

Watch for  
Red Week  
Plans  
Next Issue

# THE CANADIAN FORWARD

Are You  
Boosting  
Your Own  
Paper?

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SOCIAL - DEMOCRATIC PARTY

New Series, Vol. 1, No. 2

TORONTO, CANADA

November 11, 1916

## A Rambler's Review

Wars are supposed to be declared by governments. Parliaments and kings are supposed to decide whether hostilities shall begin, but never since the device of the modern national debt has this been true. The great capitalists decide whether there shall be war. If they want war, they force it. There are several ways in which they can do this. They can do it by direct action through their representatives in the government, or they can do it by fomenting disorder and yelling for help to save the lives of "innocent countrymen," who are temporarily residing in the country that is to be attacked. And if they are opposed to war they refuse to advance the money with which to wage it. There is an old story told of Nathan Rothschild's mother which goes to show that she was well aware of this fact. A woman once came to her in tears. War was about to be declared, she said, and her only son would be killed because she had no money with which to buy his relief from military service. "Do not be alarmed," the aged Mrs. Rothschild replied, "there will be no war. My sons will not provide the money for it."

Almost a hundred years ago the Rothschild millions caused the Emperor of Austria to "ennoble" the five Rothschild brothers by making them barons. From that day to this no male member of the family has lacked a title. The present head of the English Rothschilds is a lord. That does not indicate what is, so much as it indicates what English people are. Being a Rothschild no longer requires conspicuous ability. The family is so rich that if it were composed of imbeciles it could hardly avoid making money. As Baron Albert Rothschild once said: "The house of Rothschild is so rich that it cannot do bad business."

The shooting of Francis Sheehy Skeffington, pacifist, by the military authorities in Dublin, is a poor service for the conscriptionist cause in the Old Country. Militarism is militarism, and it is just a step from the shooting of an unarmed and peaceful citizen like Sheehy Skeffington in Dublin to the military murder of Edith Cavell in Belgium. Skeffington, arrested on an errand of mercy, trying to succor civilians, soldiers and insurgents alike, met the end before a firing squad bravely and with a smile. "They will find my death was a mistake," he said, gently, approaching near to the master, who said: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

Preparedness will be the motif of the designs on the new American silver coins about to be struck by the U. S. mint. The idea is appropriate. The very large proportion of people who have little or no money are likely to be impressed with the fitness of being prepared to fight for those who have most of it and because they have most of it. Others who will, however, likely be in the minority, may begin to think seriously of the idea of defending the interests best represented by coins and their designs. These may enquire why Caesar does not defend himself or at least pay the lion's share of the ex-

pense entailed by preparedness to defend his particular interests. There seems to be a cynic at the head of the American Treasury Department.

The Labour Leader, the official organ of the I. L. P. in England, says that the French press has been forbidden to publish the fact that the Labour Leader has been prohibited by the British Government from reaching allied countries. But a French editor was equal to the occasion. He wrote up an article denouncing the German Government for refusing to permit the export of a paper to which he gave in German the name of Labour Leader. The French Censor, of course, passed patriotic copy of that kind, and it was duly published. Next day the French editor came out with corrections and apologies to his readers. It was the Labour Leader of England and not the Labour Leader of Berlin he had written about on the previous day.

The laugh, so far, is with the French editor; but, unless peace comes quickly, we'll back the French Censor to score heavily in the next round.

The Times, of London, England, has been publishing articles showing how the War Debt is to be paid off. It is recognized that the old method of direct taxation is impossible, and the only possible alternative is the development of the Empire's estate by the British Government for State purposes. The new territories taken from the Germans in Africa and the Pacific are not to be handed over for private exploitation purposes, but are to be conserved under an Empire Board for the liquidation of the Empire's War Debt (which is to be pooled).

There is to be afforestation in Canada and in the United Kingdom, cattle raising in the hinterlands of Nigeria, and

As regards palm-products, the estimated annual value of the world's production at the present time is, approximately, £70,000,000; and, as regards profits, Sir William Lever has stated that an approximate expenditure of £2,000 in bringing 200 acres of coconut palms to maturity may be estimated to give an income of £2,000 per acre in about ten years. An aggregate area of 5,000,000 acres might accordingly be brought to yield a net income of approximately £50,000,000 per annum if recent prices are maintained. In view of our im-

### MONTREAL JEWISH LOCAL NO. 4

Desires to convey its appreciation and congratulations on the re-appearance of this paper—now for the first time owned and controlled by the party.

mense Imperial holdings of undeveloped palm lands, there should be a wide field for profitable State activity in this direction for many years to come; and the

more so, because the world's shortage of animals is daily impelling an increased substitution of vegetable for animal fats and oils.

Impm! The capitalist class will let these great plunder belts slip out of their fingers! See the scheme—the workers finance these State undertakings and the capitalist is relieved of the taxation problem!

Robert Blatchford thinks that Fred. the Great was responsible for the war. But there are other great thinkers who blame Darwin, as is proved by the following from the Chicago Standard:—

"It is Darwin who is responsible for the European War—responsible for the ideas of evolution that have seized the supermen of Germany." Thus is quoted a well-known Baptist preacher in the public press. The news value of the item lies not in the statement, but in the fact that Mr. John D. Rockefeller, who was in the congregation, is said to have gravely nodded his head in assent."

Jawn D.,  
Says he—  
"Charles D.,  
"Why didn't you let Genesis be?  
"No Gore,  
"Nor war  
"Before  
"You killed poor Eve and her apple tree!"

So that all the history-book stories about wars before Darwin's time are wrong. Napoleon was a myth, Caesar a legend, and the pension of £100 a week has been paid to Lord Nelson's descendants under false pretences.

A recent copy of the English "Clarion" containing a clever study by Harry Beswick of the two famous Irish revolutionaries, Jim Connolly and Jim Larkin, recalled to my mind a vivid picture of a scene now three years old. Gathered together in the Clarion Cafe, Manchester—the beautifully decorated resort of hundreds of Lancashire Socialists—were the leaders in the great Dublin strike. Connolly was then Jim Larkin's lieutenant, stage-manager, and general factotum during the famous tornado tour of England when Larkin for quite nine days was the sole journalistic wonder. Beswick's words seem to me precisely to the point. "Connolly struck me as quite a reasonable sort of person—much more amenable to quiet argument than his fiery chief who bucked like a broncho when you mentioned authority. On the platform Larkin thundered; Connolly cooed as gentle as an oratorical sucking-dove. Larkin's rhetoric overwhelmed; Connolly's bit deep into your mind like acid. In a speech of cutting irony, incisive phrase, and facts galore, in a quiet and suave and insinuating manner, he gave the Dublin enemy a rare dressing down, and on the whole made out a better case than his chief."

Sir Wilfrid Laurier has had his ear to the ground, and last week in London acknowledged he had now become a supporter of woman suffrage. Wise old politician, who so accurately prognosticates the line that progress must go, who so carefully judges the psychology of the times that he chooses a date conveniently before election time to advocate a reform of vote-catching possibilities. If wise old Wilfy lives a little longer we shall find him pleased to favor manhood suffrage; maybe, too, he

will go so far as to argue for the abolition of the property qualification to vote. But, no! I forget that Wilfrid is a staunch capitalist politician—and the root of the capitalist tree is property.

There is a sardonic cynicism in the ways of the capitalist profit-grabbers. A curiously worded appeal hit my eye recently—"recruits wanted for certain divisions." Not being of the militaristic turn of mind I read the word "divisions" in its normal peace-time sense. Gruesome thought! I looked at the name of the exhibitors of the advertisement. Lo! and behold!—"Wolseley Motors, Ltd.—Proprietors Vickers, Limited."

Henry Bourassa, speaking at Nicolet on Sunday, declared "that both political parties are trying to make our English compatriots believe that the French Canadians are in favor of the war—that they are ready to fight for England but the Nationalists are preventing it. I say they are right in blaming the Nationalists for preventing enlistment. It is somewhat due to the Nationalists if the Province of Quebec has some self-respect and a sense of duty in not sacrificing the blood of its children to serve the calculations of Imperial England."

He said: "While these men come and tell you French-Canadians that you are cowards at this moment there is not a German cannon ball fired without there being 13 members of the English peerage, 60 deputies of the House, and 300 well-known Englishmen, some of them ministers and bishops of the Church of England, making a profit of 15 or 20 per cent."

The German and English interests in this industry made a trust so that armaments of Germany help the English capitalists and the armaments of England help the Germans.

Mr. Bourassa is allowed to make these utterances but when a Socialist shows the people that Capitalist's only patriotism is profit, he is immediately sent to prison for eighteen months for sedition.

You have capital, mobile capital, international capital ready to move to America, to Germany, to England, whenever it may be that it can get the best investment. . . . If he (the capitalists) gets his interest it matters little to him whether he gets it by giving employment in America . . . in Britain or . . . in Germany. To him it is all one.—Right Hon. A. J. Balfour, in a speech delivered September 22, 1909.

"Fush"

### TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS

This is a weekly paper. It is on that basis you are asked to subscribe. But between our first three or four issues an interval of two weeks may elapse. After that we hope to publish weekly.