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SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA
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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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MATERIALIST CONCEPTION OF HISTORY.

(Continued from Page 6)

were invited, and later Russia, Austria, Hungary, Italy, Turkey and Germany. They agreed on a "General Act of the Western African Conference." We were told the powers were to deal with humanitarian interests, and yet the General Act itself had only two out of 38 articles dealing with humanitarianism. In order to prevent conflicts between European powers it was agreed that all marking of new territories must be preceded by due notification to all the Powers. The Powers wish to prohibit the sale of booze and firearms, but this trade was too good a paying speculation for them to create machinery to deal with their prohibition. German booze traders prevented it in 1885 and an act of 1890 was not put into force until 1902, owing to the opposition of the traders of Holland, whose government feared the new regulations would seriously affect their trade in the Upper Congo.

In 1894 the Congo State and Britain signed a boundary convention exchanged for leaseholds. Britain receiving recognition in one part of the Sudan at the south-west corner of Lake Tanganyika and a narrow strip connecting Uganda with Lake Tanganyika. Germany aroused such lively protests that Britain was forced to give up the small piece of land which would have completed the Cape to Cairo route.

The Congo State was compelled by France to limit her territory on the north-east of the Congo. King Leopold II. let out districts to companies, but was careful to retain a large share of the capital stock. Trade increased from \$9,000,000 in 1897 to \$37,000,000 in 1907, while large fortunes were made by the king and other shareholders. It is estimated that King Leopold took \$20,000,000 (twenty millions) dollars out of the Congo.

The Congo Free State resulted from the Berlin Conference of 1885, which recognized the International African Association founded by King Leopold II. of Belgium, which is known since 1908 as the Belgian Congo. Native rights in nine-tenths of the Congo territory were declared non-existent; this took away the right of the natives from the plants and trees which yielded rubber, oil, resin, dyes, etc.; they had no right to any animal, vegetable or mineral, and any European endeavoring to purchase from the natives such produce were guilty of robbery. The natives were taxed for revenue and as they were alienated from the means of life were forced into slavery by the most brutal atrocities that have been recorded in history. The fabulous dividends in rubber, with nominal shares of 100 dollars at one time freely dealt in at 5,000 dollars and upwards, was too profitable a proposition to attend to humanitarian protests against the horrible mutilation of the natives.

The Congo system lasted 20 years, and in Stanley's time the population was dense, estimated at twenty to thirty millions. In 1911 an official census showed that only eight and one-half million people were left, the decrease being a result of the horrible butchery of the natives. Stanley was more impressed with the discovery of great stores of ivory, gums and oil than his finding of the lost missionary, Livingstone. In an interview with De Fontaine, at the time financial editor of the New York "Herald," Stanley dreams of the lovely mansion house with its lakes, etc., he was going to build when he had tapped the wealth and resources of Central Africa wherein to rest for the remainder of his days.

The natives of the Congo, paid for services in kind, had to trade the payments back again to the

Company's stores, so they received nothing for their lost land or their labor but a pitiable existence. The natives rebelled against work; forced labor was introduced 1893-1895 and the ill treatment of the natives was increased until European powers were forced to interfere, when the condition became publicly known. Belgium was forced to take control of the Congo and no longer leave it in the hands of the King and his company.

The Brussels correspondent of the London "Times," 22 August 1908, said: "Belgium leaders are anxious to share in the movement of colonization and commerce for it is essential to the economic progress of the Belgium nation."

(African Continent Continued in Next Issue.)

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