

TPL V&I No 11

Watch for  
Red Week  
Plans  
Next Issue

# THE CANADIAN FORWARD

Are You  
Boosting  
Your Own  
Paper?

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SOCIAL - DEMOCRATIC PARTY

New Series, Vol. 1, No. 8

TORONTO, CANADA

February 24, 1917

## The Grandma Question and The Hun?

Or How to Make 'Em See Red and Wade  
In... "Answered."

"Would you refuse to defend your mother if an enemy soldier struck her?"

This question has been asked of thousands of conscientious objectors to military service in England, and of pacifists all over the world. It is one of the central problems of modern life. In Britain it is known as "the Hun and the grandmother" question.

Even military authorities have been forced to admit that Quakers, pacifists and radicals who decline to use violence in self-defence, have a certain moral case, whether they get it from the New Testament or from humanitarian ideals. But can a man conscientiously refuse to use violence in defence of the weak?

The catch in the question occurs exactly here: "the weak." The weak and helpless instinctively. When an old horse or a little child is being abused he just sees red and wades in. But when it comes to appealing to his pity for the weak to get him to serve in foreign wars for complicated political and commercial schemes the case is altered.

"If I have a moral objection to tearing off a man's face with a piece of hot metal because his Government has disagreed with mine as to whether Austrian or Russian influence shall dominate in the Balkans 'Must I?' asks Mr. Norman Angell in discussing this question 'also stand aside when some drunken savage attacks a child?'"

From the point of view of militarists it was no doubt despicable for the Finns, in 1905, to meet Russia's bullying by passive resistance instead of standing up to be mowed down by Cossacks and machine guns, but the fact remains that passive resistance baffled the Russians. Had the Finns tried violence, Russia could easily have beaten them at that game by smothering the plucky little nation with troops. Finland saved herself by her courage plus her wits.

### Belgium Spared From Suffering

It would, no doubt, have been despicable, argues Mr. Angell, if Belgium had refused to resist the German invasion, but such non-resistance would have made the Belgian women and children at least as safe as are those of Luxembourg, which did not resist. Had England and France refused to enter the war, there might have been a German domination of Europe and an end of democracy, but there would have been no slaughter of women and children in France, or of women and children in England, by Zeppelin raids. So if the physical security of women and children is to be the object of war, the argument is on the side of non-resistance, and that is perhaps its strongest argument.

But the physical security of women

and children is not the object of warfare. The security of women and children is an inducement to get the average man to fight for those territorial and commercial prizes which are the real object of modern warfare. This appeal succeeds because, once the fighting starts, women and children are, of course, in danger, and the average man, who knows little or nothing about the chicanery of foreign policy, conceives it his duty to "see it through."

So the soldier who enlists to defend his women and children is used in campaigns to thwart the territorial and commercial ambitions of rival Governments. The recruiting poster harps on "the Hun and the grandmother"; the Foreign Office keeps its eye on the rivalry of the German Bagdad Railway as against the British Suez Canal.

### The Last Word.

Modern wars, says Mr. Angell, are not fought from any need of protecting citizens from outrage. They are fought to enforce political sovereignty. And if this war is, indeed, a war for democracy, he asks, was it then for democracy that all the European Powers were at drawn daggers with one another for the last thirty years in Asia Minor, in China, and in Africa—or for commercial expansion?

Personally, Mr. Angell does not believe in non-resistance. But he objects to the pretense that such wars are undertaken to protect the grandmother from the Hun. And he further objects to making "the Hun and the grandmother argument a pretext for persecuting men of military age who are intelligent enough to know that when a 'sacrifice for one's country' has to be made compulsory, it is open to suspicion.

When one of these was asked, by an English tribunal, the usual question:

"Would you refuse to defend your mother?"

"No," he replied, "but oversea trade is not my mother."

UNCLE DUDLEY.

### THE BREAK OF DAWN

STIRRING DAYS FOR LIVING MEN.

By Eugene V. Debs.

These are stirring days for living men. The day of crisis is drawing near and Socialists are exercising all their power to prepare the people for it.

The old order of society can survive, but little longer. The swelling minority sounds warning of the impending change. Soon that minority will become the majority and then will come the co-operative commonwealth.

Every sympathizer with labor, every friend of justice, every lover of human

ity, should support the Socialist party as the only party that is organized to abolish industrial slavery, the prolific source of the frightful evils that afflict the people

Classes and class rule and their attendant progress and poverty, money and misery, turmoil and strife, are inherent in the capitalist system. Simply because one set of men own the tools with which wealth is produced, while another set uses them there is an irrepressible conflict on the division of the product.

The capitalist owns the tools he does not use and the worker uses the tools he does not own.

The capitalist system is no longer adapted to the needs of modern society. It is outgrown and fetters the forces of progress. Industrial and commercial competition are largely of the past. The handwriting blazes on the wall. Centralization and combination are the modern forces in industrial and commercial life. Competition is breaking down and co-operation is supporting it.

The Socialist party is organized in every state and territory of the American Union. Its members are filled with enthusiasm and working with an energy born of the throbbing and thrill of revolution. The party has a press supporting it that extends from sea to sea and is as vigilant and tireless in its labors as it is steadfast and true to the party principles.

Viewed to-day from any intelligent standpoint, the outlook of the Socialist movement is full of promise.

It is the break of dawn upon the horizon of human destiny, and it has no limitations but the walls of the universe.

### WE NEED THE YOUNG

Prince Kropotkin.

"If your heart really beats in unison with that of humanity if like a true poet you have an ear for life then, gazing out upon this sea of sorrow whose tide sweeps up around you, face to face with these people dying of hunger, in the presence of these corpses piled up in the mines, and these mutilated bodies lying in heaps on the barricades, looking on these long lines of exiles who are going to bury themselves in the snows of Siberia and in the marshes of tropical islands; in full view of this desperate battle which is being fought, amid the cries of pain from the conquered and the orgies of the victors, of heroism in conflict with cowardice, of contemptible cunning—you cannot remain neutral; you will come and take the side of the oppressed because you know that the beautiful, the sublime, the spirit of life itself is on the side of those who fight for light, for humanity, for justice!"

It rests with you either to palter continually with your conscience, and in the end to say, one fine day: "Perish humanity provided I can have plenty of pleasures and enjoy them to the full, so long as the people are foolish enough to let me." Or, once more the inevitable alternative, to take part with the Socialists and work with them for the complete transformation of society. That is the logical conclusion which every intelligent man must perforce arrive at, provided that he reasons hon-

estly about what passes around him, and discards the sophisms which his bourgeois education and the interested views of those about him whisper in his ear.

### A MEMORABLE COLLISION

John Stuart Mill.

Mankind can hardly be too often reminded that there was once a man named Socrates, between whom and the legal authorities and public opinion of his time, there took place a memorable collision. Born in an age and country abounding in individual greatness, this man has been handed down to us by those who best knew both him and the age, as the most virtuous man in it; while we know him as the head and prototype of all subsequent teachers of virtue the source equally of the lofty inspiration of Plato and the judicious utilitarianism of Aristotle, the two head springs of ethical as of all other philosophy. This acknowledged master of all the eminent thinkers who have since lived—whose fame, still growing after more than two thousand years, all but outweighs the whole remainder of the names which make his native city illustrious—was put to death by his countrymen, after a judicial conviction, for impiety and obscenity. In denying the Gods recognized by the state, indeed his accusers asserted (see the "Apologia") that he believed in no gods at all. Immorality, in being, by his doctrines and instructions, a "corrupter of youth." Of these charges the tribunal, there is every ground for believing, honestly found him guilty, and condemned the man who probably of all then born, had deserved best of mankind to be put to death as a criminal.

### SOCIAL JUSTICE

Vida D. Sudder,  
Professor at Wellesley, Mass.

Deeper than all theories, apart from all discussion, the mighty instinct for social justice shapes the hearts that are ready to receive it. The personal types thus created are the harbingers of the victory of the cause of freedom. The heralds of freedom, they are also its martyrs. The delicate vibrations of their consciousness thrill through the larger social self which more stolid people still ignore, and the pain of the world is their own. Not for one instant can they know an undimmed joy in art in thought, in nature, while part of their very life throbs in the hunger of the dispossessed. All this by no virtue, no choice of their own. So were they born; the children of the new age, whom the new intuition governs. In every country, out of every class, they gather; men and women vowed to simplicity of life and to social service; possessed by a force mightier than themselves, over which they have no control; aware of the lack of social harmony in our civilization, restless with pain, perplexity, distress, yet filled with deep inward peace as they obey the imperative claim of a widened consciousness. By active ministry, and yet more by prayer and fast and vigil, they seek to prepare the way for the spiritual democracy on which their souls are set.—Appeal to Reason.

## CLIP AND COMMENT

### The Capitalist Newspapers Read Through Social-Democratic Spectacles

#### CANNON IS VIOLENT.

##### THEY USUALLY ARE

Addressing the joint meeting that was held at Ste. Germaine, Lucien Cannon said: "Hon. Mr. Sevigny is presenting himself as candidate with all the patronage, all the influence, all the power of the Ottawa Government behind him. He comes here with money, with liquor, with promises. He uses all possible means to win. He has an army of canvassers from all parts of the country, he has speakers enough to be heard at every crossroad and street corner. He comes to buy the County of Dorchester. I spoke this morning in St. Benjamin, and those who represent me there told me there was a certain canvasser going about from house to house with a satchel, promising a post-office."

He also declared that agents of the Conservative organization in St. Benjamin were buying home woven rugs at \$15 apiece, articles usually worth about 50 cents. Cannon then dealt with a charge made by l'Evenement of Quebec, that a friend of Cannon's had insulted the Cure of St. Bernard. He read a letter from the Cure saying that the article was a tissue of falsehoods.

It is almost superfluous to refer to the moral bankruptcy of the political peddlers and only in so far as the truth has not yet percolated into the place where the thinking process is carried on in the minds of some of our fellow-toilers. Surely, if evidence is needed—the above quotation should suffice, especially as coming from one of them. We see in the statement a characteristic that has now almost become a rudimentary survival. "Truth will out."

There are few men so steeled to conventional dishonesty that can refrain from telling the truth all the time, and when they speak the truth it is not from a pure motive, as the above quotation fully emphasizes the presence of a material object in view, it only serves to show that men's actions and moral proclivities are circumstances of time, condition, and place.

#### COALITION GOVERNMENT.

##### Fads, Fancies and Dreams.

Fads, fancies and dreams are always in order, "but government by representation has long been considered the foundation of that liberty for which men are even now laying down their lives." Are we at home to sit by and see a few dreamers abolish that for which the boys at the front are fighting? For the sad fact is always before us that the "big business men" who are to furnish us with "national government" could not be elected by a vote of the common people of Canada. Of course, the idealists have a remedy for all that. There are nearly a score of vacancies in the House of Commons. These seats could be handed out to the "big" business men, both parties agreeing to let them go by acclamation. Then they can go on and show us just how governing-really should be done.—Telegram, Toronto.

The writer of the before-mentioned quotation needs no introduction to Forward readers; he is noted for the fixity of his ideas. A coalition government is not necessary in Canada, as the Tories are strong enough to do the dirty work; then, of course, they are so much more democratic than the Liberals. The foundation of our liberty was laid in slavery; therefore the basis of that liberty must be upheld. Representation, forsooth! Did the government ask the

people's consent to the war in any country? If the introduction of a coalition government without an election (which is inferred from the above) will undermine the foundation of our liberty, for which men are laying down their lives, then every belligerent government in Europe stands condemned as the destroyer of the foundations of our liberty.

#### WATCHERS OF THE STOCK TICKER.

Canada's banking and financial interests have enslaved themselves in the process of enslaving the railway managers. The attitude of the banking and financial interests may be inevitable, and one of the veils inseparable from the private ownership of railways.

Canada's railway managers looked at the business horizon of 1913-14 and shrunk back from the awful thought of the tale that the stock tickers would tell in 1915-16-17.

Canada's railway managers looked at the future as a master mariner looks at a gathering storm-cloud.

Canada's railway managers, in fulfilment of their duty as servants of the banking and financial interest and in deference to their fears as watchers of the stock ticker, were forced to shorten sail.

If a committee of the Toronto City Council had managed Canada's railway service with the present results that bank and stock exchange management have brought upon this country the aldermanic members of that committee would be fleeing from the wrath of an outraged public.

What is the great cause of Canada's railway ills?

Too much bank and too much stock ticker.

A railway manager in Canada is the slave of the banks and the stock market.

If operating costs stay down the price of the railway stock stays up.

If operating costs go up the price of the railway stock goes down.

If the price of the railway stock goes down the railway manager's salary goes down or disappears altogether.

Keep both eyes on the stock ticker is the lesson that the banking and financial interests of Canada have taught to the railway managers of Canada.—Telegram, Toronto.

"Could anything be more conclusive than this: 'The Banking Syndicates Boss the Railways.' The Railway Syndicate Bosses the Bankers,' 'And They Jointly Boss the Public—for Profit.' The service end of the deal always gets the worker.

#### RECOGNITION!

A cable from the Colonial Office to the Duke of Devonshire announces that the following Canadians have been honored by his Majesty:—

To the Peerage, as a Baron: Sir Hugh Graham, of Montreal.

To be Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George: Albert Edward Kemp, Minister of Militia; William Howard Hearst, Premier of Ontario.

To be Grand Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George: Captain Edward Martin, Superintendent of the Halifax Dockyards.

To be Knights Bachelor: Justice Walter Cassels, of the Exchequer Court; Mortimer B. Davis, of Montreal.

A Canadian Associated Press cable, in addition to the above, says: "Among

honors postponed from New Year's are: Grand Commander St. Michael and St. George, Sir George Fiddes, Permanent Colonial Under-Secretary; Baronet Sir Charles Wakefield ex-Lord Mayor of London; Knights, ex-Sheriffs Touche and Spoad. All the latter three are well known in Canada as having recently joined in presenting the new mace to the Canadian House of Commons at Ottawa."

All trades unionists, labor men, and socialists are requested to look over the New Year's list of honors and tell us which is their knight. Our knighthood was conferred upon us by slavish tradition, and we are deeply concerned when the knight will pass and the break of dawn appear.

#### MURDER AND THE POPPIES.

The Crown Prince is reported to be impressed with the beauties of nature:

"Just look at this field of poppies! Is it not splendid? That is one of the miracles of this war, that one's joy in the beauty of nature and of life becomes ever deeper the more one has to see of the grey. It makes us feel afresh the best value of life. Nobody can understand that who has not been in the thick of it."

No doubt flowers will bloom wheat will grow the sun will shine, and the rain will fall during the war. But this is neither consolation nor excuse for the frightful destruction of human life, the most precious of all life, to satisfy the ambition of such men as the Crown Prince. Nature will do her best to heal the wound, but dead men cannot be brought back to life, nor shattered limbs restored.

#### DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

By Ingersoll.

The Declaration of Independence is the grandest, the bravest, and the profoundest political document that was ever signed by the representatives of a people. It is the embodiment of physical and moral courage, and of political wisdom.

I say of physical courage because it was a declaration of war against the most powerful nation then on the globe; a declaration of war by thirteen weak, unorganized colonies, a declaration of war by a few people, without military stores, without wealth, without strength, against the most powerful kingdom on the earth; a declaration of war made "when the British navy—at that day the mistress of every sea—was hovering along the coast of America, looking after defenceless towns and villages to ravish and destroy." It was made when thousands of English soldiers were upon our soil, and when the principal cities of America were in the substantial possession of the enemy.

Thomas Church, Mayor of Toronto, stated the other day that had it not been for the Militia Act we should have been under American domination. We are afraid this statement will grate upon the delicate senses of star-worshippers.

It is not quite clear from a reading of the daily piffle, if his patriotic hair stood on end at such a gruesome thought, or whether he was merely influenced by utilitarian motives. It is whispered in some quarters that the Mayor had a bad fall when he was a baby, and that ever now he has mental visitations of a goblin from a particular rendezvous; the same mysterious apparition is of a particularly dark-visaged countenance and a commandeering disposition.

To an ordinary person not gifted with a peculiar brand of deception or an inordinate love of war loans, it matters little whether we are ruled by an imaginary person with long whiskers

or one of a full-moon face; if there is any truth in the above quotation about the British Navy ravishing and destroying the coast cities of the American Atlantic seaboard? An admission of the truth would probably help some of our mental defectives to see through the Belgian hoax, and be better able to appreciate the sagacity of our honourable Mayor for keeping out of the mudholes, especially being a loyal officer of the Q. O. R.

To those more favored with the capacity of thinking, the incident merely occasioned a "tongue in the jowl," and a wink that speaks volumes. We presume any other form of physical gesticulation might land them in durance vile. It would be a dreadful calamity to wilfully sacrifice such wondrous "British liberty" on such a flimsy pretext. And, as well—it's different from the other brands, you know!

#### OUR FREE-COUNTRY

##### "COW-CHILDREN"

##### Child Slavery in Australia.

In spite of our boasted freedom, "Political and Industrial," and the fact that we have a real "Labor Party" that has done so much for the workers of this country (?), and so little for the capitalist (?), we are still enslaving the children. These children, who number thousands, are to-day robbed of the bright days of childhood, simply because the masters can make profits out of them. Many of them must become breadwinners.

The wages paid to many fathers of these children are so small and insufficient to supply their bare animal needs that they must send them to work in factories, on farms and in the mines, to augment their meagre earnings.

It is quite true that there is a law (so-called) on our "Statute Book," prohibiting child labor. But so long as we have "Child Labor," it does but little good passing laws preventing this iniquity of "Child Slavery!" There is a Biblical phrase: "Suffer little children to come unto Me." The capitalist finds that quite suitable to his needs, and is not long in putting it into practice.

Child slavery on the farms in Australia is a disgrace to our so-called "civilization." The children working on farms are called "Cow-Children." They are the farm-owner's own children in some cases, and are being exploited in order to grind profits out of them, but in most cases they are State children, secured under a pretext that they will be adopted, well cared for, and well educated. But in place of school and playground, they are worked many hours every day for a cocky farmer. These children are besotted, despoiled and robbed of their magnetic potency. The flowers of youth never bloom under such a state of slavery.

Then we have the children in the factories. These children may not be of tender years, like the "Cow-Children" on the dairy farms, but they have not reached the age of maturity, and must therefore be termed children. These children, boys and girls, are being exploited and degraded in the worst way.

I know girls, their ages from fourteen to seventeen years, "working" in one of the leading firms in Sydney. Their wages range from eight to sixteen shillings per week. And on so small a sum, it is impossible to pay for board and lodging and keep their personal appearance up to the standard which the "masters" require and which their own impulses dictate. When these girls find that their paltry few "bob" will not pay for living expenses, and a man offers to replenish their purse on the usual conditions, then most of them (not being able to buy some nice hat or something of that

(Continued on Page Four)



OUR BOOKSHELF

THE GREAT PUSH BY PATRICK MACGILL.

"The Great Push" referred to is the drive at Loos and is a descriptive account of warfare and its horrors told in the soldier's own language, and will, I have no doubt, make a hit with the Canadian public. In the introduction the writer (who, by the way, is a stretcher-bearer) says:

"The justice of a cause which endeavors to achieve its object by murdering and maiming mankind is apt to be doubted by a man who has come through a bayonet charge. The dead lying on the fields seems to ask, 'Why has this been done to us? Why have you done it, brothers? What purpose has it served?' The battle line is a secret world, a world of curses. The guilty secrecy of war is shrouded in lies and shielded by blood-stained swords."

In the second chapter you get a graphic description of war in its reality, shown of all the glitter that our daily newspaper generally gives us. Here it is: "A man came running along the trench, stumbled into our shelter, and sat down on a sand-bag. You're the London Irish?" he asked. "Stretcher bearer," I said. "Have you been out?" "My God! I have," he answered. "Tisn't half a do, either. A shell comes over and down I flops in the trench. My mate was standing on a parapet and down he fell on top of me. God! 'twasn't half a squeeze. I thought I was burst like a bubble. "Get off, matey," I yells, "I'm squeezed to death." Squeezed to death! Them was my words. But he didn't move, and something warm and sloppy ran down my face. It turned me sick. . . . I wriggled out from under and had a look. He was dead, and half his head was blown away. . . . Your boys are sticking to the work out there; just going on with the job as if nothing was amiss. When is the whole damned thing to come to a finish?"

Chapter IV. gives us what the soldiers at the front are really thinking about the business. "A big high explosive flew over our heads and dropped over our heads in a little hollow, where seven or eight figures in khaki lay prostrate, faces to the ground. The shell burst and the wounded and dead rose slowly into the air to a height of six or seven yards and dropped slowly again, looking for all the world like puppets worked by wires. This, said the postmen who observed the incident, "is a solution of a question which diplomacy could not settle, I suppose. The last argument of kings is a damned sorry business."

All through the book you get little gems such as what is given below. "Bill and I were having a discussion a moment ago," said Pryor. "Bill maintains that the Army is not an honorable institution, and that no man should join it. If he knew as much as he knows now he would never have come into it. (Page 200.) Then read this:— "We have no particular hatred for the men across the way," said Pryor. "My God! the trenches tone a man's temper. When I was at home, our drawing-room bristled with hatred of some being named the Hun. Good Heaven! you should hear the men past military age revile the Hun. If they were out here we couldn't keep them from getting over the top to have a smack at the foe. And the women! I believe that we are the wrong men—we able-bodied youths with even tempers! It's the men who are past military age who should be out here!" (Page 229.)

The book finishes with the writer being wounded and in the Red Cross wagon that takes him away from the scene of action at Loos he hears another wounded man in the same wagon exclaim, "Thank God! I'm out of the whole damn business. . . . I take damn good care that I . . ."

It is a very remarkable book, full of excitement, amusement, and gross reality, and should be widely read, as it is one of the few books on the war that should find a place in the Social Democrat's library.

J. M. C.

SOCIALIST BULLETS

Did you know that a popular writer defined a pensioner as a "kept patriot"?

Socialism will prolong human life by abolishing poverty and eliminating all worry.

Lots of unionists pay their money for a closed shop and then vote for an open one.

The railroads are being run on the Malthusian theory that there are too many people.

Lots of men who claim to be seeking the truth would not know what to do with it if they found it.

Old party politicians think that when they avoid a problem that, presto! that problem is solved.

Mockery: The kind of freedom that gives you the right to leave your master and hunt for another.

We brought you the truth heretofore, but the greater part of you abhorred the truth.—The Koran.

Socialism stands for a system under which your purchasing power will be equal to your producing power.

Under Socialism there will be no place for Weary Willies who live by begging or rich hoboos who live by interest and rents.

Is there a single rung in the ladder of progress that wasn't constructed by a "crank," a "fanatic," a "dreamer," or a visionary?"

Under Socialism every citizen will get what is coming to him, and what is coming to him will consist of what he has earned by labor.

Just because you happen to believe that money wont bring happiness, it doesn't follow that poverty will incubate the joy germs.

Under Socialism it will pay to run railroads with care and use the safest methods for the preservation of employes' and passengers' lives.

The Socialist party is the only political organization that advocates the collective ownership and democratic management of the industries.

You were hungry; You are hungry; You will be hungry— If you don't vote for Socialism.

There will never be any danger of the world becoming over populated as long as the railroads are privately owned and run for profit instead of use.

Newspapers do invaluable service to the capitalists by filling the workers with so much dope that they are so stupefied that they can't see the shackles on their wrists.

If you believe in a heaven in the hereafter, it doesn't follow that you should vote for hell on earth here and now.

WARTIME METHODS IN GERMANY

(Address by Herr Dittmann, Socialist Deputy, delivered in the Reichstag.)

The object of the projected law relating to the preventive prison (Schutzhaft) is very acceptable to us; we will co-operate with the commission to obtain an ordinary procedure in legal form with an obligation of damage rights for persons wronged. But one thing should be understood: this projected law gives the character of a State institution to a species of prison which is absolutely illegal and which, in my opinion, is not justified by any military or political necessity. It would be preferable, therefore, to be guided by our demand and to suppress all reference to the state of siege, and with it the preventive imprisonment.

The preventive prison is to-day a means of combating parties and individuals who find themselves in political opposition. As far back as last May this form of imprisonment had already created a veritable terror, and since then the situation has only grown worse. The Government has revived the laws of execrable memory that preceded the revolution of 1848, and those voted against the Socialists; the system of police denunciation and the regime of spies are flourishing anew, and, as in the days of the law against the Socialists, hide themselves under the mask of the patriot and the savior of his country.

For years the authorities have kept up these imprisonments, which do not rest on any judicial basis. The safety guaranteed by the laws has been shattered; all protection of the laws has been abrogated, and, as if in derision, this whole procedure has been denominated one of "security and protection." The more benignant this phrase appears, the more does it conceal of baseness and villainy.

A military chief of police openly declared to an Alsatian victim of this system: "In fact, more than one man profits from this chance to get rid of a good friend." Infamy and debauchery at this moment are feasting in veritable orgies (the speaker is called to order). The victims, defenseless, have to bear everything; the denial of justice is crushing them in a way unworthy of a human being, and destroying their material resources and their family life. And this terrible fate has been imposed upon them because no crimes punishable by the laws can be proved against them—in comparison with them criminals are to be envied. For this situation, as terrible from the moral as from the material viewpoint, these gentlemen of the Government appear not to have a spark of intelligence.

The Mehring Case Typical.

In the Mehring case Mr. Helfferich naively said to the Budget Commission: "It is, however, preferable that Mehring should be in the preventive prison rather than he should be at liberty and be able to commit an act for which he would have to be punished." According to that logic everybody in the world ought to be arrested in order to preserve everybody from breaking the laws. Mr. Helfferich's ideal seems to be a German national house of detention.

Mehring objects in most energetic fashion to this benevolent intervention of the State, and is ready at any moment to bear the responsibility of his acts.

The Mehring case is a classic proof that we are not very far away from Mr. Helfferich's ideal. Mehring was arrested because in an intercepted letter addressed to Deputy Herzfeld, he had declared himself in favor of a demonstration for peace in Potsdam Square, and had offered to draw up a manifesto inviting the public to it—that is all

that could be charged against him. There was no punishable act. And that is why this man of more than 70 years was arrested. How long will it be before even thoughts will no longer be free from punishment in Germany?

Mehring is one of our most distinguished historians and authors. He belongs in the first rank of German intellectual life and is known far beyond the boundaries of Germany. The moment that it is learned abroad that such a man has been imprisoned "preventively," simply to eliminate him from public life, you need not be astonished if both inside of Germany and outside of it the German Government is held in very low esteem. A Government must be in a bad plight, indeed, to lock up the brightest minds in the country for the purpose of stifling their valid impulses—that is the first reflection that will occur to every one upon hearing such news.

The Case of Mme. Luxemburg.

In the same fashion Mme. Dr. Rosa Luxemburg has been in prison for long months without the law's being able to establish the slightest misdeed against her. She is in disfavour because of her political views; men fear her intellectual influence upon the laboring masses and the creation of an energetic socialistic opposition. That is why they have put her in prison. The Government does not appear to know that by this act it has aroused the deepest indignation of all the woman Socialists in Germany—that it has given a blow of the fist to the whole socialistic labor movement in Germany by such arrests.

Neither does it appear to understand the effect produced on other nations, whether neutrals or enemies. Its members ought to reflect that to fight against a Government which imprisons without reason some of the most widely known members of the international proletariat must appear a socialistic duty, so to speak, in France, England, Italy, and Russia, and that by such measures the German Government is reviving among its enemies the will to prosecute the war. That is the effect of such a policy of violence.

As for the treatment endured by the persons arrested, it is truly infamous and revolting. In spite of his great age and his uncertain health, Mehring has been kept for months in a miserable hole; it is only in recent days that his friends have succeeded in having him transferred to the infirmary of the Moabit Prison. As for Mme. Luxemburg, about four weeks ago she was suddenly sent for one evening when she was in bed at the women's prison in Barnim Street, and transferred to the police station in Alexander Place. There she was locked in a small cell where only prostitutes arrested in the street are ordinarily confined until they are brought before the Judge. The cell has only half the normal space.

All visits to Mme. Luxemburg are forbidden; the newspapers which she received at Barnim Street have been taken away, and even the visits of her physician have been interdicted. The food is absolutely impossible for her to eat, so that she has had to have her meals brought in from the neighborhood and pay very dear for them. Her health is poor, and only her extraordinary energy keeps her up. One of her close friends writes to a colleague of mine in the prefecture: "The situation at the police station is a direct menace to her life." A moment before this session I was informed that Mme. Luxemburg had suddenly been transferred from that station to Wromke, a province of Posen; exile is thus added to imprisonment. Thus does the preventive prison serve the reactionaries as a weapon against the socialistic opposition in this country.

(To be continued.)

It must be true that most people are fond of works of fiction or the daily papers wouldn't have such large circulations.

# The Case Against Conscription

(By J. McArthur Conner.)

Lieut. Gen. Sir Sam Hughes, in the House of Commons, recently came out strongly in favor of the "Militia Act" being put into force immediately. Is Sir Sam honest in his contention or is it an attempt to embarrass the present Administration, who, it is said, fears that a revolution might result in the putting of the act into force. At any rate, it is known that secret meetings have been held in Toronto, and to those who are in touch with them it is said that their object is to advocate the application of the "Militia Act," not from a patriotic motive, but to embarrass the Government, and finally get Sir Sam into office again. But while in office the General advocated universal military training on the democratic plan in Switzerland. Here is an account of how the military system is used to help the working people. This account appeared in the "British Socialist Magazine," and was printed in leaflet form and circulated in Australia by the laborites in their recent campaign against further extension of the conscription law:—

## Switzerland is First in Employing the Army Against Strikers—The Soldiers have been Used against Strikers on Over Twenty Occasions.

In 1860 the Government of Vaud, learning that a strike had just been declared at Lausanne, recalled by telegraph a battalion that had left that morning for a repetition course at Moudon. Before re-entering Lausanne the soldiers loaded their rifles and fixed bayonets to re-establish the order which had not been disturbed.

In 1875, on July 17, a strike broke out at Goshenen, the 2,000 miners of the Gothurd wishing to free themselves from the necessity of provisioning themselves in the depots of the manager (company stores) and demanding an increase of wages and better conditions and better ventilation of the work place. The manager, Favre, offered the Government of Uri 20,000 francs to get the troops placed at his disposal. Thirty soldiers were brought forward to prevent strikers posing themselves before the tunnel. The strikers not budging, a heavy fire, without warning (report of Federal Commissary Hold) was opened, killing three and wounding a dozen. A fourth miner, father of six children, soon died. Then Goshenen was placed in a state of siege. Thirteen prisoners were conveyed to Altorr; eighty miners were dismissed. The Lausanne Gazette chanted "the heroism of the brave soldiers of Uri," while the Patriotic Suisse praised the Government for having "with few men, little trouble, and little cost very promptly ended this affair." Little cost? Do these Swiss democrats mean the four dead or the 20,000 francs?

In 1901 there occurred a mobilization of two companies of infantry for the Simplon strike. "Soldiers, the country counts upon you," said their chief officer to the men; "here it is worse than in time of war. You are to use your rifles to defend those who wish to work against the strikers."

In 1902, at Geneva, a levy of 3,500 infantry and guides were made to dissolve peaceful demonstrations of strikers. Five thousand troops from other cantons were brought out to aid the masters. On the evening of October 9, there were cavalry charges, the next day bayonetting of strikers.

In 1904, at La Chaux-de-Fonds, we again find the citizen army against the striking masons. Some revolvers having been bought in the town—it turned out later that they were purchased by

heroic bourgeois—an excuse was found for the intervention of the army, for, as The Imperial admitted, all was calm before the arrival of the troops. The meeting together of two citizens was dissolved by force of arms. Strikers were arrested without discussion. The Tribune de Geneve was once interdicted for having said that the soldiers "had somewhat the aspect of caged animals." An officer, in a tramway, striking his loaded revolver on a bench, said: "That is what we are going to give the macaronies (Italian masons) to calm them." Then the army was used to forbid strikers singing in their own headquarters. And, finally, it was used, on Aug. 4, to expel workmen on strike as "people with no visible means of subsistence." That is what Ed. Droz, State Councillor of Neuchatel, honestly called "maintaining order and tranquility in the canton."

In 1906, brutalities were committed by the soldiery against the Zurich metal workers. On July 19 a whole regiment of infantry and squadron of cavalry were brought out, 85 officers, 2,533 soldiers, and 133 horses. There were charges upon the people the same evening, numbers of arrests, beating of strikers with fists and sabre sheaths, then their conveyance in motor cars to barracks, where ill-usage recommenced. The case is particularly quoted of two Italian workers who were stripped naked, bound, placed face downward upon a table, and then thrashed with whips for a long time by officers. All this in the name of Helvetic and democratic liberty, needless to say.

In 1907, patriotic repression at Hochdorf, in the canton of Lucerne.

In 1907, mobilization of a battalion for the tailors' strike at St. Moritz (Grisons).

In 1907, a hundred soldiers brought out against fifty striking cigar workers at Yverdon (VaVud).

In 1907, yet again at the end of March, battalions 1, 4, 7, 8, 9, 103 of Vaud infantry, a battalion of carabinieri, a battalion of recruits, squadrons 2 and 4 of cavalry, and a picket of landsturm, were levied against the strikers of Orbe, Vevey, Montreaux, and Lausanne. At Orbe the soldiers were ordered to take the oath, of "firing upon the strikers in case of need." Some thirty refused; they were arrested. At Vevey every soldier was made to insert five cartridges in his rifle, so that, in case of alarm, there would be no time lost in massacring the demonstrators. It is, however, comforting to remember that in this working class town, out of 35,000 men mobilized, 564 did not turn out. These were the refractory ones, amongst them many peasants. At Lausanne there were cavalry charges, with intense brutality under the orders of the colonel, who was a file manufacturer. Elsewhere at Vevey, at the immense hotel of Montreaux Palace, the employers, Nestle, offered wine and chocolate to the soldiers, the same as during the general strike at Geneva, in 1902, fair ladies came offering drinks, cigars, and delicacies to the brave defenders of "order." It is always prudent to be on good terms with the watch-dogs. In addition, at Kohler's, of Orbe—another colonel—at the Perret wooden shoe factory, and at Nestle's, the authorities placed soldiers in uniform at the disposal of the masters to do urgent work—compulsory and official black-legging.

Touching amiability, is it not? A fine understanding between capital and the army—the "democratic" army par excellence, let us not forget!

The United States Government has been investigating the military system

of Europe, and on January 16, 1917, they had Philip Schaefer, formerly of the Swiss National Army, testify before the Senate on military affairs concerning the working of compulsory service in Switzerland, declaring that it was impossible for a poor man to ever become an officer, he said:

"The payment of a recruit is about ten cents a day in the one period and sixteen cents a day in the other; it is clear that no working man can afford to be an officer. He finds it bad enough to pay for underclothing, shoes, socks and laundry out of his wages, and his family may have nothing from his earnings for their own support. Switzerland makes no provision for the maintenance of the destitute family of the soldier, except the ordinary recourse to charity.

"So the working class fills the ranks and the ruling class has the control of the army in 'democratic' Switzerland. Cavalry regiments, which are used in cases of strikes to put down the workers, are made up of those men who can afford to keep a horse for this purpose throughout the year. Last September a peaceful parade of the Young People's Socialist League was ridden down by such a force—men, women and children trampled upon as though they were dogs.

"When a mill strike was called, the troops from the farming district nearby were called out by their officer, who managed the mill, and the town wage-workers attempt to better their condition was brutally suppressed. The army of Switzerland has never been of any other use than that—the use by the rich to crush the labor movement. Swiss soldiers have no more democratic treatment at the hands of these middle-class and upper-class officers than have Prussian soldiers. If you protest at ill-treatment you go to the dungeon for three days. In 1902 a soldier committed suicide as the result of this punishment."

Such is the universal military training of Switzerland that Sir Sam supports with such enthusiasm.

1—Democratic Militarism by Aaron H. Smith, Weekly People, Feb. 3, 1917.

2—The Public, Feb. 2, 1917.

Note.—Sir Sam was Minister of Militia when soldiers were ordered out to the striking miners at Nanaimo, B.C.

## Our Free-Country 'Cow-Children'

(Continued from page Two)

kind that they have seen in shop window) fall victim to the iniquity of prostitution.

Now, I will go on to the mining industry. Mr. Willis, Secretary of the Coal and Shale Workers' Federation, stated in one of his speeches that boys fourteen years of age are working nine hours in the dark. I saw those boys in the alleged eight-hour procession, and I never saw a more stunted lot of children in all my life. The spectators looking on took it as a big joke, but what a tragedy! These boys descend into black holes called coal mines, and by their labor help to make possible the fireside of the world, while some of their own loved ones shiver in the cold. The conditions under which these "child slaves" toil and despair and perish are damnable. The owners of some of these mines think more of a racehorse than a multitude of child slaves.

Such conditions of childslavery are a disgrace to a land like Australia.

The only hope for the abolition of "Child Slavery" in Australia and all other countries in the world lies in the introduction of Socialism.

**Socialism Will Remove the Evil.**  
The workers themselves are the saviors of society, and they, and they only, can usher in the new state—the state of "Socialism" where child slavery will be a thing of the past, and Freedom and Civilization will be known for the first time.—International Socialist, Sydney.

## THE STRANGLE-HOLD OF PROSPERITY.

By Scott Nearing.

Prosperity has the American people by the stomach!

As the grip of prosperity tightens people cry out in anguish, lest they die. "Help!" they cry, "Help! we are starving."

That seems most extraordinary, that people in the grip of prosperity should imagine that they are starving! During the month of December, 1916, the United States exported—shipped out of the country—wheat, blankets, shoes and other things valued at half a billion dollars. During the same month the factories, mines, mills, railroads, warehouses and stores were busier than they had been in years. They were fairly rushing to get wheat, blankets, shoes and other things to a place where people might use them. They succeeded too. The total number of things turned out by the factories and carried by the railroads was unusually great in December, 1916.

When the wheat, blankets, shoes and other things were offered for sale an interesting thing happened. The salesmen placed them on a shelf far out of reach of many of the eager customers. That shelf is called high prices. It is a movable shelf, and just now it is moving up.

The Monthly Review for December, 1916, of the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics notes that "each article for which prices are shown from 1912 to 1916 was higher on October 15, 1916, than on the same date of the four years preceding. For all articles combined the increase in price from October 15, 1912, to October 15, 1916, was 21 per cent.

"From October 15, 1915, to October 15, 1916, the price of tea and coffee was the same, and all other articles advanced from a fraction of 1 per cent. for rice to 75 per cent. for potatoes and 55 per cent. for beans. The increase in the price of all articles combined from October 15, 1915, to October 15, 1916, was 16 per cent."

"We cannot reach the high-price shelf?" protest the customers.

"And why not, ladies and gentlemen?" question the accommodating salesmen.

"We can reach only the length of our incomes," sigh the eager customers; "we are kept down from the high shelf by our small wages."

The customers are right. At least some of them are, and the story of their plight is very well told in Bulletin 76 of the United States Health Bureau, in which an estimate appears of the number of people in the United States who live in poverty—that is, who have less family income than will provide for physical health and social decency. There are, according to this estimate, some six million families—thirty million people—in the United States living in poverty. These are the people who cannot reach the shelf called high prices.

Prosperity—the stupid, blind, unintelligent, balance-sheet variety of prosperity—is throttling millions of people in the United States. They cannot buy butter, eggs, milk, flour, meat, because prices have advanced more rapidly than their wages. The necessities of life are on the high shelf and the would-be consumers are far below.

Some people contend that a nation is prosperous when prices are high. Such people usually have something to sell. They are in control now, and "on account of the war" they are gouging the American people as they have not been gouged for years. And the people, simple-minded and confiding, have been told that when the rush of business will permit the high shelf will be varnished and decorated with a border of fligree paper. They have faith in the efficiency of these remedies, and are waiting with the pathetic patience of the ignorant or the blind.

# 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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**Correspondence—**

All correspondence should be addressed to Business Manager, or  
I. BAINBRIDGE, Dominion Secretary, The Forward Press,  
361 Spadina Avenue, Toronto, Canada.

Vol. 1, No. 8 TORONTO, CANADA February 24, 1917



The King can make a belted knight,  
A marquis, duke and o' that.  
But a honest man's aboon his might,  
A man's a man for o' that.

—Burns.



**BRITISH LIBERTY AND INTERNATIONALISM OF PACIFISTS.**

Speaking in the House of Commons on Tuesday last, Sir A. Bonar Law, Chancellor of the Exchequer, stated, referring to the attitude of pacifists: "The pacifists should all be imprisoned." Now we are informed that this measure will be carried into effect on the first of March—after which suspicious date all lovers of peace will be domiciled in Dartmouth Prison; to become associated with criminals and murderers according to the law. It is a strange travesty of history that in England the oft-quoted land of the free and brave, that the freedom which has given her pre-eminence above all others is now to be taken away from her people. Freedom of speech and press, the gems of British democracy, are now to be replaced by the censor and the press gang. Liberty was ever a paradoxical and elusive creature. Some of our people are hunting this mirage upon unknown battlefields, for which they wade in blood clear up to their chins, while their brothers at home rot in dungeons vile in quest of the same golden talisman.

The view presented by Mr. Law is not a new device to hasten progress, but was ever the bulwark of reaction since the days of the Patriarchs and the Pharisees. "Justice on the grail."

The British sense of justice has become so dulled by the repetition of lying scribes, "They are not as good as we." "Our institutions are superior to all others." And our race of higher quality than other common garden clay has done its work after years of deprivation, suffering, and heroic courage we had thought to have attained.

The unfortunate part of it is that we have been deluded into thinking we had a constitution, and while it is no use crying over spilt milk, let us nerve ourselves for the task of writing our Magna Charta of the new age. The reactionary tendencies now at work must be resisted to the utmost, even though it takes us to the borders of a physical revolution.

The elements of Social Justice can never be abrogated by odious comparisons. It is an inherent quality seeking

for expression, and differentiation in blood, language, or geography can not for ever overrule the cardinal principle of man's relationship to his fellow-man, whether he be a Greek, or Turk, or Prussian.

**REFORMING THE UPPER HOUSE.**

The house of autocracy now falls within the gamut of war-time reform. It is due to the lethargic characteristics of the Canadian people that the gentlemen of noble blood have such a useful domestic duty to perform, which under a higher concept of duty might have been spared the purple brood. It is to be hoped that they may be favored with greater success in the reformation than would otherwise have been attained if Henry had had this menial task conferred upon him. Still, the situation is not without hope, and such honored and respected gentlemen will fortunately have the precedent of Prince Edward Island to guide them in their deliberations; it will be remembered that the latter abolished themselves on motion. But we confidently anticipate that mercenary considerations will have greater weight in Ottawa than on the Atlantic seaboard, due to the intensive industrialism with which it is associated, and patronage considerations to which railway directors and coal barons are closely allied, and which exert a powerful influence over mens conduct, although somewhat barren of moral significance. It is passing strange that any old thing that has been tried and found wanting in Europe should take root here and flourish like a green bay tree, and notwithstanding our antipathy to social barnacles, we shall render them all possible assistance in an advisory capacity; to shorten the rope "that democracy demands should long since have been utilized for the purpose of strangulation," the obsequies would be gratuitously attended by an elated but long-suffering people.

**THE QUEST OF COAL.**

There can be no doubt that this question is causing serious embarrassment to the running of industry and still

greater alarm to the housewives, who see the winter supply fast dwindling and no sign of a let-up, or the possibilities of procuring more only at an extortionate price. Whether the shortage is real, or purely of an artificial nature amounting to a hold-up by the coal corporations for the sake of their much-loved enhanced prices, is a debatable question. But, whether feigned or real, it is about time to call the bluff of our civic and national administrations, who rant much about representation and are so sluggish or unmindful of their trust that a great amount of unnecessary suffering is caused through their indolence and covert rapacity.

All the talk of running railways and producing coal for the poor dear public is animated by a desire to exploit the sentiment while moving as slowly as possible in that direction. There is not much need for second chambers, where interest and profit are at stake.

And the capitalists may continue to eat, drink and be merry, "their natural habit," as long as the man in the street is prepared to suffer in silence, steadfastly relying upon the ruling class to attend to his bodily and mental ills. The time has come to quit grumbling, and do some hard thinking, and not a little kicking—the gentleman booted and spurred ride leisurely upon the backs of the toilers—"and will continue to do so until the workers develop sufficient backbone as to suggest a good riddance to this cumbrous load of human leeches" by pushing them off.

**AN ANTHOLOGY OF SOCIAL-DEMOCRACY**

N.B.—This is No. 8 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.

**A MONETARY NUISANCE.**

Money is of no real value whatever. What can I do with it now? I cannot pay a man enough to make him change his real opinions. The only real resource this country has now is the intelligence of our people. They must think right, they must know the true principles on which to build a great, strong nation. They must hold firm to the big, true things, and realize—some way they must be made to realize—that they are practical, that ideals are the only practical things in this world. It is to everybody's interest to do right. Not in the next world, nor in a spiritual way only, but in good, hard dollars-and-cents business value. Let's be practical. Suppose we do prepare for war? Suppose we do take the energies of our young men and spend them in training for war? Our country needs the whole energy of every man in productive work—work that will make more food, more clothing, better houses. But suppose we turn that energy from real uses, train it to destroy, instead of to create? Suppose we have half a million young men ready to fight? What weapons shall we give them? Shall we give them guns? They will be out of date. Shall we give them poisonous gases, or disease germs, or shall we invent something even more horrible? As fast as we make these things, other nations will make worse ones. Shall we turn our factories into munition plants? Shall we build dreadnaughts? The submarine destroys them. Shall we build submarines? Other nations will make submarine destroyers. Shall we build submarine destroyers? Other nations will build war-aeroplanes to destroy them. We must make something worse than the aeroplanes, and something worse still, and then something still more horrible, bidding senselessly up and up and up, spending millions on mil-

lions, trying to outdo other nations, which are trying to outdo us. For if we begin preparing for war we must not stop. We cannot stop. I read articles in the magazines saying that we might as well have no navy at all, as the one we have; that we might as well have no army as the army we have, if this country should be invaded. Yet we have already spent millions on that army and that navy. Let us spend millions more, and more millions, and more, and still, unless we keep on spending more than any other nation can spend, we might as well have no army or navy at all. And yet there are people who think that to begin such a course is "practical," is good common sense. I tell you, the only real strength of a nation is the spirit of its people. The only real, practical value in the world is the spirit of the people of the world. There were animals on the earth ages ago who could kill a hundred men with one sweep of a paw, but they are gone, and we survive. Why? Because men have minds, because they use their minds in doing useful things, making food, and clothes, and shelters.

HENRY FORD.

**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**

HAMILTON.

"Why I am a Socialist" was the title of the lecture given by Comrade Joseph Stewart, Toronto, at our regular Sunday afternoon meeting on February 18th. It was indeed a finely reasoned and finely delivered address, just the sort needed to set the worker right in his attitude to impending social industrial changes. He very strikingly pointed out the dangers the workers had to guard against in the introduction of Bismarkian state capitalism, under which the working class would be as effectually robbed as under direct private ownership, and strikers would be regarded and treated as mutineers. In defining the difference between his party, the S. P. of N. A., and our own Comrade Stewart quoted statements made by S. D. P. aspirants to public office, which, he claimed, proved that they did not fully realize the nature of the class struggle. The good demand for literature was some indication of the interest aroused by the address.—J. A.

**NIAGARA FALLS LOCAL NO. 60 CALLS FOR A REFERENDUM FOR BOTH MEN AND WEALTH.**

"Whereas, The question of Conscription is at present greatly agitating the minds of the Canadian people, and, whereas, the working class of every country are always the losers in war, no matter who wins, and, whereas, to be consistent with the principles of a democratic country, the will of the people must be obtained on every vital question; therefore, be it resolved:—

"That before any steps whatever are taken to establish conscription in the Dominion of Canada, a referendum on this question be submitted to all the people of Canada, both women as well as men, and that the will of the people be the deciding factor, and be it further resolved, that immediate steps be taken to submit a referendum to conscript the wealth of the Dominion."

**Who is Your Favorite Movie Star?**

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## ITEMS OF NEWS FROM ALL PARTS

Many people wonder why the Socialists do not manifest more enthusiasm as individuals and as a party over the minor reform laws. "Why are Socialists so uncompromising, so revolutionary? Why do they not abandon their separate organizations and join with others to secure better laws under capitalism? 'Rome was not built in a day,' and we must accomplish the reformation of the world by slow, short steps."

Wherever they have a chance to do so without forfeiting their opportunity to vote against the profit system itself, the Socialists will generally be found lining up with the forces of reform. They furnished the big balance of power to place Prohibition on the statute book of Finland; they supported the (partial) Single Tax law in England; they stand for Woman Suffrage, Direct Legislation, Old Age Pensions, Public ownership, and all Labor Reform laws, wherever they can make their power felt; but they never cease demanding the complete overthrow of the Profit System as their ultimate goal, because business for profit is "the sum of all villainies," the source of all commercial crime, all political corruption and practically all human misery, physical, mental and moral; and, therefore, no deep, general, permanent reform can come to relieve humanity appreciably until the Profit System is abolished. People cannot "reform" while they make their living by a criminal system.

Profit making is robbery in method and purpose; it deliberately aims to get and must get more than it gives; and out of our efforts to make profits flows almost every other crime.

...Christian Socialist

### PROMINENT IRISH BISHOP ENDANGERS HIS LIBERTY.

"Tells the Truth" Regarding the War.

I think it is now universally admitted that Belgium was not the sole reason of our entrance, as it will not be the sole reason of our continuance, in the war; in a word, that it is really "British interests" that are at stake.

He writes: "Then see the case of the small nationalities on whose behalf many people have believed that the war is being waged.

"What good has it done for them? What part have they played in it except that of catspaws for the larger nations that used them? Belgium delayed the German advance for two weeks and gave time to the English and French armies to rally. For her pains she has been conquered and ruined. Serbia began the war by an atrocious crime, and as reparation for it might weaken Russia's aims in the Balkans, she was encouraged to resist. She, too, has played her temporarily role and has followed in the wake of Belgium. Montenegro is the next to go; and it would seem that the great belligerent nations look to themselves only, and use their weaker neighbors for their own purposes. This war is not waged by any of the great powers as a quixotic enterprise for lofty ideals. "Small nationalities" and other such sentimental pretexts are good enough for platform addresses to an imaginative but uninformed people, but they do not reveal the true inwardness of this war. All the belligerents have had practical and substantial aims in view. France wants her lost provinces of Alsace and Lorraine; Russia wants Constantinople; England wants the undisputed supremacy of the sea and ridance from German commercial rivalry; Austria wants domination in the Balkans, and an outlet on the Aegean; Italy wants Trieste, and what is called Italia Irredenta; Germany wants a colonial empire and a powerful navy; and all these powers have formed alliances and laid their plans for many a day, simply

for the realization of their respective purposes.

"They planned and schemed solely for the sake of power and material gain. All the talk about righteousness is simply the cloak for ambition, and the worst of it is, that some of the belligerents have gone on repeating the profession of their disinterestedness until they have come to believe it themselves.

"Truth, and right, and justice, have had very little to say to this war, which is an outbreak of materialism and irreligion. The peoples did not want this war; there is no hatred of one another amongst them; but the governing cliques in each country have led or driven them like sheep to the slaughter. God has been ignored; His law has been put aside; Christianity is not allowed to govern the relations of nations. And now the retribution is on them all. The fair dreams of victory and expanded empire and increased wealth and prosperity with which they set out have to answer for its stewardship to its own people. If they knew as much in July 1914 as they do now, which of them would have plunged into war? And probably if the war goes on for another year they will curse the cowardice which kept them from manfully facing the problem of peace, for which every principle of religion and humanity, every interest, social, material, and political, of their countries, calls aloud."—The Irish Republic (Dr. O. Dwyer, Bishop of Limerick.

### HON. MR. BLONDIN ACCUSED.

Easy to Dodge Conscription—Affidavit Says that Canada's Postmaster-General Told Quebec Voters They Could Easily Cross Border.

Quebec, Jan. 26.—The first rorback of the Dorchester bye-election has been sprung at Ste. Germaine, Dorchester County, where the Liberal organizers announced that Hon. Mr. Blondin, who is in charge of the Conservative organization at Ste. Rose, in the interests of the Hon. Albert Seigny, had been guilty of uttering statements of disloyalty in addressing meetings in the Conservative committee rooms at Ste. Rose.

The following affidavit, sworn before a justice of the peace, was produced in support of the story: "We, the undersigned, declare that we heard last night at Ste. Rose, the 24th day of January, 1917, the Hon. P. E. Blondin make the following declaration:—

"As for the Allison scandal, and others of the same nature, let us consider that if these thefts have taken place they have no importance for the people of Ste. Rose, because it was English money that was stolen."

"Speaking of the danger of conscription, Mr. Blondin declared that even if conscription were put in force, it would mean little to the people of Ste. Rose, because they had only to get across the frontier to get away. (Signed) Dorille Prevost, Walere Lamontagne."—Toronto Star.

### A MINISTER HITS OUT.

The Victoria Women's Association held a most successful luncheon yesterday, when Rev. J. A. Macdonald spoke on "War and the Human Breed."

Dr. Macdonald maintained that war was not only foolish, expensive, and cruel, but that it directly traverses that plain law of evolution, the survival of the fittest.

"The call of war to the nations has always been: 'Send us the best ye breed,'" the speaker said. "The best were sent, the physically strong, the daring, and the nation's best died on the battlefield or in the hospital, or they

returned maimed and unfit. They left no breed behind. The high task of fathering the nation's children was left to those who lacked the physical fitness or the moral courage which was required."

To this was traced the decline of Rome, of France, of the South, of the Highlands and now England, where the population is crowding together in cities and is degenerating physically and mentally with every generation.

There will come a time, the doctor declared, when all this wasteful foolishness, this racial course will not be tolerated by an enlightened world.

## RETURNED SOLDIERS

Editor of Forward: May I be permitted to offer a suggestion on the matter of the employment of returned soldiers? Every day for some weeks returned soldiers in uniform have been peddling maps, song sheets, and soliciting subscriptions for two Canadian journals through this section. This may be right, and again may be wrong—just depends on the viewpoint. Sufficient to know that these men are left on the mercy of the great general public for maintenance in a manner that does not reflect a creditable action on the government of the country. Each and every one of these men gave their little bit at the call of the Government. Many have been broken in the service. They are discharged from further service as warriors. Now, the offices of the Government are choked with young, able-bodied men, drawing generous salaries, enjoying a safe, comfortable existence, and I ask is it a square deal that this should be permitted when their jobs can be handled very nicely by the men who have answered the call, and done their bit? Further recruiting has slumped, conscription is asked for and demanded by certain sections of the community. If we are to have conscription let us start off right. Clear out the Government offices first, and make room for returned soldiers. Conscript and send to Europe the battalions of colonels, majors, captains, and lieutenants, also M. P.'s and M.P.P.'s. Conscript the vast army of non-producers. Conscript all dividends from public utilities and conscript every cent of profits on war contracts. Conscript all the labor from factories not assisting on munitions. Go the whole hog at once, and get the big job over. Money is needed by the Government; let the Government take it, and use it—use it without interest charges—and let the Government conscript the rent paid by tenants for one month all over the country. This will find both men and money for Government use, and reach the sections that are as yet untouched by the war.

### LONG WAY AHEAD OF LLOYD GEORGE.

We admire the temerity of the writer of this pen picture, which graphically describes the treatment being handed out to returned soldiers. In view of the united determination of the allies to alter the map of Europe, the vendors are taking advantage of the heroic-unfit to do any other kind of work, for the purpose of selling off their old map stock pending the premeditated changes in European geography, which otherwise might be a losing hazard.

But to be informed of battalions of colonels, "probably drawing big salaries" with no intention of doing the soldiers' duty of dying for their country, appeals to us as being the depth of perfidy. With M.P.'s, Magistrates, parsons, lawyers, etc., the situation is different. Probably our friend has not considered the dire results that would befall our country if law makers, law administrators, and the modern proselytes were to go to war. "Think what a calamity it would be if we were left with a great Empire on our hands." Their departure would be the signal

for a reversion to barbarism, and the children would want to play baseball on Sundays. Shades of Galileo! the people would not dare to speak the truth after the guardians of our liberty have departed, and Rosedale residences would go to rack and ruin as uninhabited buildings. The hand of the mechanic would become the tool of his own destruction rather than the producer of surplus values for our generous philanthropists. Surely, "Long Way Ahead of Lloyd George" is not foolish enough to imagine that the departure of such grace and genius and the confiscation of the generous employer's wealth would be permitted by the representatives of the people and the guardians of our liberty. What would become of the soldier-citizens if the junk shop was closed and they could no longer dispose of the rewards of valour? And then who would submit to be governed by housewives?

### A PILL FOR PROFIT-MONGERS "TO REDUCE THE COST OF LIVING."

This country is now facing the critical question: How shall we reduce the fabulous cost of living? The writer would suggest a bill to Congress substantially as follows

All goods shipped under the jurisdiction of the Inter-State Commerce Commission shall be invoiced at prices graduated according to the following scale:

The prices prevailing on January 1st, 1917, shall serve as a basis:—

One month following the passage of this bill, the prices shall be uniformly reduced by at least 10 per cent.

Not later than July 1st, 1917, by at least 20 per cent.

Not later than January 1st, 1918, by at least 30 per cent.

Not later than July 1st, 1918, by at least 40 per cent.

Not later than January 1st, 1919, by at least 50 per cent.

There shall be no reduction of wages in any corporation thus affected

In any case, where a company or corporation shall plead inability to conform to such law, that company or corporation shall be declared in the hands of a receiver. This receivership shall be exercised by the Inter-State Commerce Commission. The books shall be examined and all information necessary to explain the creation of prices, shall be published. If it is shown that the corporation can operate at a profit of 6 per cent. or more under the law, said corporation may resume its business. Otherwise, the Inter-State Commerce Commission shall institute proceedings to purchase for the United States Government all the stock of the business concerned at a figure based upon actual physical value of its equipment.

The average mind can trace the results of such a law. Retail prices must needs drop in proportion to wholesale, or each locality would demand the reason why. Immediate relief would be followed by steadily improving conditions. The way would be blazed toward public ownership, while Wall Street would enjoy a monopoly of wailing. Congress might shy at such a bill at first, but popular agitation in every state could make Congress obey the real United States of America.—Rev. James L. Smiley in American Socialist.

"I am not afraid to stand on my record," yelled the old party spall-binder. "Better keep on it," broke in a horny-handed voter, "becuz if yer ever moves off of it and the people sees what it is it will be all off wid yer."

### ...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  
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## THE SPIRIT OF THE NEW AGE.

The war in Europe has revealed the inherent evils of our present social order. It has been well said that the thought of every new era is hampered by the oppositions of its predecessor. It is the custom of every age to express itself in laws which it regards as permanently binding on posterity. But to-day the thoughts of men run counter to the hoary traditions and precedents of bygone years. Humanity stands on the threshold of a new order, in which the extreme individualism of early Victorian times no longer prevails. The struggle for national existence has promoted unity of effort and community of sentiment. Never again can the nation turn back without loathing to the mad competition and struggle for individual existence that characterized pre-war industrialism. Economic reconstruction, when it comes must proceed upon less individualistic lines. The fight with Germany has shown the necessity of the national mobilization of both labor and capital, with the State as the predominant partner. What has proved so successful in times of war cannot be set aside as altogether impracticable in days of peace. The past has been a selfish age. The brutalizing doctrine of the survival of the fittest must give place to the new law—the law of service to the neighbor and to the community.—Toronto Globe.

## THE COLLECTION.

By Ernest Crosby.

I passed the plate in church.  
There was little silver but the crisp bank notes heaped themselves up high before me;  
And ever as the plate grew the plate became warmer and warmer until it burned my fingers, and a smell of scorching flesh rose from it, and I perceived that some of the notes were beginning to smoulder and curl, half-browned at the edges.  
And then I saw through the smoke into the very substance of the money, and I beheld what it really was;  
I saw the stolen earnings of the poor, the wide margins of wages pared down to starvation;  
I saw the underpaid factory girl eking out her living on the street, and the overworked child, and the suicide of the discharged miner;  
I saw poisonous gases from great manufacturing spreading disease and death;  
I saw despair and drudgery filling the dram-shop;  
I saw rents screwed out of brother man for permission to live on God's land;  
I saw men shut out from the bosom of the earth and begging for the poor privilege to work in vain, and becoming tramps and paupers and drunkards and lunatics, and crowding into almshouses, insane asylums and prisons;  
I saw ignorance and vice and crime growing rank in stifling, filthy slums;  
I saw usury, springing from usury, itself born of unjust monopoly and purchased laws and legalized violence;  
I saw shoddy cloth and adulterated food and lying goods of all kinds, cheapening men and women, and vulgarizing the world;  
I saw hideousness extending itself from coal mine and foundry over forest and river and field;  
I saw money grabbed from fellow-grabbers and swindlers and underneath them the workman forever spinning it out of his vitals;  
I saw all the laboring world, thin and pale and bent and careworn and driven pouring out this tribute from its toil and sweat into the laps of the richly-

dressed men and women in the pews, who only glanced at them to shrink from them with disgust;

I saw money worshipped as a god, and driven grudgingly from hoards so great that it could not be missed, as a bribe from superstition to a dishonest judge in the expectation of escaping hell;

I saw all this, and the plate burned my fingers so that I had to hold it first in one hand and then in the other; and I was glad when the parson in his white robes took the smoking pile from me on the chancel steps and, turning about, lifted it up and lay it on the altar.

It was an old-time altar indeed, for it bore a burnt offering of flesh and blood—a sweat savor unto the Moloch whom these people worship with their daily round of human sacrifices.

The shambles are in the temple as of yore, and the tables of the money-changers waiting to be overturned.—American Socialist.

Pope Leo XIII.

But all agree, and there can be no question whatever that some remedy must be found, and quickly found, for the misery and wretchedness which press so heavily at this moment on the large majority of the very poor.

By degrees it has come to pass that workingmen have been given over, isolated and defenceless, to the carelessness of employers and the greed of unrestricted competition. . . . And to this must be added the custom of working by contract, and the concentration of so many branches of trade in the hands of a few individuals, so that a small number of very rich men have been able to lay upon the masses of the poor, a yoke little better than slavery itself.

## CRIME AND PUNISHMENT.

Somehow They Don't Seem to Fit in These Two Cases.

Winnipeg, Feb. 15.—Hugh D. Lyons, accountant of the Canadian Government Immigration Department, who was arrested in Stockton, Cal., and confessed to the theft of \$15,000, which he lost in grain speculating, was given suspended sentence to-day.

John Gordon, who stole a few sacks of flour out of a freight car, was sentenced to five years in penitentiary.—Toronto Globe.

## TO STOP EXODUS TO UNITED STATES.

The Welland Branch of the Resources Committee have forwarded the following resolution to the National Service Commission:

"Whereas, it is discovered that the town has lost upwards of one hundred and fifty eligibles, who have fled to the United States; therefore, be it resolved, that we bring this matter to the attention of the National Service Commission, and urge, first, that effective measures be taken to stop this serious exodus by requiring each person leaving the country to be provided with a passport; second, that adequate penalties be provided."

## SOCIAL REVOLUTION.

The materialistic doctrine that men are the products of conditions and education, different men therefore the products of other conditions and changed education, forgets that circumstances may be altered by men and that the educator has himself to be educated. It necessarily happens, therefore, that so-

ciety is divided into two parts, of which one is elevated above society (Robert Owen, for example).

The occurrence simultaneously of a change in conditions and human activity can only be comprehended and rationally understood as a revolutionary fact.—Feuerbach.

## YOUTHS RELEASED FOR ENLISTMENT.

The Metal Drawing Company discharged 75 of their young men on Monday that they might enlist for overseas service; most of the young men do not take kindly to their discharge, but the company feels that they should be in khaki instead of making money from the manufacture of munitions. A number of young men were previously discharged from this factory for a like reason.—St. Catharines Standard.

## MANITOBAHS!

Dixon and Rigg in the Legislature are the representatives of the common people, and their appearance in the House is a menace to the old party politicians, as they stand head and shoulders above the majority of the members and consequently stand out strong in progressive ideas. The use of the patriotic flag-wavers to try and belittle these men has no effect on the workers except to make them more determined to support these two representatives, who speak for the masses and not for the classes.

The Dixon Recall meeting held in the Scott Memorial Hall was a "howling" success. One paper stated that 2,000 attended, another 1,500, and still another stated 800, while as a matter of fact if 400 could be placed in the hall it would be the limit. So you see, good people, how much reliance you can place on newspaper stuff, especially in regard to Dixon. The meeting was certainly loaded to handle any opponent to their plans—"kick 'em downstairs stunts"—very striking illustration of fair play.

Dixon's Recall Bill is now before the House, and if the bill passes into law the father of the bill will be the first one to try it out—if the voters of Centre Winnipeg show that they want Mr. Dixon to resign. It is safe to say that if such comes to pass Dixon will be resigned. It is safe to say that if such comes to pass Dixon will be re-elected by the real democratic forces, and this will happen despite the efforts of the daily press to belittle this man, who is a democrat from the hair of his head to the soles of his feet. "The people first, last and all the time, special privilege to none," is his motto.

The Canadian war vote for the coming fiscal year is reported to be placed at \$500,000,000, or double the amount voted at the last session. This amount is staggering when you realize that Canada has a population of a little over 7,000,000. The present means of financing the interest will have to undergo a radical change to meet this debt.

The big milk company says there is no money in milk at 11 cents a quart, while another company states there is good business profit at 10 cents a quart. You can readily see the advantage of competition in the above. Let one corporation control the milk supply and they would no doubt try to prove that there was not enough money in milk at 15 cents a quart.

By the way, what is cream and what is not cream seems to be a point to argue. At the high cost of living investigation an inspector stated that butter was made from cream and cream made from butter—now what is cream? —Winnipeg Voice.

We will do better in the spring.

# WOMEN'S COLUMN

The suffragists in Ontario are engaged in a most vigorous campaign for the purpose of securing the franchise. They have circulated throughout the province large numbers of petitions for signatures, many of which have been signed and eventually will be presented to the Government of Ontario.

In Kansas, out of 255 women candidates for county offices, 151 were elected. Fifty-eight women were elected as county superintendents of schools, thirty-five as registrars of deeds, twenty-five as clerks of district courts, five as county clerks, fifteen as county treasurers, and two probate judges.

Dr. Georgina Sweet, of Brisbane, Australia, has been appointed acting Professor of Biology at the Melbourne University, the first time a woman has been appointed professor in a Melbourne University, and probably the first in Australia.

On November 2nd the Socialist Deputy, Welte, put down a motion for the Grand Council of Basle (Switzerland), inviting the Council of State to consider the means of revising the cantonal constitution so as to introduce woman suffrage (the vote and eligibility).

The Grand Council of Berne has passed a law giving women the church vote. In revenge it has rejected by a large majority on the first reading the proposal of Socialist Deputy Munch to give women the commercial vote. But this question is to be voted on again in the spring.

The Social Democrats in Berlin have proposed the admission of women to municipal committees. The resolution proposed by Barkowski was: The meeting requests the magistrate to put forward a proposal as soon as possible whereby the election of women to committees in accordance with Section 59, may be statutorily admitted: "Dr. Weyl supported the resolution, and said: We must have women in the Council Chamber. If we can't have them in through the front door, they must come in at the side door, but inside they must come! Oberbürgermeister Wermuth agreed to consider the resolution in a committee. General opinion seems in favor of extending women's work in local government.

The question of electoral reform has been before the Dutch second chamber for some months, and the Dutch suffragists have been busy. At the opening of Parliament on September 19th they flocked in thousands to "The Hague" and were seen in groups at every street corner, distributing pamphlets. When the Queen arrived to deliver her opening address, the women with their white and yellow ribbons were at the door of the House, and since the Second Chamber had a public session, a guard of women was posted at the door up to the afternoon of November 6, when the debate on the enfranchisement of women ended. The existing constitution, adopted in 1887, gives the franchise to male inhabitants, possessing certain qualifications of property and fitness to be stipulated by the electoral law. The revision bill proposed by the Government, and now adopted by the Second Chamber, gives the franchise to all adult men, and makes it possible for a subsequent electoral law to enfranchise women if and in so far as it shall think fit, without, however, introducing the property qualification.

## BRITAIN TO ADMIT WOMEN TO THE LAW?

London, Feb. 20.—A measure permitting women to practise as solicitors received its first reading in the House of Lords to-day. It was introduced by Baron Buckmaster, of Cheddington.

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## SAVE HUMANITY

To the Editor: Dear Sir,—I read with much interest an article appearing in Sturday's Herald by Professor Gustav Cassel, dealing with Germany's economic power of resistance. Since, however, little has been discovered by the exploring professor that was not already known to almost every Socialist; it was his prophetic vision contained in the last paragraph that arrested my attention—the probability of the economic ruination of each belligerent country at about the same speed and the consequent destruction of European civilization.

I suppose the title of professor still continues to give the hall mark to intellectual capacity; therefore I presume his opinion is worthy of thought being bestowed upon it by every person capable of thinking; if his observations and message were not intended to provoke thought; the alternative suggests—useless publication.

Now, Mr. Editor, I hope every reader will betow the same amount of sincere and honest thought upon my following remarks as myself who shares the world's sorrows with common humanity, before they pronounce the hasty and ever ready verdict—pro-German!

I am of the opinion the professor is stating the truth of the situation in his predictions, therefore—whatever happens, from now on; whatever battles may be won or lost, whatever valuable ships may be sunk or property destroyed; however many soldiers may be killed, wounded or taken prisoner, one thing seems certain, that finally everything must end with armistice and peace negotiations. Then why should not peace negotiations begin now?

If it appears to all thinking men that nothing further is to be gained than endless spilling of blood—then the end becomes more bitter with every passing day, urging us in the name of humanity to break our silence and do something, lest the very stones beneath our feet cry out for justice!

What judgment will future generations pass upon us, as they read our inglorious history? That we stood idly by and allowed the powers that be; to take the power from the hands of the people and dig their spurs into a people tired and weary of war, and cannot longer conceal their love of peace.

Common humanity, the citizens of the working class world, derived little benefit from past wars of conquest; establishment of national honor, and defence of national pride has meant but little to them. The point of the world's progress, to my mind, is invention, and the discovery of something that means more assistance and more happiness to mankind. Here a bold question suggests itself: Can the military occupation of any province, or the moving of a boundary line confer a greater benefit to the world's

## Announcement.

The Toronto Social Democrats have organized a Lecture Forum.

The second of a series of weekly lectures will be held under these auspices in the

Musician's Temple,  
University Avenue,

—on—

SUNDAY, March 4th  
at 7.30 P.M.

WATCH THIS NOTICE.

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

DEFENDS THE

## Socialists' Attitude on National Service

IN THE MANITOBA LEGISLATURE

Winnipeg Comrades publish a verbatim report of this great speech in pamphlet form.

Can be obtained from S. J. Rose, 260 Carlton Street, Winnipeg, in bundles of 50 for \$2.50.

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Locals Please Note.

peoples than the inventions of Thomas Edison?

Can the exploitation of a conquered people by an organization of greedy manufacturers (and it matters not to what nation they belong) give as much service to mankind as the inventions of Marconi? Surely the past gives us no precedent.

Since, however, the professional soldier of every warring nation is dead (the flower of the nation's armies fell in the early days of conflict), there fore we cannot any longer view the millions of dead as possible Napoleons, Hindenburgs, or Kaisers. Since it is our civil population that is being driven to the cannon's mouth it must not be lost sight of, that these men were trained to fill useful occupations in a peaceful community, and the possibility is, that amongst every mother's son, that goes to make up the awful lists of dead, there may have been found a benefactor in the shape of an inventor or a discoverer of ways and means, to use the seemingly mysterious forces of Nature to the advantage of mankind, thus becoming a pride to his country.

Who knows how many Shakespeares, Newtons, Kauts, Goethes, Tolstois, or Marxs have fallen amongst the thousands of British, French, German, Belgian, Russian and Canadian youths, who to-day fill nameless graves?

Hence, if viewed in the above light, Humanity as a whole has lost—and however great the gratification of personal vanity may appeal to rulers, it cannot and will not replace that loss. No humiliations inflicted upon the enemy can bring back our dead. Therefore, the concern of all thinking people is, or should be, not who started the war, but conserve and save humanity, by a settlement that shall not severely humiliate any one of the several combatant powers; for humiliation was ever the genesis of hatred and war.—Stratford News-Letter.

Closer and closer the workers are getting together stronger and stronger they are becoming economically and politically, and nearer and nearer comes the day of emancipation.

Published at  
363 Spadina Ave., Toronto

A. Ackerley Business Manager  
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