

THE CANADIAN FORWARD

To Our Contributors—

The columns of The Canadian Forward are open to contributions from all friends of the cause. Though we can by no means undertake to publish all we may receive, everything, by whomsoever written, will receive careful attention.

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"It is the quality of revolutions not to go by old lines or old laws, but to break up both, and make new ones."—President Lincoln.



UNION GOVERNMENT.

It is said that circumstance is the mother of invention, and notwithstanding the hostility that such an adumbration will meet with from the theological schools, circumstances will still play a very important role in their influence upon the human mind. The Toronto Telegram in its issue of Nov. 1, 1917, says: "Union Government has saved the Liberal Party from destruction." We are inclined to believe that the purpose of Union Government lies much deeper than saving the Liberal Party from the Political Junk Heap, and notwithstanding this latest accretion to political junkerdom, we venture to suggest that the Grit and Tory politician are not so intractable to the underlying principles of "Class Rule" as their scribes and Pharisees would lead us to believe.

It affords us considerable satisfaction to note the fusion of these two groups, which by the way is not an isolated phenomenon. This development is taking place in every country that is now at war, consequently the problem presents the elements possible of a much wider interpretation than one would suppose from a casual reading of "Society Gossip," or even the consideration of differences that exist between the Jacks and Jills that appear on the political horizon in this country. There is evidence to hand that the great toiling mass of workers in every country are exhibiting signs of revolt, not only against the continuation of the war, but also the order of society that is responsible for it. The gaunt shadow of starvation (the inevitable consequence of Capitalism's destructive nature) now raises its monstrous form, and the fear of this (worse than war evil) is goading men to recklessness. The battle-cry of "Win the War" may shortly be eclipsed by a more significant slogan, "Liberty or Death."

Be not deceived, Union Government is but a shallow pretext to perpetuate the identity of interest lie, presented with the ulterior purpose of continuing the profit system which is in imminent danger of destruction. There never was, or can be, any Union Government so long as labor is enslaved. Socialism is the only thing that will make Union Government possible; and as though moved by some startling intuition of their approaching doom, the political small fry are endeavoring

to ward off the dreadful spectre. Their cry is simply a manifestation of the law of "self-preservation," to which the wise ones murmur "Nemesis." We do not believe that the canker of this so-called union has infested the labor movement to any appreciable extent. The obstacles in this regard appear almost insurmountable. The fact of labor entertaining the idea of independent political action is an omen of good import—and especially the hard-drawn distinction contained in their platform, neither of the Capitalistic parties being entertained, which is in itself a demonstration of the class nature of the movement. The average worker is beginning to appreciate the fact, that an administration which will take away the votes of Austro-German Canadians is not to be trusted with the civil liberties of any other Canadians. Then there is the imposition of \$200 for candidates who fail in the percentage of votes, to say nothing of property qualifications, and patronage as a means to office. It is evident from the recent decision of the Trades Congress Convention, in asking the co-operation of farmers, Socialists, and trade unionists, that the only kind of political union they entertain is between producers—and not parasites.

AN OPEN LETTER TO H. S. BIGELOW.

Dear Comrade:

The condition of war in Europe has occasioned many backward glances over the pages of history, and upon receipt of the information that you have been the victim of a brutal assault brought to my mind a statement attributed to the late Wm. Gladstone, the great English statesman: "Force is no Remedy."

It is indeed regrettable that the deepest thoughts of great souls in all past ages bear such little weight with the semi-barbarians of to-day, or otherwise you might have been spared the indignity of "shorn hair" and "bleeding back."

Whatever the motive that let to this assault is left largely to speculation; the only apparent excuse for such a crime was the fact that you have waged a relentless war against militarism, and reaction in various forms. This may probably afford a clue to the motive of the crime, which in its expression was that of brutes, or worse still, that shallow patriotism which

has been characterized as the last refuge of a scoundrel.

It is interesting to note, however, that the deed was committed in the depth of night, and that you were taken to a wood, bound, and then scourged by your tormentors. The act was perfect in such a setting. The blackness of the deed corresponding with the midnight hour—and the forest gloom. It was quite natural that this should be so; no truer judgment was ever pronounced—it could not stand the light of day.

This should be some encouragement for you to persevere in the work of spreading truth. History is replete with the evidence of similar crimes. Was not Jesus crucified, Galileo poisoned; were not Paine, Tyler, and Jaures assassinated, and Lincoln, Lovejoy, Phillips, Brown and Marx heralded as traitors to their country? Aye, All the great benefactors have trod the thorny path.

The presence of twenty-one automobiles disassociates them from those unfortunates who practice crime in order to live, and is at the same time a demonstration of your importance—and the impotence of your adversaries. The bourgeois character of the undertaking is further emphasized by the vehicular entourage, and the use of whips, the insignia of "Brute Rule."

We were foolish enough to imagine that such things could not be in a country like yours—with its boasted constitution, which, according to its provisions, admits the unabridged "Freedom of Speech and press." How hath the mighty fallen? It grieves us to the heart, that a country which has granted the right of asylum to political refugees of other countries has now become a tyrant to her own sons.

Cincinnatti has been honored by your presence. "The blood of the righteous is the seed of the Church." The light you have shed abroad has lighted up the waste places of the human mind in lands far distant. You have contributed generously to the triumph of our cause. May you long be spared to aid in the glorious consummation,—for the truth alone can make us free.

CLASS-CONSCIOUS COMMENTS.

(By Phillips Thompson, Oakville.)

"Britons never, never, never shall be slaves." Ha! Ha! It is to laugh!

Americans have never been strong upholders of free speech. The majority has always been despotic in its disregard for the alleged rights of minorities. The persecution of Senator La Follette and the hounding down of the I.W.W. recall the days when Lloyd Garrison was dragged through the streets of Boston with a rope round his neck and abolitionists fined and imprisoned for helping slaves to escape.

A hypocritical bourgeois democracy rich as Canada or the United States is worse than an autocracy, as it has many tyrants in place of a few.

There have been all sorts of surmises as to the motives of Pope Benedict in trying to bring about peace. It's just a possibility that he is a real Christian. I had the notion that the breed was about extinct.

There are people in Germany who have come to the conclusion that one peck of potatoes is worth more than the most wonderful dream of empire. —Charleston News and Courier.

Then the people of Germany must be coming to their senses quicker than Canadians.

Hoist the flag on your manure heap if you don't want to be considered unpatriotic.

"Loyalty," like charity, covers a multitude of sins.

When convicted grafters sit in judgment it is no disgrace for honest men to be in jail.

The Orange lodges, which have run Toronto these many years, are up against Big Business in the matter of the Street Cleaners' strike—and what Big Business says goes.

"The German newspapers are speaking out. The fear of the Government or the Kaiser cannot keep them silent." —Hamilton Times.

In which respect the German press compares very favorably with the prostitute press of Canada. The latter if not terrorized by the Government are kept silent by fear of the Big Business interests which are profiting by the war.

Rheumatism

A Home Cure Given by One Who had it

In the spring of 1893 I was attacked by Muscular and Inflammatory Rheumatism. I suffered as only those who have it know, for over three years. I tried remedy after remedy, and doctor after doctor, but such relief as I received was only temporary. Finally, I found a remedy that cured me completely, and it has never returned. I have given it to a number who were terribly afflicted and even bedridden with Rheumatism, and it effected a cure in every case. I want every sufferer from any form of rheumatic trouble to try this marvelous healing power. Don't send a cent; simply mail your name and address and I will send it free to try. After you have used it and it has proven itself to be that long-looked-for means of curing your Rheumatism, you may send the price of it, one dollar, but understand I do not want your money unless you are perfectly satisfied to send it. Isn't that fair? Why suffer any longer when positive relief is thus offered you free? Don't delay. Write today.

Mark H. Jackson, No. 216 Gurney Bldg., Syracuse, N. Y.
Mr. Jackson is responsible. Above statement true—Pub.

The "chivalrous" French have shot a woman dancer as a spy. And the Canadian press, which for months poured execrations upon the Kaiser for the murder of Edith Cavell, justify that the unions as they now stand this crime. Let us be honest and admit that these actions are incidental to all war.

As election day draws near we hear of numerous would-be Independent Labor candidates at several points, but so far as I have had opportunity to observe, not one of the compromising, weak-kneed outfit in Ontario has had the courage to take a bold stand against conscription. It would be a misfortune to the cause of Labor should any of them be elected. Labor had better remain unrepresented until the devil holds a skating carnival than be represented by fakirs and trimmers.

Among the causes for which the Military Tribunals can grant exemption from the draft are, that it is expedient that the applicant should continue his education, and that hardship would result owing to the man's exceptional financial or business obligations. That is a nice, wide loophole for the sons of the rich and the young business men, but it won't give the working man much of a chance to escape. It wasn't framed for that purpose.

One of the features of Canada's participation in the war has been the prosperous business it has brought the country. The adoption by Canada of the Military Service Act has vastly increased the national prestige as a belligerent on the side of the Allies and has assured the country of continued prosperity through the war activities of a business nature. —Montreal Star.

So! Our boys are to be sent to slaughter by tens of thousands in France and Flanders to swell the gains of the profiteers. Socialists knew it all along, but hardly expected such a frank admission from a jingo paper.