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VANCOUVER, B. C., APRIL 1, 1922

"Q. E. D."

NOTHING that can be said will make a university man—student or professor—so ill-tempered, as an accusation that his house of learning has a muzzle on it and that its intellectual life and expression is subject to the dictates of the money magnate, in his own interest. To suggest to a college professor that he has to count his nickels and dimes before he speaks his mind on social problems is to invite a worried look. But now and then we find a student body with an interest in the social problem insisting on the truth at all costs.

Somebody has suggested that a university is an athletic institution, where facilities for study are provided for the convenience of the curious. Not so Clark University, of Worcester, Mass. There on 14th March Scott Nearing addressed the students, the subject being "The Control of Public Opinion." Veblen's "The Theory of the Leisure Class" provided the basis of the address, showing the control of public opinion by the moneyed interests through the schools, colleges, churches, press and so forth. The meeting was arranged by the students in an assembly room of the university with the knowledge and consent of Dr. W. W. Atwood, the president. In the course of Mr. Nearing's address Dr. Atwood entered the room, "listened in" a few minutes and then mounted the platform and announced to the astonished and dismayed students and to Mr. Nearing: "The meeting is dismissed." He had to repeat the announcement three times before the students obeyed and dispersed.

Now there's a great how d'ye do in Boston! Mr. Nearing was doing passably well as it was, proving his case, but along came the president of the university and proved it for him. Of course there's a noise being made by the students—the inalienable rights of free speech and all that (!)—and one of the professors confessed that he was ashamed to admit he was a member of the university faculty.

But here's the rub. The university is about to commence a campaign for funds, and what moneyed man is going to pay up to support an institution that will disclose the source of his riches and the means he adopts to maintain them?

INTERNATIONAL RIVALRY.

RHODE Island State troops fired into a crowd of strikers, striker's wives, and strikers' children in Pawtucket the other day, killing one and wounding a dozen more, two or three of whom may die. The Portuguese and Italian consuls are interesting themselves in the situation, hoping to protect others of their children from such murder. There is no other country in the world where soldiers fire so lightly into crowds of workers, yet what happened in Rhode Island is a common story in the United States. Tanks, cavalry, and machine-guns guard the streets of Newport, Kentucky, where the rolling-mill workers are on strike; mounted men ride into workers' homes and machine-guncers fire through them as if they were on a firing-line, in Belgium in war time. In West Virginia real gun and bullet war is chronic. The Ludlow massacre, when State troops fired into a tent colony of strikers' wives and children at the Rockefeller mines in Colorado, is still recent history. Though our history is singularly free from the arm-

ed revolutionary movements that are almost chronic in Europe, no European country has such a persistently bloody industrial struggle to record as we; nor can the force of the state be used against the workers there as casually as here. Yet our general public—the same general public that calmly accepts burning Negroes alive in the South as a matter of course—continues to boast of our "civilization" and of our "highly developed industry." There is something radically wrong when workmen striking against a reduction of wages and increase of the working week can be shot down in cold blood with perfect impunity and immunity.

Thus, "The Nation" (New York). True it may be that U. S. is outstanding as an example of the naked brutality of bourgeois rule, as a State unhampered in the business of governing by any mellowing influences of feudal tradition. But what of Great Britain's claims to State "efficiency," manifested at home and abroad within memory—say from Featherstone to the Rand? Indeed, the printer's ink is hardly dry on "The Nation's" pages when news of government terrorism in South Africa began to break through the press censorship. Tanks, machine guns, bombing planes, bayonets! These proved the effective weapons of government, the sole item commonly used in modern warfare missing in the exercise of the South African government's authority being poison gas; that too, no doubt, would have been used had it been needed.

The whole trouble on the Rand began December last when the coal miners went on strike against a shift cut in wages of 5s. They were even anxious to go to arbitration, but the operators refused, and received the support of the government in the refusal, the argument being that the operators were better able to say what wages the industry as conducted could pay than any third party, and that the miners' claims respecting the cost of living did not affect those considerations. Not until this deadlock had been reached was the native question introduced; the owners discovered then that a greater proportion of black labor would be a "justified operative economy." It was proposed that the proportion of 1 to 8—white and black labor—be changed to 1 to 11.

By the middle of January the strike had spread to all workers (including gold workers) in the mines, engineering shops and power plants; the strike ballot of the South African Industrial Federation resulted 10 to 1 in favor of a strike. From then on various conferences were proposed, always with conditions imposed which if acceded to the miners held would weaken their position. It must here be borne in mind that the South African Industrial Federation stands for a white South Africa. It is easy to see the point of Premier Smuts' remarks in praise of the natives, who "remained loyal."

The miners have been blamed for forming armed commandos. There is evidence enough on hand already, however, to show that no violence developed at their instigation. Following Premier Smuts' appeal to them on February 4th to go back to work, on promise of an "impartial" investigation of their grievances, they agreed to go back on the conditions obtaining before the strike. These conditions the owners would not meet and the modern aids to government aforesaid came into use. The strike is broken, many men are dead and thousands are held captive.

Pawtucket, Kentucky, West Virginia—these are examples of the ruthlessness of government in safeguarding profit production, but "The Nation" will learn in time that the business of shooting men down in cold blood in this manner is a necessary article of faith of the capitalist class—if its rule is seriously interrupted—the world over.

POLICE!

SOME hopeful "liberally minded" M. P.'s at Ottawa who don't know what the function of government is have been telling the Federal house that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police should be disbanded and sent home. This, not because the red coats are inefficient, but because "they're not needed any more." The Province of

B. C. has special mention as a stamping ground for the R. C. M. P. Mr. McNeill (Comox) voices a few innocent remarks as above and is promptly subdued, not only by Mr. Ladner (South Vancouver) who says such a course would give free reign to unrest, nor by Mr. Dickie (Nanaimo) who says the same, but by the estimates for the year, tabled by Mr. Fielding, Minister of Finance. True, the B. C. M. P. maintenance appropriation is cut by \$535,971, but the pruning process in this government department is no greater than in others, and not so great as in some where overalls constitute a uniform and not redcoats. The humanity spirit is clothed in the garb of economy—the watchword of financiers here, there, and everywhere else these days.

Vancouver too is in financial tribulation. Charged with the task of reducing his estimates for the year, the chief of police has been scratching his worried head trying to do that and at the same time maintain a force that will uphold law and order. In this he has been subjected to all manner of advice, the substance of which is to maintain police efficiency. Economy comes after that. Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, known chiefly as the son of his father (one of the fathers of Canadian Confederation), and secondly as a legal light hereabouts, joins in the chorus.

The result would cheer up even the dead and gone humorists. Announcing his "cuts," the chief solemnly proposes to save \$300 "by not increasing the salary of a high police official, as contemplated."

Red flag street parades have been offending civic dignity now and again during the winter. Now that the winter is nearly over the mayor announces that the Red Flag will no longer be tolerated as it "angered a very considerable portion of the citizens." We venture to hope that our "force," even reduced by "six constables, five dry squad officers and one chauffeur" could easily keep order among the irate "citizens."

EMMA Goldman's scream now "released" in the press is no invention of the latter although, it need hardly be said, the press minions will help out where they think more color is needed. She and Berkman, claiming themselves to be refugees in Norway from Soviet persecution, have had a joint manifesto published in "Freedom" (Anarchist; London, Eng), charging persecution and violence against anarchists in Russia by the Soviet government. Her present efforts are obviously a process of passport writing, for herself, back to America.

SECRETARIAL NOTES

Comrade Stephenson's contribution, promised in last issue, in continuation of his analysis of the problems and considerations arising from a study of Veblen's "The Engineers and the Price System," will appear in our next. Chris. has gone back to nature, but finds it difficult to wrestle with Veblen because others have gone back with him, and they all live in the same camp bunk-house.

We have a review on hand by Comrade Harrington of "The Philosophy of Marx," by Harry Waton. This is unfortunately held up this issue but will appear in our next. Jack will also review for us soon Van Loon's "The Story of Mankind," under request of the comrades in Victoria.

Now that his class-work (in various places) is drawing to a close with the end of the winter season, we hope to have "Geordie" at work again soon in the "Clarion" columns. Our commands also are upon Comrade Pritchard to look into the ink pot.

A rather queer request came to us the other day which we pass on to the upward and onward. Here it is: "Wouldn't it be possible for some of your writers to give a short article on 'Theosophy' in the 'Clarion,' together with reference books (titles, etc.,) and a criticism of same?"

We pass it up. There are three things we don't know anything about. That's one of them. (We just forget what the two others are).

Clarion finance is a subject of worry these days. Cash returns per issue do not meet printer's costs. Clarion readers are exhorted to do their utmost to help increase our lists.