

What's So and What's Not So about Socialism

By A. W. Ricker.

DID YOU SAY—

That Socialists want to divide up? We do want to divide the jobs so equally that everybody capable of working, or performing service of some kind, will do his or her share.

That Socialism is against religion? Who told you so? No friend of Socialism said it, therefore, it must have been an enemy. Socialism is neither religious or anti-religious.

That Socialism is against the government? What government? The one that the big interests and moneyed powers run? You are right. Under Socialism the government will be directed by the working class. There will be only one class—the working class, and we will all belong to it.

That Socialism will reduce everybody to a dead level? What level? There will be a level all right. The tramp will be leveled up and the millionaire leveled down. The two will meet on a plane where both will work. We will thus get rid of two sets of drones.

That Socialism is visionary? That's true. The Socialists have a vision of a state of society where each member will be assured of the necessities of life. Have you no social vision? Better stir yourself. The possession of a vision is what distinguishes a man from a brute.

That we can't get the machinery of production away from the rich? They got it away from us. All wealth comes from labor. What the trusts own they have filched from the working people through the profit system. They did it according to law. What has been done may be undone. We will undo it, according to law. BUT WE WILL MAKE THE LAW.

That Socialism will destroy the home? What home? The one in which the prostitutes live? Correct. Prostitution is carried on for profit. Under Socialism there will be no profit, hence no prostitutes. Under Socialism the home where love rules will flourish as it never flourished in the world, because this home will belong to the family and never can be taken away from them.

That Socialism is impossible? How do you know it is? Is it impossible to so organize and manage industry that there may be a job for all? If so, our intelligence as a race is not of a high order. A race that can invent such wonderful machinery as ours can construct an economic machine that will distribute the wealth produced so that all may have a proportionate share. This machine is Socialism.

That Socialists want to take property from those who have much and give it to those who have little or nothing? Someone has been "string-in" you, who doesn't know anything more about it than you do. We want the ownership of the mines, factories, and railroads to pass from private to public or collective ownership. This kind of property is collectively used for the well being of all the people. It should, therefore, be collectively owned.

That Socialism will break up the family? What family? The one where the man has the economic power to abuse and mistreat his wife, spend the family money for drink, leaving his children to suffer for bread? Yes, this home will be broken up. Socialism will make women equal with men, and no woman under Socialism will have to endure abuse for the sake of being "supported." She can earn her own living and this will enable her to demand the treatment due to an equal.

That you can't change human nature? Then you ought to quit preaching to people to be Christ-like. You can change humanity just as you can change the small wild peach to the big juicy tame one, the sour crabapple to the big red one of the orchard, the little speckled ear of corn of the Indian to the big yellow one of the modern corn field. Human nature has changed from savagery to barbarism, then to civilization. It will change to Socialism, and come to measurable perfection just like the sour crabapple became, under proper environment, a big mellow pippin.

That Socialists propose to take people's farms? You evidently dreamed this. Didn't you? The farmers have taken, not the farmer's acres, but his markets. They take the raw products of the farm and finish it. It is in the finishing that the profits are made, not in the raising of raw material. We propose to take what the trusts have taken the finishing machinery, and make it public property. The question which the farmer must decide pretty soon is—Am I going to vote with the capitalists who are skinning me, or with the Socialists who propose to give me publicly

heads are out and your heels in. You kick each other. Learn to be as class-conscious as the wild ass. The capitalist is your economic enemy. He is on your back. He won't get off till you kick him off. Kick him with your Socialist ballot. It's the only way you will ever get your freedom. This article will be published in Leaflet form at 80 cents per 1,000.

Socialism will be good for trade. Under Socialism the trade of a country will grow by leaps and bounds. Canada will become under its regime a marvel of happiness and business extension. Capitalism stands in the way of trade development. It can be easily proved that this is so. The working class is the great purchasing class. Under capitalism this great producing and purchasing class is given in wages only enough to buy back one-fourth of what it produces. Its wages can only buy a fraction of the wealth it itself has created. Socialism will give the workers all they produce in the way of social values. Thus the great working class will be able to buy four times what it does now. The more it produces the more it can buy. Laurier says that reciprocity will broaden the market. If he wants to see a wider market, why does he not take up Socialism WHICH WILL GIVE TO THE WORKING CLASS OF CANADA A PURCHASING POWER FOUR TIMES AS GREAT AS AT PRESENT? The reason is because Laurier does not want to see Canada really prosperous.

NEXT WEEK

Watch for the Next Issue. It will be a powerful issue with a full page cartoon and special article on "Who Destroys the Home." You'll make no mistake in ordering a bundle in advance. Only 50 cents per 100. The greatest yet.

JUST OUT

Fresh from the Chas. Kerr press, three handsome books, the latest word on Socialism. "Industrial Socialism," by Wm. Haywood and Frank Bohn. "Shop Talks in Economics," by Mary Marcy. "The Strength of the Strong," by Jack London. Take my word for it, that these books are the best yet. The price is 10 cents per copy or as a special inducement, the three for a quarter, postpaid.

You hear people sneer at Socialism. They say it will not come in our time. These people do not understand how revolutions work. First of all comes a change in the economic basis of society. Such a change has been going on during the past hundred years and is almost accomplished. With a changing economic basis, comes a change in the intellectual conception of things. This is the second stage and is the mental revolution. This is almost accomplished. Thirdly comes the actual transformation of society through political revolution. This last is the only stage which the ignorant anti-Socialist thinks about. Simply because there does not appear to be many Socialist candidates running, these scoundrels think that Socialism had not made progress. The last stage of a revolution is the quickest. It may occur in a night. The social revolution will soon finish its last stage.

Someone wants to know what will become of the tariff question under Socialism. There won't be any. When industry is managed without profit, most departments of government will become self-sustaining, without taxation. Those that are not, such as the schools and administrative functions, will probably be sustained by direct taxation. At any rate, the tariff, for the benefit of "infant industries," that are private monopolies, will surely end. As everything will be sold at cost, foreign competition can not injure workers then.

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Two New Pamphlets

Containing Matter and Illustrations Now Famous in Canada

"GET OFF OUR BACKS"

Four pages, 7 x 11, with powerful large illustration. Contains beside the main article, "Socialism Defined," by Chas. H. Kerr. A pamphlet that is a premier piece of propaganda.

The True Purpose of the Boy Scout Movement

A striking indictment of the Boy Scout Movement, and militarism. Contains a compelling illustration, J. C. Hogan's famous Boy Scout Article, and Cotton's articles on "The Burden of Armaments," "What War Costs," "The Armies of the World," etc. Facts and figures that show the hellishness of militarism.

SPECIAL PRICE

25 cents per 100 copies; \$1.25 per 500 copies; \$2.25 per 1,000 copies.

American Socialists have been holding the first annual congress of Socialist municipal officials at Milwaukee. When will the Canadian Socialists hold a like congress?

British laborers are refusing to transport soldiers and war materials to strike areas. The British worker is learning sense.

WORKERS! LEARN A LESSON

By Fred Rowlett, Norwich, Ont.

The cry of Labor in Old England at the present moment is: "Give us this day our daily bread." Aye! and not on bended knees either; but with a club in each hand.

Labor, on his marrow bones has too long been grovelling. The time has come for action.

Workers of Canada learn a lesson from Old England. Here you are at the present moment squabbling about something—no one knows exactly what—called "Reciprocity."

Over in Old England we have "Free Trade" but there, as elsewhere, we have unemployment in its most acute form, with all its attendant evils. Reciprocity or no reciprocity, light tariff or no tariff, Grit or Tory, Tory or Grit, which ever you choose, you are in the same dirty old ditch. It matters not to you which we may have.

"The poor are always poor."

Should you lay down your tools and demand to be treated as human beings, and not as property, "the government adopts a firm attitude"—yes, against labor. You are dubbed "the mob," "the ne'er content," "the ne'er do well," "the unthrifty." Aye, even your dear old party rag—the Daily Error, which you hug so closely to your breast—turns against you.

Fellow workers, how long will you allow yourselves to be fooled, humbugged, and poisoned by specious promises and parasitical liars? How long will you allow yourselves to be fooled, poisoned and humbugged by the arch-enemies of the Christ they hypocritically and basely affect to believe in and follow?

Workers of Canada, at such a momentous time as this, let us hear your voices ring throughout the length and breadth of this delightful land of yours. Shake off these "drones that labor not." "Turn from thy wickedness and live."

"Give us this day our daily bread," Aye and butter too, and learning and knowledge and wisdom too. Remember, it is the possessing classes which have robbed you of these mighty things. Have nothing to do with one or the other. And forgive them—not "that trespass against us." No! this is not the time for the forgiving of past tyranny, robbery, and oppression. No. We have forgiven too long.

Labor, straighten your back, square your shoulders, look the facts of the world full in the face nobly and fearlessly. Remember the poet says "Our doubts are traitors." Join the Socialist Party, seize hold of every comrade's hand, rally round our blood-red banner, and knee to knee and shoulder to shoulder, we'll storm the city of Mammon.

Men and women, heirs of freedom, Form your legions in the field, Never bend as serfs medieval, Never to the tyrant yield Concentrate your strength and capture What belongs to you by right: A heritage of equal splendor, A happy day, a peaceful night.

Two New Leaflets

Election on. Now is the time to push propaganda. Cotton's has just published "The True Purpose of the Boy Scout Movement," 4 pages 7 x 11 inches, splendid cartoon, with anti-militarist matter. "Get off Our Backs," with large illustration, same size, and "Socialism Defined," by Chas. Kerr. Biggest thing in leaflets yet done. Price, 25 cents per 100 copies; \$1.25 per 500 copies; \$2.25 per 1,000.

Borden declares that reciprocity means continentalism and that this is bad. Borden tries to make us believe that he really wants Canadians to enjoy the benefit arising from their own labor in their own country. But Borden does not really mean what he says. If he did he would try to pass laws preventing American capitalists buying up our best lands, our coal mines, our railways, our factories, and receiving large revenues from the toil of Canadian workers. Borden wants to become Prime Minister and he is trying to fool the workers into supporting him.

Mahlon M. Barnes, national secretary of the U. S. Socialist Party, with headquarters at Chicago, has sent in his resignation to take effect at the end of this month. The National Executive Committee has selected Comrade John M. Work to fill the unexpired term, and he assumes the duties on September 1st.

To the Electors of St. Lawrence Division, Montreal

VOTE FOR

THE SOCIALIST CANDIDATE

W. U. COTTON, B.A., B.C.L.

FOREWORD

Before you read the Manifesto, I ask you to forget, for awhile, that you are Liberal or Tory, Jew, French, English or Canadian. Do not consider it from the point of view of a Catholic, Protestant or Agnostic, but examine it as a man free from prejudices. If you have time, read it over often enough to realize the significance it sets forth. All that is stated in it is absolute truth. Grasp the truth, value the truth, for the truth shall make you free.

Socialism does not come to tell you what you must do, but to free you, so that you will be able to do what you want to do.

MANIFESTO

Of the Socialist Candidate for St. Lawrence Division, Montreal

To The Electors of St. Lawrence Division;

The principal issue being fought out in this campaign by the old political parties is, Reciprocity with the United States. The Liberals favor and the Conservatives oppose it. The Liberals declare that reciprocity will bring prosperity; the Conservatives tell us that it will mean ruin. They are both right for no matter which one of these two parties gets into power, it will be to the advantage of capital and to the detriment of labor.

The Socialist party offers you the only platform whose adoption will result in benefit to the people and serve to put an end forever to the terrible struggle for existence. Our program is a thousand times more important than the programs offered you by the old parties.

You are being crushed, robbed and cheated because the Lands, Mines, Railways, Factories, all the ways and means of production are owned and controlled by the few and used entirely for their benefit. We Socialists say that all these things should belong to the people as a whole and be used for the good of all. England has reciprocity with many countries, yet the workers of England live in a state of poverty fearful to behold. In countries like France and Germany, where they refuse to have reciprocity, we find that the condition of the people is as bad as, if not worse than their condition in England.

Tariffs have very little to do with the question, for we find that the bulk of the working people are condemned to endure a life of poverty and degradation no matter whether they live in a high tariff, low tariff or no tariff country.

During the past you have always looked to either the Liberals or the Conservatives to manage the affairs of your country. You presumed that they would look after your interests. You know the result. Your economic condition has been gradually going from bad to worse. The struggle to earn your living was never made easier no matter who you put in power; on the contrary, it has steadily become more intricate and difficult. Your wages will not allow you to live the life a human being is entitled to in this age of wonderful invention and progress. For many years past rents have been going higher. The cost of all the necessities of life has tremendously increased. It is true that in some trades your wages have risen, though never proportionately, but in most cases they have remained stationary or declined. At one time a worker could afford to live in a decent house with healthy surroundings. But now his home is in a small flat surrounded by unhealthy slums.

Just before every election the Liberal and Conservative politician flatters you and makes all kind of nice promises. You usually fall. Are you going to fall again? After the elections of the past you have always found yourself just as badly off as before. Is it not time that you made a change and put a party into office that stands on the side of the people and is opposed to the money powers? The Liberal and Conservative politicians are the servants and tools of the Railway and Corporation magnates. They are financed by the wealthy class and therefore have to do its bidding. The best evidence of this is in the fact that all laws passed today are solely in the interest of capitalism.

A Word to the Trade Unionist

Do you elect your Employer as an officer of your trade union? No. Then why do you elect him to look after your interests in parliament? The capitalist will surely look after his own interest if you send him there. Remember, his interests are absolutely opposed to yours.

You would not think of sending your master to represent you as a delegate to a trade union congress; yet you have always sent him to represent you in the most important congress in the nation—your National Parliament. Is it not time that you woke up?

As a Socialist I am absolutely opposed to the Master class. I stand for the workers alone. I pledge myself to the Socialist party that if elected, I shall favor all measures that will benefit the working class and oppose all measures that antagonize their interests.

Read carefully the platforms of the Liberals and Conservatives. You will fail to find anything in them that will materially benefit you. The platform of the Socialist party is for you alone and is entirely opposed to the parasitic capitalist class, who render no useful service to the Nation.

PLATFORM

1. To abolish private ownership of the means of procuring our food, clothing and shelter.
2. To make the Land, Railroads, Public Utilities, Factories, Mills, Mines, Inventions, etc., the collective property of all the people.
3. The democratic organization and management of industry by the people for the people.
4. To produce the necessities of life for use instead of for profit.
5. To see that all shall have the right to work and earn their living.
6. To see that no one, except the weak, sick and infants shall live by the toil of others.

To understand Socialism, you must become a student. We invite you to the Socialist Party Committee Rooms, No. 3 City-Hall Avenue, near Craig Street.

MONTREAL SOCIALISTS.

Your help is badly needed in the St. Lawrence division by our candidate, W. U. Cotton, to work as speakers, canvassers or scrutineers. Financial aid will greatly assist the workers to carry on the campaign. There are at least 2,000 Socialists in Montreal. If each of you will make a special effort to aid in the election, we can send our candidate to Ottawa. Our candidate can be seen at head committee rooms, 3 City Hall Avenue, every day, 3 to 5 p. m.—Geo. Edward, organizer.

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