

Vested Interests Sabotaging the Rising Generation of Vancouver

The corner grocery intellectuals who manage to get on to our school boards give us the pip. According to the new plans of the Vancouver School Board, pupils who are taking technical courses in the high school must finish their course in Toronto before they can enter the University here. We understood that this action by the board constitutes the tearing up of another "scrap of paper," in that, they promised the pupils, three years ago, admittance to the University on graduation, or, as an alternative, the formation of an advanced vocational course outside the University. The boys are, very properly, up in arms against this. Many of their parents have made sacrifices and are having a hard struggle these days to furnish means to give their boys an education that will make them constructive citizens of the new age, and also, many of the pupils have to work for wages in their spare time in order to carry on their education, so that, going to Toronto, is out of the question and they may as well look for a job in a ditch or behind a counter right away.

All that education evidently means to these dill pickle vendors on the Board, is that it should make good doleful muckstick artists or at the best, forty dollar a month clerks.

They imagine their anarchical system of buying

cheap and selling dear is going to last forever. But they have another think coming. Before long, the proletariat will be in control and then the transition stage from Capitalism to Socialism commences. Production and distribution has then to be recognized on the basis of production for use. That will be largely the work of those who are now attending high schools, and we want them to be well prepared for it.

Yet, these mixing-the-sugar-with-the-sand saboteurs, are intending to frustrate the laudable ambitions of the pupils to play a useful and valuable part in the great task which lies before us.

We shall need hosts of young men thoroughly grounded in the theories of the sciences and their practical application to the new problems entailed in the reorganization of production and distribution upon a basis of production for use instead of profit. The great need will be an abundance of technical experts in those spheres of economic activity.

The blind, anarchic working out of the law of supply and demand on the market as a register of purchasing capacity and regulator of production will be superseded by conscious, scientific accounting, direction and control. We need educated men and women for the experimental and re-

search stations we shall establish in connection with every department of industry. All the out of date means and methods of production must be scrapped and the very best and latest put in the hands of the producers. We are going to be very busy after the proletariat gets control. All those farmers, who are now breaking their hearts, year in, year out, in poverty, on the sand hills and the stump ranches will be settled on the rich lands now lying idle in the hands of speculators. For we are going to work to live, and live high purposeful social lives in the spacious days of the new age.

The masses of the people are going to move out of the tuberculosis breeding slums and erect their homes on the heights. And so, we need our youth educated to be builders instead of parasites, or the hangers on the parasites.

We hope the pupils and their friends will be successful in forcing the Board to change its plans of sabotage. Because we are, for the task of the future, woefully short on men with the vision that comes from possession of constructive knowledge and ability in the socially useful productive spheres of human activity, and long, too long, woefully long on the supply of labor of the manual sort. And, we are too long also on "educated" predatory pirates in the sphere of profit.

The Socialization of Women in Russia Story

This malicious story has been many times publicly refuted and an apology extracted from the "New Europe," an English publication, which was responsible for its going the rounds of the bourgeois press, but we hear that it is still in private circulation, mostly, no doubt, circulated by those of a pornographic bent of mind, so we have to use space that we needed for other purposes, in order to publish another refutation. First we quote from the Glasgow "Forward" of April 12:

"And the British government sticks to its infamous 'we don't know' attitude about the nationalization of women lie, the alleged decree of Saratoff. Here beside us in the 'New Republic' for 15th March, giving the decree in full as it appeared on the hoardings of Samara on the Volga last spring. Mr. Oliver M. Saylor, who was in Samara at the time, gives the whole story to the 'New Republic.' The decree was not put up by the Bolsheviks. Ostensibly it was put up by the 'Free Association of Anarchists of the City of Saratoff,' but as on the face of it there was something strange in a Saratoff decree appearing in the streets of Samara (which is 200 miles from Saratoff, Mr. Saylor and some friends visited the local Anarchist Club to hear what they had to say about it. He found them issuing an enraged 'reply,' which begins:

"The enemy is powerless. The enemy is falling lower and lower. And in his fall he is blaspheming. And in his fall he is slandering. And he makes use of the most provocative means. . . And the enemy is spreading the vicious slander that freedom goes so far as to do violence to women. In our name they spread their dirty hands. 'the Decree concerning the Socialization of Women.'"

"Northcliffe got a hold of the story. He was not at the time particularly concerned about damning the Anarchists (whom, by the way, the Bolsheviks suppressed by force of arms!), so he fathered the 'decree' upon the Bolsheviks.

"What a howl arose from the gutter press! It squared well with a previous lie that Lenin had to be supplied with a fresh bourgeois maiden every day. In remote corners the story arrived with the added touch that the decree had been

approved by the Independent Labor Party in Britain!

"And now! Proof from Mr. Saylor:

- (1) That the Bolsheviks had nothing to do with it.
- (2) That the Anarchists had nothing to do with it.

"It was therefore part of a counter-revolutionary plot, the work of an 'agent provocateur.' 'In the course of six months in Russia,' says Mr. Saylor, 'I was unable to find record of other allusion to any such document.' Only once on the hoardings of Samara in the night time did an enemy of the working class revolution get his bogus proclamation displayed. And upon the strength of it our capitalist press and our foreign office whip up the indignation of the people of Great Britain against the Socialists of Russia!

"The decree bears upon its face the falsehood manifest. It is overdone. Its grossness and viciousness is too obvious, too transparent. Look for example:

[We did not think it necessary to publish the decree itself but will follow up with a letter from Mr. Joseph King, member of the British House of Commons, to Francis W. Hirst, a noted British economist and editor of "Common Sense," London, England, a journal dealing with public affairs:

To the Editor of "Common Sense"—Dear sir: Lenin and Trotsky must be congratulated! Here is the "New Europe" apologizing for starting and spreading the stories which have been spread ad nauseam by the Government and the Press that women have been "nationalized," meaning that all women are made prostitutes by law. This piquant idea was first started by the "New Europe" several months ago. Now the "New Europe" is a weekly magazine, very ably run by a committee on which sit men like Mr. Wickham Stead, (editor of the Times), Colonel Buchan, and Dr. Seton Watson, gentlemen in high official authority. So, when the "New Europe" stated that the Bolsheviks had made a monstrous decree of this kind, many believed it. The "New Europe," after the abominable lie had done its work, is now brought to book by the People's

Russian Information Bureau, and Dr. Harold Williams, of the Daily Chronicle, a strong anti-Bolshevik writer, and recants its error; it "withdraws unreservedly the imputation and expresses regret for the mistake." We ought to congratulate Lenin and Trotsky, and the Bolsheviks on getting an apology from the Editor of the "Times" and his Foreign Office colleagues. Yours truly,

JOSEPH KING.

Reform Club, March 17, 1919.

In addition to the above we have other matter contradicting this and other stories of the socialization of women in Russia, notably a refutation of an alleged incident at Briansk (Orel province, East Russia) issued by the People's Russian Information Bureau.

"THE TRUTH IS NOT IN THEM"

Those who read and accepted at its face value Mr. Lloyd George's bland denial of any knowledge of the Bullitt mission to Russia, ought to know that Mr. Bullitt took breakfast with Mr. Lloyd George the morning after his return from Russia to Paris and that Mr. Lloyd George is as thoroughly familiar with the Bullitt report as are the members of the American Peace Delegation. . . "The Nansen project for feeding Russia appears to be the main result of the Bullitt mission, and bids fair to have an interesting career. In a manly letter to the Big Four, Dr. Nansen outlined the terrible situation in Russia and suggested an acceptable method of relief through neutral agencies. The Big Four replied with still another sanctimonious profession of impartiality in the internal affairs of Russia, made it a cardinal item of the project that the Soviet government cease fighting, and told Dr. Nansen to go ahead. As all the fighting in Russia is being done either by Allied and American troops or by counter-revolutionary troops, instigated, financed and supplied by the Allies (according to the frank admission of Mr. Lloyd George in the House of Commons on April 16) it is difficult to see how the Soviet government can cease fighting until the Big Four call off their dogs."—New York "Nation," April 26.