#### THE MOSCOW TRIAL

Continued from page 5) themselves, the visionless tools of that militarism, betraying every hope, blinding every purpose, sacrificing every ideal of the lion-hearted, but chloroformed proletariat. And they were errant even superficially. For those 20 social Revolutionaries were traitors, not only to the Soviet Government, but to their own principle. They plotted the downfall of the former with an enemy they pretended to despise. They were "giving comfort" to powers they were leagued together to destroy. And they were assisting the foes of a regime, sanctioned (as they could not but know—as their outside relationships proved), not by the illusionary majority of capitalist politics, but by the real majority of Soviet democracy.

What would happen to us on this American continent in like circumstances? What would Press and Pulpit say? What happened to the political nondescripts during the late war? How fared it with Kirkwood and McLean? What happened to Roger Casement, to the Irish Nationals? to Haitian patriots? to Edith Cavell? to the Dutch danceuse whom the French trapped in the toils? And what did those scourgers of Socialism do, those haters of tyranny; the Gompers and Vanderveldes, the Rosenfelds and Brantings, the Walkers, McDonalds and Snowdens-what did they say to the "White Terror" of Mannerheim? to the excesses of Horthy? to the iron handed Fascisti? to the plundering of the Far East? to the slayers of Liebnecht and Luxemburg? to the torturers of Georgia? to the thimbleriggers of Johannesburg? to the mandated "protectionists" of Africa? What? Why, what one would expect them to say: Nothing!

The Moscow trial has passed almost without comment, almost without notice. Yet it is more momentous to us than all the spectacular foamings of capital. It preaches the stern gospel of revolution. It shows its realities, stark and clear and conscious. Its unwavering solemnity of purpose, its unimaginative simplicity, its dispassionate logic, its cold incisive reason. It points the moral of unity; the value of understanding; the futility of direct action without direct comprehension. It demonstrates the forces arrayed against us; it speakes with an authority there is no mistaking. It may outline the fruition of hope and thrill us with the glory of its ideal. But it also determines the volitions of action, and its undeviating earnestness of principle. And clear and unflickering as a rain-washed sky it declares that having put our hand to the plough of revolution there is no looking back; no recession from the necessities which confront us.

### A TALK WITH NEW STUDENTS

(Continued from page 7)

herent in the capitalist organization of society. The following generalization about human life, if true to the facts of human nature, as it seems so to the writer, can leave no doubt of the utter failure of modern civilization to fulfil its terms:—

"That human life is dynamic, that change, movement, evolution, are its basic characteristics.

"That self-expression, and therefore freedom of choice and movement are pre-requisites to a satisfying human state."

But why has civilization failed to realize those terms? The question is rather too large an order to answer here. However, consideration is called to man's power to acquire habit and to the inertia of old social habit in the movement of all things else. Such a consideration will go far to furnish the answer. New material conditions of life may appear, brought on by a change in the state of the industrial arts, which demand a reorganization of institutions or social habits, a new adjustment of customs, conventions and institutions to conform with the needs brought on by the change. But always there is the lag leak and friction of social habit, the inertia of traditional habits of thought and stereotyped, conventionalized methods of action in which our instinctive impulses to action are enchannelled.

But also, it is just here, in respect of man's habits, that the possibility of social change depends. It is

because these concepts, customs, conventions and institutions are at bottom habits of thought and action and, like all other habits, capable of change, that social change takes place. Habits of thought, as such, are always in process of change and, if the new drift of the material conditions of life sets in strong enough and endures long enough, sooner or later action will follow thought and human activity will find itself exercising along certain new stereotyped channels which we term custom, convention, institutions, ways and means of socially organized activity.

To sum up: I have tried to show the human factor as standing in causal relation between the material conditions and the institutional facts of a social environment, and that human being are the active agents through which social change is accomplished.

In these days, it is the accident of history that the working class are to be the agent of great social changes. Our studies of man, his history, and of the economy of his society, will show us upon what lines the education of that working class should proceed, and to what of its defensive and constructive instincts we should appeal. So, against the inertia of old tradition and social habit, we may set knowledge and the scientific habit of mind; and pride and self-respect against a fear born of ignorance and a humility unworthy of the only useful class in society.

## **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 rains 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 as everswelling 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 organise 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 economies 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, factortories, mills, railroads, etc.) into collective means of production.

2—The organization and management of industry

by the working class.

8—The establishment, as speedily as possible, of production for use instead of production for profit.

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