

## Western Clarion

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## EDITORIAL

### PRITCHARD'S ADDRESS TO THE JURY.

THE able address of Comrade W. A. Pritchard to the jury in the Winnipeg State trials at the Fall Assizes, 1919-1920, printed in pamphlet form, has just come to hand. Comrade Pritchard, in his defence, has assumed the position of accuser of society as it is now constructed, with its multifarious forms of oppression, and with special reference to the operation of the machinery of law as it was operated in and around Winnipeg, centreing upon this trial.

The address is an altogether creditable performance, and will endure primarily as of a political rather than a legal bearing. Comrade Pritchard bases his remarks upon the exhibits filed by the Crown, and from that abundant material outlines what is not alone an excellent case in defence, but a sound groundwork of educational substance worth while studying.

Altogether apart from the wide interest the case has aroused from the legal standpoint, and the problems in connection therewith that remain to be dealt with, the booklet will serve well as of valuable reference in connection with Socialist literature, and works connected with social problems.

We recommend its reading to all who have interested themselves in this trial, and to others it will provide food for thought as a document that is essentially of working-class interest.

Single copies and small quantities can be sent from this office, price 25 cents per copy post paid.

Large orders should be sent to J. Law, 220 Bannatyne Avenue, Winnipeg, or to A. S. Wells, 405 Dunsmuir Street, Vancouver, B. C., from whom special rates may be obtained.

### RUSSIAN TRADE.

OUR information concerning the details of the mission of Krassin in London, emissary of the Soviet Government, is dependent upon the daily news sheets. We have long since learned to be sceptical about any items in the press columns regarding Russia, and we are as sceptical now regarding the news of the negotiations of the emissary of that country.

The presence, in London, of the Soviet commission, whatever may be its outcome, is a certain indication of up-to-date failure on the part of Britain in her Russian policy. One by one her mercenaries have been annihilated or have been rendered fugitive from Soviet territory, while Poland today, in her aggression against Russia, faces the overwhelming defeat of her armies, which Britain has largely equipped and outfitted without a bill of costs.

While the press news indicates the existence of serious deliberations between the Soviet and British representatives, its presentation is so obviously doctored and garbled that it serves a useful purpose as being indicative of what is not so. Whether or not there may be any serious minded people who imagine that Krassin's mission can busy itself exclusively as a commercial mission without regard to political considerations, it would be folly for us to ignore the fact that Russia is at the present moment an outlaw country in the capitalist world. Her revolution

has cut deep into the standards of the institution of private property, and while her present proposals for a working basis of exchange of products with capitalist countries remain unannounced, it is difficult to estimate the true worth of the hand-shaking from a practical standpoint, as related to her present needs.

Her present needs, while they may be more evident, are hardly less insistent than are those of her enemies now in negotiation with her. Their needs may compel them to forego past claims against Russia in whole or part, but in any event, the consideration that prevents their mutual abandonment as Allies lies in their mutual economic and political dependence upon each other for continued existence as States. The several Allied countries are competitors in the same market, and while they may manoeuvre for advantageous position, their interdependence and combined interest as profit producing countries, as against the Communist aims of the Soviets, serve as a check upon their everready willingness to undo each other as occasion may demand.

The liberal press of each country involved, in its advocacy of a policy of trade with Russia, is representative of those interests whose abandonment of true bourgeois principles is more apparent than real. Their liberalism towards Russia is based upon a merited distrust of their own capitalist competitors.

Our good wishes are wholeheartedly with Russia, but we are not confused as to the fundamental issues involved, and we know that her spokesmen are under no delusion as to the real meaning of trade relationships with the exploiters of human labor.

### LOUIS FRAINA.

LOUIS FRAINA has had levelled against him the most serious accusation that can be made against any man who calls himself a Socialist. He is accused of being now, or of having been in the last year or two a secret service agent, acting for Palmer, official stifler of open opinion in the United States.

We do not intend to repeat the story as it has been given by "The Call" (New York), and echoed by others. We hold no brief for Fraina, and we have looked with disapproval upon much of his hair-brained, alarmist propaganda in past years, but we are of opinion that in grave matters of this kind, it is a discreditable practice on the part of the Socialist and Labor press to imitate the sensation worshipping manners of the scurvy press. One kick is enough at a time, that is, until the victim has a reasonable chance to be heard.

The charge against Fraina may very well be true; but then again, it may not be true, and in any case, this kind of charge always leaves a mark. If those papers that rehashed the original news item had presented any evidence of their own in connection with the case, they would be less liable to classification as next-of-kin to the well oiled press. They have presented nothing that has not appeared in the original article they have copied, and now their duty will be to reproduce everything they can see in Fraina's defence, even if it fills every inch of their space.

We know nothing of Fraina or his personal character, and we are not appearing in his defence, but we dislike the practice of howling that a man is a rogue because a well-informed person next door says so. We have no quarrel with the original publication of the charges, but we quarrel with the questionable methods of the imitators. No section of the workers' movement can thrive through the disparagement of any kind of man unheard.

### SUGGESTIONS.

IT is frequently—but vainly—asked: "What will Socialist society be like, how organized and controlled; what will be its life condition?" Our querists are no whit daunted by the reason of dialectic, or satisfied with the empiricism of historical materialism. They demand concrete and detailed structure and correlation.

Since social institutions are the reflex of social economics, it would almost seem to be obvious that,

given the fundamental of social economy, its superstructure could be predicated. And so indeed it could if all the data could be conceived and stated; but that is just exactly what cannot be done.

Evolution is not a circle; does not follow tell-tale lines for set purposes; is not bounded by the paltry logic of finite concepts. On the contrary, it is a cycle of events, of changing complexity, never passing in identical phase or form twice. From initial causes, or motion, it develops in ever increasing complexities, in endless concatenations, in manifold directions. And yet it is ever subject to the prime laws and limitations of being and constitution. It is like a stream that here breaks in foaming rapids, there laughs in rippling shallows, thunders in sparkling cascades, glides in placid deeps, swirling and eddying by bend and hollow in miniature cycles of its own motion, never returning, never repeating the same series, ever flowing, broadening, deepening, gathering weight and power in volume and potentiality unknown.

So with society. It comes, develops and changes. Development itself produces changes in its own nature, quality and substance, and so changing, changes the mode of progress, alters the whole fabric of social organization, weaving a new pattern of social institutions, determined by the forceful necessity of ceaseless movements. Like light and shade that play over the face of nature, so social devices and forms of society are the unstable formations of transitory human need, evolved from the material progress of universal "must." From primal base and concept there is developed an ever widening series of relationship between man and man, between man and nature, between man and his necessity. Corresponding with such relationships and their necessary change, comes ideality and its equally necessary change. New power bequeaths new knowledge, new knowledge an increasing power, countless gradations, extensions, directions of action and its thought, of thought and its action.

One can but forecast Socialist society vaguely, negatively, and that only at its inception—which itself will be gradual and not ideally predetermined. We can say that profiteering shall not exist—that its whole economic shall be forgotten like an evil dream; that classes shall have disappeared; statecraft be no more; slavery and its civilization vanished like a ship in the night.

We may aver that society will collectively produce the fullest satisfaction of its wants and desires; that all shall be free of access to the utmost of world resources; that all shall individually enjoy all that is socially produced. Thus secure in the means of life, in the fullness of comfort and wellbeing, society will take root and flourish in new soil, form new concepts, build its institutions, direct new conditions, master the laws of change and adapt to them new attainments and purposes.

It will be a society where men and women will not be the craven spawn of commerce, where childhood will not be ground in the mills of profit, where thought will not be cankered by finance, where mortality may rise to grandeur. A society whose religion may be humanity, its ethic, liberty, and the living fount of truth the inspiration of its normal action.

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