jailed and crucified, even as we modern "traitors" are to-day.

Were the real patriots? Was the Nazarene with his message of brotherhood and of peace and industrial democracy, the destroyer and enemy of Rome, or did Rome rot and go down to death because of the class representing property and militarism, a class which ruthlessly destroyed human life and happiness even as their successors are to-day? No, the social gospel of Jesus, had it been adopted, would have saved the ancient world, and the same is true to-day. Economic freedom and co-operation alone can save the modern world from destruction.

Again, Cromwell, Garibaldi, Paine were branded as traitors in their day. John Brown was executed for treason. Lovejoy and Lincoln and Phillips were "traitors" according to the masters of chattel-slavery, and yet the soul of Jesus and John Brown and thousands of the martyred comrades "goes marching on" and upward to victory. We may know a man to-day by his enemies as well as by his friends. The hope of the world is in the workers, poor and ignorant as they are, they are still "the salt of the earth and the light of the world." And to-day they are hearing gladly the message which will in time enable them to overthrow the class enemies of our race, and establish a social order in which peace and co-operation will prevail.

W. J. Curry.

WOMAN'S COLUMN

THE WOMEN'S REVOLUTION

Raid on Parliament House—How It Started.

The patience of the Labor and Socialist women who meet at the Socialist Hall on Thursdays to discuss Peace and the Problems of the War is exhausted by the cruel indifference of the Government to the sufferings of the people.

In reply to the deputation of unemployed men and women which waited upon Mr. Hughes he had only told the people that they must suffer, as all people must in the midst of wars!

But why should Australian people want, with a continent to develop by their labor, and the wharves loaded with food and the cool stores overflowing, while great companies make profits?

Mr. Hughes said, too, that the employers would not employ men and women unless they were assured of their absolute docility and obedience. In point of fact, he tells us that the people of this country have no right to live unless their masters can make profits out of them.

There are thousands of people starving to-day in Australia, and thousands more must join their ranks.

Mr. Hughes admits that private individuals, assured of high prices from the Imperial Government for stocks existing, will not employ their capital;

but when asked to nationalize industry and save the people, he turns upon those who make the suggestion with insults, and says:

"Nationalize my grandmother!"

Our Protest.

So we went to make our protest. We represent thousands of voiceless women whose husbands have been thrown out of work.

Parliament ignored us. There was no women inside to speak, and we decided, therefore, to address Parliament ourselves.

Of course, we were refused permission to the Chamber where the Drones consume the people's food, and we tried to walk inside and say a word or two.

The doorkeepers flew to defend the sacred portals, but the women shouted, "Send Hughes to us!" "Give the people food and work!" "Down with the profiteers!" until between the doorkeepers and the police, they hustled us outside.

The Next Day.

All the day hundreds of women stood outside the House, barred by the police on the Speaker's orders. Mr. Conside and Mr. Brennan tried to get us inside, but failed in many instances, though the galleries were packed with women who had come there to listen to the debate upon the question raised by the Labor Party on the adjournment of the House.

Mr. Hughes and the Workers.

It all ended in nothing. Mr. Hughes can do nothing, and will do nothing. He has withdrawn the War Profits Bill—don't touch those sacred millions; he listens to the exporters—don't interfere with their bankbooks; but we, who speak for the workers, the decent people who feed him and his crowd of

The Wharf Laborers.

The Wharf Laborers have done more for us than the politicians, for the women and children and humanity and liberty.

We honor and love them as the saviours of the people. We shall never forget what they have done, and in time to come, when Victoria Crosses are but the memorials of a barbaric age, future generations will tell of the industrial soldiers of Australia who fought for liberty and humanity on the bloodless field.

The Future.

If the men stand true, they need not fear the women will falter. We shall storm the citadel of Parliament and reduce it before our fight is done. Adela Pankhurst in Melbourne Socialist.

OBSERVATIONS

A Backward Glance.

The Manchester Guardian of July 26, 1900, reports a speech of Lloyd George as follows. Speaking of the South African War, Mr. George says:

"We went into the war for equal rights, and prosecuted it for annexation. We went into the country for philanthropy, and remained in it for burglary."

It is every honest citizen's duty to see that our Canadian manhood is not sacrificed for such gross materialistic purposes in the present struggle.

Britain has produced one and a half million tons of potatoes, extra. And the price has advanced to 1/2 per stone. We are credibly informed that the potato controller has resigned. It will take more than that to make Hanna resign as food controller (in name) in Canada.

Roosevelt as "Prussian" in Chief.

Mr. Roosevelt in an address on America's part in the war urged the prohibition of the publication of newspapers in the language of any nation with which the U.S. is at war.

Councillor Shinwell of the Glasgow City Council has had his exemption to military service rescinded. The comrades explain this act on the ground that comrade Shinwell is a "peace-by-negotiation" man, and a thorn in the flesh to the food profiteers of that city. From reports to hand this is the policy of the exemption tribunals to remove their most powerful opponents. Take note.

The British I.L.P. has added 49 new branches since March 1st, and the Labor Leader has increased its circulation by 20,000 during the last summer. Let us hear from our Forward readers, and send a few subs. to help the movement.

Two alternatives are presented to us at the present moment, i.e., Socialism or Starvation. Choose, ye electors!

The slap-stick performance of those two famous comedians, the Toronto Star and the Toronto Daily News, as to which one is the greatest asset to the Kaiser is highly entertaining, if one has the time to follow them these days.

What shall it benefit a man if he gains the world—for his Boss—and loses his own breakfast?

If a man sows a hundred seed potatoes and his crop is six hundred pounds, and it takes four hundred pounds to keep him alive, he has two hundred left. Is there no interest on his capital expenditure of a hundred potatoes?

Come, comrades, don't get mussy. In Utopia there will be enormous interest, but it won't be wasted on the "work shies" as at present.

The peace negotiations committee of Great Britain has handed to the Premier a memorial with the signatures of 221,617 persons, and endorsed by labor bodies representing 900,000 members.

A woman's peace crusade is sweeping Britain. Giant meetings have been held in Bradford, Manchester, Burnley, Nelson, Edinburgh, Glasgow, London, Wexham, and other places. They are paying special attention to the churches, and in some instances the soldiers have assisted and wished them "God speed." It is very encouraging to note that the demonstrations have all been peaceful and well attended.

A Wrong Impression.

A discharged soldier fined at Carnarvon, Wales, on Saturday, for fishing without a license, wrote to the magistrates, stating that he was under the impression that all soldiers who had served in France had free access to all rivers.

Mr. Hanna, our so-called food controller, is a huge, hilarious, side-splitting joke. Perhaps the Borden Government thought we toilers needed something to cheer us up during these gloomy, war-weary days.

To appoint Mr. Hanna, one of the ablest Standard Oil wolves, to regulate the profits, the big capitalists were to be permitted to squeeze out of the consumers, at once stamped the movement with all the marks of its insincerity to all capable of penetrating what takes place behind the curtain. The revelations being brought out by Gordon Walderon, that honest old Grit crank, at the Wm. Davies Packing Co. investigation, is tearing the curtain aside and revealing capitalism in all its beastly ugliness to even the sumps who never suspect what goes on behind the curtain where the plutes pull the strings which make the Hannas and the Borden jump.