

# THE RED FLAG

A Journal of News and Views Devoted to the Working Class.

Published When Circumstances and Finances Permit  
By The Socialist Party of Canada.

401 Pender Street East, Vancouver, B. C.

Editor ..... C. Stephenson

Subscriptions to "Red Flag" . . . 20 issues \$1.00

SATURDAY.....SEPTEMBER 13, 1919

## President Wilson's Fall

WHO remembers President Wilson's winged phrases, soaring into the realms of pure idealism, before he went to Paris, and compares them with his latest utterances will realize what a sink of iniquity Europe must be. In so short a time did it demoralize the high souled moralist to the level of a Billingsgate fish wife. That cynical old atheist, Clemenceau, and the little Welsh attorney, George, were manifestly no fit company for the former Saint Woodrow. On Thursday, he told a meeting down in Montana, that he "knew some crooks he could not help liking." That comes of helping them to divide up the plunder. Among other low habits he has acquired is a taste for boasting, for he told the same audience that during the war he "had wanted to take a gun and go and fight." Then on his tour, the press reports him as "using the language of the proletariat" as one to the manner born. Truth to tell the skid road of sin is known to be well greased and down grade all the way, and now he is on it, the President is yelling to all and sundry, that he at least is no quitter. As evidence of the "rakes progress" since his fall from grace, there is worse yet to tell. He has also entered into the great and goodly company occupying the late Teddy Roosevelt's Annanias Club, and, bad cess to the luck, the world is the looser that Teddy is not here to close the door behind him with the appropriate resounding slam.

When before the Senate Committee on Foreign relations, he was asked if he had any knowledge prior to his going to Paris, of the various secret treaties, entered into by the Allied powers, other than the United States. He replied in the negative. Said he had not the slightest knowledge of them. Yet the publication of some of them, notably those published by the Russian Soviet Government had resulted in world-wide discussion during the years 1917-18, and early part of 1919. Mr. A. J. Balfour in the British House of Commons, on March 4, 1918, said that, "President Wilson was kept well informed" as to the Allies treaties. Again, the Pact of London which disposed of territories among the belligerents was the subject of vigorous discussion in the Italian Parliament during the summer of 1917, and this discussion, says the New York Nation, was instrumental in the overthrow of the Bosselli-Sonnino Government. Yet this President of the United States says that he knew nothing of them all this time that the world was ringing with the discussion. Here is one of the Foreign Relations Committee asking him questions. Senator Johnson: "These specific treaties, then, the Treaty of London, on the basis of which Italy entered the war; the agreement with Roumania, in August, 1916; the various agreements in respect to Asia Minor; and the agreements consummated in the winter of 1917 between France and Russia relative to the frontiers of Germany, particularly in relation to the Saar Valley and the left bank of the Rhine—of none of these did we have (and when I say "we," I mean you, Mr. President,) any knowledge prior to the conference at Paris?"

The President: "No Sir. I can confidently

(Jerome K. Jerome, in "Common Sense.")

And now we have Mr. Vere Staepoole writing to the Manchester Guardian to urge "Mr. Smillie and other leaders of Labor" to pause for a moment and think. "Let them lift their eyes from the moment and look towards the future," the suggestion being that, left to themselves, "Mr. Smillie and other leaders" would never dream of thinking where they were going. Mr. Vere Staepoole is convinced that if Mr. Robert Smillie and the others could only know the "facts" that are so plain to Mr. V. S., then Mr. Smillie and the others would "forget everything" and turn as men never turned before to save themselves, "and us." I congratulate Mr. V. S. on his honesty in adding those last two words. Generally, gentlemen who preach the blessings of hard work and obedience to the laboring classes talk as if they

answer that question no in regard to myself."

Senator Johnson: "When our Government, through you, Mr. President, in January, 1918, made the Fourteen Points as the basis of peace, were those points made with a knowledge of existence of the secret agreements?"

The President: "No. Oh, no."

Says the New York Nation, in comment, "What can we do but shake our heads in perplexity over these astounding confessions of ignorance on the part of statesmen who more than any other discussed the aims of the war and the basis of peace, and in whose hands for a time lay the destiny of the world? In another place it says, "Is it the truth—this confession of unpardonable innocence and ignorance? This is the unpleasant question forced upon the reader of the report of President Wilson's interview with the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. The question springs into the mind unwillingly. How is it possible to conceive that the President of the United States knew nothing of the secret treaties before he went to Paris, and that he has not yet seen the text of them? Dr. E. T. Williams, one of the American experts on Far Eastern affairs, reports the President as having said on April 22, 1919, 'that the war seemed to have been fought to establish the sanctity of treaties, and while some of them were unconscionable, it looked as though it would be necessary to recognize them. Thus the war for democracy and permanent peace, the war for the Fourteen Points, has turned out to be in part a war for the recognition of the secret treaties. But at the interview, the President of the United States more than once solemnly declared that he knew nothing at all, either officially or unofficially, of the secret treaties until he went to Paris.'"

And the "Nation" was once one of his stoutest supporters. Thus the progress of its disillusionment. We have no sympathy for the "Nation." We warned it at the time. But it regarded us as mere bush leaguers. We advise its staff to study the columns of the Red Flag in future. Neither have we any sympathy for the excited crowds attending Senators Johnson and Borah's meetings who are now calling for Wilson's blood, because, after all, he did not "keep us out of the war."

Will they never learn that the needs of capital must dominate the course of affairs in society so long as the competitive capitalist system remains. Capital is the loom that weaves and shapes the pattern of our policies. It is the form within which all our activities must move. To fail as a capitalist nation to secure markets and the control of the sources of raw materials, and to aid in securing and keeping them, maintain armies and navies and form secret alliances, is to court disaster. They are the weapons of the competitive struggle. And so, when bourgeois statesmen raise their voices proclaiming high moralities: When the devil quotes the scriptures—look out.

## On Advising Them

had no other object than the welfare of the common people themselves. From many conversations I have had with working men, I can warn Mr. Vere Staepoole and others that the present mood of Labor is more dangerous than is imagined by ladies and gentlemen sympathizing with what they regard as its "legitimate aspirations." Labor is stirring to aspirations that they would not consider legitimate. Labor's idea of "unity" is a society marching forward with Labor not at the tail, but at the head. The Labor leaders that count are not particularly concerned with Mr. Lloyd George's well-filled sack labelled "Higher Wages and Shorter Hours." They know that they can obtain these "legitimate aspirations" whenever they choose to insist upon them. And they also know that Higher Wages can immediately be countered by Higher Prices, leaving things where they were; that Shorter Hours would simply mean "speeding up." They are not mules nor horses. They are men, even as the gentlemen with the chaff and the halter and the winking eye. And they are seeking to win for their class what has always been the chief incentive to human effort, and that is Power.

A writer in the Times, where one does not usually look for insight and understanding, states quite clearly the "root cause" of the present Labor unrest: "This unrest and restlessness of workers really means that our industrial population has made up its mind that for the future no matter what the national need may be, it will not be disciplined, managed, or controlled by any authority, whether that authority be a private employer or a State department, which it does not choose by its own unfettered will to recognize as fit and suitable and whose dictate it does not consider sound and reasonable." Labor will not rest until, in place of being the servant, it has become the master of the world. To this end it intends to use every means in its power, and it will not be turned from its purpose by homilies in the press, preaching that force is no remedy, that all forms of violence are immoral, that war—that is, war with the adjective "class" in front of it—is against the principles of Christianity. Labor does not intend to remain for ever the beast of burden; to have its wages and its prices regulated for it by winking gentlemen; to be conscripted at the will of Winston Churchill and used as cannon fodder at the whim of newspaper bosses. Journalists and politicians who for the last five years have been ridiculing the Sermon on the Mount, will make a mistake if they think Labor will not use its opportunities. Capitalism, having slaughtered twelve million of the young men for its own sordid ends—still slaughtering for the purpose of making the world safe from Democracy—has over-spent its strength, is lying bankrupt and feeble. For the moment it is full of sentiment. "Let Labor," writes Mr. Vere Staepoole, "forego for a few years its dreams of a reconstructed society." Wait till capital has recovered and is again in the saddle. Wait till that halter is again round Labor's neck, and it can be driven as before with bridle, whip and spur. Labor represents 90 per cent. of the people in every country. Now is the time to reconstruct society on the "constitutional" principle of the rule of the majority.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

W. A. PRITCHARD AND R. JOHNS, of Winnipeg, will speak in Vancouver on Sunday, the 21st. Place of Meeting will be announced later.