

# For the Lack of---

RECENT news despatches tell us that three-fourths of the Connaught Rangers, an Irish battalion stationed in India, have mutinied and refused to serve any longer in the British army. This action followed, we are told, upon receiving letters from home which informed the soldiers of the state of affairs imposed on their countrymen by the British military occupation of Ireland.

As the Irish are reputed to possess a strong sense of humor, it is possible the Connaught Rangers discovered something humorous in the situation, that, while they were absent from Ireland in the service of the British Empire, keeping the natives of India in subjection to foreign rule, English, Scotch and Welsh soldiers were doing likewise to the natives of Ireland, also in the interest of the British Empire.

If the Irish soldiers' response to that situation was due to their sense of humor, then there is great danger to the present capitalist order of society should the rest of the working class develop or acquire that sense by contagion, precept or example. The working class support capitalism because they are unable to visualize its inner forces, and Capitalism is a system of production for profit; in other words, it is essentially competitive and inescapably predatory. Imperial policies, international war, aggressions and the subjection of weaker peoples to the exploitations of the strong, are the working out, the true development of Capitalism: they are the evolution of that which lies latent and preformed in the original life of capitalism. Those who think, like the radicals, they can reform imperialism out of capitalism might as well set themselves to weaving ropes of sand. Imperial-

ism does but give out the full and exact note imposed on capitalism by the passing of its days.

The internationalism of capitalist dominion leads to perpetual war and misery. On the other hand the internationalism of Labor leads on a different path through common economic and political aspirations to a co-operative, emulative and peaceful progress.

Imagine, for a moment, the workers achieving Labor's international point of view, or even, as an alternative, acquiring a sense of humor and thus an insight into the methods of capitalist dominion, the shooting and gut-ripping of working men by working men in the interest of profit.

But, our social life remains an interwoven complex of tragedy and comedy; and it remains so, and we suffer its tragedies, because we lack the knowledge and saving grace of humor to recognize the comedy in it.

A story is told which may account for this latter fatal limitation: A long time ago, before the beginning, "when nothing was," neither time nor space, neither a theory of sin and damnation, or a public press, a Peace Conference, a War Minister Churchill, or Presidential elections, to name but a few humor provokers of to-day, the gods, feeling bored, decided for their amusement to fill the uneventful vacuum by creating the world, placing upon this globular stage the biped man as pivotal attraction in the approaching comedy. Paradoxical as it may seem, they foreordained the complete success of the comedy by endowing man with all but one of their own god-like attributes, withholding from him, in malice aforethought, the sense of

humor. And ever after, viewing from Olympian heights the outcome of their handiwork and rocking with merriment, the divinities are said to rend the heavenly spaces with tempestuous laughter.

Here below, however, on these lower mundane levels, because no doubt I share the common curse, methinks it seemeth a scurvy joke.

On acceptance of this creation story, to which this writer subscribes as having more facts to support it than any other, it follows as a matter of course, that the Irish were a special creation. Stricken with remorse at the hard fate of lesser breeds, the gods repented. "Clear the way."

Humor, it is said, is contagious, so the Socialist malignants may yet hope. Even the English, becoming infected, may yet "see the point," in the policies of the British imperialists. As a particular instance, this present writer, whenever he thinks of certain of those policies and, to the sponsors, their unanticipated and surprising outcome, he feels within himself unwonted sensations tending towards irreverent ribaldry. And can you blame him when you think of the latest Polish adventure, for instance, and the solemn disclaimers in the British House of Commons of any responsibility for it even while it forced on a bankrupt, poverty stricken Poland a huge loan at so much per cent. in the shape of left-over munitions from the great war?

In deep concern lest the well-known extraordinary respectability and (funda-) mental stodginess of the English working class should be corrupted, I suggest that immediately a "cordon sanitaire" be placed around Ireland as was done so (in)effectively around Russia. (Irish) humor and (Bolshevik) ideas are alien to and bad for "our English workers don' cher know." C. S.

## What is Labor?

In the platform of the Democratic party it is asserted that "labor is not a commodity. Labor is human." All of which is perfectly true and also misleading.

Labor is a collective noun meaning laborers or workers in the aggregate. The time is past when the worker himself is sold on the market as a chattel slave; but the energy which the worker generates, his labor power, is sold on the market the same as steam-power, gas explosion power or electric power; and because it is so sold it is a commodity and sells at its value, subject to the law of supply and demand, like other commodities. Hence the term labor-market.

The only way labor-power differs from other commodities is that it is the only commodity which has power to produce more value than its own, and it is from this ability that all profit is derived.

Labor-power produces all value and receives in return the price of its own re-production in the form of a living wage. The value which is produced by extending that labor-power over a longer period of time than it takes to re-produce itself is surplus value which the buyer of said labor-power appropriates, the same as in the time of slavery and serfdom. The buyer of labor-power, under the present wage system, has the advantage over the owner of the slave and serf in as much as he is not obliged to maintain the laborer or worker, when he is not producing. In other words he simply stops buying the labor-power and has no further concern in the welfare of the workers, as there is usually a surplus of labor-power on the market. It is a cheaper method of production and came into being when by the discovery of steam, and the consequent development of the big machine, the worker being unable to own his own tools, became a machine worker.—Katherine Smith.

## As to Study Classes.

About this time of the year, when sunshine permits pleasure excursions, or holds the industrious man or woman to the needful tasks of life, educational classes are rendered impossible.

At this time in past years, we have generally neglected consideration of the best methods to be followed in the various classes that are inevitably formed in the Fall. An educational study programme, which might be considered beforehand, with benefit as to subjects to be taken up, the forms the classes would find most advantageous in methods of study, the matter of essay writing and the systematic arrangement of the same in order of sequence and regular relationship, each point with the other, and each essay with the other, should now be thought over by each intending student.

The passing of two more months will see the commencement of classes on Economics, History, etc., throughout the country. All who are interested should now commence the consideration of subjects and methods of class study, and should now prepare, to be ready to advance their ideas when the classes meet, on the best methods to pursue.

If this is done now in various parts of the country, co-operation and cohesive effort will surely result when the classes are in full swing.

### CLARION NEWS AGENCIES

**THE "WESTERN CLARION" IS ON SALE AT:**  
CALGARY, ALTA.—Alexander News Stand, 204 Eighth Avenue West.

Labor News Stand, 814a—2nd Street East.  
MONTREAL.—S. Feigelman, 421 St. Lawrence Boulevard  
Frierman and Baranowski, 12 Ontario Street East.

NEW WESTMINSTER.—News Stand, B. C. E. R. Depot.

SEATTLE.—Raymer's Old Book Store, 1330 First Ave.

PORT ARTHUR.—Viking Book Store, 264 Bay Street.

TORONTO.—D. Goodman, Blind News Agent, corner Queen and Chestnut Streets.

VANCOUVER.—Columbia News Stand, corner Hastings and Columbia Streets.

John Green, Carral Street.

W. Love, Hastings Street East.

WINNIPEG.—Reformers' Book Agency, 222a Phoenix Block (Opening evenings).

BUFFALO, N. Y.—Onward Book Store, 196 Gold Street.

CHICAGO.—Radical Book Shop, 867 N. Clark Street.

Walden Book Shop, 307 Plymouth Court.

ROCHESTER, N. Y.—Proletarian Party, 580 St. Paul Street

TACOMA.—Raymer's Old Book Store, 1317 Pacific Avenue.

### CLARION MAINTENANCE FUND.

O. Larsen, \$1.50; E. D. Mitchell, 65c.; F. J. Mc-Ney, \$3; Inebriated, through Geo. McIntosh, \$1.

Total contributions received from 26 June to 13 July, inclusive, \$6.15.

## 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 irrespressible 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 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.