

# Blatherskites

BY F. W. MOORE.

THE word "blatherskite," according to Webster, means a noisy, talkative, fellow; whereas "blather," is the foolish, nonsensical prattle in which he engages.

In this article we shall concern ourselves altogether with journalistic blatherskites as having an extensive field for the circulation of their blather in comparison to the diminutive area at the disposal of those harmless specimens of humanity who gather fame where'er they go, at least, to the extent of earning a distinguishing sobriquet, such as "windy," a term that proclaims to the denizens of the little worlds in which they flourish that when other amusements fail, there are always the yarns of the "white liar" to relieve the local ennui with amusing untruths that are never expected to be believed.

On the other hand although the journalistic rancor may not be an intentional liar at all, but the victim of class propaganda merely, yet he expects his fairy-tales, concerning the causes of war, etc., etc. to be accepted as truth, and for that reason it is our duty to trip him up and show him and his credulous victims that his philosophy—we hope he will excuse us for being so rude—is blather, of the worst description, for reasons which we shall state a little further down: in the meantime since he may be a victim of propaganda we have no grudge whatever against him. Like every other class of wage victims, he is paid for a particular kind of work, and like them he possesses value in proportion to his ability to make his work effective in the interests of his employer. He must always be ready to sing with the soldier, when the interests of the employer and employees clash—that is perennially—(Ours) "not to reason why, (Ours) but to do and die, etc.," and in connection with his blather we might add that when the man in the street is satisfied with it, we are safe in concluding that he is getting the mental pabulum he deserves and that he must be living on a mental plane complementary to that affected by the hireling blatherskite.

But we refuse to believe that the satisfaction with it is general, and we strongly suspect that a deal of resentment is beginning to be felt at the manifest distortions of the daily press on such subjects as "war," for instance,—distortions well calculated, at times, to keep men in darkness as to the real causes of war, so that its instigators may work behind the scenes in making preparation for it as they are doing today in every important country in the world, in order that each, if necessary, may be in a position to demand with a display of force such trade-routes, natural resources and other benefits needed in making this world fit for democracy—the democracy of monopoly, in which the common man could expect to play no worthy part whatever.

Here is an excerpt taken from the leading article in one of the Vancouver dailies concerning the late anti-war demonstration in Stanley Park: if it were an isolated instance we would take no notice of it, but it is quite the commonest kind of propaganda on the subject: "Every demonstration against war such as that planned for Sunday afternoon in Stanley Park, leaves its mark on the great world conscience." Pay particular attention to the next few lines—"Modern war springs from mass passion and hatred. Often the hatred is based on fancied grievances—sometimes even it is deliberately organized, but in one way or another it is fanned to flame. The antidote is not prohibition of war, but promotion of world friendliness."

It would be just as sensible to say that to stop two dogs from fighting for a bone, a good plan would be to promote friendliness between them, but how, we might ask, is that to be done in the face of Nature's first law, i.e., self-preservation?

In alluding to world friendliness the writer must be thinking of a very small percentage of the inhabitants of the world. The international monopolists, who were fighting for privileges, were the

only factors of the human race amongst whom friendliness could, during the wars of recent years, have any effect at all in stopping, or preventing the start of them: but business is business, and on its successful transaction depends the friendship of the participants; but since this successful transaction was precisely what could not be arranged, war was inevitable, and to gain for it the sanction of the unthinking masses, who were willing to give their sanction to any atrocity as long as they thought it was in the name of God and of justice, an international propaganda, which had been veiled for years, was now laid bare as each set of nations accused the other of being incarnations of the fallen angels while the accusers were nothing less than paragons of perfection.

In this way the sanction of the common people for the perpetration of war was obtained, and the war between two sets of capitalists made of Europe a continental shambles where men were slaughtered apparently in the interests of justice and right; that is, each set of allies said that their own people were slaughtered by a diabolical enemy, when in reality the subtle monopolists on each side had tricked their unsophisticated compatriots into shedding blood in the interests of big business, but, after all, what did it matter? Were not their relatives consoled by the oft-quoted text: "Greater love hath no man than this, than a man lay down his life for his friend." We take it for granted that the kind-hearted financiers, who gave him a right to demonstrate his great love were his friends.

That the war had little to do with sentiment, justice, or right, but was a result of rivalry between the nations for natural resources and markets we shall now try to prove by re quoting well-known capitalistic authors, from Peter Leckie's valuable little booklet: "Economic Causes of War": In the London Times for March 8th, 1917 we read: "There are still, it seems, some Englishmen who greatly err as to the reasons that forced England to draw the sword. They do not reflect our honour and our interest compelled us to join France and Russia even although Germany had scrupulously respected the rights of small nations. We felt in honour bound to keep the word we had given, in keeping it self-interest had gone hand in hand with honour. They were not reasons of sentiment, they were self-regarding and even selfish reasons."

Again from the pen of A. G. Gardiner, in the Daily News we have the following: "The riches of the Lorraine iron mines are the real heart of the war controversy."

The next excerpt is taken from "The Daily Chronicle War Book" It reads as follows: "Statesmen have had brought home to them the supreme urgency of the economic necessities to the modern state. The modern statesman has to think in terms of commerce, about raw material for his country's products, and markets for the manufactured goods. The security of overseas trade depends on a strong navy. Hence the appetite for colonies and trade goes hand in hand with naval ambition."

Concerning Germany Roland G. Usher, in "Pan Germanism" says: "The population of Germany has increased so rapidly and increase in industry has grown at such a stupendous rate and is enormously in excess of the needs of her population; her prosperity will mean bankruptcy unless some outlet is found for her surplus production and an extensive market found for this surplus production. Germany, to use the Channel, forces her to expose her commerce to the assaults of the English fleet so long as the latter controls the Channel. To secure a world trade in some fashion which will not expose her to attacks from the English fleet, an overland route to the East must be found. Pan Germanism is, therefore, in the first place, a defensive movement for self preservation. In the second place an offensive movement, directed against France and Britain. Its

object is to capture English possessions in the Mediterranean and Asia. She expects thus to obtain an outlet for her surplus population and manufactures."

Whoever wants to pursue the subject further can do so by consulting the pamphlet mentioned. In the meantime, are we not fully justified in stigmatising the supposed causes of the war as stated in the daily press as "blather," and pernicious blather at that?

## POLITICAL REPRESENTATION.

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with hypotheses that will not square with observed phenomena. Shall we in the field of political science cling to a delusion that we have to deal only with an abstract man divorced from all economic interests and group sentiments?

## PLATFORM

### Socialist Party of Canada

We, the Socialist Party of Canada affirm our allegiance to, and support of the principles and programme of the revolutionary working class.

Labor, applied to natural resources, produces all wealth. The present economic system is based upon capitalist ownership of the means of production, consequently, all the products of labor belong to the capitalist class. The capitalist is, therefore, master; the worker a slave.

So long as the capitalist class remains in possession of the reins of government all the powers of the State will be used to protect and defend its property rights in the means of wealth production and its control of the product of labor.

The capitalist system gives to the capitalist an ever-swelling stream of profits, and to the worker, an ever increasing measure of misery and degradation.

The interest of the working class lies in setting itself free from capitalist exploitation by the abolition of the wage system, under which this exploitation, at the point of production, is cloaked. To accomplish this necessitates the transformation of capitalist property in the means of wealth production into socially controlled economic forces.

The irrepressible conflict of interest between the capitalist and the worker necessarily expresses itself as a struggle for political supremacy. This is the Class Struggle.

Therefore we call upon all workers to organize under the banner of the Socialist Party of Canada, with the object of conquering the political powers for the purpose of setting up and enforcing the economic programme of the working class, as follows:

- 1—The transformation, as rapidly as possible, of capitalist property in the means of wealth production (natural resources, factories, mills, railroads, etc.) into collective means of production.
- 2—The organization and management of industry by the working class.
- 3—The establishment, as speedily as possible, of production for use instead of production for profit.

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