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WHY REFORM?

Why should Socialists want to bother with reform? Reform means the doing away with the more glaring abuses that arise from the antagonisms between capital and labor. The capitalist system is so constructed that these reforms will be brought about by capitalists themselves.

The workingmen and workingwomen want to be given the whole product of what they receive or its equivalent. In primitive society when one man raised cabbages and another man made garments, then these two things were exchanged without robbery to the workers and there were individual producers getting all they earned.

But with the development of the capitalist system such individual production and exchange is no longer possible. No man in a factory can get the full value of his labor in the shape of goods he produces. One man makes a car wheel and another man makes a soda water bottle. It would be useless for the maker of the car wheel to go to the maker of the soda water bottle and ask to exchange the bottle for the car wheel.

In modern industry production has been socialized. Even the car wheel is not made by one man. It is made by a number of persons, performing separate operations, or working together at the same operation. So individual production has vanished and with individual production has vanished individual exchange. "We have social production with social exchange."

But with the coming of social production and social exchange, the laws have not been changed to meet the changed conditions. Our laws are still based upon the principle of individual contract, individual sale and individual purchase and individual appropriation.

All wealth is based upon labor. If a man has riches and does not labor then that man is robbing some labor or group of laborers. He appropriates to himself a part of the socialized product of the worker without taking part in the social work of production.

The more society develops the more the antagonism between the forces of robbery and the forces of labor come to be apparent. These antagonisms cannot be done away with until the system of private property and private contract are done away with.

Now the reformer is a man who sees that socialization is here and that there are some glaring examples due to private exploitation. He looks into the intricacies of the matter and comes to the conclusion that there should be reform. He therefore starts to fight for his little hobby and wastes his energy in attacking some little point where the robbery is manifest. But he will not attack the system that makes the robbery possible.

The Socialists attack the system itself. They are frequently told by the little reformer that they should help him conquer his little reform as a "step in the right direction." The Socialist only smiles.

The reforms are bound to come anyway. Old age pensions, conservation of the national resources, workmen's unemployed acts, etc. These are bound to come because with the development of socialized production the capitalists must see to it that the laborer and the national resources shall be socially cared for. The laborer and the raw material are the basis of the wealth of the capitalist and as the capitalist draws his wealth from socialized industry it is but natural that he himself will see to it that the basis of his wealth is socially cared for so that he may draw his wealth from social production by private appropriation.

The Socialist wants the whole circle socialized. The capitalist wants the basis of his wealth socialized. But he does not want his profits, his unpaid labor that he appropriates, socialized also. So the capitalist himself will introduce measures which will be socialistic in appearance, but the central demand of the Socialists that the workers be given the full value of what they produce he will fight to the bitter end.

So the little reformer can look to the capitalist for support for his schemes, while the Socialists can only look to the robbed worker for support or for aid for his demand that the workers shall get all they produce.

The little reformer is the natural ally of the capitalist. He has no place in the ranks of the militant Socialist parties who are out to free

the worker from the robbery of the capitalists based upon private appropriation of socialized production.

The power of capitalism is based on unpaid labor.

Were it not for the labor the worker performs and which is not paid for the capitalists would have to go to work.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier wants to refer one small section of the graft charges on the G. T. P. to a committee of his own selection. You do not have to go to the U. S. for government by Cannonisms.

There is a standing offer from the U. S. for free trade in agricultural instruments. Will the Liberal government accept that offer? Just watch it hide behind a pretext when the question is mentioned.

Clifford Sifton has started out to conserve the natural resources of the Dominion. But Clifford's conservation will simply have for its aim the conservation of natural resources for private exploitation and robbery of the wage slave.

Revolutionary Socialism in Canada is out to capture the political control of governments. Revolutionary Socialism is no less revolutionary because it aims at carrying out its demands through the political machinery established by capitalism.

There are 40,750 members of local trades and labor unions in Canada. If these men would all unite on the political field and demand the full product of their toil, there would be a mighty seammering to cover on the part of the dwellers in pluteland.

The unionism of Canada are starting in to boycott beef. If the union men of Canada get into the habit of living on porridge and other cheap foods the bosses will hug themselves with delight. The cheaper the workers can live the less the bosses will have to pay them.

In the days of chattel slavery the masters took all the product of the slaves and gave them food, clothing and shelter. In the days of wage slavery the masters take all the product of the slaves and give them a little money called wages with which the workers can go and buy their own food, clothing, and shelter. How much better off are the workers?

The temperance people of the States are suggesting that the American government refuse to allow liquor advertisements to be transmitted through the mails. This would put the liquor dealer out of business. But the temperance forces must first capture the government. The prohibitionists, as well as the Socialists know that the political organization is the organization through which the collective will of the nation is expressed and that it must be captured before political demands can be made effective.

The plutocrats are never tired of saying that Canada is prosperous and that Canada does not suffer the woes of the old lands. This is true to a certain extent because Canada is a new country and as yet possesses free land. But the capitalist system is at work producing misery in many places, and the machinery is perfect for it to produce the misery experienced in older lands, when the time and development is ripe. The only hope for the avoidance of the misery in Canada lies in the Socialist movement.

The charity organizations of Toronto are reporting that they are doing excellent work. They are feeding hungry tramps and the tramps in return are obliged to work. The charity organizations call good work. But the heads of charity organizations are usually very foolish persons who know not the consequences of their own acts. The charity organization feeds tramps. The tramps do work in return for their food. The result of the work is sold. The dearer free labor article is not sold because of its higher price. The free laborer is therefore thrown out of employment. He becomes a tramp. He is fed by the charity organization whose feeding of tramps made him a tramp. Then the circle keeps on and the charity organization reports good progress. If the charity organization considers the manufacturing of free laborers into tramps progress, then it is a very progressive institution.

BEEF BOYCOTT

It is easy to understand why the parasites want cheap meat and are willing to start a boycott to force the price of meat downwards. The higher the price of a food like meat the more of their incomes the parasites will have to spend on other things. The higher the price of meat the more the bosses will have to pay their workers and the less unpaid labor can the bosses suck up unto themselves. But why the union men of Canada should start to boycott meat is a mystery wrapped up in the peculiar mental processes which the union men call thinking.

It is a law recognized by capitalist and by socialist economists that the workers work for a bare living. Of course a bare living differs in various countries according to the things the workers consider necessary. If a Mexican is willing to live on beans and grass, the bosses will see to it that he gets just enough pay for him to buy beans and grass with and a few rags to cover him. If the worker is accustomed to live on roast beef and to live in a fairly decent house and to smoke a cigar, and if the workers demand that they be given enough pay to buy these things then this becomes the bare living cost of those workers and the bosses will have to pay up. The standard of living of the workers is therefore higher in such a country than where the workers will live on less.

Now in Canada the workers have been eating some meat. That is a part of the bare cost of their living expenses. Laborers, therefore, have been engaged in raising animals and in butchering and the result of their labor has gone in part to the support of other workers.

Meat prices are suddenly hoisted and the foolish union men go to work and say they will eat no more meat. They want to punish the meat trust. So they are going to live on porridge and other foods. They are going to live on food that costs two or three or four cents a pound instead of meat which costs twelve or eighteen cents.

The bosses are just tickled to death over this resolve of the workers. The power to work of the workers will not be made up of costly meat but of cheap cereals. The workers who work in producing meat will no longer find work in the meat industry. They will have to hunt jobs and they will come and try to get the jobs of the union men. The bosses will tell the union men that they will have to work for less pay or unemployed meat workers who are now scabbing on union men will be hired. The union men will find that it does not cost them so much to live on porridge as it does on meat and they will find that they can work for less. If they do this they will get lower wages and their standard of living will have shrunk. If they do not the scabs get the jobs.

When the union men resolve to starve themselves to spite their bosses the bosses are glad. What the union men should do is to demand an increase of wages in order to meet the increased cost of living. Or better still, they should get it into their heads that the bosses are a set of parasites and should be abolished.

Labor has many hard battles to fight. But until the working men, scabs as well as unionists, demand the full product of their toil and get it, they are bound to be robbed. And the attempt on the part of the union men of Canada to deliberately lower their own standard of living is but preparing an opportunity for the bosses to rob the workers still more.

The question of bank inspection which is now creating such a rumpus in pluteland is of no interest to the workers. What share of the swag the banks get is a matter of indifference to the workers. Let the workers get the full product of their labor and the question of bank robbery will be settled once for all along with the similar questions of rent robbery, interest robbery, and profit robbery.

Donald Macmaster, a Canadian running on the Tory ticket over in England, sent a personal letter to every voter in the constituency. Personal letters to thousands of voters cost money. But the wage slaves of Great Britain are easy marks and stand for being robbed by the labor thieves. Therefore election bills do not worry the Tories. The wage plugs pay all the costs of the elections, so what matters it to Macmaster how much he spends?

AN M. P. ON CRAFT

Listen to these extracts from a speech made in the House of Commons on January 1th., 1910 by T. W. Crothers, Conservative M. P. for West Elgin. T. W. Crothers is not a Socialist. He is a Conservative who wants his party to get into power. Listen to what Crothers has to say about political corruption.

"Seats in Parliament have been exchanged solely for political consideration without regard to quality or patriotism. Even the Bench, Mr. Speaker, even the judiciary has not been spared the blighting influence of this pernicious system. In many cases in the Province of Ontario the County Court bench, and in some of the other provinces even the High Court bench has been prostituted to the necessities of political exigencies, and we have seen here about twelve months ago a high and important office of a judicial character bartered for a minimum of mentality plus a maximum of perpetual political pull."

Here is another quotation from the same speech.

"In Japan one constantly hears the question: What can I do for my country? But in this Canada of ours, one blushes to confess it, thousands are asking the question: How can I do my country?"

Still a third quotation.

"The people have been taught to believe that public property is a legitimate game for all those cunning and bold enough to seize it; and as a consequence we have them reaching out a greedy hand to grasp at anything of a public character, whether seen or unseen. It seems to me that the most lasting impression which the government will leave on history is that their reign was signalled by the blight of greed and the absence of patriotism and that this era will be known in Canadian history as the golden age of graft."

What else can Crothers expect from the capitalist system than graft? Both the Conservatives and the Liberals want to run Canada in the interests of those who want to live without useful work. The Conservatives in power were the best friends of the manufacturers of Canada and gave them protection. The Liberals are now the best friends of the manufacturers and give them a lot of cheap foreign labor in order that the organizations of workers may be smashed. The Conservatives were the best of friends to the railway barons and gave them millions of public money. The Liberals are the best of friends to the railway barons and give them millions of public money.

When the Liberals were in opposition they cried aloud to heaven against the iniquities of the Conservative government. The Conservatives were robbing the Dear Peepul. If only the Dear Peepul would vote for the Liberals then the Liberals would see to it that the Dear Peepul were protected.

The Liberals have been in power many years now and the Conservatives are crying aloud against the iniquities of the Liberal Government. Crothers puts forth a wail over the robbery of the Dear Peepul.

If the workers of Canada are wise they will read carefully the wail of Crothers and vote against the Liberals. They will read the wail carefully and vote against the Conservatives. They will band themselves together into the political party that stands for giving to labor everything it earns. In that way the robbery, graft and corruption now rampant among both the Liberals and Conservatives will cease. The little political thieves will then find their jobs gone and the men higher up who get the swag will have to go to work at something useful.

Every little while the capitalist press reports cases of capitalist governments stealing a march on the socialists by giving to the workers some measure which the Socialists have advocated. The yielding of the capitalist governments to social pressure under the guise of stealing a march on the Socialists is on a par with the action of the general who, when his army was beaten, made a "strategic movement to the rear."

In modern capitalism, usury wears the mask of interest and is called blessed.

The masters do not like to have the workers get ideas about Socialism into their heads. The workers might wake up to the fact that they are robbed.

Will labor ever awaken? Labor has got to awaken. The development of the capitalist system is guaranteed to jar the grey matter in the brain of every man who has nothing to sell but the labor of his hands.

Thirty stocks on the New York stock exchange have slumped in value to the tune of eight hundred million dollars. That is nothing to the slump that will take place in the market value of plutocrat securities when the Socialists capture the U. S. government.

"Let us be just before we are generous," says an old saying. But the capitalist believes in founding his wealth on injustice to the workers and then being stingily generous with his stolen funds to the sycophantic and absolutely needy among the robbed.

Capitalism gives a great incentive to the burglar to burgle, to the safeblower to crack safes, and to the gamblers to gull the people. There are great incentives in capitalism all right for numerous brands of thieves to get in their hands at many profitable games.

Our Canadian capitalists are not quite so brutal to laborers as are the U. S. capitalists. Canadian capitalists want more wage slaves. So they are soft spoken and mumble about the rights of labor. When they get all the laborers they want then their tune and treatment with regard to the Canadian toiler will change.

The Montreal Board of Trade has just elected its annual officers. The labor thieves are organized in many organizations. They talk glibly of what they are doing. But all their revenues, their influence and their organizations could not exist under their control, did not the laws of Canada allow the workers to be shamelessly robbed of the results of their toil.

The capitalist believes in production by the worker and appropriation by the capitalist. He also believes in the relief of the poverty stricken worker by charity out of the funds appropriated by the capitalist from the workers. The Socialist knows that were the workers to appropriate for themselves their own productions the charity of the thieves would be unnecessary.

A wit has recently declared that under an absolute monarchy the people are controlled, under a limited monarchy they are cajoled and under a republic they are sold. Of course wits are not supposed to study political economy. If this wit studied political economy he would be able to tell us why political democracy is barren of results for freedom.

A question now agitating the plutocrats is as to whether the banks should have external inspection. That is to say, should the banks be forced to allow a government inspector to examine their accounts and find out whether they are financially "sound." This will be a phantom now for the little reformers to chase after. There is no talk of stopping the robbery of the people perpetrated by the banks upon the people.

There is a movement on foot among some Canadian highbrow reformers to take away part of the swag gotten by the banks. The idea is to make the banks pay a heavy tax to the Dominion government. It does not matter to the wage plug whether the banks get the swag stolen from the workers or the Dominion government gets it. If the banks get it then we will have bankers' wives wearing low-necked dresses and leading poodle dogs round by the string. If the Dominion government gets it, Laurier and his gang, backed up by R. L. Borden, will pop it into murder ships. And a wage plug gets as little benefit out of the murder ships as he does out of the low necked dresses and the poodle dogs. Let the plutocrats quarrel and wrangle over the division of the swag. Let the workers unite to stop the robbers getting the swag.

As a result of the elections in Britain, the Liberals return to power with a minority. The Laborites and the Nationalists hold the balance of power. The Tories, while they made great gains, are still powerless.

The situation perhaps is the best that could have happened. The Liberals went to the country with what they thought was a great program. That program was a conglomeration that did not look very well to the people. The Tories appealed to the people on various grounds. They too have not had the success they expected at the polls.

When the parties appeal to the people on a multitude of confused issues the will of the people cannot be judged by the votes given as to their support or condemnation of any particular issue. So the Liberals and the Tories have been in the habit of putting forth confused issues and asking the people to choose between them. That is an old trick for the prevention of expression of the popular will. Another trick is for two parties to appeal to the people asking them to choose between two issues about which the people care little, while neither side puts before the people the questions the people are interested in.

In the British elections there were just glimmerings of questions in which the people might take interest. There was the gentle tapping of the land question. There was the hint of an unemployed insurance bill. But the glimmerings were so dim and the people have had these glimmerings prove false so often that many of the people listened in apathy.

The result of the elections places the two parties in the power of the Laborites and the Nationalists. This is the best that could have happened. Had the Liberals been returned to power with a great majority they would have settled comfortably down to office and would have forgotten many of their promises. Or they would have fulfilled their promises to a certain extent and the needed legislation for social amelioration in a further degree would be held up for five or six years until the next elections were due.

Now the radical element will have to keep close tab on the pulse of the people. The Laborites will either prove that they are alive or they will become discredited as political timber. That in itself would be a good result. The public discussion of the social needs of the people will be keen. And wherever there is discussion, wherever the question of what the people need comes up, the result cannot fail to be a greater appreciation of the Socialist position that the social ownership of the machinery of production and distribution is the only thing that will cause the misery of the mass of the people to cease.

The plutocrat government of Germany gives an unemployed insurance act and an old age pension act. The plutocrat government of Great Britain gives an old age pension act and an unemployed insurance act. Canada will have to fall in line and give these acts also. There is a great upheaval due in the U. S. because the plutocrats have sat too long on the safety valve. While the Socialists like to see such things as old age pensions they will not waste their time on half measures. The capitalists are giving these half measure to save their economic necks. Why should the Socialists waste their efforts upon little measures which the capitalists will have to give anyway?

One set of parasites get a cinch on the unpaid labor of the workers on one industry, and another set of parasites get a cinch on the unpaid labor of the workers in another industry. Then these two sets of parasites erect a stock exchange and swap the paper certificates of their respective cinches the one against the other. The workers go to Ottawa and ask to be relieved from the labor robbing operations of the parasites. Then the henchmen of the parasites, elected by the votes of the robbed laborers, gravely point to the stock exchange operations and inform the laborers that nothing can be done because any relief would injure "innocent investors." It is to laugh.

The capitalist believes in production by the worker and appropriation by the capitalist. The Socialist believes in production by the worker and appropriation by the worker.