

# THE CANADIAN FORWARD

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

## Correspondence—

All correspondence should be addressed to  
THE CANADIAN FORWARD,

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## BOLSHEVIKISM AND CZARISM.

Many crocodile tears are being shed over the hard lot of the poor Russians under Bolshevik "misrule." These canting, hypocritical tear-spillers had never a word of sympathy to utter when the same Russians were being clubbed, spied upon, thrown into dungeons, exiled to Siberia and denied all civil and political liberty under the Czarist reign of terror. No iniquities that might result from Bolshevik inexperience could even approach in horror the deliberate cruelties and persecutions of the Czarist regime.

## COUNTERFEIT PATRIOTS.

The farmers who believed that conscription was all right so long as someone other than their own got conscripted, are not alone in their selfish attitude. Many a woman who clamored and voted for conscription has not yet so much as knitted a pair of socks for the soldiers. It is a despicable sort of patriotism that calls on others to do all the sacrificing. It recalls to mind Artemus Wards quip that he was willing to sacrifice his mother-in-law and all his wives relations.

## THE SMALL BUSINESS MAN.

Sympathy for the small business man because of his unequal fight against the big business man is in most cases misplaced, as the only reason for his being a small business man is simply that he has failed in his attempt to be a big one. Had he been successful he would have acted just as the big business man, acts—ever and always bent on extending his business regardless of the hardship and ruin wrought on struggling competitors. The proper thing to do is to show him that at this advanced stage of industrial development his real interests lie with the revolutionary wage workers who aim at the collective ownership of the large industrial concerns in order that they may be run for the good of all instead of for the benefit of the idle few who own them. Energies now devoted to sordid soul-destroying gain would be released and applied to worthier things.

## A TIP TO PROPAGANDISTS.

Occasionally the good Socialist, who is the Socialist who is ever on the alert to make more Socialists, is in doubt as to what he should hand to a prospective convert. Some people take to Socialism as a duck takes to water. To these anything Socialist is acceptable. Others again have to be educated into it, and it is the latter that need considering. In our mass of socialist literature we have books and pamphlets treating the subject from every conceivable angle, and if we know the tastes and temperament of our prospect we should have little difficulty in deciding what to give him. When in doubt, however, we can never go wrong in handing him a propagandist periodical like the Canadian Forward. It contains a variety of matter, some of which is sure to appeal

to the reader, and once started to think along Socialist lines he will find in his daily experience facts that will confirm our Socialist arguments. It would be wise, therefore, to subscribe for a bundle of Forwards for free distribution.

## THE PRESS AND THE BOLSHEVIK.

The capitalist press is at present engaged in a deliberate attempt to discredit the Bolshevik. Its purpose in this is two-fold. One is to point the moral that the workers cannot run things, that Socialism simply won't work in Russia or anywhere else. The other is to prepare the public for foreign intervention either by Japan alone or with the other allies so that such intervention may be regarded as purely philanthropic. The difficulties our Russian comrades have to contend with are not of their own making, nor are they ones that can be solved by anyone better than by themselves. The manufacturing, transportation and other industries were completely disorganized before the revolution took place, and the food shortage, now so acute, is also a result of the incompetency of the Czarist regime. The counter-revolutions and conspiracies, when they are not purely newspaper fiction, are due to capitalist intrigue (not always German). We can rest confident that any setback will be only temporary, as social forces are in motion throughout the world which no capitalist agencies can stay. Russia's is merely the first of a series of social revolutions (not necessarily violent) that will transform the present world chaos into world peace and order based on international brotherhood and economic liberty.

## ON BEING LOYAL.

To demonstrate one's loyalty in these times it is necessary to join in with the popular slogans, "Down with the Kaiser and Kaiserism," and "Make the world safe for Democracy." Now no one can do so with more consistency than the Socialist. He gives such whole-hearted approval to these sentiments that he wishes to see them acted upon in every department of human activity. Yet, singularly enough, his loyalty is often under suspicion in certain quarters, which goes to prove that conceptions of loyalty differ with different people. Now every boss in a workshop, office or factory, whether it be privately or publicly owned, is a kaiser to the extent of his authority. Every worker knows this so. He knows that in the workshop the word of the boss is law. Is the boss not then a kaiser? Is not this kaiserism. The workshop, too, is the place where the majority of us spend most of our daily lives, is it not, therefore, all the more desirable that we have this Kaiserism removed? Now as Democracy is the remedy for Kaiserism, let us have it applied to the workshop and to all other spheres where workers are employ-

ed. Let the workers themselves appoint as supervisors of their labor those whom they deem fittest for the purpose. In the first place, then domineering individuals would not be likely to find favor with the appointees and in the second place these elected officials, knowing that they held office only by the good will of the workers, would not dream of acting unjustly. However, before we can have such democratic conditions in the workshops, factories etc., these must be owned collectively by the people. This is what is meant by Socialism. It is all so eminently democratic and so opposed to Kaiserism that we Socialists very naturally question the bona fides of those who before the war were our bitter opponents, now posing as the champions of democracy and the foes of Kaiserism.

## A PSYCHOLOGICAL GAIN.

The projected affiliation of Socialists with the new Labor Party inevitably raises the vexed question of the value or otherwise of reforms. But it is a serious mistake to imagine that all gains can be measured by dollars and cents. Besides the economic aspect of the question, there is the very important one of psychology, that is, the effect of such a labor party on the morale of the workers. H. G. Wells truly says in one of his books that the problem is mainly a psychological one, and reckons that if we had the regular daily press advocating Socialism for six months our object would be attained. In this respect it might be observed here that whether the Bolsheviks succeed in retaining control in Russia or not, the effects of a period of untrammelled free speech and free press can never be undone and any autocratic government in Russia would have to be imposed from the outside. Servile respect for a class totally unworthy of it has been forever destroyed. It is this sort of respect that we have to combat here in Canada, as everywhere else. Among the workers the idea is more or less generally held that only college-bred or business men are fitted to represent them in parliament, and in the municipal council (they have not grasped the fact that difference in class interests should be the decid-

ing factor). While to the Socialist this idea of class superiority is obscured only practical demonstration is likely to satisfy the workers that it is so. As with the individual so with the mass; having been so long used to occupying a subject position they lack self-confidence. It is in building up this essential class confidence that a labor party will serve a most useful purpose. The insight that working class representatives get into the political game as it is played by capitalistic representatives in the interests of property can be put to great advantage in removing the scales from the workers' eyes. This has been the experience wherever straight labor or Socialist members have been in office. They find that the national idols—the "great statesmen," have feet of clay, and that the member of parliament is a man of average mentality with perhaps a university polish and a gift of the gab. As the writer once heard Keir Hardie say of the advent of the Labor Party in Britain, "They brought the M.P. down out of the clouds and placed him on the solid earth." The labor or Socialist M.P. who has first-hand knowledge of the political tricksters will be listened to much more attentively and his evidence more readily accepted than in the case of the speaker who has not. With this loss of respect for the old party politician there will be a corresponding rise in the workers' own self-respect and confidence in the ability of members of his own class to represent him. Of course, the danger of self-seekers to a labor party must not be overlooked. This can only be overcome by increased political enlightenment and vigilance on the part of the membership, and it is in this regard that the presence of Socialists within a labor party can be put to best account and in great part justified.

Clamorous patriotism, reckless jingoism, the stirring up of international jealousy have become the most lucrative line in politics and journalism.—Prince Peter Knopotkin.

Patriotism is a word which rings especially in the mouths of the people's oppressors.—Marmontel.

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