

## WHAT OTHERS ARE THINKING

### Bright Clippings from Wide-a-wake Contemporaries

#### The Strategy of Reforms.

(The Rebel, Texas.)

Bismarck's game was to grant remedial legislation far in advance of anything that has been tried in this country. Under Bismarck's guidance the German Parliament began as early as 1887 to grant public old age, sick, unemployed and death insurance, wiped out slums, destroyed poorhouses, established the eight-hour day, abolished illiteracy, erased child slavery, established government owned railways, telephones, telegraphs, markets, abolished homelessness until 86 per cent. of the Germans now own their own homes, etc.—all to the end that the slaves be kept well-fed and contented.

In short Bismarck frankly avowed that the purpose of these reforms was to "raise a bulwark against the rising tide of Socialism"—to take "wind out of the sails of the Socialists."

However, the German Socialists did not stop their agitation in the fool belief that the capitalist government would now cut its own throat by handing the workers freedom on a gold platter. Instead they communed among one another thusly: "Bismarck gave us Socialistic measure because our vote increased last election. So let us increase our agitation, education and organization still more and thus force him to hand us more than ever."

#### Lighting Labor's Way.

(Sydney Aust., International Socialist.)

We are a small party compared with the Labor Party. But we have largeness of purpose, clarity of vision, the enthusiasm of unhoped for reward, a great ideal to be accomplished, all unswayed by the lure of office or the desire for personal aggrandisement, that has cursed the Labor movement. And this being so, we are satisfied to keep on fighting in the vanguard of the Labor movement in the knowledge that we are blazing the trail that must inevitably be followed by those who fight in the great battle of working class emancipation.

#### A Contrast in Procedure.

(Toronto Star.)

The snow-cleaning days have come. Things would be made much easier for the householder if the procedure laid down for prosecuting the food monopolists were adopted for those who neglect to shovel away the snow. First the City Council would have to be "shown" that snow had fallen and had not been removed. Then a policeman would be sent to investigate. The policeman would report to the Council, and the Council would pass a resolution. The resolution would be sent to the Minister of Justice at Ottawa. The Minister of Justice would send a snow expert to visit the scene of the crime. The investigator would report to the Minister. The Minister would then, perhaps, request or instruct the Attorney-General of Ontario to prosecute the offender.

Instead of that, the householder, after a warning from the policeman, receives a summons, appears before the magistrate, and is summarily tried.

Or, to reverse the case, what a boon it would be to the householder if he could get after the food monopolist as quickly as the city authorities get after him for not shovelling the snow.

#### Wilson and Labor.

(American Socialist.)

Well, it's four years more of Wilson. It's scheduled, according to the inside dope here, to be four years of half-baked radicalism with the unavowed but earnest purpose of smashing the Socialist party and building up a Liberal party which will perpetuate itself in office ad infinitum. This is a phenomenon of the greatest significance to

labor—and the unexpected smallness of the Socialist vote is part of the story.

Wilson is not a labor President, never has been and never really will be. He may be a reformers' President, or a progressives' President, but not a labor President. While he is undoubtedly more intelligent and sympathetic with labor than Hughes—around election time—he is not fundamentally socialistic. He may take steps toward government ownership, which steps will draw into his train many more radicals, but Wilson will never take a step towards smashing the wage system or lessening the control of industry by the trusts.

#### The Fight Still on in Russia!

(New Review.)

During the war the Russian workers have not only managed to maintain their economic struggle, but organize a number of political strikes. In April, 1915, there was a large protest strike on the memorial day of the massacre of the gold workers in the Lena district, and 400 men were arrested. On May 1, 35,000 workers went on strike in St. Petersburg. In June and July the textile workers in Kostroma and Iwanowosnesensky engaged in an economic struggle ending with more than 100 workers killed, many wounded, and a large number of arrests. As a protest against these bloody events the workers in St. Petersburg organized strikes. The movement developed great strikes in August and September, when, after the dissolution of the Duma the workers demonstrated against the Government, their demand being: "Down with the Government." In September, 15,000 men were on strike in Nijni-Novgorod, and a large number in Moscow, Charkoff, and in the south of Russia. Not only has the war not crushed the revolutionary movement, but during the last six months the movement has gained in intensity.

#### War What For!

(Glasgow Forward.)

At one time the French called us Perfid Albion because we did it and denied it. Now here is the military correspondent, London Times, Sept. 31, 1916, openly admitting it and glorying in it, even during this great struggle for small nationalities:—

"Nobody in particular noticed that between 1878 and 1902 the British army added to the Empire an area of territory equal to that of the United States, but the British soldier naturally noticed it because he did it. In the mountains that girdle the North-west Frontier, amidst the rocks of Afghanistan, through the swamps and forests of Burma and Africa, on the veldt, in Egypt, and in the deserts of the Soudan, an Empire was being carved out by the old army in a quiet, unostentatious, but methodical sort of way."

The difference between British Imperialism and Pan-Germanism, is that the former operates solely for the welfare of the absorbed nationalities, in fact, does it at great personal sacrifice for their own good: while the latter, is it not exploitation, penetration, barbarization, sensualization, domination, bestialization, and several other actions which we cannot just remember at the moment?

**Sub Hustlers, and Local Secretaries, are requested to forward at once all monies collected on sale of Subs.**

## THE SPICE BOX

The development of capitalism does not retard Socialism. The only thing that retards Socialism is ignorance. Get busy and awaken the workers.

Capitalism is economic cannibalism. It is not how much an insect eats that makes him a bed bug. It is how he gets it. It is not how much a man has that makes him a capitalist—it is how he gets it.

To make a capitalist bouquet take an untaught famished child of the slums, a drunken wife-beater, a lost woman of the streets, a jail-made criminal, a sweater's slave, an unemployed workman, an overworked laborer, a broken-down pauper, a bowelless money lender, a time-saving politician, a fraudulent bankrupt, a jerry contractor, a dissolute aristocrat. All of these flowers are the fair product of the soil on which our present system is based. They form a bouquet which smells good—to the capitalist.

Labor trying to better its conditions by electing either of the old political parties to office is like petitioning the devil for a pass to heaven.

Rent profit and interest represent the difference between what the workers earn and what they get.

If you steal a meal you are a criminal, but if you steal a railroad or one million acres of land you are an ornament to society.

The capitalist idea of prosperity on earth is about the same as the devil's idea of prosperity in hell.

The slave produces for his own living. But for that privilege he must first produce for his master.

When a working man has a wooden leg he finds it hard to get along. But he thinks he gets along alright with a wooden head.

When the workers are too industrious, over-production is the result. The boss takes his ease, but the worker seeks the soup kitchen. Great system, is it not?

"Whatever is, is right," say our rulers. That is their standard of morality. Consequently all progress is revolution and anarchy to them because it is undesirable from their standpoint.

The capitalist institution known as the court of justice imprisons a tramp because he lives off the earnings of other people. Why does not the same rule apply to the millionaire?

It takes persecution to awaken class-consciousness. That is why the wage-slaves will surely kick at the prospect of conscription.

Wages mean robbery. If you were paid what you produce, the master would be in the bread line. "Capital," said Marx, "is unpaid wages."

Capitalism means profit. Profit means competition, and competition means war. War is hell, but capitalism is three blanks and an asterisk.

We would not suggest that conscription is wanted as a weapon to deal with the workers when the other business is finished with. We know that the good kind master is too fine a chap to do anything like that.

The latest achievement of science is the Deutschland submarine, which can cross the Atlantic and return without need of re-fueling. Capitalism has perverted science to the service of destruction instead of production.

## THE SUPREME SACRIFICE

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all. It is purely biological and is found in all the higher forms of life. It is the law of self-preservation expressed as rare preservation, and the idea of "self-sacrifice" never enters into the head of the mother. In the lavishing of affection upon her child, often to her own physical harm, she but gratifies self. Many indulgent "self-sacrificing" parents have absolutely no consideration for the children of their neighbors.

Another oft-quoted example of self-sacrifice is the early Christians. Karl Kautsky, in a controversy with E. Bel-fort Bax on materialism, says: "It is in my opinion possible to explain the aversion to earthly things and the longing for death in early Christianity by the material conditions of the time in the Roman Empire. It would, however, be preposterous to find a material interest as a cause for the longing for death." Quite true, but Kautsky overlooks the fact that not only were the conditions of life in the empire sufficient to rob life of all joy among the slave class, but death itself was but the gateway to glory—"spiritual" self-interest. "What profiteth a man if he gain the whole world and lose his soul," i.e., immortality, or eternal happiness. The law of life, to live, and to live better, was merely pushed beyond the portals of death. And the faith of the early Christian was no pious hope: He was dead sure, or I do not understand history.

If Kautsky had turned to the 19th chapter of the Gospel according to Matthew, he would have found some startling proof as to the disinterested and non-material motives of the early Christians. A certain young man came to Jesus and said, "Master, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" Jesus told him to keep the commandments. The young man assured Him that he had kept them all from his youth up and asked what yet he lacked. To which Jesus replied, "If thou wilt be perfect go and sell all that thou hast and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven; and come and follow me." And the young man went away very sorrowful, for he had great possessions. The investment did not look good to him. Then Peter said "Behold, we have forsaken all and followed thee." What splendid sacrifice! But, alas, he added, "What shall we have therefore?" No, I am not attributing any "base, sordid, self-seeking" motives to Peter, as, according to the Gospel, he forsake all some time previous to making this enquiry. He was only obeying the primal law. And Jesus said, "Verily I say unto you that ye which have followed me, . . . shall receive an hundred fold, and shall inherit everlasting life." And this for the "sacrifice" of the possessions of a fisherman. What a sublime investment! The writer of the story wrote in obedience to the primal law. He could not imagine anyone giving up anything without hope for some greater thing or satisfaction in return. Casethy bread upon the waters and it will return unto thee after many days—buttered. Can you wonder that this story is popular in capitalist society, where equal for equal is andreamt of, and much for little is good business. But I now approach the "holy of holies," and lest I should give offence, I will take leave of Holy Writ and ask the reader to draw his own conclusions as to the nature of the "Supremest Sacrifice," the great example for all the "Supremest Sacrifices" of press, platform, and pulpit.

#### MAN WE'RE LOOKING FOR.

"He's so reckless he's always taking chances." "Oh, do send him to the Toronto Women's Social-Democratic League's Bazaar."

If wars had to be fought c.o.d. there would no longer be any war.