

go to and fro in the streets, a species of mortal torture in the shivering of a ragged child, in the pale face of an overworked mother, or in the sullen shuffle of an out-of-work man. As Jerome K. Jerome phrased it last Sunday afternoon in his Socialist sermon on "The Troubles of a Well-fed Man," even as we leave them there, we feel convicted of the "guilt of cold-blooded murder."

What, then, must the sensations of the woman wearing a £40,000 necklace, be. One woman, at least, of the New World, Louise Michel, would assuredly have preferred the flaming agony of Jason's robe.

COLLECTIVE OWNERSHIP

Winnipeg, Oct. 29.—There was a large audience at the Canadian Labor party meeting last Sunday afternoon to hear the debate on the "Collective Ownership" resolution. The resolution was the same in its terms as the one which gave rise to the most spirited debate at the recent session of the Trades Congress, and which was rejected by that body by a vote of 39 to 51. Kempton McKim occupied the chair and conducted the debate. It was understood that the debate was for the purpose of obtaining an expression of opinion only, any action which the party may be disposed to take with reference to amending its platform to be left to the regular business meeting.

The resolution, which is as follows was moved by A. W. Puttee. Resolved "That the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada declares that it stands for absolute independent political action on the part of the working classes, that the collective ownership of the means of life is its ultimate aim, we believe that the best interests of the working classes can be served by granting provincial autonomy in the matter of political affiliation, the functions of provincial executives being to carry out the policy formulated in their respective jurisdictions."

Speaking to the motion Mr. Puttee said that the motion was the most acceptable one which the socialists had placed before a trade union convention in this country. It was said to be a question between the east and west, but this was not correct, because it was Winnipeg votes in the congress which defeated the motion, and it was this circumstance which made it necessary to further discuss its terms. The Canadian Labor party was not confined to the Trades union movement although it was thoroughly in accord with it. It was for them to decide as to whether they were in accord with the principle of collective ownership, and then was it expedient in the interests of the Dominion-wide movement to embody the whole doctrine in its platform. He held that the party was in accord with the labor parties of the other British countries, and stood for collective ownership and government control. The time was opportune for a definite pronouncement on the subject in Canada. There would be objections to this action, as necessarily there would be to any action; but inaction and timidity was more to be feared. We want a strong party and definite principles to guide it, and then let the various provinces

construct the platforms which suited their provincial conditions.

Mr. W. Turncock led off in the negative. He claimed that the resolution was contradictory in itself. It declared for absolute independent political action, and still left the provinces the right to make political affiliations. These affiliations it could not be considered referred to the Liberal or Conservative parties, and therefore, it must be that it aimed to sanction alliance with the Socialist party. If it was the intention to recognise the Socialist party it would seem to be the better course to throw up the sponge in favor of the Socialist party. He held that the Canadian Labor party held a strong, logical position, and it should go along fighting for standing room in the political affairs of the Dominion.

Speeches in support of either side were limited to five minutes, and ten or a dozen were heard. W. J. Bartlett and Harry Albert favored the motion. R. Dixon put forth as an amendment the single tax formula. A member of the British S.D.F. said he was pleased to hear how well the resolution was received by a Canadian audience. There were few of the British leaders who would accept it. The Social Democratic Federation believed that little temporary gains were of no importance or good, but stood for the overthrow of the present system in its entirety. They responded to the slogan of Carl Marx, "Workers of all countries unite, you have nothing to lose but your chains, and a world to gain."

To close the debate Mr. Turncock replied for the negative and Mr. Puttee for the affirmative. The latter pointed out that Single Tax advocates were merely asking for a clear competitive field for all, and then left the fittest survive. The goal was fair unrestricted competition—just the opposite to collective ownership. To the S.D.F. member he replied that 20 out of 32 labor members of parliament came from the Socialist side of the Labor Party. It was strange for a man to preach disunity and wind up by calling upon all to unite. He might paraphrase Marx and say, "Workers of all countries unite, you have nothing to lose but your brains; and you have never made much use of them."

A show of hands was taken on the question and showed the audience to be overwhelmingly in favor of the resolution.—The Voice.

WILL CROOKS AND THE LABOR PARTY

(London Labour Leader)

The first of the indoor meetings, held on Sunday last, was probably the biggest ever held by the I.L.P. in Cardiff. The Andrews Hall which will seat over 2,000, was crowded and some hundreds had to stand. Mr. J. Graham, an ex-president of the local Trades Council, presided.

The speaker for the evening was Mr. Will Crooks, M.P. Both Mr. Crooks and the chairman referred to the Cory hall incident. Last year an excellent series of meetings was held in the Cory hall, and the local branch was looking forward to a repetition of last year's success. The lessees of the hall, however, have refused to let it this year, for some reason best

known to themselves. Their refusal has aroused a good deal of indignation, not only among the members of the party, but among a large section of the general public.

Mr. Will Crooks in his opening remarks, said he hoped it would not be long before the public opinion of Cardiff would rise to the point of demanding the right of free expression of speech in any public building that might be available, because we had to remember that the right of free speech, the right of a square opportunity to state our case, had been fought and won many a year ago, and no amount of narrow mindedness was going to shut us off. (loud applause.)

Continuing, Mr. Crooks said the faith of the labour party would stand talking about on Sunday and in the week, and he was foolish enough to believe that theirs was a religious party after all, whose fundamental principle had been "Give us this day our daily bread." (cheers.) They would have to stand much slander for many years to come, and he did not even complain about Kirkdale. The words "Socialism and Atheism" placarded about, however, made him reflect as to whether Christ was indeed a Socialist. They had to go on as a party all the time educating public opinion into a sense, not of their power, but of their responsibility. Mr. Crooks vividly described the squalor, want and misery among the poor of the land, and lengthily dealt with the Underfed School Children's Act, which he said should have been made compulsory and not optional.

The consideration of the bill in the House of Commons he described as a discussion by overfed men of underfed children. The poor ragged little boys and girls in the streets were once innocent little children; soon they were robbed of their child's soul; and old men's and old women's souls replaced. A stage later they would become degenerate, rickety, consumptive and past work, and soon they would be described as Hooligans and ruffians, while later they would be called the flotsam and jetsam of society—the unemployable. "And we ourselves allowed them to get so." (Loud cheers) Little children were punished in these enlightened days for the sins of their fathers and mothers. The Labor party said, "No, don't punish them; feed them, cleanse them, give them a chance to lead a life that Christ intended them to live." The people were going to think of their responsibility, and within a reasonable time make the possessors of land to understand it. There must be room for people to live. The people were more important a million times than ground game or flying game. (applause.) "If they don't let us have it we shall say to them, human life is in danger, human life is threatened; get out of the way." (Cheers.)

All the strain for social benefits and positions, vanities of style and impressiveness of stature, literary fame political power, intellectual domineering, any ambition, any ideal, and hope, if only aiming at personal advancement in some form or other constitutes a most horrid and unreasonable waste of life, time and energy. To love humanity in motive and service is the only legitimate expression of life. All the rest of life is forfeited, wanton, hopeless.—Ex.

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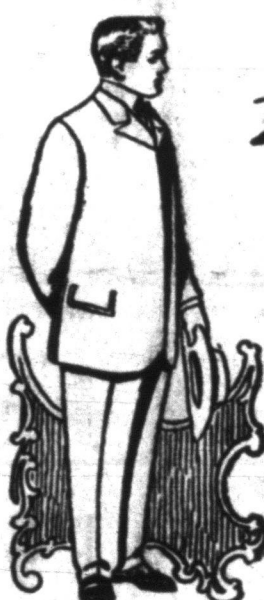
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