

## ITEMS OF NEWS FROM ALL PARTS

### SOCIALIST AND LABOR PAPERS ON CANADA'S RECENT ELECTION.

"The Forward," Glasgow, says: "The Canadian papers to hand show us that Sir Wilfrid Laurier, during the recent elections stood for (1) a referendum on conscription; (2) a removal of the 5 per cent. war tax imposed in 1915 against British goods; (3) conscription of wealth; (4) abolition of profiteering and the middleman.

"No wonder Harmsworth papers went frantic with joy at Laurier's defeat."

"Canada has decided to accept conscription," says the "Christian Commonwealth" (London). "In Canada organized Labor was not sufficiently strong as a political force to influence the issue, and anti-conscription sentiment centered around the not very popular figure of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, whose policy was defeated."

"Mr. Hughes (meaning the Prime Minister) was always a cheap Jack. Free trade was the one course which he championed with real ability. The vote has a censure upon him. He is spent and discredited and is fallen like Lucifer. He depends upon the enemy vote for his support and I hope for the good of Australia and the Empire he will now have the decency to resign.

"Unfortunately Canada is not so wise as Australia . . . . The unity of the Dominion has been threatened by the bullying bluster of the Unionists. I regret very much that my friend, and leader of the Ontario Liberals deserted Sir Wilfrid Laurier. He at any rate is a decent fellow and a sincere man. On the other hand, I hope that Mr. Bourassa, the leader of the Quebec Nationalists will not push things too far whatever the consequence may be.

"Quebec has a great part to play in the Empire."—J. Ramsay MacDonald, in The "Leicester Pioneer."

### WELL DONE, FRIENDS.

The Executive body of the Society of Friends has decided to continue to issue literature on War and Peace, without submitting it to the Censor, and has stated its conviction that the recent regulation requiring the submission to the Censor of all leaflets dealing with the war and the making of Peace is a grave danger to the national welfare, and that the duty of every good citizen to express his thoughts on the affairs of his country is hereby endangered; and further, that Christianity requires the toleration of opinions not our own lest we should unwittingly hinder the workings of the Spirit of God. They add that it is for Christians a paramount duty to be free to obey and to act and speak in accord with the law of God, a law higher than that of any State, and no Government official can release men from this duty.

The Christian Peace Crusade states that Clause 27c of the Defence of the Realm Regulations, if unappealed, may force its members to become subject to penalties which they will not seek to evade, but which will inevitably lower the historical prestige and reputation of the country as the guardian of liberty of conscience and of religious freedom.—Workers Dreadnought.

### CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR DIES.

Arthur Butler, Stockport conscientious objector, died on December 12, in Preston Prison, of consumption aggravated by pneumonia. He was arrested in July, 1916, and was serving his third sentence of imprisonment with hard labor for refusal to obey military orders. He contracted con-

sumption in prison and had been in a very serious state since November 10, but on the morning of December 12 the Home Office assured a Member of Parliament that he was only suffering from a slight cold. His mother stated that she saw him on December 11. He was gasping for breath, and said he was dying. He begged very hard for her to be allowed to stay with him, but the Governor of the prison said it was against the rules. Butler was educated at Stockport Grammar School, where he won a scholarship and gained the reputation of a brilliant scholar.

In memory of Arthur Butler, who died in prison December 12, 1917, a public meeting was held at the Memorial Hall, December 21. Speakers: Rev. Thos. Phillips, Mrs. Holman, Miss Eva Gore-Booth, and others.—The Christian Commonwealth.

### WE SEE THE POINT.

The dissolution of the Spanish Cortes is said to be due to the terrific uproar kicked up by the Socialist members because of the arrest by the Government of so many of their comrades outside of the house. That comes from having these disloyal and riotous ones in the parliament. We have better sense over on this side of the water. We don't send such boisterous and rowdy elements to Ottawa. No, indeed. We send Conservatives, Liberals and "Unionists." By the exercise of such wisdom here and in the U. S., it is possible to pull off the sort of "democracy" that befits our intellectual development. And we are not disgusted with such undignified exhibitions as that which compelled the dissolution of the Spanish parliament. We are real democrats, we are, and not ruffians, and hoodlums, like the Spaniards. See the point?—B. C. Federationist.

### LIEBKNECHT ON TAXATION.

"Some people may be surprised that we lay so much stress on the question of taxation.

"It is true that if we could pass over to the Socialist State at one bound we should not need to concern ourselves with taxation at all, because the funds necessary for public expenses would come from the product of social labor. And in a still further stage of development, when all economic functions would be State concerns, there would be no longer any difference between public and private expenses.

"But we are not going to attain Socialism at one bound. The transition is going on all the time, and the important thing for us, in this explanation, is not to paint a picture of the future—which in any case would be a useless labor—but to forecast a practical program for the intermediate period, to formulate and justify measures that will be applicable at once and that will serve as aids to the new Socialist birth."

### CANADIAN SOCIALISTS AND THE REVOLUTION.

Revolution! The word which a few years, even days or weeks ago, would have been uttered with bated breath, and in company where the utmost confidence was assured, is now shouted from the housetops as the hope of salvation for the world's downtrodden masses. In fact, we of the Socialist movement have watched the growth in popularity of the word "revolution" for so long that many of us have apparently come to the conclusion that all that is necessary for the fulfilment of our hopes is to sit back and let evolution do the rest.

How often have we seen or heard

such optimistic utterance as appears in the January 10th issue of "The Canadian Forward"? "While the capitalist press throughout the world is vehemently denouncing Socialism and Socialists, the thing itself is coming so fast that it makes it hard for the most hopeful Socialist to realize it." Many times within the last few months has this same sentiment been expressed by Socialists at different places. Too many of us in Canada have jollied ourselves into the belief that Socialism is inevitable. And why not? Have not the Socialists in Russia, almost in the twinkling of an eye, struck from their limbs the chains of slavery that have bound them for many weary centuries?

But what of Russia? Do you Canadian Socialists believe that the Russian Revolution was the result of a spontaneous outburst for liberty, brought about by the evolution of capitalist society? If you do you have another think coming. Undoubtedly the evolution of capitalist production in Russia was a factor, but it was not the determining factor in the events now transpiring in Russia. If capitalist production and the increasing misery that it necessarily imposes on the workers were the only factor, or even one of the greater factors in bringing these things to pass, then the Revolution is long overdue in such countries as England, Germany and the United States—countries that were assuredly more highly capitalistic than Russia.

No! Capitalist production in Russia was only a minor cause of the Revolution. The major cause was the amount of discontent, spread by the Socialists of Russia for decades, with the conditions under which they were forced to exist. The Russian Socialists wanted Socialism, and wanted it bad enough to make it their one object in life. They wanted it bad enough to make all kinds of sacrifices for it. They wanted it bad enough to be prepared to spend a large portion of their miserable earnings to get it. Hence the present Revolution. These men and women not only ran risks of imprisonment, banishment and death, but were prepared to dig down deep in their jeans; were prepared to do without some of the necessities of life in order that their ideal of "Social Democracy" might some day be realized. They bought literature and distributed it, and then bought more and distributed it. To these efforts more than any other agency, continued year in and year out, can be attributed the success of our Russian comrades.

These being the facts, is it not up to us Canadian Socialists to get busy and do likewise? Let each one ask himself or herself if the Russian worker needs the Social Revolution any more than the Canadian worker. Are not the conditions under which Canadian workers exist to-day almost to the breaking point? Are not the "masters of the bread" in Canada as arrogant as in any autocracy?

The success of the Social Revolution in Canada depends on the amount of wage-working brain cells that have been developed to receive the Revolutionary idea. The brain cell can only be cultivated by having them planted with the germs of Socialist thought. This Socialist thought will only be planted by Socialists. The capitalist, through his press, while referring to Socialism, does so only to distort it and make it reprehensible to the working-class reader.

If we want Socialism we must take it to the worker ourselves, and the best way to take it is through the written word. Henry Dubb can't argue with a book, a paper, or a pamphlet. He may get mad and throw it down or throw it away, but if there is a grain of thought worth while in it, that will germinate, and sometime, sooner or later, some event or some

chance phrase will catch his eye or ear that will bring that thought back to him.

Now the question I want to propound to you, my Canadian comrade, is: How quickly do you want the accomplishment of the Social Revolution? How much time and money are you prepared to expend to bring it about? If you want the Revolution, an intelligent Revolution, in Canada; if, in fact, you want to be prepared to keep pace with our comrades in Europe, you must from this day forth live your entire life for Socialism. Spend your money on Socialist literature and see that the literature gets into the hands of Henry Dubb. If you who profess to want Socialism are lethargic and doing little, just simply waiting for it to come, how can you expect the worker, who knows little or nothing of our aims and objects, to dig down in his jeans to buy literature for his own enlightenment?

I know that it is an old stock phrase to say "Let the Dubbs pay for their own education," but I also know that the Dubbs will not pay. And I know that until the Dubbs know what is wrong with the system that I will have to suffer along with Henry.

I want Socialism. I want it quick, and I am prepared to pay! Are you? —Lorne Cunningham.

### STANDING TOGETHER.

"We must so raise the status of the worker in our minds that he will at last begin to realize that his labor and himself are things of real worth and consequence to the whole community. We must unite in preaching discontent, and, in so preaching, emphasize the fact that for the workers there is no chance of Social redemption unless they all combine and, by using the power which combination gives, alter the whole basis of our Social life. I do not ask that any of us should preach or practice violence. I am more convinced than ever that violence in any shape or form is an evil, that "we cannot cast out devils by devils," that the workers must discover some more excellent way. Their greatest power is the power of standing still and just doing nothing; but they must all stand still together. Those of us who wish to help them must teach them that they must all stand together or else remain as they are, slaves of the classes who own the land and all the other means of life. Napoleon's motto in all his campaigns was 'Divide and conquer.' The capitalist and commercial classes have learnt the same lesson." George Lansbury in "Your Part in Poverty."

Order a bundle of Forwards for distribution in your locality.

### ....PARTY ANNOUNCEMENTS....

The Dominion executive committee meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 363 Spadina Avenue, Toronto, secretary, I. Bainbridge.

The Ontario provincial executive committee meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 363 Spadina Avenue, Toronto, secretary, I. Bainbridge.

Local No. 71, Toronto—Meets at 165 Van Horne street, every Sunday, at 2.30 p.m.. A hearty invitation is extended to all friends and sympathizers. J. CUNNINGHAM, 12 Boustead Ave., Secretary.

Saskatchewan Provincial Executive Committee—Meets on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. All comrades desiring to join party or organize Locals are requested to write, F. G. Wetzel, Box 151, Vanguard, Sask.

Locals and Executive Bodies may have their Advs. in the Directory for the sum of \$3.00 per year.