

Our Attitude on Moderation

EDITOR'S NOTE.—The following letter explains itself. It was sent by its signatories jointly to the Moderation League, who stated that they hoped to publish all the replies received to their queries. So far, the following reply has not been published by them.

SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA

Local (Vancouver) No. 1.

401 Pender St. East,

17th November, 1920

J. S. Glynnes, General Secretary,
Moderation League,
Vancouver, B. C.

Sir,—We, the undersigned candidates on the Socialist Party of Canada platform for the Vancouver City Electoral District, are each in receipt of your letter of the 5th inst. containing a copy of your platform, your principles and aims, and a copy also of the resolution of your League, passed on the 3rd instant. We are also in receipt of your letter of the 16th instant, in which you request our reply to the former communication asking us, in response to the terms of the aforementioned resolution, to say whether we are prepared to carry out the objects of the Moderation League, independently of our Party affiliation.

Since we cannot look upon these matters otherwise than from our Party or working-class standpoint, and since your League calls for our pronouncement upon this question, our reason for adopting this viewpoint must be, though briefly, set forth.

In our Party's continuous educational campaign of over fifteen years, we have laid incessant stress upon the status in society of those who produce the wealth of society. Whether they be wage workers or salaried employees, they serve only as producers of wealth and they enjoy no vestige of ownership in that wealth when it is produced. The so-called captains of industry, upon whose shoulders the burden of skill in directing the various industrial processes is supposed to rest, are in reality to day engaged, not in industrial supervision, but in the shadowy by-ways of credit and finance. They are the useless inheritors of the bourgeois class of Liberal tradition from whose efforts was supposed to result

the extension of trade and commerce, and the development of industry.

Today, the development of industry, through the evolution of the various productive industrial processes, has reached a point where the world's workers, attending these machines in mill, mine and factory, are alone able to produce an over-abundance of food and clothing and the general necessities of life, and they are able to do this with these machines running at less than half capacity. In the meantime, their masters, directly and in the shape of financiers, press owners, pulpiteers and politicians call for more production. More production! Why? Because, in a productive system that is based upon the production of food, clothing and shelter—not to be used by the community when needed, but to be sold for profit, the realization of continuous profit depends upon continuous production. The more production, the more profit.

The system we live under, the capitalist system, is so perfected as a wealth producing system, that its workers are able to produce more than the everyday conditions of its markets will allow it to consume. The productive glut is chronic. At the present time there are mountains of commodities to be sold and no market to sell them in, while at the same time the workers are actually in need of relief from hunger and want. They lack not only the comforts of life, but the decencies of good food and clothing. Yet they have by their energies produced those mountains of commodities that lie awaiting sale. More production is the popular cry, while at the same time the capitalist class close the gates of their factories and workshops in the face of those who would produce more.

To us, candidates of the Socialist Party of Canada, there is but one viewpoint upon any public issue, and that is the class viewpoint. All other issues are but momentary cries that will suffer abandonment in a moment of industrial crisis. In this election, there will be many workers no doubt who will concern themselves with what they may consider to be a properly balanced Moderation Act. We have this to say to them, that the day is not far off when circumstances will compel their attention to their bare need for bread. Thousands of wage working

men and women are without employment in Vancouver today. The unemployed condition is serious for them. Like their fellows in other parts of the world, their productive capacity, when employed, is so great, that now and then they are compelled to withdraw their energy from production so that the surplus product may be gradually disposed of through the avenues and channels of the world's market.

The life experience of the wage worker is just plainly eat, work and sleep, and if he cannot find work he loses sleep and eats as best he may. In the best of times, over a period of years, calculated in terms of personal material worth, his possessions are nil. From the beginning of his life's journey to the end his function is to work, and the closer his point of contact with the machinery of wealth production, the more miserable is his experience. He works for wages, or he may be engaged in an employment where salary is the word, but in any case, on the average, the amount of that wage or salary is determined by the cost of those things necessary to feed and clothe him so that he may continue in the labor process. He owns nothing and has nothing to sell but the energy generated in him through the consumption of those necessities.

The issue that should interest him in this election is the class issue. His interest lies in aligning himself with all others of his kind, so that the product of his labor may be his. No Moderation Act and no Prohibition Act can alter his condition as a wage worker whose product belongs, not to him as producer, but to his master as owner. No side issue can obscure the main issue and the root cause of the world's trouble today, the exploitation of human labor for private gain. We stand for the social ownership of those things that are socially produced. Clear away that issue first of all, and all other contentious matters will be easily adjusted.

We are, yours, etc.,

J. DENNIS

S. EARP

J. D. HARRINGTON

W. McQUOID

J. F. SMITH

C. STEPHENSON

MATERIALIST CONCEPTION OF HISTORY

(Continued from page 3)

duced prostitution on the one hand and a demand for it on the other, because of the inability of young men to keep a home. A peculiarity also of our modern industrialism is the development on the one hand of factories and towns where females predominate, as in the textile industry, and predominant male populations as in the mining and lumber camps.

Therefore, we see how the economic conditions are becoming more and more the most dominant factor in shaping man's social institutions in every department of human activities. We will trace the influence of this factor in all human progress since man enlarged his subsistence by the invention of his first tool to aid his means of production.

Our next lesson will deal further with this primitive stage of humanity, where woman lost her position of equality and became the subordinate of man.

PETER T. LECKIE

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(Vancouver), November 16, 1920.

Tool of Profiteers.

Now that Wrangel's effort has failed, it will do no harm to tell the real genesis of the Crimean movement. Wrangel was not a supporter of the old regime, nor, at the outset anyway, did he intend unlimited action against the Bolsheviks. He was in reality the tool of a powerful business organization with headquarters in Paris, in palatial offices in the Avenue Marcheau.

This company, called the Russo-French Society of exploitation of South Russia and Crimea, was formed at the beginning of the year with a capital of 12,000,000 francs by a group of Franco-Russian financiers and industrials, of whom M. Kamsnk of the Banque Du Nord was the most prominent. They included the principal shareholders of the iron mines of Krivolrog, and of Russia's most valuable collieries in the Dontez basin, south of Kharkov.

Piped Wrong Tune.

The company bought in France very large stocks of clothing and supplies for Wrangel's army, intending to finance their operations by the sale of grain and other produce from the Crimea; later they hoped to continue business with exportation of iron and coal. They actually succeeded in bringing some shiploads to Marseilles, which were sold at a good price.

Paying the piper, they called the tune, and insisted that a liberal form of government be established in the area occupied by Wrangel. In accordance with their policy his offensive was directed toward Ekaterinoslav and further north in the direction of the Donetz basin. Unfortunately they were powerless to control the reactionaries from Constantinople attracted by their general's success. (Verb Sap.)

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