

MORALS AND ECONOMICS.

(From an Editorial in the B.C. Federationist.)

The religious superstition is rated by many as the most gigantic hoax that ever found lodgment in the silly brain of man. Others there are who would give first place to the medical hoax, that is primarily based upon the grotesque fancy that cures for the bodily ills that human flesh is heir to because of filthy habits of living, can be purchased in a drug store. To the unbiased observer, however, there can be but little choice between the hoax of being able to purchase everlasting life in Elysian fields with earthly promises to pay something which can not be paid, and the hoax of being able to purchase health by partaking of charms and potions, themselves usually concocted from filth and poisons and compounded by other ignorances whose motive is the same as that of the purveyor of heavenly real estate for coin of the realm. There are scores and hundreds of other humbugs and impossible conceptions that are worked to a fare-you-well upon the human tribe of suckers that encumber the earth. But when they are all sorted over and sized up; when they are all carefully scrutinized and compared as to points of excellence for the purpose of befooling gudgeons into peacefully and even joyfully surrendering, not only their material possessions, but their very lives into the hands of rogues, robbers and constitutional villains, the financial hoax must be accorded the honor of being the most complete, efficient and eminently pleasing swindle ever practiced upon human gowks.

The banking power of the United States, represented by capital, surplus profits, circulation and deposits of national and other reporting banks and trust companies, including also the paid-in capital and deposits of the twelve federal reserve banks, is officially reported to be approximately 37 1-2 billion dollars. It has increased by some 14 billion dollars since the commencement of the present administration. The banking power of the world in 1890 was estimated by Mulhall to be 15 billion dollars. The even billions are used herein, in order to save space, and besides this, what are a few millions or hundreds of millions to us in the consideration of these simple matters of finance? It may be seen from the foregoing figures that the banking power of the United States is now about 2 1-2 times the banking power of the entire world or robbery and rapine 28 short years ago. And this tremendous increase in banking power should be a matter of intense pride to every skinny, skimped and ragged-seated slave in all the land, whose second-hand-appearing carcass has been squeezed dry in the production of the gallant array of figures under consideration. It should cause every simple but brave galoot in the bunch to fly joyfully to arms in defence of his country's banking power, at the first moment that danger threatened. For sad indeed would be the case of that flat-chested, knock-kneed, wind-broken and bandy-legged wage galoot, if his dear country's banking power should go up in a figurative smoke.

And now as to this hoax. There is nothing behind those figures of banking power except the working class and wind. The working class produces all the wealth that is produced. It creates all the exchange value, all that is rated, and sold, and purchased, and swapped, and traded and peddled in the market of the world. It produces all this for nothing. There are two reasons for this. One is that the modern working

class is an enslaved class—a wage slave class—just as the ancient working class was a class of chattel slaves and later feudal serfs. Being slaves, they are not entitled to payment for anything they do. If they were so paid they would not be slaves. The other reason why they are paid nothing for what they do lies in the fact that there is nothing in the heavens or the earth, or the waters under the earth, wherewith payment could be made, even if the masters were so minded. As the workers of the United States or any other land produce all the value in exchange that makes its appearance in the market, it may readily be seen without further argument why payment is impossible. As producers of all the wealth that is or can be measured in terms of exchange, the workers constitute all there is or can be to property. There is none other that can bring to its owner or owners something for nothing, i.e., profit. Therefore there is nothing else that can be really rated as property in the marts of the world. The deeds, titles, mortgages, stocks, bonds, debentures and currency of the world are nothing but the paper evidences of ownership of the slaves of modern times, by the master class—the capitalist class of these most glorious days. Whenever a slave happens to have any of this paper stuff in his possession, it only means he has an order upon the ruling class warehouse for its equivalent in fodder, etc., and which his necessities compel him to offer sooner or later for redemption. It is something like giving a well trained dog a dime with which to go to the meat market and buy a bone for himself. And, as in the case of the dog, the wage animal only gets in mase of faithful service.

Out of this continual process of production carried on by slaves, all of which is taken for nothing, and out of which there is thrown to them as a sort of charity, just enough bones and scraps to keep them tame and in working condition, there accumulates a vast array of figures to dazzle the imagination of shallow pates with the hallucination that these figures are wealth. As a matter of fact, they are quite the contrary. They are the mathematical expression of what was once wealth or value, but which is now not in existence, and never can be again. The wealth or exchange value created has been consumed from day to day, and year to year, as it has been brought forth, and the figures—the capitalization; the banking power—represents the magnitude of the plunder taken from the slaves over and above the amount the masters were themselves able to get inside of themselves, and upon their parasitic backs. In other words, the figures represent the surplus value accruing to the masters after all expenses have been paid, and which they have been compelled to sell on credit for the very same reason that they could not have paid their slaves for what they did in the first place, even had they been so minded, i.e., because there is nothing, never was anything, and can never be anything with which to make such payment. All of this banking power and similar bunk is pure flimflam and wind. All capitalization, investment, currency, etc., is an order on the future and which the future can not meet for the reason already given why nothing can be paid for either now or at any other time. If the reader will take the trouble to carefully study the processes of exchange he will have little difficulty in discovering that all

alleged sales are made upon credit, and such pretended payment as is made is done so only by the substitution of one credit for another. Things can not be sold and paid for. It is a mathematical impossibility. Labor produces all wealth that can be rated as such in the market. It has taken from the enslaved workers, who are forced by their necessities to produce it. It goes into the market as stolen goods and stolen goods can not be paid for by being exchanged for other stolen goods or

for previously issued promises to pay for previously stolen goods. So there you are. For a hoax, a swindle, a transparent fraud, the financial hoax has all others left at the post.

A Practical Christian.

(Hon. T. W. Crothers, Minister of Labor.)

If it wasn't a fact that I'm a practical Christian I could say something.

DONT MISS THIS

(Continued from page one.)

ers of property and the fewer people we have who are absentee owners, the stronger will be the buffer which we can put up against this radical regime. This is what we have continually urged in our Confidential Labor Bulletins. We feel, however, that it is due to all clients, to present to them the real facts about this situation. We are facing a world movement which is bigger than any country or any class.

STOCK MARKET AFFECTED.

This movement will have a vital bearing on general business and investments. Everything depends upon the vision which we exercise in dealing with the situation. If American business men and investors will wake up to the situation and work along the lines suggested we believe that there will be comparatively little to fear during the next few years. If, however, we persist in ignoring the facts, or dreading to deal with them, we wait fear-stricken for the calamity to overtake us, then we have only to look at Russia to see what will happen in the United States. **Already the above situation is a factor in the stock market, and in all business circles. Clients should watch this situation above all others. Unless definite action is taken to offset it, we must prepare for the hardest seige United States business has ever known.**

PLATFORM OF RUSSIAN RADICALS.

Some idea of the extent of demands made by the radicals is obtained from the following items adopted by the Social Democratic Party of Russia. This faction, by the way, is less extreme in most of its demands than the Bolshevik party which is now in control.

SOCIAL DEMANDS.

With a view to the abolition of the remnants of feudalism, which are weighing heavily and directly upon the peasants, and in the interest of free development of the struggle of the classes in the villages, the Russian Social Democratic Labor Party demands:

1. The abolition of all class pressure upon the person and property of the peasant.
2. The abolition of all imports and obligations imposed upon the peasant class and all peasant obligations of a class character.
3. The confiscation of church, monastery and state lands and their transfer to the local authorities in order that these lands, together with forests and waters of importance to the state, shall be surrendered to the control of the democratic state.
4. The confiscation of privately owned lands, with the exception of the small holdings, which shall be placed at the disposal of democratically elected local officials, the minimum standard of exemption from seizure to be fixed by the superior local authorities of self-government.
5. **The Russian Social Democratic Labor Party is firmly convinced the complete, logical, and early realization of the political and social reform indicated above will be accomplished in the best way by the utter annihilation of every remnant of autocracy and the summoning at the earliest possible moment of a constituent assembly freely elected by the entire people on the basis of universal, direct and secret ballot.**

SHILKA AT SEATTLE.

Further insight into the social conditions which actually existed in Russia was gained by the recent visit of the Bolshevik steamship Shilka to Seattle. The following account of this visit, as reported by the "Survey," is enlightening.

"This ship is managed by a crew committee, which elects the mate, and decided questions of food, wages, hours, etc. When, for instance, the cargo of rails and hides for which she had come was denied her because our government does not recognize the Bolsheviks, and she was offered a cargo of steel for Yokohama, the crew as a whole voted on the question and decided to take it. Dr. Strong had an interview with the man who handled the bookkeeping for the cargo.

"THE THEORY DID NOT MATTER."

"He said that the crew was responsible to the Sailor's Council of Vladivostock, which in turn was responsible to a national council as well as to the Workmen's and Sailors' Council of Vladivostock. The real revolution, he said, was not a question of what Petrograd wanted. Kerensky, Lenine, Trotzky, were not mentioned in Russian papers as they are here. In Russia it was the 'local councils,' the decisions of the 'Peasants' Council' of such and such a place that were talked about. If Lenine were deposed, it would not make much difference to the revolution. The revolution consisted of the taking over of the factories, ships, land, etc., by the persons working on them. Some places still had managers, others were run by a wage system, others were run by managers, others were run by committees—there were all stages. Some councils of workers were Social Democrats, some Social Revolutionaries, some Anarchists, the theory did not matter, since they were all workers and stood for the majority programme or the Bolshevik.

INDUSTRIAL DELEGATE GROUP.

"When Lenine and Trotzky came into power, the crew of the Shilka held a ballot and decided practically unanimously to belong to the new government and turn over to it the returns from the ship. That was all there was to it. They even decided how much should go to the central government in Petrograd, how much to the poor relief in Vladivostock, and how much to the school system. The Bolshevik are not a political party, he explained, as parties are understood here, nor yet a labor union. As far as Dr. Strong could gather, they are an industrial delegate group with some political functions. They have varying political views, ranging from those of Social Democrats to those of anarchists.