

**SOCIALIST PARTY**  
**OF CANADA**

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*Our Immediate Demand is:*

**“The Abolition of the Wage  
System”**

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LEAFLET No. 2

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**“Blood and  
Iron”**

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Issued by the  
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Room 4, 328 Smith St., Winnipeg

# “BLOOD and IRON”

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That which has been accomplished during the last four years in giving to the world the supreme message of Capital and its rule over the affairs of men, ought to bring a pleasing satisfaction to the dirty souls of all military devotees and other worshippers at the shrine of ruling class blood-lust, debauchery and rapine. With 20,000,000 men under arms and thirsting for gore; with hundreds of thousands already slain, a multitude of whom were unarmed non-combatants of both sexes; with a lengthy list of children slaughtered and women raped; with vast territories laid waste under the most reckless and wanton vandalism that the world has ever known, the gospel of “peace on earth, goodwill towards all men,” is being written with pen of iron and ink of blood, so plainly that even the heretic and the heathen may grasp and comprehend.

With the exception of Japan, all of the nations engaged in this delectable exemplification of Christian civilization and brotherly love are real Christian nations, and their respective Kaisers, Czars, Kings, Emperors, etc., have each “announced a special partnership with Almighty God.” The Emperor of Japan, not being Christian, has set about grabbing his pro rata out of the general mixup, without resorting to such hypocrisy. The same is true of Turkey.

The rule of Capital is predicated upon the exploitation of labor. Capital springs from the "surplus value" wrung from an enslaved working class. Such portion of this "surplus value" as cannot be consumed by the capitalists themselves and their toadies, lickspittles, apologists and other defenders, must be disposed of by being put out as new or additional capital. This is commonly effected by way of foreign trade, or the supplying of foreign markets. The world's markets are, however, limited. With many nations seeking these markets in order to find an outlet for the "surplus" stolen from their workers, by the capitalists of these nations, the opportunity for serious quarrels is ever present. No nation can secure sufficient of these markets to satisfy the needs of its capitalists without depriving some other nation, or nations, of the opportunity. Hence, there is always friction, which at any moment is liable to break out into open warfare. In order to protect themselves against each others' encroachments and thus hold such markets as they require, huge military and naval armaments are required. Each must be prepared to defend its territories and markets against the aggressions of others. This alone accounts for the huge military and naval establishments that have already all but bankrupted many of the great commercial nations of the earth.

The differences existing in Europe and which are causing the terrific slaughter now going on, are not racial. They are territorial and commercial. Slav, Teuton, Saxon and Latin live side by side in peace and quiet once they gather upon this western continent. A generation or so later and all racial difference is lost. The cry put up, for instance, by Germany against a Slav invasion is purely for the purpose of enabling the German ruling class to use their workers for the purpose of either preventing the Russian ruling class from interfering with the expansion of German territory and markets, or forcing

some encroachment upon the territory and market of the Russian, or some other, ruling class. And the same thing holds true in regard to all the other principals in this European horror. While some of the lesser nations may not have taken part in forcing the issue, they have been pulled into it for the same reason that has driven the others to act.

It is alleged that Germany has been the most arrogant, unscrupulous and brutal of all, in the conduct of the war, as well as in regard to diplomatic flub-dub preceding the outbreak. If this be so, it only vouches that she has reached a somewhat higher stage in capitalist development and culture than the rest. The highest and noblest expression of capitalist rule is war. War in its perfect flower can mean nothing short of the complete annihilation of an enemy, utterly regardless of the means necessary to that end.

Presumably the various combatants in this delightful display of capitalist civilization will indulge in atrocities. And why should they not do so? What else can they do, for is not war itself an atrocious thing? What could possibly be more atrocious, more brutal, more cowardly, more vicious, more contemptible and vulgar, than the actions of these European ruling class ruffians and their puppets in deluding, cajoling or forcing these millions of otherwise peaceful and decent people to go forth to kill, maim and destroy?

Before this tragedy of "blood and iron" is closed millions will have been slain, and millions more maimed and crippled. Other millions will no doubt starve to death, to add still further glory to capitalist rule and laurel wreaths to its military chieftains. But whatever atrocities may be committed; no matter how many children may be butchered; no matter how many women may be violated; no matter how many non-combatants may be killed; no matter how many cities and villages are destroyed and fields laid waste,

let no disciple, supporter or defender of Capital and its rule, dare to lift voice in protest. The rule of Capital is the rule of the sword. That is the court of last resort. Against whatever atrocities war may practice in its triumphal march there is no appeal. War, with all of its awful atrocities is the final and supreme message of capitalism to the world. When Capital so orders—to kill, to maim, to destroy—becomes the noblest calling and the supreme duty of every man, christian, heathen or heretic.

Let us have no more silly twaddle about, “this will be the last war,” and the “letting up on naval and military armaments.” We have had a surfeit of that sort of rot. The present system of slavery, just like its predecessors, is absolutely unthinkable without a powerful military establishment; first to hold the slaves in subjection, and secondly, to gain and hold markets on behalf of contending bands (nations) of slave masters. So long as capitalist property remains, so long will the military establishment be with us and the world’s policy be that of “blood and iron;” and that, too, in spite of the sickly sentiment and sloppy platitudes of prayerful hypocrites, shallow-pated oratorical acrobats and penny-a-liners.

“Blood and iron.” That’s the policy. In a slave society nothing else goes. Do you get that?

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