

SOCIALISM AND EDUCATION

Though the platform of the Socialist Party of Canada contains no "immediate demands," nevertheless when any of its members are elected to legislative bodies, they put up a vigorous fight for those measures which are considered of value to the working class. In Toronto James Simpson, a militant socialist, has served five years upon the board of education. Being elected chairman of the Board for 1910, it became his duty to open the year's work with an inaugural address, parts of which are herewith published. It makes pretty good reading.

THE PURPOSE OF EDUCATION.

"If our educational system is to be a potent factor in bringing about social betterment through peaceful rather than violent means, it must emphasize those ideals which lead to useful industry rather than idle parasitism, which point to service to humanity rather than wealth accumulation. The school must unreservedly teach that the idlers and the useless workers are parasites and that the idle rich are at least as undesirable as the idle poor. If education is approaching a scientific basis, it ought to be able to discover and to measure the social inertia which carries aristocratic medievalism down into an age of nominal democratic industrialism.

"Education must be made to conform with the demands of modern society. But there is more than one demand; there are, in fact, two distinctly antagonistic demands. There is first the business demand which requires that the pupil be equipped in school as a perfect machine to fill a certain place in the manufacture and sale of goods, and that all other forms of education that might tend to make him less obedient to the requirements of trade be dispensed with. Then, secondly, there is the social demand which requires that, while the pupil must be equipped to perform effectively his share of the world's work in some specified department of activity, he shall also be so educated that he will become a thinking cognizant unit in Society, capable of understanding its needs and helping to guide its destinies.

"If the first demand triumphs, it is inevitable that social stagnation will result, that society will become permanently stratified—one class owning and managing the earth, the other class doing the work, with the sole ambition of working and being fed.

"If the second demand triumphs, a thinking working class will see to it that social evolution is not impeded, that the interests of the laborers are conserved and that industry becomes more and more democratized to the end that mankind may be happier and healthier and more cultured.

"There is room for improvement in both the elementary and secondary schools of Toronto, and while we are making commendable efforts to add an efficient course in industrial education of a practical character, there remains much to be done along the lines of acquainting the pupils with the facts of industry, such as the evolutionary changes in the production and distribution of the necessities of life, how and by whom wealth is created and distributed, and in what way legislation would tend to produce the best results for those who do the world's work by rendering necessary useful service."

A CONSTRUCTIVE PROGRAM

Most of Comrade Simpson's address is devoted to outlining a number of improvements that he is determined to push forward this year. One of his most important recommendations is that tuition in the high schools should be made just as free as tuition in the technical schools. This would accord the opportunity of enjoying a more advanced education to large numbers of working class children whose parents cannot afford to pay for this boon.

Comrade Simpson never lets a chance slip by to denounce militarism. His record on the board is full of spirited fights against the bloody patriotism of the capitalist class being inculcated into our children. After declaiming in this address against the extension of military training in the Toronto schools, he says:

"It should be the object of the board to inculcate the ideal of International Solidarity and Universal Peace based upon a right understanding of the mutual interest of the people of all nations rather than to develop national vanity or imperialistic exclusiveness that tends to widen the breach between nations whose mission should be to establish the most cordial relationships among each other. To this end I would recommend that Empire Day be changed to International Day and the attention of the pupils in our schools be drawn to the meritorious achievements of all nations with special emphasis upon those movements that

have marked the achievement towards political and industrial freedom."

THE HEALTH OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

Comrade Simpson is an ardent advocate of supervised playgrounds. There are a number already in Toronto, but he would increase their number from year to year and provide them with better equipment. He wants congenial and healthy recreation placed within the reach of every boy and girl in this city.

Another measure that Comrade Simpson is backing up with all the energy and knowledge at his disposal is medical inspection of school children. He would make it thorough and the treatment entirely free. He believes that the medical care of children should no more be left to the parents than the teaching of writing and arithmetic. No father or mother is so unnatural as to wilfully allow their child's health to be ruined, but large numbers do so nevertheless through ignorance or procrastination or lack of money.

The Socialist trustee also opposes home-work being imposed on pupils, especially in the junior grades. And as part of his anti-militarist campaign he recommends that the children be instructed in life-saving rather than in life-destroying by teaching them how to handle fire-hose and the various apparatus for extinguishing fire.

There is not a teacher in Toronto who is not a warm admirer of Comrade Simpson. This is due partly to his consulting their wishes and always giving them a courteous and sympathetic hearing, but chiefly to the fact that he always stands for increasing their salaries and giving them a comfortable allowance when super-annuated.

W. R. S.

Paid in Advance

Every copy of Cotton's Weekly is paid for before it leaves this office. If you get Cotton's through the mail with a red printed and numbered address label on the wrapper, your subscription has been paid by some friend who wishes you to look into the truths of Socialism. You need not hesitate to take Cotton's from the post office as no bill will be rendered, and the paper will be promptly discontinued when the subscription expires.

The railroads of the U. S. announced they were going to increase their freight rates. Railroad stocks jumped on the stock exchange. The big capitalists sold. Then Taft stepped in and said the railways could not raise their rates and the courts issued an injunction. Stocks fell and the capitalist bought in the stocks. Now it is announced that the rate question has been amicably adjusted between Taft and the railroads. And a few millions of dollars have been transferred from the possession of the little exploiters of labor to the big exploiters owing to the stock manipulation. Of course the little fellows will howl and will want the Wall Street game played after a more honest manner. But it matters not how the game is played. The little fellows are going to be crushed out. The sooner the painful process is over the quicker they will wake up to the fact that Socialism is a mighty good thing.

CRISP SAYINGS

Capitalism is dollars and cents for the parasites. Socialism is common sense for the workers.

The political triumph of labor is in sight. A few more years of agitation, education and organization, and its program of working class reforms will be carried on.

Conditions are ripe for a great working class movement in America. Industrial development has outdistanced the intellectual awakening of the masses.

The Socialist movement stands for the right to work. It also stands for the right to be lazy. It stands for giving the worker the fruit of his labor and for preventing the idler from appropriating it.

Socialism is a world wide movement of the working class that is bound to triumph in the near future. In some of the European countries the Socialists may attain complete power any year now.

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THE PLUTE PRESS CRAWLS

The Capitalist Papers Have Been Tamed to Eat Out of the Hand of Lemieux

Recently Geo. H. Townsend of Dundas, Ont., wanted to see whether the postal rates charged Cotton's Weekly were charged the other papers of Canada. This bundle rate for transient bundles is sixteen times the ordinary rate of newspaper postage. Comrade Townsend sent for special bundles of the Toronto Globe, the Toronto Mail and Empire, the Brantford Courier, and the Burlington Gazette. They each came through without postage stamps affixed. Four capitalist papers all caught doing what Cotton's cannot. Comrade Townsend at once got busy and communicated with Lemieux. The bluff was called. But Lemieux did not want to let the Socialists of Canada get cheap bundles of special editions of Cotton's Weekly. Consequently he communicated with the four capitalist papers caught. And they all with one consent began to make excuses. The Toronto Globe pleads "I don't remember." The Mail and Empire declares, "We don't know how it happened." The Brantford Courier says, "I don't know." The Burlington Gazette blames it on the printer's devil who always is blamed for everything. And they all crawl and declare they were in the wrong.

The wage plugs of Canada cannot get cheap bundles of special issues of Cotton's Weekly. Lemieux will not stand for it. The wage slaves would get too educated and the capitalist plunderers could not get away with all the swag they do. Moreover Lemieux would lose his job as Postmaster General which brings in nine thousand five hundred dollars a year and pickings. And he would not be able to appoint his relatives by the name of Lemieux to be Sheriff of Montreal which brings in four thousand dollars a year for doing nothing, nor judge of the Superior Court, nor other nice fat offices where pickings are fine.

And the capitalist papers do not care whether the wage plugs get cheap Socialist literature or not. They are tamed and eat out of the hands of Lemieux and the capitalist plunderers.

The letter written by R. M. Coulter, published below, might take in the ignorant. It sounds so nice and honest and soapy. But there are three things which show the letter to be fishy.

First. The rate is exorbitant and hits only the Socialist and radical press. The ordinary capitalist papers are sold through newsdealers and newsdealers get the low rates. The rate in itself is unjust.

Second. The four papers were all caught avoiding the high rate and when exposed could not remember how they came to neglect paying the high rate. This shows that the papers have been making it their practice to shove out all their copies under the low rate.

Third. The big newspapers MAKE UP THEIR OWN MAIL BAGS. The mail bags are carried to the offices and the newspapers are weighed and put into the mail bags in the mailing room of the publishers. It is easy to slip in bundles at the lower rate. Being caught once the papers pay and the same practise will continue of slipping in extra bundles ordered and paying up only when caught.

But special orders have been issued to the Post Mistress at Cowansville. You wage plugs must be made to pay dear for desiring to get your fellow slaves wakened to a knowledge of their condition.

The following is the letter written by Coulter to Comrade Townsend: Geo. H. Townsend, Dundas, Ont.

Sir:—Referring to your communication of the 4th. May last, and to other correspondence upon the subject of the receipt to you, without proper prepayment, of packages of newspapers containing copies of the "Toronto Globe," the "Mail and Empire," the "Brantford Courier," and the "Burlington Gazette." I beg to inform you that enquiry has been made in each case and postage due on each bundle has been collected.

A FISHY EXPLANATION.

The explanation furnished by the publisher of the "Toronto Globe," respecting the omission to properly prepaid the bundle sent to you reads: "We have no record of parcel of Globes being mailed from this office on the 18th or 19th of March last addressed to G. A. Townsend, Box 149, Dundas. It is possible, though, that owing to the rush in making up our mail sacks this parcel escaped the notice of the mail clerk and was thrown into the sack labelled 'Toronto and Hamilton' without postage having been affixed. If the matter

As time stained on to the future's light. Beyond all the seas, on many a shore. Thou hast buttressed the heart and stiffened the hand. To struggle for fellowship o'er and o'er. From the youth to the age of the eldest land.

Thou hast called to battle. Yea, thou hast led. Where men have followed, forgetting fears; And hast solaced the dying and graced the dead. Stained with blood and with dust and tears. Blood, a full tribute paid for peace. Tears shed free o'er humanity's wrongs. While faith in thy cause, that could never cease. Met tyranny's swords; and fell, singing thy songs.

As thou art loved, thou art loathed. full well; Loathed and cursed by the lords of power. Ever they name thee the flag of hell. And rage in the fear of thy triumph hour. But their grasp grows weak on the wills of men; Their armies falter; their guns are rust; While from prison, and labor and poverty's den Thy hosts speak NO to their crumbling lust.

See! Now there greet thee ten million eyes. And lips uncounted smile to they red. Yes, those who bow to the crimson dyes. Are myriads more than all of thy dead. Lo! The young clap hands at thy bright unrest; And the child in arms it leaps in its glee. Nay, babes unborn, 'neath the mother's breast. Are given and pledged to thy cause and thee.

Banner of freedom, and freedom's peace, Float in thy beauty, in sign of the day. When ravage of power and conquest shall cease. And mouldering tyranny pass away. Who would not all for thy promise give? As I gaze on thy folds one wish have I— To love thee and honor thee while I live. And fold thee around me when I must die.

QUESTIONS ? ?

How would it be possible for the government to run all the industries? Would it not be too big an undertaking to be made successful?

Please note that a Socialist government would be a far different thing from any that the world has ever seen. Instead of being something separate and apart from the people, it would be the people themselves acting-together. The people operate all these vast properties now, and what would prevent them doing what they are doing now when they become the owners of the industries instead of mere wage workers in them? This is an age of big things that promises bigger things for the future. The capitalists have organized industry so that each mine and factory runs like an automatic machine and without any danger from its bigness. The United States postal department is said to carry on the greatest business on earth, and that without a private owner. Though hampered by graft and bled by private interests, just as any political institution must be under a capitalist government, yet it performs a wonderful service, pays its labor comparatively well and carries mail at a lower rate than any corporation has offered to do. The bigness of an undertaking instead of being a disadvantage is really an advantage, since it admits of more perfect organization and a more thorough division of labor and the expert training of individuals for special work.

What is a revolutionist? In an economic sense, a revolutionist is one who seeks to depose the class that is in power and place political power in the hands of another class. Socialists are revolutionary because they wish to overthrow the institutions of the capitalist class and establish others in their place in harmony with working-class rule. They are also revolutionary because they know the social revolution to be necessary and inevitable.

Why not tax predatory wealth into submission? Why not so change the laws of taxation as to throw the burden of public affairs upon the wealthy and thus relieve the laboring man?

There are two kinds of tax. One which the capitalist pays to the government because he owns property, and one which the worker pays to the capitalist for the same reason. The worker owns little property and therefore pays little tax to government, but for the same reason he pays a large tax to the capitalist in

AN APPEAL TO YOU

There is folded in your copy this week a Special Yellow Sub Blank. You haven't had one of this color before, and you are receiving it now because there is lively need of your using it. We have been forced to get a home for your paper before anticipated, and before the 10,000 mark in circulation has been reached. We are incurring heavy obligations. Will you use this Sub Blank to land a list as an encouragement to Cotton's. Forget that others are receiving a blank. Concentrate on the idea that it depends solely upon YOU. Boost as you have never boosted before, and in the coming two or three months you will drink deep draughts of satisfaction.

the form of surplus labor for which he does not get the value in wages. The whole Socialist movement is to the end of escaping this latter tax, and workingmen have no interest in questions of property tax which involve the capitalist with his own government. The workers being as a class practically propertyless, have no interest in laws which affect charges on property; but they have a vital interest in all laws which affect human life, which is the material out of which their labor power is made.

Would there be money in the proposed Socialist republic?

Not being a prophet the writer does not care to say what the majority may choose to do with reference to such things as that. Socialism is neither a human invention nor a ready-made scheme of government handed down from the skies, and its application will depend wholly upon the will of the people when they decide in sufficient numbers to put it in operation. It may be that the present monetary system could be so modified as to meet the requirements of the new system, and if might be that a system of due bills for labor performed would be used. Those are details which could not be provided for at this time since the people of the Socialist Republic must be self-governing and would not be bound by provisions handed down to them by us. The only things concerning the Co-operative Commonwealth which we can predict with any certainty are those which necessarily follow from the fundamental principles of the movement which are generally accepted by the present generation of Socialists and probably will be by succeeding generations.

Does Socialism or the Socialist movement oppose religion?

There is one kind of religion, if it can be called religion, which Socialism opposes; and that is the political kind of religion which apologizes for the evils of the capitalist system and goes out of its way to antagonize the Socialist movement. Socialism is purely economic, concerning itself wholly with the bread and butter question. Its adherents are of every religious and philosophical belief, and there is nothing in the teachings of Socialism that would exclude a Methodist, a Mormon, or a Mahomedan, an atheist, an agnostic, or any kind or quality of an infidel. In that respect it is the same as republicanism of democracy. It recognizes the fact that in this country church and state are separate, and its program is directed toward the transformation of the state without any interference whatever with the religious views of anyone. The enemies of the movement seek to arouse prejudice against it by repeating absurdities concerning how Socialism would destroy morals and religion, but they are never prepared to say how when particulars are called for. Were any church or religious organization to go into politics and come in collision with Socialism on the political field it would then become necessary for Socialists to fight that church's politics but not its religion.

P. E. I. AND NEWFOUNDLAND. Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland are territories very little touched by Socialist literature as yet, but they are fertile fields. Copies of Cotton's should be travelling in that direction. Subs or lists of names for samples earnestly solicited.

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