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# THE CANADIAN FORWARD

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SOCIAL - DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Are You  
Boosting  
Your Own  
Paper?

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TORONTO, CANADA

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R. A. RIGG, SOCIALIST,

(Labor Representative for Winnipeg)

## Defends Anti - Registration

And Tears Aside the Veneer of "Lying Cabinet Ministers," Who Attempt to Introduce Conscription Under a Feigned Friendship for the Unemployed.

Now, sir, I come to a duty which I do not find to be pleasant. It has been my lot frequently to find that duty is not pleasant, but I endeavor never to evade duty because it is unpleasant. In the remarks that I am going to make with regard to registration and the subject of the war I make them because the necessity of the case demands that a man in this House holding unpopular views shall declare them or otherwise he must by implication prove himself a coward.

It has been charged against the honorable member for Centre Winnipeg, Seat B, that he was responsible for the discussion of this question on the floor of this House. I want to refute that charge, because every member of the House will remember that in the speech of the honorable member for Brandon remarks were made in that speech which had such a direct application that the honorable member for Centre Winnipeg, Seat B, could not avoid the necessity of speaking the thoughts that were in his mind.

### A CONSCIENTIOUS VOTE AND PROVERBIAL "POLITICAL PIE."

I approach this subject without any pleasure, because I have no desire to take any action which could in any way be interpreted as assisting the German allies. My only brother is fighting with the British army in France. The husband of my only sister is fighting with the British army in Egypt, if they are still alive. I have hundreds of friends, many of them my most intimate friends, who hold opinions different to mine, who have shouldered their responsibility and taken up arms under the British flag. I appreciate what the horror of this war has meant in the tearing of the heartstrings of the people, the sorrow that it has brought into the homes of the people; I appreciate all that. But I want also to say that if I were to keep my seat in this House and not say something in connection with the subject which has been prominently discussed that I would be obliged to go away and feel that I was hiding my colors, and I am not accustomed to doing that.

First of all, in regard to the subject of registration. It was my duty, as an executive member of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, to be called down to Ottawa to attend a conference with the Premier of Canada and the Director-General regarding this subject of registration on the 23rd of December. We had a long session with the Director-General and the Premier, and as a consequence of these interviews

we received certain assurances from these gentlemen. We received the assurance from the Premier that the registration scheme was of a voluntary character, that it had no association with conscription; rather the idea was to make an appeal for voluntary national service which would render unnecessary any resort to compulsion. We were informed by the Director-General that the manner in which the cards were signed was entirely voluntary so long as they were honestly and conscientiously filled in; that if a man wished to say "no" he was at perfect liberty to do so and that would be the end of the whole thing. As a consequence, we sent throughout the length and breadth of Canada to the organized forces of this country a recommendation advising our members to sign their cards according to their conscientious conviction.

Before I went to Ottawa I was an anti-registrationist. I came home from Ottawa anti-registrationist. I came back to Winnipeg prepared to advise our men in the signing of their cards to sign them "No" for reasons that will appear plain in the course of my subsequent remarks. But the day following New Year's Day I found that the assurance which had been given to us by the Dominion Government had, so far as the evidence appeared in what is considered to be good places to look for such evidence, that the whole foundation upon which those assurances had been built had been ruthlessly torn away.

After having been assured by the Premier that this scheme was entirely voluntary, that it had no association of any kind with compulsion and conscription, I took up, among the other papers, the Telegram for Tuesday, January 2nd. It contained reports of speeches made to a number of returned soldiers in Ottawa by the Premier and the Hon. Robert Rogers. With regard to the speech of the Premier, the report deals with it in generalized terms, only indicating that the Premier intimated that more drastic measures would be employed in mobilizing the man power of this country. But under quotation marks the following report is given concerning the speech of the Hon. Robert Rogers:

#### ROBERT THE DIDDLE

"We are going to register the whole man power of the Dominion, and all those of military age will have to take their share of the great work. It is the only way we can reach the slackers of our country."

That is a sentiment which I am sure, from the speeches delivered in this

House, will meet with a very hearty response from the majority of the members, because conscription has been plainly, without any hesitancy, advocated by almost every honorable member that has yet spoken.

But this was made by a member of the Dominion Cabinet who was present at a meeting of the Cabinet at which the assurance that was given by the Premier to the Dominion Trades Congress executive had been considered and approved. And while on the 27th day of December of last year we were assured on full government authority that registration had no association with conscription, this report of the speech of the Hon. Robert Rogers is here contained in a copy of the Telegram issued on January 2nd. I deduce from that language that the right honorable gentleman meant to imply very definitely to those returned soldiers that registration was a preliminary to conscription.

What did the Telegram deduce from it? And I am quoting, I think, very favorable evidence when I am quoting the Telegram, in view of the fact that it is the organ of the Hon. Robert Rogers—there is the deduction of the Telegram in big red type—"Predict Compulsory Service for All Canadian Shirkers." A sub-heading goes on to read—"Voluntary Recruiting Is Near an End." And another one—"Premier Borden and the Hon. Mr. Rogers Tell Returned Soldiers That Pressure Will Probably Be Brought to Bear."

Now I want to ask the gentlemen of this House, particularly on the Government side, that supposing the promises which were made by the Liberal party prior to election had been broken, what would the people of this province have had the right to say concerning this Liberal Government? And when within five days after a solemn pledge had been given to the representatives of organized labor throughout this country, that pledge is shattered by the statement of a minister of the crown, my attitude was, as it will always be on such occasions, that men of that type are not worthy of the trust which the people of the country have reposed in them by electing them to power.

I want to say further that, as showing the subtle influences which have been weaving themselves around this question, and as evidence of the absolute insincerity, if I may use that term, which characterizes the attitude of certain affairs in this country, the Telegram, some three days later to the date of this issue, in an editorial stated that the registration scheme was purely voluntary and had been undertaken by the Government for the purpose of providing work for the unemployed.

### FIVE YEARS OF WAR YET?

United States Navy League Man Thinks So—Foe Must Be Beaten.

Washington, Sept. 20.—"The war in Europe will last five years yet," Col. Robert M. Thompson, president of the Navy League, declared to-day.

"One of the most reliable experts of the Navy League has spent a year in Europe since the war began. He has devoted a lifetime to the study of military problems. His judgment of military organization should be the best. He believes the war will end about 1921.

"This conclusion is reached," Col. Thompson said, from an estimate of the situation in Europe. After two years of fighting there is almost no advantage to one side or the other. The determination and confidence of neither is materially shaken.

"History tends to prove that wars are decided quickly by a demonstration of superior strength on the part of one contestant, or that they must be fought through many years until a participant is entirely exhausted.

"In the present war the ability of neither antagonist to push home a quick victory is but just now demonstrated. It may, therefore, be taken that the struggle toward exhaustion is but just begun.

"The information in the possession of the league," continued Col. Thompson, would lead to the conclusion that the defeat of Germany is inevitable. It will, however, require a long time to establish a dominance over her and to drive her back inside her own borders. It will take much fighting to expel the Germans from France and Belgium.

"This accomplishment should take some two years. When it is made a reality the actual struggle for mastery will have begun. Germany within her own borders, with her lines thus greatly shortened, with the responsibility for directing and provisioning her less efficient allies gone, will be formidable.

### A NATION'S PERIL THE BANKER'S OPPORTUNITY

Fine feathers, they say, make fine birds; but fine phrases about "sacrifice" cannot cover up the shameful treachery to the people of this country, involved in the Treasury offer of increased interest to lenders of previous war loans.

They tell us to think of the heroes in the trenches, "the blood of heroes," they call for sacrifice and thrift, they issue placards about a Victory Loan, and under cover of these phrases they deliberately increase our tribute to the money lenders.

A Victory Loan? Yes, but for whom? The first War Loan, in 1914, was at three and a half per cent. interest to the money lenders.

The second War Loan was at four and a half per cent., and the holders of the first loan at three and a half per cent. were allowed to transfer over into the new loan at the increased interest.

About four hundred millions subscribed to the second War Loan were not "new moneys," but were old loans

(Continued on Page Five)

## WARTIME METHODS IN GERMANY

(Continued from Last Issue)

### Case of Mme. Duncker.

In the same fashion, the authorities are hounding the Socialist movement among the young people. The military Government in the Marches has forbidden Comrade Katy Duncker to take any action in favor of the young workingmen's classes under threat of preventive imprisonment. Comrade Duncker asked the military Government for explanations of the jurisdictional basis for this order, and wrote: "I add, besides, that the order must evidently rest upon inaccurate information. In the young workingmen's classes I discuss scientific subjects relating usually to the political sciences and to economic history. It is incomprehensible how such work can be a menace to public safety. Through my class lectures and study courses I have earned a part of my livelihood, and I can the less easily give this up for myself and my three children because my husband has been absent on military service since August of last year.

Thus you see how, as the result of some wretched denunciation, they are taking away from the wife of a soldier the possibility of earning a living by intellectual labor for herself and her children. The example of a pupil of whom I shall speak later proves what high moral character and intellectual force is created in the young workingmen's classes through Mme. Duncker's activities. But first I am going to touch upon yet another case of a young married working woman.

### Mme. Spahn in Prison.

On the 1st of August of this year a woman, Anna Spahn, was thrown into the preventive prison at Berlin. She wished to attend a meeting called at a public place. On a street corner near the designated place she learned that the meeting had been forbidden and demanded the reason; at this moment some one put a few leaflets into her hand, and she threw them into the air. A policeman came up and arrested her. Up to the present day, after more than three months, that woman is still in prison. [Interruption: "She has just been released."] If she has been released it was done probably because it was known that the question of the "preventive prison" was going to be discussed here. She is the mother of two children of 2 and 6 years, and her husband at the front. Until her arrest she was earning her living; at that time relatives had to take charge of the children.

### Treatment of Young Girls.

The authorities have acted in the same way in many other cases: Young working girls of 17 or 18 years, mere children, as the prison director said, have been held under arrest for months, though they had been living with their parents, had steady employment, and were helping to support their families. One young girl of 17 years was kept in a cell for months, and finally the injurious charges against her ended in a verdict of no grounds.

Two young girls of 18 years were arrested in Berlin on June 27 for having distributed invitations calling the working women together en masse at Potsdam Palace to protest against the Liebknecht trial. The wording of these invitations infringed upon no penal law. Even the words, "Down with the Government!" on that invitation are not punishable. Junius Alter has gone so far as to say that the chief end of the war is to eliminate the Chancellor, and one of his intellectual friends, as you know, has given the lethal advice to blow out the brains of the Chancellor. Then, though the invitations contained

nothing punishable, these young girls were taken by the district police of Charlottenburg to the police headquarters of that borough, and on the morrow, to the police station in Alexander Place. For two months they have been held in prison contrary to all law. The authorities have not been ashamed to put them with a prostitute part of the time. If these young girls are released from that royal Prussian prison without damage to body or soul they will owe the fact primarily to the high moral philosophy which, as they themselves testify with pride, was instilled into them by the Society for the Education of the young, and notably by Mme. Duncker.

### A Young Girl's Letter.

A passage from a letter of one of these girls shows, on the one hand, the great moral and physical danger in which they find themselves, and, on the other hand, the moral elevation which they derived from their knowledge of socialistic philosophy, and which protected them from all impurity. The young woman writes:

"The fourth woman was a prostitute held under restraint; she said that she desired to lead an honorable life again. I have not been able to feel the least moral indignation against her. Her moral and intellectual inferiority are accounted for by her heredity, her education, and her previous life. Her father and mother were half-witted; the former is dead, the latter is in an insane asylum. The woman herself was raised in an orphanage. She has been subjected by turns to forced education, several times in the House of Correction, and latterly in prison and in the institution for the control of manners. She was choleric and nervous; in order to have peace we said nothing, even when she told her past in most shameful fashion. We took our precautions when using the common wash basin; that wounded her, and there was a portable our life together, a thing painful enough in any circumstances. After eight days she left us, and we experienced great relief.

This passage from the letter of a working girl of 18 years is a document for our civilization. It is a brilliant witness to the high value of education for the common people, but also a document of the shame and ignominy of a system of violence which thus tramples under foot the moral consciousness of young girls. The danger for such girls exists also in the preventive prison, for the arrangement of rooms compels the inmates to hear through the windows the conversations carried on by persons who are expiating crimes by imprisonment.

Those two girls and many of their unhappy companions were left for months in that kind of atmosphere. Our language is too poor to exorcise such shamelessness as it deserves. We demand protection against such a prison of filth. (Schutz für diezer Schutzhaft welche eine Schmutzhaf ist!)

### Brutality of the Police.

If the Berlin Prefect of Police, in his functions, is still capable of feeling shame, he ought to be ashamed in the presence of these Berlin working women. Respect for the most elementary human sentiments is trampled upon in these arrests; for eight days that young girl was forbidden to announce her arrest to her mother, who was in a torture of fright to know what had happened. They told the girl that the matter would be attended to, but no actual news was given to the mother; it should be remembered, too, that this girl was helping to support her mother and little sister. In consequence of the arrest she lost her place; her father has been at the front for two years and is wounded. By way of thanking him, they brutalize his daughter behind his back. What must be the feelings of such a father?

After having been released the 11th of this month the young woman was again present at a meeting of the So-

ciety for the Education of the Young, at which she did nothing more than attend to matters of business, elections, etc. She was summoned to police headquarters, and an examining magistrate harangued her, telling her that her presence at the meeting was an unheard-of impudence when she had just been released. It seems to me that the unheard-of impudence was on the other side. She was threatened with imprisonment for the remainder of the war if she took part in another public political meeting. As the girl objected that the Society for the Education of the Young had no political character, and that the meeting was neither political nor public, the magistrate denounced her anew, threatening to arrest her immediately if she said another word. There you have police brutality in all its purity.

That is how, in a country which has been promised a new official attitude and in which the way was to be opened up for all kinds of ability, they treat a workingman's daughter who, with firmness of will, seeks, despite all difficulties, to follow her path toward instruction and education. By these means the Government is trying systematically to kill all spirit of independence. This is why members of the Social Democratic Party who desire an energetic opposition are arrested. By eliminating the directing elements of the opposition the Government thinks to crush the head of the serpent: it has learned nothing and forgotten nothing.

### Meyer and Regge Cases.

The director of Vorwärts, Dr. Meyer, who can be reproached with nothing except political ideas that are not agreeable to the authorities, has been confined for months in preventive prison. He is suffering from an affection of the lungs, and is at the present moment in the infirmary of the Moabit Prison; all his requests to be allowed to go to a sanatorium have been denied.

The Director of the organ of the Furriers' Association, Companion Regge, the father of six children, has been in preventive prison since August 17 of this year. Why? Because he condemns and combats the war policy of the committee of the Social Democratic Party. There has been issued at his expense a circular which he had published a half year before his arrest, under his signature and that of two others, which treated of an internal difference in the Teltow-Beeskow faction. By energetic insistence he succeeded, on the 11th of September, in being at least told why he was under arrest. At that time the following reasons were imparted to him: On May 27 he had been Secretary of the general meeting of the electoral association, and had proposed at that meeting a resolution advocating a refusal of contributions to the Social Democratic Committee, at the same time urging a more active policy in the Reichstag on the part of the Social Democratic Labor Union. Furthermore, he had signed the protest addressed to the committee of the party. In June he had taken part in the demonstration for Liebknecht, though he had not made himself prominent in any way. The charges against him, therefore, were purely political.

(To be continued.)

Certainly the workers of Europe did not make the war. They had no voice when it should start. And the probability is that they will not have a voice when it will end. Germany may be exhausted and offer peace at a time when Europe could get really satisfactory terms that will practically prevent war permanently, but owing to secret diplomacy running the war the Allied capitalists, with their pull on European chancelleries, have the power to cry "Go on!" or "Enough!" And in the end it is a few individuals, probably those very largely interested, who will re-make the map of Europe and plant a fresh crop of trouble.

## CLIP AND COMMENT

### SIR ADAM POPS THE QUESTION.

Sir Adam had a little suggestion of his own to make. He quoted F. F. Pardee, M.P., to show that the C.N.R. owed \$26 to every man, woman and child in Canada. He had predicted that they would be back for another \$45,000,000 at the next session of Parliament. So he had a little favor to ask. Would the "fair and impartial" committee of engineers appoint another committee of auditors and accountants to report on C.N.R. affairs?

Perhaps, he suggested, it would also tell who was going to build the road, if the plans were approved. Would tenders be advertised for? Had anybody ever heard of tenders being advertised for a Mackenzie and Mann undertaking? It had wheels within wheels all along the line, he declared. One corporation owns the profit-making terminals in Montreal; another owns the bankrupt railroad.

"Are we to go on forever giving Mackenzie and Mann the cream and getting the milk?" he asked.

Sir Adam Beck is not so antediluvian as his name might suggest. He is reputed to possess remarkable insight with regard to transportation problems, and the generous favor Mackenzie and Mann, railway magnates, have received at the hand of their servants, the Dominion Government. He might reasonably have read "The History of Canadian Wealth," by Gustavus Myers. The quotation only serves to emphasize the fact, i.e., that the machinations of this corporation bodes ill to the citizens of this country, by the strangle hold the Mackenzie and Mann interests are getting on the resources of Canada.

### NOT INVITED TO MEET DUKE.

### Rigg and Dixon, Who Opposed Registration, Feel Slighted.

Winnipeg, Man., March 6.—In the closing hours of the Legislature last night R. A. Rigg, Labor M.P.P., fiercely criticized the Governor-General because he and F. J. Dixon, the other member who opposed national registration, were not given invitations to the reception by the Duke at Government House. Rigg said he regarded it as a deliberate slight on the labor interests of the country, and he proposed to see that proper indignation was expressed. The Speaker called him to order, but he continued to protest against what he termed an unwarranted insult. His remarks were received with jeers.

A usage created by precedent must not necessarily be carried into effect when the policy of the individual differs from that of the Government. We remember how the late Kier-Hardie had similar contumely thrust upon him. "We should worry." This is the highest compliment that could be paid to one who is true to his class. The man in the street is asking himself if there is any relation between the attitude adopted by our friend Rigg to "Conscription of Wealth," and the assertion that the Dook possesses 65,000 acres of land? As a reasonable explanation of the important omission.

The President of the Manitoba Bridge and Iron Works, writing in "Industrial Canada," says:

"The thought I have had, and which I shall try to express, is this:—At the close of the war Canada will probably have a war debt of, say, \$5,000,000,000, which will mean an annual interest payment of \$20 for every man, woman and child in this Dominion. This must be paid out of the basic industries, farming, lumbering, fisheries, and mines of Canada. There will return at the close of the war about half a million soldiers. This mass of human energy can be used profitably and can powerfully contribute to the production of the new wealth required to pay the annual interest on our borrowed capital." —T. R. Deacon, in "Industrial Canada," official organ of the C. M. A.

The workers must achieve their own emancipation.

# THE FUTURE OF WAR AND PEACE

## IV.—State Capitalism.

It is prophesied in some quarters that at the conclusion of hostilities Europe will face a series of revolutions which will destroy monarchy, repudiate war debts, and create conditions favorable to a lasting friendship among nations. That there will be much dissatisfaction is certain, but there is no reason for expecting that the ruling powers will be immediately overthrown. They may be forced to make improvements, to advance social legislation and bring in far-reaching reforms. These measures will do more than allay popular discontent; their effect will in reality be to strengthen the power of the classes in control.

The chief change the war has already produced in all countries involved, and even in neutral countries, is the increased power of the State. It is impossible for private enterprise to meet all the war-time needs, and the general good of those groups for whom the war goes on demands that in many instances they merge their individual interests into collective State interests. The Government must take a hand in the operation of factories, mines and railways, in the regulation of prices and control of the food supply in the direction of personal effort. No doubt many of the measures are of a temporary nature, but the tendency will be towards an increased activity on the part of the State. All nations will be left with problems which only the State can handle. The lessons learned from necessary measures of war-time will be applied to peace conditions.

Whether or not Germany wins the victory in battle, she has already forced even enemies to adopt her methods. What is Prussianism in one place may be heralded as Democracy in another. An English Bismarck in the person of Lloyd George may lead in the establishment of Democracy, but whatever its name it represents a condition of State paternalism with national efficiency as its object. And all this for the benefit of the organized capitalist class. But because it is said that shortly the nations will find the order of individual control displaced by State enterprise, and because such in order represents a higher national development, it cannot be claimed that the change came about in the direct interest of all classes. Democracy may mean an incidental improvement in the conditions of the people, but only because this brings a greater direct benefit to the State. The State is not the people. The State comes to represent a highly organized collectivity of centralized capitalist interests. The interests of the State and people are diametrically opposed.

The present tendency due to the war is not in the direction of permanent peace. Even neutral countries are multiplying their preparation efforts, and nations formerly comparatively peaceful like England and her colonies, can never get back to their pre-war basis. The immediate tendency is toward greater militarism. Even the United States cannot escape it. Past tradition cannot stifle the growing military power. Whatever the wishes and claims of statesmen concerning their peaceful objects, conditions will dictate otherwise. When placed in concrete situations and faced with "dangers," peace pledges have no more value than Germany's guarantee of Belgian neutrality, or an English Prime Minister's promise to the married men.

But the immediate tendency may be permanent. It may not be the ultimate tendency. Nations are peaceable or warlike according to their state of development. Given ample room for expansion and internal growth, and access to the sea, as the United States

has had, the peace conditions will generally obtain. But the internal development in the United States will soon be comparatively complete. The fear that sooner or later American interests will be found in conflict with other interests supports the Preparedness program. From the capitalist standpoint the fear is justified. But the argument that preparation is for defense loses its force when viewed from the world standpoint. There can be no general defensive war; all war is both offensive and defensive. The motive for aggression is usually sufficient to explain the reason for defence.

The aggressive tendency is present in all modern nations. However, the size of the earth imposes a limit upon expansive possibilities, while productive ability can be expanded almost without limit. The need to expand becomes greater, the possibility less. If wars are resorted to for the purpose of breaking the bonds their success will become more and more unsatisfactory. They will not solve the problems Imperialism embraces. Immediately and for some time to come benefits may accrue to the victor in war but ultimately the exploited backward nations will themselves become trade competitors and a crisis will arise which must entail the downfall of Imperialism, and, in fact, of the capitalist system.

—Mervyn Smith.

(To be Concluded.)

## NEWS OF THE MOVEMENT

**Notice to Locals.**—We shall be glad to publish each week beneath this heading reports of the doings and activities of any local. Copy sent in should be written clearly on one side of the paper only. Reports should be brief as possible.

## CORRESPONDENCE

### SASKATCHEWAN EXECUTIVE PASS RESOLUTION.

We, the members of the Provincial Executive Committee of Saskatchewan, declare our united opposition to conscription—military or industrial—and in pursuance of the precedent established in the British Colonies of New Zealand and Australia, we maintain that it is the right of the citizens of Canada to decide by popular vote whether or not conscription shall be imposed upon the male population of Canada.

### LOANS.

There's a war-incited nation  
After loans;  
Filled with hope and wild elation  
With the loans.  
There are many joyous cables,  
There are papers full of fables,  
And the international Babels  
Tell of loans.  
There's the people of the Kaiser  
After loans;  
And the British, nothing wiser,  
After loans;  
There's a subtle press, romantic,  
Makes the French and Russian frantic  
And the Serbian cut an antie,  
Over loans.  
There are clamorous Italians  
After loans;  
There are Turks in fierce battalions  
Fed on loans;  
There's the little yellow Jappie,  
There's the Austrian fierce and snappy,  
And the Belgians are made happy  
With their loans.  
When the war some day is ended  
Over loans.  
And the battered buildings mended  
With the loans.  
When the interest on reverses  
And on victories touch both purses,  
There will be some fearful curses  
Over loans.

## HOW AUSTRALIA KEPT SUGAR FROM SOARING IN PRICE

By W. Francis Ahern.

(By Call News Service.)

Sydney, New South Wales, Feb. 25.—Many economic problems faced Australia when the war came upon us, threatening a serious shortage of the food supplies to the people. Exploitation grew rife in the country, and every week made it more difficult for the bread winner to resist the inroads on his income. The supply of sugar needed drastic attention, yet there was never a commodity presenting difficulties so complicated.

For many years now sugar growing in Australia has been a highly protected industry, local prices ranking at least \$25 per ton of refined sugar above the world parity. This extra amount of money was paid by the consumers of Australia in order that the sugar industry may be allowed to live in Australia, and to be worked by white labor.

The States of Queensland and New South Wales benefited most under this arrangement, for sugar growing is confined to these two States, comprising the northwestern corner of Australia. That price was cheerfully paid, and we considered that at that price the guaranteed purity of our Australian sugar was cheaply bought. But for the Alien restriction act, the sugar growers could have produced sugar by colored labor cheaper than we are getting it to-day. And without the bounty of \$25 per ton the sugar growers could have imported sugar cheaper than that grown in Australia from the islands of black labor in the Pacific. Thus the bounty compelled the growers to produce sugar in Australia by white labor and the alien act prevented their getting coloured labor into Australia to produce the sugar at low wages, to the detriment of Australian workers.

But the war dislocated the world price of sugar, and sent it soaring to the clouds, consequent to Germany and Austria—both great sugar producing centers—being unable to get their products away to the outside world. The war also hampered the sugar export trade from other countries.

Instead of the Australian price being \$25 above the world parity, very soon the world parity was above the Australian price. And if Australia allowed it, the Australian sugar growers, by exporting, could have made fortunes out of the crops that Australian consumers had protected for their own use.

The Australian Government acted only in time—when record shipments were actually on the way to the steamers to be exported out of the country. In one second, figuratively speaking, every ounce of sugar was arrested in Australia and became government property.

But there were difficulties in the way. The sugar business of Australia is very complicated, since each Australian State fixed its own price. And so it was not long before the growers got dissatisfied with the prices fixed. They said the sugar trust was not treating them fairly, while the sugar trust said the government was to blame in its profit-fixing, and so got rid of the blame that way. The sugar trust said the price was fixed on a wrong calculation. The crop of 1913 had been the best ever, not only for Australia, but for the whole world. Australia had grown enough for its requirements, but owing to the world's surplus, some 70,000 tons was also imported to Australia, with the result that Australian prices declined. Thus a delicate position had to be dealt with, and this could only be solved by the Federal and State Governments acting together.

One feature of the whole business is

that the sugar trust—which is the Colonial Sugar Company—has no competitors in Australia worthy of the name, so that once legislation was made it would be easy to put into operation.

And so the State and Federal Government decided to nationalize the industry. And the big task was done in an extraordinary simple manner. The sugar trust was turned into an agent for the government. First of all, all sugar was seized under the sugar acquisition act. Then a price was fixed for buying raw sugar, and a price was fixed to sell refined sugar at.

Thus hemmed in on all sides the sugar trust was turned into an instrument for protecting the growers on the one hand and the consumers on the other.

And under these arrangements there can be no more unfair dealing, either with the growers or the sugar consumers. And even those opposed to the government interfering with the price of sugar admit to-day that the government has done more to place the sugar industry on a sound basis than has ever been done before. This because for the first time in Australia history the industry has been freed from the iron autocracy of a private monopoly which was responsible to no one but its own shareholders.

In addition to this, the government appointed cane price boards which fixed the price of the cane as between the growers and the mills. Each district had its own price board, and above these a central board was appointed to hear appeals. These boards were elected on most democratic lines, and once their ruling was arrived at, it stood.

Thus the labor government of Australia liberated the sugar industry, and protected alike the whole of the consumers of Australia from being forced to pay famine prices for their sugar at a time when sugar was plentiful in Australia.

As in the case of the wheat and wool industries, it is reasonably certain to say that never will the sugar industry be allowed to go back into the old channels of private enterprise. Government price-fixing has come to stay in Australia.

## THE BLOOD VOTE.

The poem that defeated conscription in Australia.

"Why is your face so white, Mother?  
Why do you choke for breath?"  
"O, I have dreamt in the night, my son  
That I doomed a man to death!"

"Why do you hide your hand, Mother,  
And crouch above it in dread?"  
"It beareth a dreadful brand, my son,  
With the dead man's blood 'tis red."

"I hear his widow cry in the night,  
I hear his children weep,  
And always within my sight, O God,  
The dead man's blood doth leap!"

"They put the dagger into my grasp,  
It seemed but a pencil then,  
I did not know it was a fiend aghast  
For the priceless blood of men."

"They gave me the ballot paper,  
The grim death warrant of doom,  
And I smugly sentenced the man to death  
In that dreadful little room."

"I put it inside the box of blood,  
Nor thought of the man I'd slain,  
Till at midnight came like a whelming flood,  
God's word and the brand of a Cin."

"O little son; O, my little son,  
Pray God for your mother's soul,  
That the scarlet stain may be white again  
In God's great Judgment Roll."

W. R. WINSPEAR.  
Sydney, Australia.

Occasionally, old party politicians attack capitalism with a feather duster.

# The Future of Socialism in America

(By Frank Bohn)

We Socialists, above all others in the world, are supposed to rely upon facts. We despise superstition. We deprecate pure logic. The facts, we say: the facts. Very well, let us try to cleave to the simple, common, everyday facts of this relentless world. In this article I shall set forth a few very simple facts which belong together. Put them in a row, look them over and size them up for what they seem to me to be worth.

The Socialist party received 900,000 votes in 1912 and 570,000 in 1916.

During these four years the nation made more progress toward the abolition of the competitive system and the growth of state capitalism than it made in ten years previous to 1912.

Let us see just what has been done by the Federal Government alone. A law has been enacted forcing all the railroads in America to accept the eight-hour day principle in the operation of trains. The President of the United States in demanding the enactment of the eight-hour bill, declared that the nation now sanctions an eight-hour day for all workers.

A parcels post has been established which has driven several express companies to the wall and turned over the business of thousands of country stores to the great mail order trusts.

A Federal Industrial Relations Commission has been created which takes out of the hands of Congress practically all legislation as regards the conduct of corporations doing an interstate business. That is, a commission of experts, and not the politicians in Congress, is to give legal control to American business.

The rural credits law has been passed which practically makes the national government the banker for small farmers.

But the greatest and most far-reaching event in this tremendous revolution from the old privately owned business to modern state capitalism, has been the establishment of the United States Shipping Board. This board, composed of five members, takes out of the hands of Congress all rules and regulations as regards shipping on both the inland navigable waters of the nation and the high seas. Furthermore, and this is one of the most important events in the history of the United States in a hundred years, this shipping board, with a capital of \$50,000,000, furnished by the Federal Government, is to build, lease or buy ships and operate them upon any routes it may select.

So much for the facts accomplished as regards the growth of state capitalism in America.

## The Movement for Government Ownership.

All the Hearst papers and all the Scripps-McRae papers advocate the immediate government ownership of every mile of railroad and every car wheel in the country. All the big radical magazines like the Metropolitan and Everybody's and nine-tenths of the small town newspapers, are educating their readers toward government ownership. One of the biggest daily newspapers in New York City, the Globe, during the strike of the New York Dairymen's League advocated a municipal dairy on Long Island—with sixty thousand cows, to be kept in perfect sanitary condition, and by use of the most scientific methods, to furnish dairy products for the people of Greater New York.

The great middle class, above all the professional class—the school teachers, the college professors, the editors, the lawyers, the physicians—these have been deeply injured by the high prices.

They want relief. They are going to get relief—through municipal, state and national ownership. The great army of skilled workers, organized in the various craft unions and the American Federation of Labor, are working and voting hand in glove with the professional and middle classes. By 1920 a national referendum for the public ownership of railroads, coal mines, and the greater industrial trusts would undoubtedly pass by a decisive majority.

But all this is not a movement to free the working class. It is not industrial democracy. It is merely Prussianizing America. State capitalism plus universal military service will make a new Germany out of the U.S.A. in twenty years.

Shall we fight this state capitalism? Not at all. Organize in the industries and control the machine from the bottom, instead of being controlled from the top.

The middle class in America has set out to bedevil the plutocracy. It is doing it "in proper shape." When it gets done with the job there won't be any plutocracy. Scores of billions of wealth—pretty soon half the wealth of nation—will be owned by the cities of the nation, and by the great educational and charity dispensing corporations. These great public institutions will be managed by boards of experts—sons of the middle and professional classes, trained in our technical schools and paid high salaries secure in the permanency of their jobs and honored by public acclaim even as Rockefeller and Carnegie were honored yesterday. General Goethals is such a man. Imagine Goethals trading his job and his career for those of J. P. Morgan! Morgan is the big man of yesterday; Goethals is the big man of to-day and to-morrow. The nation is changing. The world is changing.

Ahe we changing, too? I fear not. Most of our Socialist leaders are living in the past.

## Two Kinds of Socialism.

The state capitalism which we are describing, and which is now being thrown at us in enormous chunks by the middle class and the intellectuals, has been called "Socialism" by a great many Socialist leaders. Most of our official Socialist newspapers, books, pamphlets, leaflets and our Socialist speeches have advocated nothing more than state capitalism. That is what the word "Socialism" means to the American public. To this man or woman in the street "Socialism" means the government-owned railroads in Alaska, the municipally-owned street railway in San Francisco, and the new nation-owned shipping trust.

Then there is another kind of Socialism which has always been advocated by a minority of the Socialists. We industrial Socialists have argued that our ideal should not be simply economic security for the worker but industrial freedom through industrial democracy. We want to be fed but we wish to feed ourselves as free men and not by the government as slaves. Some of us have maintained pretty vociferously that we would rather be dead than be organized and driven in a servile state-owned industrial system like that of Germany. We have looked beyond state capitalism to a condition of industrial freedom. We have declared that in so far as the workers are industrially organized to-day they are empowered to take democratic action in the industries. Indeed, the United Mine Workers of America, for instance, is now actually taking a very important part in the management of the coal mines. The elected representatives of four hundred thousand railroad workers passed

an eight-hour law and then went to the President and to Congress and demanded that they ratify that law. Congress did not wish to pass the Adamson Bill. The plutocratic "Old Guard" of the United States Senate said it was time to adjourn and go to the summer resorts. Anyway, they said it was Saturday afternoon and they wanted to go to the golf links. "No," replied the presidents of the railroad brotherhoods, "you stay right here in this Senate chamber this afternoon and pass this bill. If you don't we will tie up the country so tight next Monday morning that the American people will rend you limb from limb on next election day." So the Senate endorsed the bill which had originally been passed by referendum vote of the industrially enfranchised citizenship on the railroads.

Organize the 2,000,000 railroad workers into one union. They will make servants out of all the members of Congress.

## Get This in Your Mind's Eye.

The American nation is rushing out of political government into industrial government. Congress is losing function after function. Its job is pretty nearly done. Its place is being taken by the industrial experts of the various commissions. We now have national commissions for railroads, for interstate corporations, control, for shipping and for the tariff. Add a half dozen national commissions for six more big industries and the Congressmen at Washington will sit around and draw their salaries for sucking their thumbs. The old state lines and district lines are fading. The industries are the new states of our new nation. Democratize the industries by building up industrial unions—by developing toward One Big Union.

The capture and use of the city governments is the biggest political job which we have to tackle. Right now it is possible, in every city in America, to successfully advocate the public distribution of food. The cities, ruled by the workers, can connect with the farmers' unions and so organize and control the whole food producing and distributing industry. We can do it now. In every city let us work with every labor organization and with every other force which will help to abolish the army of middle class gamblers, and keep the policemen's clubs off the strikers' heads. Right here, in the control of the cities, is where political action is direct action. But to capture and make social use of city governments we must also capture the state governments. Otherwise, the state governments will put the city administration out of business. To capture the states we must secure the co-operation of the farmers.

Let us not be afraid of "losing our principles." We "lose our principles" most rapidly when we get into endless arguments and quarrels about philosophy and about "How and when the revolution is going to be pulled off." **Socialism in the Unions and in Politics.**

On the political field there is no reason why Socialists should not work with any and all who sanction the public ownership of the industries and agree to help the labor unions. We have long since discovered that a labor union composed entirely of Socialists always fails. We now discover that a political party composed entirely of Socialists must also fail. If we can and must work in the unions with non-Socialists, we can and must also work in a labor union and farmers' party with non-Socialists. If no good reason can be alleged for staying out of these unions, what argument can be alleged for refusing to act with a radical party which will work with and for the unions!

Of course we should have a separate organization for educational and propaganda purposes only. The best organization of this sort I know of is the British Independent Labor Party. Twelve months in the year and every year it teaches socialism. During campaigns it joins with the British labor unions, I

used to despise this party. I thought that the Social-Democratic Federation of England was much more "revolutionary." Then came the big war and the British Independent Labor Party proved itself to be the soundest Socialist organization in Europe. That opened my eyes. Because they used their brains in political campaigns they did not also lose their backbone. They have set an example to all the world as regards how a Socialist movement should take political action.

The Socialist party, as a small religious sect, will always fail. Our Socialist movement, if it is to be a real movement, must keep moving.—International Socialist Review.

## THE BATTLE OF BLENHEIM.

It was a summer evening,  
Old Kaspar's work was done,  
And he before his cottage door  
Was sitting in the Sun,  
And by him sported on the green,  
His little grandchild Wilhelmine.

She saw her brother Peterkin  
Roll something large and round,  
Which he besides the rivulet  
In playing there had found:  
He came to ask what he had found,  
That was so large, and smooth, and round.

Old Kaspar took it from the boy,  
Who stood expectant by:  
And then the old man shook his head,  
And, with a natural sigh,  
"Tis some poor fellow's skull," said he,  
"Who fell in the great victory."

"I find them in the garden,  
For there's many here about;  
And often when I go to plough,  
The ploughshare turns them out:  
For many thousand men," said he,  
"Where slain in that great victory."

"Now tell me what 'twas all about,"  
Young Peterkin, he cries;  
And little Wilhelmine looks up  
With wonder-waiting eyes:  
"Now tell us all about the war,  
And what they fought each other for."

"It was the English," Kaspar cried,  
"Who put the French to rout;  
But what they fought each other for,  
I could not well make out;  
But everybody said," quoth he,  
"That 'twas a famous victory."

"My father lived at Blenheim then,  
Yon little stream hard by;  
They burnt his dwelling to the ground,  
And he was forced to fly;  
So with his wife and child he fled,  
Nob had he where to rest his head."

"They say it was a shocking sight  
After the field was won;  
Far many thousand bodies there  
Lay rotting in the sun;  
But things like that, you know, must be  
After a famous victory."

"Great praise the Duke of Marlbro' won,  
And our good Prince Eugene."  
"Why 'twas a very wicked thing,"  
Said little Wilhelmine,  
"Nay, nay, my little girl," quoth he,  
"It was a famous victory."

"And everybody praised the Duke  
Who this great fight did win."  
"But what good came of it at last?"  
Quoth little Peterkin.  
"Why, that I cannot tell," said he,  
"But 'twas a famous victory."

—Southey.

The city of Terre Haute, Ind., has entered the retail coal business and greatly reduced the cost to the consumer. Residents of the city, through the municipal market, were able to buy Indiana coal at \$2.75 a ton. Dealers were asking \$6 a ton for the same grade. The city has leased a mine and hired 200 teams to haul the coal to the city.

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# THE CANADIAN FORWARD

### To Our Contributors—

The columns of The Canadian Forward are open to contributions from all friends of the cause. Though we can by no means undertake to publish all we may receive, everything, by whomsoever written, will receive careful attention.

No notice will be taken of anonymous communications.

All contributions intended for insertion to be addressed to the address given below, and must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication.

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I've seen some nations like o'erloaded asses,  
Kick off their burthens—meaning the high classes.  
—Byron.



### “THE IRISHMEN LOSE PATIENCE WITH VANISHING HOPE.”

At last the storm breaks. The tragic silence of the Irish Nationalists in view of “Britain’s defence of the rights of small nations” can no longer be tolerated. Redmond and his followers, urged on by the withdrawal of Shin-feign support and the election of Count Phunkett over a Nationalist, has necessitated a change of tactics.

After many weary months, since Ireland tried to liberate herself by a resort to arms, it seems doubtful as to which of the two circumstances is the most tragic. The defeat of the rebels—or the defeat of the constitutionalists. It is apparent that in both cases, ignominious defeat is the Irishmen’s lot, notwithstanding the specious promises of “The Great Sham” and Carson’s Capitalist Contingent.

### THE FAILURE OF COMPROMISE.

The partition of Ireland is no longer a mythical illusion any more than the partition of Bengal was few years ago. It should be a warning to our erstwhile Labor leaders to not put their trust in kings or princes, for they will surely be confounded. Compromise is the scent that guides the sleuth-hound on his death trail. The poison in the porridge, the dexterous trick of the gambler, which takes “u” out of “your country,” in order that you may bleed and die in sight of the promised land.

### THE OLD DODGE.

Just keep quiet until we get through with this War and Ireland will receive her charter of freedom—so with Labor. Are ye fools or knaves? A commission, forsooth—“yes,” a commission to murder the sentiments of liberty. The charges against George were figurative expressions that were uttered. And yet it is a bitter satire upon a pillar of the Empire, for be it understood that the hangman and the turncoat are essential in defending the liberty of small nations, to say nothing of our Christian civilization. The Germans may be pre-

pared to treat for Belgium, but, the manufacturers of the North of Ireland do not rule by force? (Shades of Skelington!)

Mr. George says “Ireland’s grievance has to do with pride and self-respect.” It was always so, even in the Belgian Congo, South Africa with the introduction of Chinese labor, India with her muzzled press and the firing squad—that is, accepting self-respect on the Cash-Nexus-Basis, or the profit of a brutal ruling class. To our fellow-countrymen in Canada we say: The British Government are intent on taking your lives by conscription for either industrial or military purposes without your consent.

Will you look upon Ireland’s thwarted destiny unmoved? Will you take up arms to defend the English aristocracy in their rule of iron; for, by so doing you stand as much to defeat democracy in Ireland, as the destruction of Prussian militarism. Besides, it is not a long jump from collecting tithes in Ireland at the bayonet’s point to shooting Canadian workmen for daring to demand a living wage.

### AN ANTHOLOGY OF SOCIAL-DEMOCRACY

N.B.—This is No. 9 of a series of passages culled from the works of the world’s greatest sociological writers. In their final form these articles will make a worth-while anthology of Social-Democracy.

### LETTERS TO JOHN SMITH.

By Robert Blachford.

Do your duty, John. Do not lie to your soul any more. Long have you known that injustice and misery are rife amongst the people. If you have not acted upon the knowledge it is not because you knew it to be useless so to act, but because you were lazy and preferred your ease, or because you were selfish and feared to lose your own advantage, or because you were heartless and did not really feel any pang at sight of the suffering of others.

Let us have the truth, John, howso-

ever painful it may be; let us have justice, no matter what the cost.

Go out into the streets of any big town, and use your eyes, John. What do you find? You find some rich and idle, wasting unearned wealth to their own shame and injury and the shame and injury of others. You find hard-working people packed away in vile, unhealthy streets. You find little children famished, dirty, and half-naked outside the luxurious clubs, shops, hotels and theatres. You find men and women overworked and underpaid. You find vice and want and disease cheek-by-jowl with religion and culture and wealth. You find the usurer, the gambler, the fop, the fannikin fine lady, and you find the starveling, the slave, the vagrant, the drunkard, and the harlot.

It is nothing to you, John Smith? Are you a citizen? Are you a man? And will not strike a blow for the right nor lift a hand to save the fallen, nor make the smallest sacrifice for the sake of your brothers and your sisters. John, I am not trying to work upon your feelings. This is not rhetoric; it is hard fact. Throughout these letters I have tried to be plain and practical, and moderate. I have never so much as offered you a glimpse of the higher regions of thought. I have suffered no hint of idealism to escape me. I have kept as close to the earth as I could. I am only now talking street talk about the common sights of the common town. I say that wrong and sorrow are here crushing the life out of our brothers and sisters. I say that you, in common with all men, are responsible for the things that are. I say that it is your duty to seek the remedy; and I say that if you seek it you will find it.

These common sights of the common streets, John, are very terrible to me. To a man of a nervous temperament, at once thoughtful and imaginative, those sights must be terrible. The prostitute under the lamps, the baby beggar in the gutter, the broken pauper in his livery of shame, the weary worker stifling in his filthy slums, the wage slave toiling at his task, the sweater’s victim “sewing at once, with a double thread, a shroud as well as a shirt,” these are dreadful, ghastly, shameful facts, which long since seared themselves upon my heart.

All this sin, all this wretchedness, all this pain, in spite of the smiling fields and the laughing waters, under the awful and unsullied sky. And no remedy!

These things I saw, and I knew that I was responsible as a man. Then I tried to find out the causes of the wrong and the remedy therefor. It has taken me some years, John. But I think I understand it now, and I want you to understand it, and to help in your turn to teach the truth to others.

Sometimes while I have been writing these letters I have felt very bitter and vtry angry. More than once I have thought that when I had got through the work I would ease my heart with a few lines of irony or invective. But I have thought better of it. Looking back now I remember my own weakness, folly, cowardice. I have no heart to scorn or censure other men. Charity, John, mercy, John, humility, John. We are poor creatures, all of us.

MERRIE ENGLAND.

### VOTES BRING SHORT DAY.

In calling attention to the fact that, in the United States, the proportion of persons protected by an eight-hour law is one woman to 1,000 men, the president of the National Women’s Trade Union League has made a strong plea for equal suffrage, for suffragists point out the only states having an eight-hour law for women are the states where women vote. Five of the eleven full suffrage states have such a law, and what is even more significant, they all, with the exception of California, passed this law after their women citizens had been given the right to vote.

### A NATION’S PERIL THE BANKER’S OPPORTUNITY.

(Continued from page one.)

or Consols at three and a half per cent. “converted” into the four and a half per cent. loan.

That was an increase of one per cent. interest on four hundred millions, or a clear gift of four millions a year extra interest to the money lenders.

Now the third loan is at five and a quarter per cent. interest, and all the holders of the four and a half per cent. loan are to have the increased rate of five and a quarter per cent. of interest paid to them. There are other money lenders who are to enjoy the benefit of the increased “sacrifice” holders of Exchequer Bonds and Treasury Bills, but for the sake of simplicity and clearness, let us stick to the War Loan holders.

Counting in the three and a half per cent. gentry, who took advantage of the “sacrifice” offered at the time of the second War Loan, there were last week about nine hundred millions of money lent to the state for war purposes at four and a half per cent.

The lenders of this nine hundred millions of pounds sterling, it seems, are now to get their interest raised from four and a half per cent. to five and a quarter per cent., an increase of three-quarters per cent., or seven and three-quarters millions sterling per annum.

Mark you, this is an increase of interest on the old loans; we are not discussing the new money at all.

Mr. Bonar Law, in fulfilment of a pledge given by Mr. McKenna (who as like as not was compelled to give it, or see his four and a half per cent. loan “crabbed” by the money powers), Mr. Bonar Law last week handed away a “war bonus” to the interest-mongers of seven and a half millions annually, and for nothing.

Let us put these patriotic proceedings in briefer form:—

The money lenders get a free gift or bribe of four millions a year extra interest at the time of the four and a half per cent. loan.

Now they are to get an additional seven and three-quarter millions. And for nothing! Don’t forget that! These additional sums are not for lending any money. They are increased rates of interest paid upon old loans.

It means that gratuitously, unnecessarily, and wantonly, the money lords have compelled the state to pay eleven and three-quarter millions per annum in increased interest on old loans.

That is to say, we are each—every man, woman, and child of us—to pay in increased interest upon old loans about five shillings per head per annum.

An extra tax of five shillings per head has been put upon the people of Great Britain to pay increased interest upon old loans.

We say nothing about increasing the rate of interest to bribe in new money for the purposes of the war, and the contrast between the increased bribing of capital and the steady conscription of life—Mr. Bonar Law himself says that after the war is over people would wonder why the Government should pay so high a rate, and would doubt whether it ought to have been paid—but we are dealing here with the increasing of the rate of interest upon old loans which have already been spent. These lenders lent their money under contract to the state at a certain rate of interest; they are now given a yearly increase of eleven and three-quarter millions in interest. And it is called “Sacrifice”!—Glasgow Forward.

Capitalism is never divided by geographical lines, although certain groups of its beneficiaries may be at times.

Mr. Worker, be your own Moses. Lead yourself out of the wilderness of wage slavery by voting for Socialism and industrial freedom.

## ITEMS OF NEWS FROM ALL PARTS

### MONEY POKETED RASCALLY.

#### Mr. Mageau in Ontario Provincial Parliament.

But the greatest of all the troubles was the way the money was spent by the Government on colonization roads. He declared that "the money" was not spent where it was promised, and that the money was spent for political purposes, and for nothing else—to keep the boys' spirits up, so they would vote the right way at the next elections.

"The money," he went on, "was pocketed in a rascally and rotten manner," and from what he could see it was easy to pad the pay lists. "There is no limit to the possibility of graft. The amendments should not be for good roads, but for bad roads, and also for the better spending of the money, by handing it to the municipalities who would know where it was most needed."

Mr. J. T. H. Regan, South Wentworth, reminded Mr. Mageau that he had bought a limit for \$200 and sold it for \$9,000."

### LABOR ALDERMAN ELECTED.

#### Anti-Registrationist Wins a Contest in Winnipeg, Man.

Winnipeg, Feb. 21.—Alex. Hume, Labor candidate, was elected alderman over Mr. F. J. C. Cox, in a civic bye-election in Ward Six to-day, by a majority of 118. Hume is an anti-registrationist, and upheld the same platform as Andrew Scoble, who was elected alderman in this ward at the regular civic elections, but who was unseated because of lack of qualifications.

### GERMAN SOLDIERS CRAZED.

#### Made Lunatics by Horrors of War Endured on Ancre Front.

New York, March 6.—The United Press correspondent at the British front cables: One reason why the Germans retreated along the Ancre was because they were fast becoming a garrison of gibbering lunatics. Their position had become more hideous than the scuppers of hell. Mud, bottomless in places, and the ceaseless pounding of the British guns had turned their positions into stench pits too horrible for human nerves to stand.

I found myself stepping on German bodies which littered the region. They were in all imaginable conditions and position, sometimes piled several deep. I saw arms sticking full length out of the mud that concealed all else of the bodies to which they were attached. There were legs, feet, half bodies, or heads alone protruding. Some lay face down, some were flat on their backs, exactly as if asleep.

Imagine scenes like this covering miles. Imagine every trace of vegetation long since blasted away. Imagine the earth powder stained and churned up from ten to sixty feet in lepth. Imagine mud so bottomless that the German prisoners claim their men frequently were swallowed up whole in attempting to cross after dark. Such is the territory the Germans left.

The German prisoners told us that communication trenches had been wiped out by the incessant British fire and the mud, so that relief and revictalling was difficult, most dangerous. Men on such missions were caught by the British machine guns sweeping in the darkness, and could not be saved. Two attacks in November left scores of dead Germans outside the trenches. They have remained there until now, and the British are burying the remains.

It is not the mere business of beat-

ing the German armies in the field, or of the Allies riding as victors through the length and breadth of German territory. Both of these things may be accomplished without the world being freed from the incubus of militarism. Our real business is not the destruction of German bodies, but the getting of better and saner ideas into German heads. And not merely into German heads, but into the heads of other people as well. . . . Our real and most profitable task is to kill certain ideas, and to get others established in their place.—C. Cohen, in "Freethinker"

Socialist organs on the Continent are caustic or ironical over the British conscription developments. In Italy, "Avanti" regards it as a Conservative victory over Liberalism and Labor. In Switzerland, the "Volksrecht" comments grimly on the latest action of "England, the foe of militarism," and takes it as a new illustration of the truth that this terrible war is bringing "a tremendous increase of militarism." In far Scandinavia, there are similar voices. On the other hand, writers in "L'Humanite" express pleasure at decisions of the Bristol Congress, and tell the British workers that compulsion is intended only for the war period. Nous irons voir—we shall see what we shall see.

Halodar Koht, Norwegian Socialist, conclusions are suggestive:—"Kolt has been writing in the 'Social Demokraten' on his tour in Germany. He wants peace. Practically the whole of Germany does. I have just returned from a long sojourn in Germany, and nothing has impressed me more than this. Practically everybody I spoke to expressed an earnest desire for peace." This was not dictated, it seemed to him, by any feeling of weakness. "The Germans regard themselves as invincible, but they also recognize that the Allies, especially England, are invincible. Why, then, should it not be peace?"

### DENMARK.

#### To Prevent Excessive Profits.

Producers and distributors are no longer allowed freely to determine their mutual relations. The State lately discovered that exporters of fish to Germany were making great profits, and that, owing to war conditions in the North Sea, the fishermen were in difficulties. It threatened to prevent altogether the export of fish unless the exporters paid to the fishermen a bonus of 100 per cent. of the prices charged Germany. The exporters had to agree. After a year of war, sugar rose to 11 cents a pound. Six months of State restriction and control of consumption brought it down to 6 cents. Eight other important food products have been reduced in price between 15 and 30 per cent.

Prime Minister Zahle declares that the State must accept full and direct responsibility for the health and welfare of every citizen. His cabinet is taking measure after measure to embody this principle.—J. H. Stauning.

### WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT.

The people of Australia are bearing their part in the European war. They are shipping a lot of wheat to England. They are sending away thousands of their wage earners to the trenches of Europe. But prices of bread in Australia are somewhere around forty per cent below what we in Canada are paying.

When the Australian food gamblers decided to corner all the grain in the Commonwealth, instead of letting them do it, as we in liberty-loving Canada

do, the Australian Parliament stepped in and seized the entire stock of grain. The Australian Parliament said that no producer of grain should sell his grain to any food speculator, and both farmer and speculator would be liable to punishment under military law if they took part in any such transaction.

The result was that the capitalists food speculators went out of business, the Government paid the farmer a better price than he ever got for his wheat, and the Australian people are getting bread 40 per cent. cheaper than we in Canada are getting it.

The people of Australia are not scared by the world Socialistic. They like cheap and good bread.

### BRITISH LABOR PARTY GROWS EXTENSIVELY IN MEMBERSHIP.

London, Feb. 18.—The membership of the British labor party increased from 376,000 in 1900, to 2,200,000 at the present time.

There are over 30,000 union men in the European trenches from Australia. All told, 150,000 have volunteered. It is not stated how many capitalists have enlisted.

### AUSTRALIAN STATE RAISES ITS OWN SUPPLY OF BEEF.

Melbourne, Australia, Feb. 25.—The Queensland state labor government now owns about 30,000 head of cattle on the state cattle runs. The meat is supplied to the state butchers. Still more ranches are to be acquired, and it is thought that by the gradual widening of operations the American meat trust will be finally squeezed out of Australia, since it is in Queensland that the trust is operating. Later on sheep ranches are to be acquired. The operations of the Queensland state government are finding unanimous approval with the people of the state—except of course the capitalists and the representatives of the American meat trust.

### ENGLISH CAPITALISTS INVEST IN CANADIAN LAND.

London, Feb. 14.—Two large English and Scottish co-operative trading societies have combined and bought in Saskatchewan, Canada, more than 10,000 acres of land, which is already in cultivation.

Products of this estate will supply with wheat the co-operative flour mills of Manchester, Glasgow, Newcastle, Bristol, and London, during the year. The societies have also made important joint land purchases in India and Ceylon.

### CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS TO DARTMOUTH PRISON.

London, Feb. 20.—Britons who have conscientious objections to war will be berthed in the Dartmoor convict prison after March 1.

### NEWS FROM NOWHERE.

By William Morris.

This is the greatest and best of all the Utopias, because its author was not a Utopian, but a fighter, a poet, an artist, and a prophet, and one who realized that the social revolution must be brought about by the workers themselves.

He pictures a land filled with happy workers who have no masters nor any need for either kings or capitalists. With rare imagination and wonderful insight he has built up before our eyes a dream-country in which life would be an endless delight.

This great book has for years been out of print in America. We have just published a beautiful library edition, bound in red cloth, with gold stamping. Price, postage included, \$1.00. Address Charles H. Kerr & Company, 341 East Ohio St., Chicago. (ad.)

## TRADE UNION NOTES

### JAPANESE STREET CAR MEN THREATEN STRIKE.

Kobe, Japan, Jan. 25.—The United States is not the only nation in which soaring prices have caused labor unrest. In Osaka, drivers and conductors in the street car service of the municipality demanded an increase in wages owing to the extraordinary rise in the price of general commodities.

The authorities did not make a satisfactory reply to the demands and the men began to agitate for a general strike. The strike threat brought action from the authorities and the workers were told they must abandon the plan to quit work, as the authorities would try to grant their demands as far as possible.

Several years ago the street car men of Tokio, the capital, went on strike December 31, the busiest day of the year in Japan, as all outstanding accounts are supposed to be squared up on the last day of the year. No street care ran and the bill collectors and shopping people were kept on the move all night in a frantic endeavor to settle accounts before morning.

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 25.—Assemblyman A. I. Shiplacoff, Socialist, of Brooklyn, has introduced a bill in the Assembly legalizing the giving of birth control information. Shiplacoff's bill exempts from the category of indecent articles, the publication of which is a misdemeanor, any publication or article that discusses or give information on birth control. The bill has been drafted with the consent of the National Birth Control League.

Washington Jan. 25.—The International Association of Machinists is conducting a referendum on the question of admitting women as members. The referendum is the result of a resolution adopted by the Executive Board, which declares that "the necessity of organizing the female workers in the machine industry is becoming more apparent every day, there being a large number of them working under our jurisdiction who ought to be organized for our mutual protection."

### UNIONS AND FARMERS AGREE ON LEGISLATION.

Portland, Ore., Feb. 25.—The organized farmers and the organized workers of Oregon are working in co-operation on a legislative program. The State Federation of Labor, the State Grange, and the Farmers' Union, through representatives who met in conference, indicated their attitude on certain proposed legislation now before the legislature.

The three organizations suggest a form of consolidation for the offices relating to labor, declare in favor of state aid in marketing problems and outline their position on various other phases of the legislative situation. The statement opposes an anti-picketing bill before the legislature. Any changes in the state 8-hour law are opposed. The statement favors making the recall apply to school directors.

The French Trade Unions are by no means acquiescent in spite of the war. All the Railwaymen's Unions are demanding increases of pay on account of the rise in the cost of living. The standard demand for an increase runs as high as 40 per cent.

### ...PARTY ANNOUNCEMENTS...

ALBERTA PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Meets on the First Wednesday in each month, at 8 p.m., at Mrs. A. Martin's, 10528 98th Street, Edmonton, Alta.

# WHAT OTHERS ARE THINKING

## Bright Clippings from Wide-a-woke Contemporaries

### OTTAWA CITIZEN, DISCUSSING A FEATURE OF MONTREAL'S WHIRLWIND CAMPAIGN, DRAWS MORAL OF CONFISCATION.

Ottawa, March 3.—Under the heading "Superpatriots," the Ottawa Citizen publishes the following editorial:

Montreal has the honor of heading the Patriotic Fund collections in the campaign just concluded, the metropolis easily beating out Toronto. And an analysis of the Montreal list shows that the people of that city deserve rather more credit in the circumstances than appears on the face of the returns. It has been remarked on several occasions, in the campaigns for funds for the benefit of the dependents of our soldiers, that as most of the great industries profiting by the war were located in Montreal, or were financed from the metropolis the natural thing to expect was that the list of subscriptions from that city would exceed all others in the Dominion. The munition makers were not averse to this impression being widely circulated. Whether it was a knowledge of this circumstance, or merely a matter of better organization, we do not know, but the fact remains that in the recent collection the committee appointed an energetic team to interview the local munition makers and allied concerns benefitting by the war. This committee was known as the "Munition Team," and its report was confidently awaited by the general committee in the closing hours of the campaign, when all were striving to place Montreal in the place of honor in the nation-wide campaign. The following list was turned in:

Canadian Car and Foundry Co.	\$10,000
Canadian Explosives	30,000
Canadian Steel Foundries	5,000
Canadian Vickers	5,000
Dominion Bridge Co.	8,000
Dominion Cartridge Co.	5,000
Dominion Copper Products Co.	5,000
Montreal Ammunition Co.	5,000
Montreal Locomotive Co.	5,000
Steel Co. of Canada	12,000
Peter Lyall and Sons	15,000
Standard Steel Co.	1,000
International Mfg. Co.	1,000

The total of these subscriptions is \$112,000; the number of firms represented is thirteen. Taking out the subscriptions of the Canadian Explosive Co., the total is \$82,000 for twelve firms, or a little over \$7,000 each.

We do not know any more convincing argument for confiscation of war profits than figures like these. All these concerns have made hundreds of thousands out of the war. Many of them have made millions. The Montreal Ammunition Company, be it noted, subscribes \$5,000. This is the organization which was formed when the war broke out, was capitalized at \$300,000, and which at last report had cleared over three million dollars. It cheerfully subscribes \$5,000 for the families and dependents of the Canadian soldiers at the front! Many concerns apparently do not give any of their profits to the fund. There is no mention of Canada Foundry and Forgings, for example—a stock which bounded from obscurity and the non-dividend class overnight, with several million dollars worth of orders for shell forgings.

If the Government is not interested in the success of the Patriotic Fund, or not concerned with the problem of looking after the dependents of our soldiers, the right course for it to pursue would be to continue to ignore the attitude of the profiteers in the matter of voluntarily giving a respectable portion of gains which many are convinced, can only be justified by some such consecration. If, however, the Administration is alive to the growing sentiment in the Dominion,

it will forthwith take steps to appropriate the larger part of the swollen profits of munition makers and other war-time contractors.

A very informative exercise just now would be a comparison of the amounts subscribed by the war material contractors to the war loan funds—returning a sure 5 per cent.—and those given to the Patriotic Fund by these same gentry. Judging by the expressions of the officials and the press on the occasion of the subscriptions of the profiteers to the loan, the latter action was the test of patriotism is a matter of 5 per cent. and plenty of kudos. Why not call the subscriptions of the profiteers to the next Superpatriotic Fund?

### WAR CRISIS IS NEAR, THE END'S FAE OFF.

#### Men, Munitions, and Money Needed in Great Quantities, Declare Government Members.

London, Feb. 19.—Arthur Henderson, member of the War Council, speaking at Manchester, said:

"In Government circles confidence regarding the final close of the war was never so high as now. I believe that our Commander-in-Chief and all the leaders of the allied nations will be surprised if during the coming summer they do not strike such a blow as will lead the war to close on lines entirely satisfactory for us and our allies."

The Earl of Derby, Secretary of State for War, speaking at Bolton, expressed the opinion that the critical period of the war would occur in the next few months.

"I would be a false friend," he said, "if I did not warn the country that the war is going to be long-continued and the struggle even more bitter than in the past. It can only be won by every one doing his utmost. The three things most vital are money, men, and munitions. Money and munitions are being supplied in large quantities. Men we want and must have. The nation will have to make greater sacrifices in the way of giving its manhood to fight its battles."

"I am as confident as any one of the eventful results, but do not be led away into the too great optimism of thinking that the end is near."

"I believe we are going to see the critical period of the war in the next few months. We must face it with courage. I confidently predict it will be a successful six months for us, but at the same time I do not think it will be a walk-over."

### JOHNDEE USES SUNDAY TO SUB- JECT WORKERS.

(By Call News Service.)

John D. Rockefeller, Jr., is the strongest force behind the evangelism of Billy Sunday. He has just visited every capitalist newspaper in New York to urge support of Sunday and his evangelism.

No man able to read a newspaper—or able to read between the lines of the average unfair newspaper—can see the younger Rockefeller using religion without fearing that the claws of the beast are merely hidden behind the velvet of the church.

Young Rockefeller is the heir to his father's methods. He is the greatest private employer on the face of the earth, and he pays the lowest wages of any employer on the face of the earth. The awful story of Trinidad and of Bayonne need no repetition here. The blood of too many workers, their wives and their children, has been the ink to transcribe these tales of murder and exploitation and mere print is useless.

Now Rockefeller is behind Billy Sunday and all that power which Billy Sunday can wield upon the emotional and the unschooled worker can be transformed into profits by the diabolical cleverness of this billionaire. Billy Sunday has high influence over men and women easily ruled by their natures. He can put into their hearts the terror of a mythical hell and make them contented with starvation on earth by promising them the reward of a fictitious heaven.

The worker must be protected. Religion used as Billy Sunday uses it and as John D. Rockefeller wants it to be used is a menace. It is the plan to bring the rank and file of the working class under the subjection of his own fears, and John D. Rockefeller has the power to attain his object.

### BILLIONAIRES.

By Scott Nearing.

We are billionaires!  
The United States is the richest nation on earth.

When the war broke out the wealth of the British Isles, Germany, and France combined was a little greater than the total wealth of the United States. After two years and a half of conflict the wealth of the United States has mounted to astounding proportions. To-day the wealth of the United States is probably equal to the total wealth of Great Britain, France, Germany, and Russia combined.

### POTATOES.

"Twenty-one carloads of Canadian potatoes comprising about 15,000 bushels, which were intended for shipment to Cuba aboard the steamer San Jose, were placed on the Boston market today. The potatoes arrived here in bond for export, and it is understood that dealers preferred not to take any chances on shipping them because of the insurrection in Cuba. For some time past about forty carloads of potatoes have been coming to Boston each week for shipment to Cuba. The steamer Esparta, which sailed on Feb. 9th, carried fifty-seven carloads, and the Limon, which sailed a week later, carried thirty-five carloads. Canadian potatoes intended for domestic consumption are subject to duty of ten per cent. ad valorem, and must pass Government inspection." — Boston Transcript.

Is Sir William Hearst, Premier of Ontario, sincere when he preaches economy and persists in squandering \$25,000 a year in gratuities to the license commissioners whose usefulness went out of existence with the incoming of the Ontario Temperance Act?

### "OPEN LETTER."

To the Hon. T. W. Crothers, Minister of Labor:

Sir,—If our recollection serves us aright, you were appointed some time ago to take hold of the "H. C. of L." and to prevent it becoming more 'ellish than it is. You started out with a great blare of trumpets and everybody thought that in the space of a very short time you would grapple with the profiteers, the cold storage robbers, and the grab-all combinesters, and strangle them into fair and honest dealing and reasonable profits. The figures published by your own department show how miserably you have failed. The cost of living is not going down. Since January, 1916, till January, 1917, the cost of twenty-nine staple foods, weighted according to family consumption, has increased from \$8.28 to \$10.27. If this is the best you can do, can't you advise Sir Robert Borden to get you a peerage and let some person with brains, courage and good intentions, try their hand at grappling with the robbers.

JACK CANUCK.

# WOMEN'S COLUMN

## WHAT WOMEN DEMAND.

Are men never going to recognize the fact that at least half of the people of the world are women, and that no true democracy is possible while that large section of the community is enslaved?

That as the other workers are, stirring in their sleep, and awakening to the fact that if they desire their business to be properly conducted they must look after it themselves, so are the women also becoming wide awake to their own exploitation?

Together men and women have made the world as it relates to humanity, and together they must go on producing the world conditions under which men and women are to live. How can it be right that only half of the responsible population of the earth shall have any part in the making of the rules which equally concern all the world?

Women have a right to be individuals—neither sexes slaves nor pampered poodles.

We have a right to say whether we will do this or that work; and, where we prove ourselves capable of equal work with man, that we shall be paid an equal wage for that work.

We have a right to demand that if the world wants babies the world shall see that the mothers who bear the babies receive a "living wage" for such service.

We have a right to demand that, if the world employs the majority of women as cooks, waitresses, cleaners, and washerwomen in the homes belonging to men, then those men shall be compelled by law to pay a "living wage" to the women so employed.

We have a right to demand that home life be taken off the list of non-reproductive works, and put upon an economic basis as on the paying concerns of the nation.

How men, even half-trained in democracy, can refuse to acknowledge not merely the justice but the inevitableness of such demands is astonishing.

But few men will admit the woman's claim to political and economic equality in actual practice.

We have again and again the spectacle of "citizens' meetings" where only the man's voice and the man's view is either heard or invited.

We have commissions, committees, Houses of Parliament, Senates, judgeships, and governorships all filled by the assertive males, who have elected themselves as the brains as well as the brawn of the community.

And I claim that most of the present political muddle is the result of the fact that the people have let a one-eyed driver try to guide the loaded wagon of state up the hill of progress with the hind wheels locked.

To force women into a separate party, and to make them fight the men for political freedom is as short-sighted on the part of men as is the refusal of a business concern to pay its employees adequate wages.

We are but parts of the whole, and our interests cannot be separated.

The refusal of men to admit women freely into the political life of the country is forcing the formation of all sorts of organizations and associations among women, and though women's power may seem negligible now, the wise men in the different parties are those who do not mistake our reluctance in claiming our own for any constitutional inability to recognize what is due to us.—Jennie Scott Griffiths, in Australian Worker.

The ruling class may from time to time change their method of exploiting the working class, but never will they of their own accord cease exploiting them. That's a little job the working class must attend to themselves.

Trade unions are on the defensive. When will they take the offensive?

# "Bargain Day"

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### LABOR MEMBER FOR HAMILTON DENOUNCES THE PATRONAGE SYSTEM.

Fortunately the public is beginning to recognize what such an institution stands for and what it must inevitably lead to. Allan Studholme mentioned it in his recent address in the Labor Temple, and at the late Social Service Congress held in the Convocation Hall of Toronto University, Rev. Dr. Tucker dealt with it in a manner that opened the eyes of many in attendance, who had previously been ignorant or the machinations of the secret brigade.

Dr. Tucker stated that it was a menace to public service and public efficiency, and he advocated that its methods be given the widest publicity, there should be open competition for civil service and the teaching driven home that public inefficiency could no more be winked at than private dishonesty.

At the present time, even in Toronto the Good, it is the ward executive of the party in power that have the dispensing of the jobs, whether they be of a civic, provincial or federal character. The members of the Ontario Legislature and the Federal Government are forced to bow to the will of the ward bosses or the machine, whether it be Grit or Tory.

Unless a man belongs to the dominant party he has not the ghost of a show to secure a job, no matter how flawless his qualifications may be. As a rule, it is men who could not be elected to the humblest position in the gift of the electorate who have the final say in the disposition of public offices.

Each ward machine sees to it that it gets its proper share of the spoils to go around. When the Grit party is in power no Tory need apply; when the Tory party is in power no Grit need apply. The man who wants a job has got to get out and earn it by working for the political machine, and the M. L. A. or M. P. has to stand for the game and must acquiesce in the verdict rendered by the ward machines.

The result is that jobs are peddled out for political services, and the returned soldier has begun to find out that his best chance of a job just now is to get in touch with the Tory machine.

A man's fitness for the position does not count; oftentimes the least efficient applicant is the man selected, because he is able to pull the political string with the best effect.

If a man dies who has occupied a public position, the wires are pulled before he is buried by aspirants, who desire to fill his official boots; it is not enough for the individual to be just an ordinary Grit or Tory, as the case may be; he has got to work for the job, and work for it sometimes for years before he finally lands it, for most of them do not.

The pull for jobs is always on, the wires are being always worked; there are rings within rings, and cliques within cliques, even in the same ward machinery and it is always a scramble to see who is going to get a chance to eat

## R. A. RIGG, M.P.P.

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at the public pie counter.

Every ward heeler and the fellows who do the shady work of the party, that it is necessary to keep dark, are always alert to get what they think is coming to them; there is never any let-up in the scramble for jobs.

Sometimes the M. L. A. or M. P. will show signs of independence; his good judgment or better nature rebels at the methods used, but in the end he buckles under for it may mean when the next nomination of a party candidate takes place that he may be shunted off his job if he gets to be too scrupulous.

That is the state of affairs that practically exists to-day in almost every city and constituency in the country; it is by no means that the patronage committees control hundreds of workers—workers who always hope their turn will come next, or in the very near future, anyway.

It is a machine that fosters all kinds of political dishonesty, as the records of congested elections will show, and in many instances the result of an election is absolutely decided by the work of the hangers-on.

Such an institution deserves to be given its quietus, as Dr. Tucker states, its methods should be given the greatest publicity, its working should be fearlessly exposed, it is a menace to the purity of public life, the development of public service and good citizenship; it should have no place in decent Canadian politics, and it must go.

The battle is now on. People are beginning to learn, and the day is not far distant when an outraged public sentiment will demand that the institution shall be rooted out, branch and trunk alike, and membership or participation in the operations of such an organization shall be made a criminal offence to be punished by the full rigors of the law.

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