

## MARGINAL UTILITY.

Continued from page 5)

laying pipe, to bring the water long distances into the city, is a mystery to me, and why this "great expense" should make the water scarce after it is in the city, is a greater conundrum still. But everybody knows how scarce water is in the average city under normal conditions. And it is the "great expense" that makes it scarce. And—well there you are. Professor Fairchild is some logician that's a cinch.

Let us now sum up our analysis and see what conclusions we have arrived at. Our first conclusion is, that according to the marginal utility theory of value there is not one single commodity at the present time, that is, not one single thing that requires labor for its production and distribution, that exists in sufficient quantity to satisfy all the wants of society, not even the commodity labor power. The idea is a joke, of course. It is so absurd that I doubt if it would be possible to find many exponents of the marginal utility theory who would even attempt to defend such a hypothesis if it came to a show down. But suppose we grant them their premises; we can even afford to do that. Let us assume for the sake of argument that there is a scarcity of all commodities in human society at the present time, and that it is this scarcity that gives them exchange value. What then? Now we are forced to follow this assumption up with another one. We must assume that if we were to speed up industry to such an extent that it would be possible to supply all commodities in sufficient quantity to satisfy all the wants of society, then exchange value would disappear altogether, and those stubborn contrary articles of commerce would absolutely refuse to be exchanged one for another on any basis. In other words, according to the marginal utility theory of value, it would be impossible to trade a bushel of wheat for a necktie if both wheat and neckties existed in sufficient quantity to satisfy all wants because in that case neither would have any exchange

value whatever. And I say unto you that not even Solomon in all his wisdom was arrayed with a head that could have concocted a theory like that.

Now, if you have read this article carefully you know as much about the marginal utility theory of value as I do, and it is possible that I know almost as much about it as some of its exponents. However, I may be mistaken; I may have overlooked a point or two, and if I have, I hope that some person who understands the theory better will correct me as soon as possible. That will be all for the present.

## A HAPPY NEW YEAR

(Continued from page 1)

ant as the truth of Christ, and as conspicuous as the creating "god." That is for why—as aforementioned—we fare so sumptuously, with reverence and thanksgiving, in the twilight days of the year, when Hyperion turns his chariot once more towards the green foothills of Boreas. R.

## Correspondence

Editor, Western Clarion:  
Dear Comrade:

Comrade Lester visited the Stanmore Local and spoke in the Municipal Hall at Stanmore on Thursday evening December 13th, and at the Westover School on Dec. 14th. Both meetings were well attended and some literature sold. Owing to the fact that the population of the district has been reduced by at least one half during the past year, the audiences were not so large as the former meetings of Com. Lester. But the sympathy and interest of the audience was easily discerned, there being instead of opposition signs of encouragement and hope. In working in our district Com. Lester has a fertile field: 95% of the farmers are so deep in debt, (heavily involved, as the banks put it); they are beginning to see that there is positively no hope of them ever having a home they can call their own. By a heavy provincial debt, a heavier federal debt, besides private debts, which altogether according to Mr. Fream the drought commissioner averages \$9,000 per half section farming is a burden so heavy that those with the strongest backs and weakish heads are beginning to weaken and are reversing the place of their strength.

Family after family has moved out and still they go. Some are dazed and do not know what happened to them, nor how it happened. They do not know it was a well planned skinning game from the beginning. The homestead laws were so framed that he was doomed in the beginning. He got 320 acres and in order to secure patent to the land a \$300 house had to be built and at least 80 acres broken, etc. This required more capital than most of us had. The machine combine had agents traveling in all directions, inducing the future farm slave to buy machinery. No difficulty was experienced in buying a complete outfit on time. Not much difficulty was experienced in getting an extension of credit until the homesteader had proved up. After he had proved up he was forced to pay up. The only way he could pay was to borrow; he was now the owner of 160 acres. The loan shark appeared and like the machine agent he was working on commission and therefore anxious and keen for business. They had beautiful arguments to prove to the future farm slave that since he was borrowing it was wise and "good business" to get all he could.

The trick was done. Now the farm slave toils, his wife and children toil, but there is no hope. He was caught in a web so carefully woven that there is no hope of escaping.

"Let us build elevators of our own" was their first attempt at emancipation. It failed. Other red herrings follow in rapid succession; farmer "organizations," "co-operation," "education," "group government," "farmer government" and recently the wheat pool. The farm slave has been more or less successful in his bogus attempts at bettering his condition, but his misery and poverty continues and deepens. For him there is no hope under the system. This fall the farm slave's wagon has made deep ruts in the roads by hauling the master's grain. Although he has raised so much wheat that the hauling has ruined the roads, his own condition is not improved. Most of them are beginning to see that all they need from now on is a thorough explanation of his proper function in capitalist society. He is a slave of the farm and the next thing is to point the way of emancipation. In this task Comrade Lester is doing splendidly and the comrades of the Stanmore Local have pledged themselves to assist, each according to his means and ability in this as yet unthankful but encouraging and worthy task.

And why not? The farm slave has "nothing to lose but his chains, and a world to gain."

Yours for Socialism,

S. V. VALISCO,

Stanmore (Alberta) Local No. 110.

Dec. 17th, 1923.

## TOOLS, THOUGHT AND LANGUAGE.

(Continued from page 4)

progressed in common. That thought and language can exist and develop only in common is known to everyone who has but tried to think of the nature of his own thoughts. When we think or consider, we, in fact, talk to ourselves; we observe then that it is impossible for us to think clearly without using words. Where we do not think with words our thoughts remain indistinct and we can not combine the various thoughts. Every one can realize this from his own experience. This is because so-called abstract reason is perceptive thought and can take place only by means of perceptions. Perceptions we can designate and hold only by means of names. Every attempt to broaden our minds, every attempt to advance our knowledge must begin by distinguishing and classifying by means of names or by giving to the old ones a more precise meaning. Language is the body of the mind, the material by which all human science can be built up.

(Continued in next issue.)

## MANIFESTO

of the  
SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA  
(Fifth Edition)

Per copy.....10 cents

Per 25 copies.....\$2

Post Paid.

## Literature Price List

	Cloth Bound	Per Copy
A. B. C. of Evolution (McCabe)	.....	\$1.15
Economic Determinism	.....	\$1.65
Evolution of the Idea of God (Grant Allen)	.....	\$1.15
Evolution of Property (Lafargue)	.....	\$1.15
Critique of Political Economy	.....	\$1.65
Revolution and Counter Revolution (Marx)	.....	\$1.15
History of Paris Commune (Lissagaray)	.....	\$1.50
Ancient Society	.....	\$1.85
Philosophical Essays	.....	\$1.65
Theoretical System of Karl Marx	.....	\$1.65
Landmarks of Scientific Socialism	.....	\$1.65
Socialism and Philosophy	.....	\$1.65
Capitalist Production (First Nine and 32nd Chapters	.....	
"Capital," vol. 1, (Marx)	.....	\$1.00
Vital Problems in Social Evolution	.....	50c
Science and Revolution	.....	50c
The Militant Proletariat	.....	50c
Evolution Social and Organic	.....	50c
Puritanism	.....	50c
Ethics and History	.....	50c
Germes of Mind in Plants	.....	50c
The Triumph of Life	.....	50c
Anarchism and Socialism	.....	50c
Feuerback	.....	50c
Socialism Positive and Negative	.....	50c
Eighteenth Brumaire	.....	50c
Science and Superstition	.....	50c
	Paper Covers	Per Copy
Two Essays on History (C. Stephenson and G. Deville)	.....	5c
Independent Working Class Education	.....	10c
Communist Manifesto	.....	10c
Wage-Labor and Capital	.....	10c
The Present Economic System (Prof. W. A. Bonger)	.....	10c
Socialism, Utopian and Scientific	.....	15c
Slave of the Farm	.....	10c
Manifesto, S. P. of C.	.....	10c
Evolution of Man (Prof. Bolsche)	.....	20c
Causes of Belief in God (Lafargue)	.....	10c
Shop Talks on Economics (Marcy)	.....	15c
The State and Revolution (Lenin)	.....	25c
Value, Price and Profit (Marx)	.....	15c
Economic Causes of War (Leckie)	.....	25c
Civil War in France (Marx)	.....	25c
Eighteenth Brumaire (Marx)	.....	25c
Christianism and Communism (Bishop W. M. Brown)	.....	25c
Psychology of Marxian Socialism	.....	30c
W. A. Pritchard's Address to the Jury, (State Trials, Winnipeg, Man., Fall Assizes 1919-20)	.....	25c
	Quantity Rates on Paper Covered Pamphlets.	
Two Essays on History	..... 25 copies	75c
Communist Manifesto	..... 25 copies	\$2.00
Wage-Labor and Capital	..... 25 copies	\$2.00
Present Economic System	..... 25 copies	\$1.50
Socialism, Utopian and Scientific	..... 25 copies	\$2.25
Slave of the Farm	..... 25 copies	\$1.50
Manifesto of S. P. of C.	..... 25 copies	\$2.00
Evolution of Man	..... 25 copies	\$2.75
Causes of Belief in God	..... 25 copies	\$3.00
Value, Price and Profit	..... 25 copies	\$2.25
Economic Causes of War	..... 10 copies	\$2.00
Christianism and Communism	..... 6 copies	\$1.00
Psychology of Marxian Socialism	..... 10 copies	\$2.50
W. A. Pritchard's Address to the Jury (State Trials, Winnipeg, Man., Fall Assizes 1919-20)	..... 10 copies	\$2.00

All prices include Postage.

Make all moneys payable to E. McLeod, P. O. Box 710, Vancouver, B. C. Add discount on cheques.

## 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 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 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.