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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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By PETER T. LECKIE.

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Book Review

CIVIL WAR IN WEST VIRGINIA.—A story of The Industrial Conflict in the Coal Mines. Winthrop D. Lane. With an introduction by John R. Commons. B. W. Huebsch, Inc., New York. Fifty Cents. 128 pp.

AT a time when capitalist newspapers carry headlines conveying information to the effect that armed miners are again on the march in West Virginia, the reading of such a work as this is more than ordinarily interesting.

The publishers should be complimented upon the production of brochures at democratic prices, especially in times of high printing cost, as prevail at present.

The book consists of nineteen chapters first run in the columns of the "New York Evening Post" from February 7th to March 3rd of this year, together with a preface by Prof. Jno. R. Commons of Columbia, and an introduction by the author in which we are told that "the conflict over unionism in West Virginia is neither temporary nor sporadic. It is a deep seated and continuous struggle." Here also a mild mannered castigation of modern newspapers as purveyors of real news is to be found.

The journalistic strain runs through the entire work, albeit of a high quality; it is readable, capable of easy comprehension and direct.

The story of outlawry in high places is told with an impartiality that is to be commended. A proletarian student might easily supply the answers which our author leaves suspended in mid-air. That this is not done might enhance the value of the work to the enquiring worker, for despite the benevolent neutrality assumed, the indictment produced by the mere presentation of the evidence, carefully documented, is damning enough in all conscience. When any doubt as to the authenticity of documents exists Mr. Lane says so unreservedly.

The utopian reformers and purveyors of palliatives, who imagine social ills can be cured by a mere legal enactment should here find food for thought. The law is shown to be openly violated by many of the coal operators; and deputy sheriffs, paid by the state, carry on the owners' business, such as guarding the pay-roll, etc., and in other ways become contributors to the laws' breach.

Life in a coal camp is graphically depicted and the author's reasoning is sufficiently acute to enable him to see that the operators are in a position of power, and that power comes chiefly from ownership.

Houses, stores, churches, school and in some cases even roads are owned by the companies.

But this is insignificant compared to the actual operations of the masters. Injunctions are granted by courts, appeals seem to be easily won when, as in very exceptional cases, the law appears as in favor of the miners; evictions of tenants are secured when trouble arises and an espionage and armed guard system abounds. Yet Mr. Lane could have (and possibly has) found similar conditions obtaining in many other parts of the Land of the Free.

Despite its vaunted democracy, its almost 120% Americanism sickeningly and constantly boosted; its abhorrence of atrocities in unspeakable Turkey, bleeding Belgium, and tyrannical Russia (both Tsarist and Bolshevik), America will ever be remembered in history as the classic land of the "frame-up," "gun-men," "thug" and real informer in the labor movement.

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An interesting account of the incident of which the shooting of Sid Hatfield was the sequel appears on page 48.

We can recommend this work to any desiring a detailed story of the West Virginia trouble. The character of capital defending its right to existence and the function of the state in its brutal nakedness will easily be seen.

One might be led to enquire as to why the officials of an organization like the U. M. W. A., faced with the capitalist coal beast of West Virginia, could have allied themselves with the government and the operators in Western Canada.

The mass of the workers, apparently submerged in a prodigious unawareness of their social status, have a long way to go ere they realize the nature of the capitalist beast. This book might help in this direction.

W. A. P.

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