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# THE CANADIAN FORWARD

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OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SOCIAL - DEMOCRATIC PARTY

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January 27, 1917

## Mr. Fenner Brockway Court-Martialed

Editor of Labor Leader:

At Chester Castle, on Saturday morning Mr. Fenner Brockway was court-martialled for refusing to obey a military order. He made the following statement:—

Parliament has enacted that persons holding my views shall be exempted from the provisions of the Military Service Acts. I am before you, not because I have broken the law, but because the tribunals have not administered the law.

Even if it had been the intention of Parliament to make me a soldier, I should not have become a soldier. No honorable man would consent to participate in an act of murder because the State ordered him to do so. To me war is murder. I cannot participate in it.

(To avoid misunderstanding, I only add that by this I do not mean that in my view every soldier is a murderer. An act must be judged by its motives, and I appreciate fully the spirit of sacrifice and duty which has animated thousands of others.)

I believe all war to be wrong. I believe that mankind is in reality one, that the universal spirit dwells in all men and unites all men. I believe that human personality is sacred, because it is an expression of the universal spirit. War violates the spiritual enemies of the human race, degrades human personality, and destroys human life. Therefore, holding the faith I do, I cannot participate in the war under any circumstances.

But even if I believed war justifiable under certain conditions, I should not participate in the present war. I should participate in it because I believe the Governments of this and other countries are deluding the peoples as to the objects they have in view, are getting them to lay down their lives by false pretences, and are using them as pawns to fulfil purposes which are often the direct opposite of those they imagine themselves to be serving.

I do not believe that the German Government was alone responsible for the war. I do not believe that any one Government is responsible. I believe that all the Governments of the Great Powers share responsibility for it, and that there is little to differentiate the degree of guilt of one from another.

I believe that the war was caused by the intrigues of financiers of both sides, by the machinations of the armament rings of both sides, by the secret diplomacy of both sides, by the military and naval aggression of both sides.

The British Government declared that it entered the war to defend small nationalities. Since when has the British Government become the champion of small nations? The last war the British Government fought—the Boer war—was a war to crush two small Republics; the story of the extension of the British Empire over the face of the earth has been one of an unending series of attacks upon small nations; during the war the British Government has annexed Egypt, violated the independence of Greece, etc. These facts suggest that

the British Government was very earnest when it declared that it entered the war to defend small nationalities!

The British Government declared that it entered the war to safeguard the sanctity of international treaties. Since when has the British Government become the champion of international treaties? When Germany and Britain appeared to be on the eve of war in 1911, it was Great Britain and her ally France who had been guilty of tearing up an international treaty—the Act of Algeiras. Does this suggest that the British Government was very earnest when it declared that it entered the war to defend international treaties?

The British Government declared that it entered the war to resist the ambition of Germany for world-power. Since when has the British Government become the champion of weaker nations against the Imperialism of stronger powers? Before the war began the British flag flew over one-fifth of the territory of the earth. Does that suggest that the British Government was very earnest when it expressed its indignation against the ambition of the German Government?

The British Government declared that it entered the war to establish democracy and freedom. It has allied itself with the most autocratic and tyrannical power in the world—the Empire of Russia.

The British Government declared that it entered the war in defence of France and Belgium, and not to acquire any territory for itself. It has captured practically all the German colonies, and has announced its intention of retaining a great part of them.

The British Government declared that it entered the war to overthrow the menace of German militarism. It has imposed upon the British people the same accursed system of militarism as has degraded Germany.

The British Government declared that it entered the war to enthrone in Europe that liberty which is the traditional pride of England.

The popular justification of the British intervention in the war was the German invasion of Belgium, but all who are acquainted with the question of foreign policy know that the British Government would have participated in the war whether Belgium had been invaded or not. The Government policy since '04, a policy carried out in secret, had bound us to France and Russia; and, whatever the cause of war, once France and Russia became involved the intervention of the British Government became inevitable.

Europe was divided into two hostile groups of nations, and, whilst I do not deny or desire to diminish the aggressive designs of Germany and the Triple Alliance, particularly since '11, anyone who suggests that Germany alone actively prepared for war on a big scale is simply revealing his ignorance. The fact is that during the decade 1905-14 Austria and Germany expended £917,000,000 on military and naval preparations, whilst Russia and France expend-

ed £1,147,000,000. If we add the expenditure of Great Britain, the total of the Triple Entente becomes £1,800,000,000.

If the purposes of the British Government in entering the war was really to secure the liberation of Belgium, the evacuation of France, and the destruction of the menace of German militarism, those objects could be obtained tomorrow; and the British Government knows they could be obtained tomorrow without the shedding of another drop of blood. The British Foreign Office knows that Germany is prepared to withdraw from Belgium and France; and everyone knows that Germany has signified her willingness to enter a league of nations to enforce peace, which is Lord Grey's own proposal for destroying the menace of a strong and aggressive military power.

Why, then, does the British Government continue to sacrifice thousands of British lives? It does so because prizes and prices have been promised to her allies for the part they have played in the war. France has been promised Alsace-Lorraine; Italy has been promised Dalmatia; and Russia has been promised Constantinople. Instead of fighting for the liberty of the small nations, as they think they are, the British soldiers are being duped into fighting for the advancement of the power of Dalmatia to a foreign rule. Instead of fighting for the establishment of a permanent peace, the British soldiers are being duped into fighting to give new strength to a menace to peace graver even than German militarism—I mean the menace of the Russian Imperialism.

I do not intend to suggest that the British Government is particularly reprehensible among the powers. As I have already said, I do not think there is much to choose between them. I have dealt with the faults of the British Government because I am asked to join the British Army. If I were a German, and were asked to join the German Army, I should have no difficulty in denouncing the policy of her Government with equal emphasis.

I believe the ruling classes of all the powers are responsible for the war. I believe the working classes are mere pawns in their hands. I believe the time will come when the workers will consent to be pawns no longer, and I hope the action I am taking now will do a little, at least, to hasten the coming of that time.—Labor Leader.

### HENRY GEORGE ON CONSCRIPTION OF WEALTH.

"As I have said before, the wealth expended in carrying on the war (the Civil War) did not come from abroad or from the future, but from the existing wealth in the States under the national flag, and if, when we called on men to die for their country, we had not shrunk from taking, if necessary, nine hundred and ninety-nine thousand dollars from every millionaire, we need not have created any debt. But instead of that, what taxation we did impose was so levied as to fall on the poor more heavily than on the rich, and to incidentally establish monopolies by which the rich could profit at the expense of the poor. And then, when more wealth was still needed, instead of taking it from those who had it, we told the rich that if they would voluntarily let the nation use some of their

### CONSCRIPTION OF WEALTH.

#### BRITISH LABOR DEMANDS IT

Congress at Manchester Rejects Proposal for Peace Offer and for Socialist Conference.

(Canadian Press Despatch.)

Manchester, Eng., Jan. 25.—Immediate conscription of accumulated wealth to lighten the financial burdens of the war is demanded in a resolution adopted unanimously to-day at the annual meeting of the Labor Party. The resolution calls for taxation of not less than 15 shillings in the pound of unearned incomes, direct taxation of land, and nationalization of the banking system.

In introducing the resolution Ramsay MacDonald, Labor member of the House of Commons from Leicester, said that after the war the country would be left with a debt of £4,000,000,000, with an annual fixed charge of more than £200,000,000.

#### No Socialist Conference.

The conference defeated a motion proposing an international congress of Socialists to be held simultaneously with the peace conference. Some of the delegates said it would be impossible to meet Germans in this way.

An amendment proposing a Socialist and trade unionist organization, to be confined to the allied powers, was adopted.

#### Against Peace Proposal.

The conference rejected by a vote of more than three to one a resolution favoring the immediate offer of peace proposals.

wealth we would make it profitable to them by guaranteeing the use of the taxing power to pay them back, principal and interest. And we did make it profitable with a vengeance." Canada seems bent on making the same mistake.

The women hit John Barleycorn at the late election. They will yet learn to strike at the high cost of living with a Socialist ballot.

## "FENNER BROCKWAY'S DEFENCE"

We have, at the request of several Locals, produced this "Remarkable Defence of the International Attitude to War," in leaflet form.

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## CLIP AND COMMENT

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

#### HE CALLS THEM TRAITORS.

#### Hot Criticism of Opponents of National Service by Manitoba Premier.

Winnipeg, Man., Jan. 15.—“Agitators against National Service should be called traitors; they are unworthy of the name of men, and should not be at liberty,” stated Premier T. C. Norris, speaking before the Great War Veterans' Association.

“These men who pass opinions against the better judgment of the leading men of the ten allied armies would pass into oblivion as slackers of the first water.

“Men at the head of such organizations as are leading the movement against the Government have no right to liberty, and in the near future will be surprised at their smallness.”

In separating the grain from the chaff we conclude that the Premier of Manitoba never heard the Marxian slogan: “Workers of the world, unite; you have nothing to lose but chains, and a world to gain.” From our viewpoint a man cannot be a traitor to a country in which he owns nothing, and whose laws do not protect him. The oft-repeated better judgment of leading men is indicative of the Premier's class-bias, and his inner hatred of true democracy; not the one for which Europe has become a sea of blood. We are not asking for liberty on any moral ground. We demand it by our right, to take such liberty as is suited to our use irrespective of the foolish ranting of the misrepresentatives of the people. Why not suggest that the practice adopted by the British military administration in India at the time of the mutiny be put into force, and apply the same penalty to the opponents of registration as to the Sepoys. This would suit some Premiers and supporters of Prussianism in Canada.

#### A PATRIOTIC HEN.

#### Sold at \$30 a Dozen—Hamilton Fund Grows Fast.

Hamilton, Jan. 19.—The Patriotic Fund has reached \$450,000, and \$650,000 will probably be the total.

During the luncheon twelve dozen eggs were delivered, with some verses by a Canadian hen, stating that she was unable to go herself, but felt she ought to do her bit. These were auctioned off by Robert Hobson in dozens, and realized \$291, some dozen lots bringing the fabulous price, even in these times of high prices, of \$30.

We have heard much recently of how the allied armies in the field have been adversely affected by the interposition of Providence—or bad weather; and the above news will be joyfully received as an indication that the glad eye of the All-seeing is now beaming on us. It may, however, occasion some surprise to our brain specialists to know that hens are affected by the psychological condition of patriotism. Wonders never cease; we can now confidently look forward to other feminine broods disgorging the golden eggs of “ill-gotten gain.”

Here is a very interesting press despatch clipped from the daily press on munitions:—

#### ENGLISH FIRM WILL MAKE U. S. NAVY SHELLS.

Washington, D.C., Jan. 17.—Contracts for armor-piercing navy projectiles of the 14 and 16-inch type, totalling \$3,141,000, to-day were awarded by Secre-

tary Daniels to the Hadfields, Limited, the English munition company.

This explains the howl that is going up in the United States in regard to what one writer says, viz.: “European war lords corner America's food supply, while capitalist newspapers keep people's minds on trivial subjects; bread-stuffs leave the country in increasing volume, enriching the exploiters and threatening the workers with famine. Their slogan is: ‘Starve America and Feed the War.’”

#### KEEP BAILIFFS OUT OF SOLDIERS' HOMES.

Toronto, Jan. 12.—At a meeting of the Board of Control to-day Mayor Church moved a resolution, “that the City Treasurer be instructed not to place any bailiffs in charge in future to collect from soldiers who are overseas, or who are in arrears for taxes.” It was decided to get a report from the Finance Commissioner for tomorrow's meeting of the Board.

Mayor Church should be complimented for the attitude he took upon this question, but he, like others, is but a creature of environment; probably he had read of some notorious Scottish bailiff being met at the entrance to a Scotchman's castle, “I beg pardon”—a tenement, by a Highlander in full civilizing accoutrement. The bailiff explained his mission of distraint, to which Sandy replied, “I have been to Flanders and have fought for my country”—(fixing bayonets)—“and I will B—well, fight to defend my home.” Mayor Church has got the war psychology down fine. I venture to suggest that he will be a different Church when the need for soldiers has been dissipated.

Wasn't the National Service Commission idea a scheme hatched in Montreal with the aid of Baron Von Shaughnessy to secure workers for the Canadian Manufacturers' Association?—Jack Canuck.

Whatever value may be placed upon this as a reason for the registration proposals, we are not disposed to accept it in its entirety, but at the same time admitting, as stated in one of the Telegram's editorials, “that whichever party is in power the jockey of the manufacturers' association plies the whip.—Ed.

#### EMPLOYMENT OF RETURNED SOLDIERS.

Our attention has been drawn to a discharged soldier's letter appearing in the Toronto Star, which we append for the consideration of our readers:—

#### WORK IN MUNITION FACTORIES.

Editor of the Star: As a reader of the Toronto Daily Star, I saw in your Wednesday night's paper about a man trying to get work in a munition plant. Anyway, I agree with him, as he is right in what he says. I myself have tried. I am an honorably discharged soldier from the 180th Sportsmen's Battalion. After serving six months with same I was pronounced medically unfit for overseas. Since I have tried four weeks to get a job in these munition plants, but met with no success, as every place I went to was filled up. The answer was, “Leave your name, or call again.” Most of the factories I went to had a good percentage of foreign labor, and not only foreign labor, but aliens. One firm has even Chinese and foreign labor, which looks like aliens

to me, if I am any judge of faces. I went there for a job, and saw for myself. It's time somebody looked into this matter, as there are hundreds of Canadians and British-born subjects in this city out of work and medically unfit for active service, but could be of value making or working at munitions. I myself am a Canadian-born British subject, married man with a family, and find it a hard struggle to get along in this city now on account of the foreigners and alien labor which is employed. Why should not the Canadian and British-born get these jobs in preference to these foreigners?

#### CANADIAN BRITISH SUBJECT.

This should help some of our erstwhile enemies to appreciate the value placed upon heroism as an asset for future job-getting purposes. We venture to reiterate our statement made a few weeks ago, that the only consideration our returned soldiers will receive at the hands of our employing aristocracy will depend upon the amount of profit that can be wrung from that portion of his being not rotting upon some battlefield.

### THE CASE AGAINST CONSCRIPTION

By J. McArthur Conner.

A great campaign is being waged in this country by a number of prominent militarists in an attempt to stampede the people and the Government to adopt conscription. Among the leaders of this movement is Magistrate Kingsford, who is very anxious that the present “Militia Act” be now put into force. This Act exempts judges as well as clergymen from being called upon for service, thus giving them every encouragement in their advocacy knowing that they themselves will be safe and that the conscripts will be men drawn from the ranks of the working class. The sympathy of the “Local Council of Women's” leaders, such as Mrs. A. M. Huestis and Miss Constance Bolton, has been sought in order to destroy the trend towards democracy in this great Dominion of Canada. “Conscript the men,” they cry, but when you ask what about conscripting the wealth, they either profess ignorance or tell you that conscripting of wealth is a matter that can be left till after the war. In order to offset their campaign, I propose to give some facts about the first British colony to adopt conscription.

In Australia they have conscription for Australian defence only, and recently an attempt was made to add a clause which would make it lawful to conscript the men for the battlefields of Europe. A referendum of the people was taken and defeated, the soldiers in the trenches voting seven to one against it. The conscription law in Australia has caused a great deal of dissatisfaction, a well known Labor journalist, writing from Australia, says: “In the matter of Australian defence, as a labor journalist, I took some part, but to-day I see there are grave dangers in the system. This was brought home to me in connection with a recent strike in Brisbane City, in the State of Queensland, in which the conservative parliamentarians asked that the newly-formed Australia militia be called out to break the strike.”

Under the Australian system a junior cadet service is conducted in the schools. It commences when the boys are twelve years of age and lasts for two years, when they go under the compulsory military system. It consists of 90 hours' drill every year, or half an hour per week. No registration is then made, but when the cadet goes into the compulsory military system he has then to show that he has done his two years in school. This training is aimed at improving the physique. It

consists of physical training and elementary marching drill. Following are the subjects taught: Miniature rifle shooting, swimming, running exercises, organized games, ambulance work and first aid, and in the naval marine compass and signalling work. The school cadets do not wear uniforms, neither are they organized in bodies. The Government maintains a special staff of instructors for physical exercises—who teach the school teachers (these are experts), and the teachers are examined as to proficiency before they are allowed to teach the scholars. There are also physical exercises for girls, but as this has nothing to do with after military work, it is a matter purely of education. Special schools of instruction are arranged for the teachers, usually during vacation period—the course including physical training, drill, shooting, swimming, first aid, etc., and the women school teachers also get special training so that they in turn may teach the girls.

From 14 to 18 years the boys are ranked as “Senior Cadets” and made do 12 half-day drills and 24 night drills in the year. From 18 to 25 years they become members of the citizens forces and are required to drill 16 whole days in the year, eight of which has to be done in camps of continuous training, which had also to be followed by muster parade for six years.

The boys are made to bear the financial loss which their training involves by a clause inserted in the Act exempting employers from liability to pay apprentices wages for the time they lost at drill. It was this fact which impelled a clever writer in the northern Australian coal fields (Dandelion) to declare that Hughes and Pearce were turning the Union Jack into a non-Union Jack.

The Act gives military officers powers to inflict fines on the boys without trial and provides six months hard labor for the boy who refused to take the military oath and one year's hard labor for parents and others who refused to inform on lads who refused military service. There is also a clause which makes it possible to sentence lads to death if they should refuse to fire on workers during a strike, and provision is also made for blacklisting and boycotting boys out of public employment for their conscientious objection to military service.

Since January 1, 1911, when the Compulsory Training Act was proclaimed, a flood of police prosecutions has ensued. In all 20,000 lads, who had never been before a court previously, had been dragged into the reeking atmosphere of the police courts and herded with professional criminals. Heavy fines were inflicted and boys were cast into gaol and treated not differently from burglars and pickpockets until public opinion literally shrieked its protest. Mr. Harry Holland (now editor of the “Maoriland Worker”) broke down in May of 1911 and lay for five months in the coast hospital, from which he was not long discharged when—still on crutches—he was prosecuted and fined under the Act £100 (\$500), with the option of three months' hard labor.

Let me give you some of the cases that have been discussed in the Commonwealth Parliament.

1. Mr. Higgs asked the Prime Minister if he would request the Minister of Defence to cause inquiry to be made into the case of a boy named Walter Kreyger, who, at the Northcote Police Court, gave it as his objection to compulsory drill that the teaching of the Bible was against it. He was sentenced to twenty-eight days' detention and has written to his mother in these terms:—

“We had to drill till half-past seven this morning, and they all formed up and started off. I fell out with Harry Flintoff, and the officer came up and

(Continued on Page Four)





OUR BOOKSHELF

TICHENOR'S "CREED OF CONSTANTINE."

(By Eugene V. Debs.)

The complete title of this latest book of Harry Tichenor, the best contribution from his virile and versatile pen to current radical literature, is "The Creed of Constantine; or, The World Needs a New Religion." In its opening chapters it is a companion volume to "The Life and Exploits of Jehovah," and every one of the many thousands of readers of the latter work will be interested in the "Creed of Constantine."

The style of the author lends itself readily to the popular treatment of almost any subject, however dry it might appear to other writers, and in this latest work he has invested the early history of the Christian church with the liveliest interest and with all the glamor of romantic literature. He opens his narrative with the following novel statement, which he proceeds to prove by quotations and facts from contemporary history and from the writing of commentators down to the present day.

"The prophet of Christendom is not the gentle Jesus; neither is the gospel of brotherhood and peace the Christian creed. The prophet of Christendom is the Emperor Constantine, and the Christian creed is the decision of the First Council of Nice."

The Council of Nice was held in the year 325.—This was a few years after Constantine's "conversion" to Christianity, or, more properly speaking, Christianity's conversion to Roman paganism. The manner in which the early Christian movement founded by Jesus was captured by the wily Constantine and converted to a ruling class "religion" is narrated in detail and supported by copious extracts from many of the ablest writers and commentators of ancient and modern history. It is a thrilling story, also a tragic and revolting one, and the author of the "Creed of Constantine," in his own graphic style and with irrefutable logic, scathing satire, withering sarcasm, relieved by flashes of wit and ridicule, does it entire justice.

The story, in the telling of which Gibbon, Froude, Comte, Darwin, Haeckel, and other historians and scientists are freely quoted, must be read to be understood and appreciated. Scarcely more than a hint of its interest and value can be given in the space of an ordinary review.

But it is in the closing chapters in which the author presents his "New Religion," that the solid worth of his work appears. In these pages he reveals himself as a prophetic soul with a social vision, and he writes as one inspired. Listen to him:

"Once, long ago, came one who voiced the hope and longing of the race with infinite love and passion. He told of a Source of Life and Love that the world had never known, of a common Father of a common humanity. He dreamed of a society strange and beautiful—the Brotherhood of Man. His teachings were garbled and doctored by the priests that wrote of him years after his tragic death, yet will we but search the sweet message that he taught, the burden of his soul can be found. He was not the tortured god of the dogmatic creeds—he was the lowly carpenter, the brother of the workers, the friend of man and the lover of woman. 'Call no man master,' said this sweet-souled carpenter, 'for ye are all brethren.' \* \* \* He wrote no book, he formed no creed. He simply trusted that the words he spoke and the dream he dreamed would some day

find expression and life in the soul of his class—the working class. He had come to set the captive free. Again and again his tender heart bled for all who bore the heavy burden, but with more anguish than all for woman, the doubly-chained captive. \* \* \* The few preserved sentences that fell from his passionate lips—the scathing denunciation of the master class and the infinite love of the outcast—these are all I want. I turn from the dogmatic epistles, half ancient Judaism and half Greek mythology, and I go again with the Peasant of Palestine down the beaten path to Bethany, where in an humble home lived Mary and Martha. There I can still hear the music of his voice, the simple story of love and brotherhood, as on the vine-clad porch he told it time and again. And the little children, how they swarmed to meet him! He was their comrade, their lover, and the companion of their childhood. And now another voice, perhaps more stern than his, cries glad tidings to the woman and her child. It is the worldwide call of Socialism. Women, children, when every chain is broken yours shall be the greater freedom, for yours has been the greater slavery."

The writer then proceeds to present what to his social vision appears as the true religion and he makes it for all the race. It is in these pages that the author pours out his great heart to his readers. The voice of human brotherhood is distinctly heard there, not in pious platitudes, but in soulful plea for the emancipation of the oppressed and the crowning of emancipation with the brotherhood of the race. The new religion Tichenor advocates is divine because it is rational and rational because it is divine; it is free from creed and dogma, free from sodden superstition and spineless servility, but packed full service, and brotherly love. It is a wholesome, sweet and serene-spirited religion and the day it dawns upon the world the world will be at peace and humanity will be civilized.—"Rip-Saw."

AN APPEAL.

When Death himself shall drink of death,  
And nerveless falls his wearied hand,  
When Peace shall like a vernal breath  
Drive wintry war from this dear land—

What, then, shall be the issue, friend?  
What lesson from the leaden rain?  
What love-birth from the throes that rend?  
What beauty from the womb of pain?

Shall what has been be then once more,  
And Life from Death no message learn,  
And foul suspicion as before  
Pollute the wells of truth, and spurn

The prophets of a purer quest  
Than earthly gold and petty power,  
And Policy and Interest  
Possess once more the fickle hour?

From you, a million under earth,  
Plucked sharp from life in perfect bloom,  
And children cheated of their birth,  
And children that shall take their room

Demand reply; they ask not kiugs  
For answer; no, nor statesmen proud,  
Nor diplomatic underlings  
That play with war and scorn the crowds.

But you, O friend, a common man,  
Yet dowered with imperial sway  
To make, unmake, to bless and ban  
And say that War's delirious day

Is ended and for ever o'er:  
Will you not answer that high call,  
That what has been may be no more,  
But Love and Law be over all?  
—A. D., in "The Labor Leader."

We will do better in the spring.

A RULER DIVINELY APPOINTED

There is a certain political gent in this province whose name is W. R. Ross. He is a staunch and hide-bound Conservative. Also a chronic office-holder. At least he hangs on to office like grim death to a dead nigger. Most Conservatives are easy to beat, as the result of the late election in this province amply proves. Not so with W. R. Ross, however. He stays. He hangs on against odds that are at times apparently insuperable, or at least would so appear to any one possessed of less faith in the righteousness of his cause and without that stubborn determination to never lay down in the face of any attack made upon it by the cohorts of evil, that is markedly characteristic of the aforesaid Ross. Ross is now safely and firmly seated as a member of the provincial house for another term. He sits as the member for Fort George. True, he had a somewhat narrow escape from defeat at the election last September, but it is pleasing to record that he triumphed over the machinations of those evil-disposed persons who are to be found in every community, and whose chief business in life seems to be that of snapping at the heels of political probity and otherwise annoying men of large affairs and broad statesmanship, particularly of the Ross type.

It is recounted that W. R. Ross at one time triumphed over his jealous political foes and envious rivals at Fernie, B.C., through the fortunate intervention of fire, as it were. It seems that the result of the election at that time had been so close, and so many wicked tales had been told by no doubt designing persons of corrupt practices having been indulged in at the polls, that steps were taken by certain jealous and envious ones for a recount of the votes cast at that election. No one doubts that the result of such a recount would have absolved Ross from any and all suspicion of turpitude in connection with the election, but unfortunately some power unseen of men intervened in the matter and destroyed part of the ballots that were to be recounted, by burning them up. Whether the fire at the Fernie court house, which destroyed the ballots, was merely an act of Providence or simply one of those mysterious occurrences that frequently happen because they do happen, and the reason of their happening passeth all human understanding, except, of course, in the case of those who know all about the why and wherefore of the happening, is neither here nor there. The fact remains that through this intervention of fire in the matter of the recount at Fernie, the suspicion has been firmly fixed in the minds of some that the aforesaid political gent may not be without need of purification of the spirit before he would be eligible to dwell among the sanctified and the blessed.

At a later election, at this same Fernie place once more, was this Conservative crusader saved from the disgrace of a recount of the ballots that had already presumably elected him. A recount had been called for, but intervention again frustrated the designs of the wicked who sought the political scalp of the Conservative brave. Intervention came this time by flood. A maritime disaster resulting in an overturned canoe, and the ballots being swept away by the angry tide circumvented the machinations of the wicked and saved the scalp of our hero from being exposed in the market place to the jeers and jibes of the ribald and unthinking rabble. And thus was preserved to his grateful country the splendid talents of this statesman, favored by fortune and whose enemies had been scourged both by fire and by flood.

As will be seen in another column,

Ross has again been saved through providential succor at the opportune moment. A call for recount having been made at Fort George, and the result of the election having been an extremely close call for the distinguished political gent, while the story of the campaign, and the practices indulged in on Ross' behalf were lavishly embellished with rare and racy incidents strangely suggestive of corruption and fraud, it looked for a moment as though Ross might be overtaken and overwhelmed by the enemies of his particular brand of political righteousness. But for a moment only, mark you, for let it be known that neither providence nor mystery had as yet withdrawn their protection from their favored son of fortune. Intervention again came to his rescue, but not this time in the shape of either fire or flood. It came this time in the shape of justice, and British justice at that. The application for a recount was made within the time prescribed by law. The date to be fixed for the recount was (according to the act) to be within eight days of the day upon which the court fixed the date upon which such recount should be made. Upon November 29 justice, with eyes tightly bandaged, with the sword in one hand and the fish scales in the other, fixed the date of the recount upon December 8. When that date arrived discerning counsel, on behalf of Ross, pointed out to the court that December 8 was not within eight days of November 29, hence the recount could not legally obtain, for the very simple reason that the Act had not been complied with. The justice of this was at once recognized by the court, and the recount was, of course, thrown out. To do otherwise would have been a gross violation of justice, and such a proceeding could not, for a moment, be tolerated by any one not possessed of criminal instincts. And thus endeth the third lesson, with this truth indelibly impressed upon us. He who is shielded by fire, by flood, and by justice, against the machinations of his political enemies, may go his way serene and undisturbed. He cannot be beaten. He will remain constantly with us. Against his shield naught can prevail.

We are extremely indebted to the B. C. Federationist for the valuable service they have rendered to our party members in presenting this gratuitous information. It may at some future date save us much heart-burning, and certainly much useless labor and finance, to be assured—"That this Gawd appointed politician cannot be defeated," as votes can never prevail against such omniscient favors.—Ed.

KILLED HER BABE; FREED.

French Girl Said She Had Been Attacked by Germans.

Paris, Jan. 25.—It is not a crime for a mother to kill a child born as a result of the mother's being violated by Germans. A Paris jury has so decided in the case of Josephine Barthelmy, twenty years old. She is a domestic at Gennevilliers, the eldest of five children, and one of her brothers has been killed. Only after the greatest difficulty was the woman persuaded to speak. Then she said she was a servant at the military hospital at Chambley, in the invaded regions. All the orderlies there were German soldiers. In December, 1915, eight of these orderlies attacked her in the chapel of the hospital.

"I killed my child," the woman continued, "because I did not want to be the mother of a child whose father was a German."

There are but two general classes in society: those who are engaged in productive and useful industry and those who do no useful service for society. The aim and hope of Socialism is to put all people into the class of the productive worker and thereby do away with classes.



# Revive the Internationale

Call Issued for World Congress June 3 at The Hague.

Hope of reviving the Socialist International has been given a new birth by the action of the American Socialist Party National Executive Committee, in session in Chicago, in calling upon the International Socialist Bureau to provide for an international congress to be held June 3, 1917, at The Hague.

It is urged that the Bureau take steps to call such a congress by March 1. If this is not done the American Socialist Party will take the initiative.

The cablegram sent to Camille Huysmans, secretary of the International Socialist Bureau, at The Hague, was as follows:—

"Convinced that the time is ripe for a revival of the Socialist International on the basis of a concerted working-class movement for an immediate, just and lasting peace, the Socialist Party of the United States requests that an International Congress be called June 3, 1917, at The Hague. Unless by March 1, the Bureau takes steps to call such a congress, our party will consider itself justified in taking direct initiative."

This message to the Bureau has also been sent to the Socialist Parties in Germany, Austria, Holland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, England, France, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, Russia, Belgium, and the Argentine, with the request that the support of the various affiliated parties be given to this measure. It is urged that any action taken be immediately cabled to the American Socialist Party headquarters in Chicago.

In this way it is hoped to gather up the loose threads now binding the Socialist Parties of the various countries and revive the International Socialist movement to greater effort. The members of the American Socialist Party national executive committee are confident that their appeal will meet with an immediate and favorable response by the Socialists of the belligerent and neutral countries.

In announcing its action to the Socialists of the United States, the national executive committee issued a stirring manifesto as follows:—

To the Comrades of the Socialist Party:

Comrades,—Thirty terrible months have elapsed since the outbreak of the world war. Never in the history of the world has so much carnage, devastation and frightfulness been encompassed within such a space of time. As the twentieth century with its science and invention, its economic organization and achievements dwarfs all the previous history of mankind, so the war exceeds all previous wars of human history in magnitude, horror, destruction and deadliness. All the inventive genius and creative power of many of the greatest modern nations, in neutral as well as in belligerent countries have been prostituted to the lust of war. Now that millions of lives have been sacrificed, and millions of other lives broken and ruined, while all civilization has been imperilled, the war-weary world cries with agonizing voice for peace. Even the ruling classes are at last realizing its unspeakable horror and futility and are beginning to speak openly of their desire for peace.

The Socialist movement ought to be, and can be, the greatest force for peace in the world. The Socialists of the world can do more to bring about a just, conclusive and enduring peace than all the world's diplomats and statesmen combined. Even amid the hellish hate and brute passions of the war, often at great peril to themselves, loyal comrades in all the belligerent countries, true to the principles of internationalism, have consistently opposed the resort to barbarous methods of warfare and bravely urged the cause of international solidarity and peace.

It would be a calamity only compar-

able to the war itself if the organized Socialist movement of the world should fail to exert its great influence and power to bring about a speedy termination to the war madness. Further, International Socialism would lose its great opportunity and betray its trust if it should fail to make all possible efforts to safeguard the interests of the working class of the world in the adjustments that are to come.

Far more important than any or all of the questions of indemnification and territorial rearrangements, is the assurance which must be obtained by the proletariat that the settlement of the war shall be just and lasting; that it shall not contain the germs of future wars. Every capitalist device or measure which may contain the potential provocative of future wars must be stoutly resisted by a reunited international social democracy.

It is in a special sense the task of the Socialist parties, to create the necessary working class sentiment and rally the forces to insure the adoption of means to prevent future wars. All that imperils the fraternity of peoples must be swept into oblivion. Disarmament, both military and naval, is essential to an assured and permanent peace. To the rulers and war lords who have caused the implements of industry to be transformed into implements of murder and rapine, a reunited working class must manifest its determination to beat all the deadly armaments of the air, the land, and the sea into tools of life-giving industry.

It is our task to see that the reactionary bureaucratic rules which war has of necessity brought to the most democratic of the belligerent nations, and enormously strengthened in the others, are not permitted to continue. A wide extension of democracy in all the lands must be our aim in the readjustments which the close of the great world tragedy must bring about.

On the other hand, those measures of collectivism which have been established in the different nations during the war, must be maintained. As Socialists we had always known and declared that capitalism was inefficient and incapable of affording the largest utilization of our natural resources and our productive powers. In the perils and stress of war the ruling classes and war-makers have discovered this, and as a result have been forced to replace capitalist industrial enterprise by a species of collectivism. The much-talked-of "War Socialism" is not Socialism at all. There can be no Socialism apart from democracy. But the collectivism which has been linked to militarism in the war is the wrong application of a great and beneficent principle of social action which must be redeemed from misuse and maintained to bless mankind. The collectivism of war must be made into the Socialism of Humanity. Above all other needs is the need of a world organization based upon the solidarity of all nations. All barriers which stand in the way—tariffs, armaments, alliances, commercial treaties and fortifications at strategic channels of world intercourse—must be broken down. Upon the blackened ruins of this greatest of human tragedies must be laid the foundations of the greatest of human ideals, the federation of the world.

Recognizing the solemn obligation resting upon the Socialists of the United States, as the representative section of the Socialist International in the greatest of the neutral nations, the Socialist Party has taken the initiative in calling a special International Congress to be held at an early date, to face the grave problems herein briefly indicated. By means of such a congress we believe that the sundered strands of our international solidarity can be reunited, and that we can enlist

the workers of all lands to fight side by side once more in the great struggle to overthrow the system of economic exploitation and servitude whose natural fruitage is murder, rapine, destruction and war. To our comrades in all the stricken lands we send greetings and fellowship, and hope that before long we shall be able to unite with them in a common struggle for Social Democracy and Peace.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SOCIALIST PARTY:

Victor L. Berger, Morris Hillquit, John Spargo, Anna Agnes Maley, John M. Work, Executive Secretary: Adolph Germer.

## CASE AGAINST CONSCRIPTION

(Continued from page Two)

dragged me round on the ground. Then he called two boys, one a champion boxer, to get me and push me round. This boxer, the boy claims, dug his fingers into the boy's neck, sewed his arm almost out of his socket, until he cried out with pain, and punched him in the face twice and knocked him on the ground. The boy was almost stunned. When he got up, he said that he would summons his assailant and was then struck such a brutal blow that he says "it sent me clean over on my face." (Australian Commonwealth Hansard, Dec. 18, 1913, pp. 4748-4749.)

2. Mr. Joseph Cook, who was then Prime Minister, replied to questions asked in the House, said: The cadets in certain cases have been confined in cells—I do not wish to understate the punishment—and have been detained in solitary confinement. . . . It must be remembered that something must be done with recalcitrant boys, because discipline must be maintained. If one lad is allowed to do as he pleases, it is not likely that eighty or ninety other full-blooded boys will submit to discipline, knowing that the authorities may be defied with impunity. That has to be provided against. But the harsh treatment of the boys should cease. Honorable members may take my word for it that there will be no more solitary confinement for cadets. (A. C. Hansard, June 26, 1914, p. 2652.)

3. Mr. Burns, on June 19, 1914, in the House, said: "Some time ago I asked some questions in the House with regard to Victor Lee, of Broken Hill, who was arrested for non-compliance with the training provisions, and the answer I received from the Honorary Minister was that this lad had been sentenced to imprisonment for a month, a portion of which was to be spent in solitary confinement, with a diet of bread and water, for over a week." A. C. Hansard, p. 2384, June 19, 1914.)

4. In the House of Senate Senator Russell read a letter sent him from the parents of Cadet Roberts, and read as follows:

"For continuing in his refusal the boy was placed in the cell next the guard room on Thursday night, where he was confined until 11 a.m. Saturday morning, and then court-martialed. The military court then ordered him to be placed in a cell for seven days. He is locked in a cell 10 feet by 10 feet, built of wood, with an iron roof. It has no window, the light coming through a grating. He has a wooden stretcher, the mattress and blankets are taken away in the morning, and not brought back until dark. He has half an hour's exercise in the morning and again in the afternoon; he is on half diet; has not been allowed to read, nor to write to his parents.

"We were quite unaware of this treatment of him until we visited Queensland on Monday, when we found him looking worse than when seen five days previously. This we attributed to the mental strain of solitary confinement, a recent illness of a month,

and to reduced diet. After lunch-time on Saturday he received only bread and water until breakfast-time Sunday.

"The boy endeavored to cheer his mother by saying that he had only four days' more solitary confinement to go through. However, this morning we waited on the Defense Department authorities and were officially informed that if the boy continued in his refusal to forego his convictions he would be ordered a further period of solitary confinement.

"The civil court ordered the boy into military custody, but surely it is going beyond the instructions of the citizens army for a court-martial to be allowed to step in after a case has been dealt with by the civil court. Furthermore, solitary confinements should never be ordered. The question may well be asked, is this a citizens' army controlled by the military board. A Melbourne lawyer states that solitary confinement is considered inhuman, and only used in the case of refractory criminals of the worst type.

My wife and I earnestly appeal for your influence in this distressing matter, and hope you will at least write a letter to the Minister of Defense." (A. C. Hansard, Senate, June 2, 1914, pp. 2084 and 2085.)

It is well that we study the effects of conscription in other countries, for we must remember that the men and women who are now enthusiastic over conscription in this country in normal times have never been fervent advocates of social justice to the common people.

Note.—I am indebted to Mr. Harry Holland, article in Maoriland Worker, and several articles by Mr. Abern, and to Hansard reports for information in this article.

Magistrate Kingsford, on July 31, 1914, at Victoria Hall, Toronto, said: I am opposed to Socialism of the revolutionary type, and I abhor internationalism, and I believe the Government should not tolerate these bodies of peoples whose utterances are nearly always in the nature of treason.

## SOCIALIST BULLETS

Capitalism cannot give the people good government because capitalism could not exist under good government.

Socialism will bring industrial justice to the workers, but the workers must first bring Socialism.

The capitalists rob you of the product of your labor. You kick. "We must arbitrate," they tell you. It's your product. You produced it. Why should you submit to arbitration?

Good men in office under a bad system cannot do much for the people, any more than a good workman can do good work with bad tools.

Let the workers learn to trade with themselves through the government controlled by themselves and they need have no concern as to who captures the trade of China or any other nation.

Capitalists have lied about Socialism so long that some of them begin to actually believe their own lies.

Let each nation supply its own wants and supply them fully and very little foreign trading will be necessary.

The world has learned how to produce more than enough for all, but it has not yet learned how to distribute it in a way that will give all enough.

A majority of the voters are workers. Yet the workers do not rule. They do not rule because they use their majority vote to elect the minority to office. And they will go on doing this until they understand Socialism.



# 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.

**Subscriptions (post free)—**

Single copies, 5 cents; three months, 25 cents; six months, 50 cents; in clubs of six, \$2.50; twelve months, \$1.00; in clubs of six, \$5.00; United States, Great Britain and other countries, \$1.50 a year.

**Advertising Rates—**

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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.

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TORONTO, CANADA

January 27, 1917



Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey,  
Where wealth accumulates, and men decay:  
Princes and lords may flourish, or may fade;  
A breath can make them, as a breath has made;  
But a bold peasantry, their country's pride,  
When once destroyed, can never be supplied.  
...Goldsmith.



**WILSON'S NOTE.**

What parrots our people are to be sure. Everybody is talking about Wilson's note, presumably because editors, politicians and preachers can find nothing better to waste their wind on. Will some one be kind enough to give us Wilson's note in order to read what the occupant of the White House has to say for himself. We are sick and tired of reading lying garbled reports of newspapermen upon matters of great national concern, each of them being more concerned in making Wilson say what they impute from a utilitarian motive—rather than a correct understanding of what the President intended to convey.

Whatever virtue or ill the note may contain, the Canadian people should be correctly informed upon Wilson's attitude to the war, as such understanding would help to strengthen our neighborly relations, while misrepresentation is the tool of liars and cowards.

President Wilson has fulfilled his obligations to the people for whom he speaks upon this issue. He has kept the States out of war, and by so doing has conferred a boon upon the land of the Stars and Stripes by refusing to follow the course mapped out by his erstwhile critics, which would have led Uncle Sam into the throes of a revolution because of her mixed population. It is about time the rulers of our country, and, as such, the masters of our national destiny, should tell the "jingo war spites" to shut up; and let us hear no more about pro-German Wilson, and a little more about the Cabinet Ministers at Ottawa doing something for the common weal.

**Lest We Forget.**

Had Uncle Sam been so disposed Canada would have become a nice rich picking for the Kaiser combination in the States. It can be taken without much debate that a sufficient number of that ilk could be found to do the dirty work and make a good job of it in less than three months' time, and for this reason alone Canadian citizens should be grateful that Wilson has kept the peace while all others have been concerned about land-grabbing.

What President Wilson will think when he reads the report of W. G. Cockshutt's speech in the Ottawa

House is of more importance, than the arrogance presented by this gentleman to a great kindred nation. When Mr. Cockshutt says let Wilson keep his pen out of the war, we might remind him of a great British statesman who said "The pen is mightier than the sword," a truth that is yet to be made manifest to vindictive spirits—and empty heads.

Supposing President Wilson had said at the beginning of hostilities: "Yes, I will keep my pen out of the war, also my ammunition and shells." There is not a honest-minded person in this wide Dominion but will admit that had Wilson adopted this course it would have been of most serious import to the allied cause, and would have given the greatest promise to the Germanic powers of a sure and certain victory for their military machine.

**Honest Neutrality.**

And yet this would have been the most honest form of neutrality that the States could have indulged. But why he should be slandered by such gross abuse as pro-German, white-livered and traitor to the independence of small nations, only serves to demonstrate the greatness of a man who concerned himself with safeguarding the lives of the people placed in his care, rather than to curry favor with Canadian canting hypocrites, some of whom while mouthing patriotism were selling Canadian nickel to the Kaiser.

**Legalized Murder.**

The latest stunt of the legal profession is to prove that killing is not murder. From a report to hand we are informed that a French mother was freed after committing the before-mentioned act, on the ground that the child's father was a German soldier. We have very little use for capital punishment at any time, and less for the acrobatic performances of the legal lights. If there is such a thing as law it should be applied to all and sundry, as otherwise it develops a privileged caste. We have had sufficient evidence of the maladministration of law in Canada recently that the very name is becoming repugnant to all honest people.

We have had cases where the grossest forms of illegality were countenanced by administrators of justice, "traitors to the law," and the culprits shielded by a khaki uniform. A uniform should

not be allowed to become a cloak for crime, as otherwise we encourage a disrespect for law, by becoming a lawless, rabble and repudiating constitutional forms of government.

The episode referred to savors more of Hun hatred than respect for sacred script. It is very evident that ancient moral codes cannot be made to conform to modern conditions, which helps us to appreciate the statements made by Karl Marx many years ago "that the juridical, ethical and moral codes are merely social forms," corresponding with the system of wealth-production. It is about time for us to consign some of this ancient rubbish to the waste-basket.

**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**

**VANGUARD, SASK.**

Dear Comrade, I would like to find out through the medium of our paper (the Forward) the views of the Democrats on the Non-Partisan Political League that has recently been formed up here in Saskatchewan. Let me say for the information of your readers that the platform of the League is very Socialistic, and some of our members have joined up with this body hoping to hasten progress on legislative lines.

What shall we do? If this movement is a step in the right direction for our farming population, should we not support rather than knock.

F. G. WITZEL, Secretary.

**HAMILTON, ONT.**

After resting up for Christmas and New Year, we have again resumed our regular course of lectures. Comrade Mance's wide and long experience as an organizer and lecturer makes him invariably an interesting speaker, and he fulfilled our expectations in the manner in which he delivered his lecture here two weeks ago.

Last Sunday we were favored by an address from our noted friend, Miss L. Hughes, of Toronto. She merited the plaudits of the audience in the masterly fashion in which she delivered her address, especially her handling of the "heresy hunters."

Our local is growing in number, and our lecture course is proving both educative and interesting.

JOHN ALEXANDER, Secretary.

**LOCAL 87 (RIVERDALE), TORONTO.**

While so many of our local organizations have been seriously affected and their usefulness curtailed by war conditions, it is with considerable satisfaction that Local 87 can report that the year 1916, instead of being a time of going backward, has been a year of real progress with them.

Commencing 1916 with twenty members, sixteen in good standing, we have finished the year with twenty-seven members, twenty being in good standing. At the last audit we had a balance in hand of \$3.85, but have finished the year with a balance in hand of \$8.11.

We were instrumental in raising about \$85 towards different funds for the assistance of the movement and paper during the year, and by placing judicious speakers in men's Bible classes and men's clubs, have carried the message of Socialism to many who would not have otherwise been reached with that message.

At the last meeting of the year 1916 the members planned a surprise for their secretary. They brought their wives along, and after the routine busi-

ness had been transacted, it was suggested that a social evening should be spent. During the programme of vocal and instrumental music Comrade Mance was called upon for a speech, and after a remarkably humorous but appropriate one, presented the secretary, on behalf of the local, with a beautiful silver-mounted silk umbrella, with his initials suitably engraved. The secretary, Comrade Thompson, in acknowledging the gift, paid tribute to the splendid spirit of helpful friendship and comradeship existing in the local that made secretarial work there a real pleasure.

At the first meeting of the new year Comrade Bainbridge, Dominion Secretary, was a welcome visitor to the local, and on being invited to address the members, outlined his impressions of the recent municipal campaign and the lessons to be learnt from it, and also gave an account of the position of the "Canadian Forward," declaring the future prospects of the paper to be decidedly encouraging, partly due to new lines of policy laid down by the Dominion and Provincial Executive Committees.

CHARLES M. THOMPSON,  
Secretary.

**AN ANTHOLOGY OF SOCIAL-DEMOCRACY**

N.B.—This is No. 6 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.

Now, what is the force at the heart of humanity that constitutes the eternal impetus toward progress? As at the heart of the seed, so at the heart of man, there is an endless thirst to become more, to reach out on every side. There is a mental and spiritual hunger and thirst in man to be more than he is, although he knows not why. All progress means trusting this hunger and thirst, and opening the field for its realization. This tendency to develop being given all that is needed to secure its attainment is opportunity. We should take heed that no obstacles are placed in the way, and that no false theories shall lead us astray.

One of the primal factors of all progress is right conditions—the soil. Is the competitive soil propitious for the attainment of this end? Let us examine some of the legitimate results of the workings of the competitive principle.

This principle of competition, with its inherent greed and selfishness, is the cause of much of the oppression and suppression that have cursed the modern world. It begets antagonisms, cruelty, injustice, cunning, and selfishness, and undoes that which religion and ethics have been toiling to do. It violates the law of love, sacrifices manhood to material wealth, and engenders servility, hatred, untruthfulness, trickery, and despotism. It develops all that is combative, unscrupulous and unsympathetic in man and begets improvidence, recklessness, intemperance, and illiteracy. It ruins the lives of millions with needless preventable disease and poverty, and hinders the development of brotherly love, sympathy, and helpfulness. It grants the highest prizes to the greatest wrongs, thus undermining virtue by placing a premium upon dishonesty.

This obstacle of industrial competition, however, will not always remain. Competition will be supplanted by co-operation and then humanity will spring forward with leaps and bounds. The exquisite Utopian dreams of the past will be dwarfed into insignificance as compared with the glories of that perfect day.

Truly did Ruskin say, "Government and co-operation are in all things the laws of life; anarchy and competition the laws of death."

CHAS. H. VAIL.



## ITEMS OF NEWS FROM ALL PARTS

### A WAR DESPOTISM.

#### THE MENACE TO MANKIND.

##### Constitution for Europe as the Alternative.

The outstanding characteristics of modern war, according to Mr. Thomas H. Black, M.A., B.Sc., LL.B., who lectured on Wednesday to the Fitzwilliam Street (Huddersfield) Social Union, are:—

(1) The amount of material that can be used is infinite and the number of men that can be used is enormous;

(2) There will be a deadlock so long as there is a sufficient defence per unit length of the line to be defended, and if there are equal resources on each side the war must end in the utter destruction of both sides;

(3) The small state counts for nothing; it is dependent on its powerful allies.

It followed, said Mr. Black, that there was no limit to the preparations that must be made if a nation was to drive war into its enemy's territory. It was, therefore, probable that the energies of nations would be much more directed upon preparations for war than they had been in the past. That was the condition of the large State. As to the small State, to speak of the independence of a small State if that independence had to be defended by war was to speak of a phantasm. The outlook for subject nationalities was equally as gloomy as that of the small States. It was probable, too, that individual citizens would find very little regard for their rights and liberties when these great preparations for war were found to be necessary.

#### A Constitution or the Sword.

Thus the natural development of the present international situation was what the lecturer called war despotism, meaning a condition of things in which the final arbiter would be war. The only alternative to war despotism was to abolish war, and the only means of abolishing war was to establish a constitution. They must have constitutional rights, instead of so-called international rights that had to be secured by the sword of the individual nation.

A constitution always consisted of two parts. First of all it defined who held the powers of government, and, secondly, it defined what were the rights of individual subjects against the government. The British constitution, for example, assigned the law-making right to Parliament, the judicial right to the judges and the executive right to the administration. But the important part of the British constitution in modern times dealt with the rights of the individual subject. The individual had personal freedom and must be convicted of offence by proper trial before he could be legally restrained. Of course, these rights had been suspended during the present war, and it would be a question of how they were to be restored and to what extent after the war. A constitution for Europe would first define who should hold the supreme power, and who should decide disputes, amongst nations. But the principal part of it would set up the constitutional right of individual States. There would follow a sort of Habeas Corpus for nationalities, and the tendency would be towards the freeing of States and subject peoples on a progressive scale.—Huddersfield Worker.

The grain growers of Manitoba pass a sensible resolution:—

Whereas, the British Empire and her Allies are engaged in a life and death struggle in which we believe the interests of civilization are at stake; and whereas the Canadian Government in order that Canada might render more

effective service in the prosecution of the war has undertaken to make a census of the man power of the Dominion with the expressed view of organizing it to the highest possible point of efficiency; therefore be it resolved that this convention endorse the action of the government in this regard; but while endorsing it, it desires to urge in the strongest possible terms our abhorrence of private profiteering on the part of those engaged in the manufacture or furnishing of war supplies of any kind and also urges that a census of the wealth of Canada should be immediately taken with the view to imposing upon it the full share of the burden it should bear in this time of national sacrifice. And further, that these resources can only be organized to their full efficiency by a National Government in which the interests of political parties shall be made entirely subservient to the interests of the state.

#### DENMARK SOCIALISTIC AS A RESULT OF WAR.

##### Cabinet Minister Points Out Government Controls Vital Industries Since War.

#### Fixes the Standard.

##### Measures to Prevent Excessive Profits are Now Being Attempted.

T. H. Stauning, leader of Denmark's social democracy, member of the Zable Radical Cabinet, and the first Scandinavian Socialist to become a Cabinet Minister, boasts that the war has transformed Denmark into a Socialistic state, says a Stockholm despatch to the New York Evening Post. The monarchy still exists, but the State Socialistic measures taken as a result of the war transcend the program of Karl Marx, and next year will be realized a dozen other extreme Socialistic plans of a kind never dreamed of by Marx, he says.

Already the Danish State has taken control of all vital industries. It regulates production and consumption; expropriates excessive profits for public use; enforces a living wage; and guarantees a minimum standard of comfort for all classes. Stauning promises that these measures will be developed in still more drastic forms, and Prime Minister Zable agrees.

#### State Fixes Standards.

Stauning at the end of November delivered an exposition of Denmark's war Socialism to a meeting of Swedes at Malmo. He declared that the chief Socialist measure of 1917 will be the standardization of products in the interest of economy. Already standard foods exist; it is forbidden to sell more than two kinds of flour, the composition of which is fixed under penalty of imprisonment. Next year, says Stauning, there will be "standard shoes" and "standard clothes." Already rigid Government measures prevent leather and textiles from rising unduly in price; but this does not prevent scarcity, and there will soon not be enough leather or textiles to go round.

This makes inevitable the standard shoe. State experts will evolve a model shoe, which will require the least possible material. The shoe will be of absolutely uniform kind, and will be sold at fixed prices according to size. It will be a penal offence to buy or sell any other kind of shoe.

If the textile famine gets worse, State tailoring artists will produce a standard suit of clothes for men. Probably there will also be a standard costume for women, containing mostly absolutely necessary material of cheap quality.

Denmark's newly-founded State necessities commission and price regulations commission have complete auto-

cratic power. Through the necessities commission, the Danish State is now the chief import merchant for wheat and corn. Already the necessities commission controls the import of colonial wares, and next year it will itself import on a vast scale. The price regulations commission has established its control over all factories and workshops, also over farming. The commission demands from the farmers and from all the great industries exact tables, showing the cost of production. On this basis the commission fixes prices. All Denmark's productive industries have now accepted State control.

#### To Prevent Excessive Profits.

Producers and distributors are no longer allowed freely to determine their mutual relations. The State lately discovered that exporters of fish to Germany were making large profits; and that, owing to war conditions in the North Sea, the fishermen were in difficulties. It threatened to prevent altogether the export of fish unless the exporters paid to the fishermen a bonus of 10 per cent. of the prices charged Germany. The exporters had to agree.

After a year of war, sugar rose to 11 cents a pound. Six months of State restriction and control of consumption brought it down to 6 cents. Eight other important food products have been reduced in price between 15 and 30 per cent.

Prime Minister Zable declares that the State must accept full and direct responsibility for the health and welfare of every citizen. His Cabinet is taking measure after measure to embody this principle.

#### The Minimum Income.

First of the principles insisted on is "the minimum income." The State declares that a family with earnings under a fixed sum cannot live without outside help, so the State pays it a war supplement. At present the minimum income is \$500. All families with less than \$500 a year are subsidized in money according to number of children, and further relief is given in kind. The State sells them goods at less than cost price. All persons drawing old age, sickness, or unemployment pensions are allowed thirty per cent. supplements. The Government promises that if living conditions become worse, supplements will be increased.

Many storekeepers find it impossible, as a result of the severe regulation, to make a living. On condition that they observe the maximum prices, the State pays them allowances. This practically turns traders into salaried officials who are guaranteed a fixed wage.

The State finances are badly hit, and the problem of finding money grows harder every day. The mass of the people, being already supported by the State, cannot be taxed. Finance Minister Eduard Brandes lays the whole burden on the rich, in particular on citizens and foreign settlers who profit from the war. For the next year are proposed prohibitive taxes on luxuries, in the spirit of Prof. Adolph Wagner, who seven years ago laid before the German Emperor a plan for preventing excessive expenditure by making it a criminal offence.

This article appeared in the Toronto Star Jan. 20, 1917, which we are pleased to publish in this issue.—Editor.

Nowadays a workingman enters a restaurant for a plate of soup and is handed a damp plate. If the working man has a good supply of imagination he convinces himself that his damp plate is soup, but he can never convince that most stubborn of debaters—his appetite.

It's a heap better to know less and know it is so, than to know a lot and know it isn't so.

The workers are in the majority. If they fail to get what they want, whose fault is it?

## THE SPICE BOX

What a queer world this is, Bill,  
Where us blokes do get about,  
What queer things we does and says—  
I can't make the muddle out;  
First, they teach us when we're kids,  
Bill,

Of a Good Gawd up above,  
Full of gracious love and mercy,  
Who acts tender like a dove.  
Why I mention this 'ere point, Bill,  
Is because the other day,  
At a sermon in the trenches,  
I heard the bloomin' parson say  
As 'ow every one who has doubts, Bill,  
In those Bible stories tall,  
He'll be burnt right up in Hell,  
Be he good or great or small;  
Yer mustn't dare to think to question  
Where the Good Gawd's been o'  
late,

Fer to leave His loving kiddies  
Ter their own infernal fate;  
It seems ter me He must be blind, Bill,  
If He doesn't see the blood  
That's been flowing over Europe,  
Jest like a mighty roarin' flood.  
Blood o' innocents it is, Bill,  
Fer the blokes wot made the game  
Never finger with the fire,  
Though their hands lit up the flame;  
They jest order and they scheme, Bill,  
Eat their fill and dress quite gay,  
Go ter church most every Sunday,  
Where they kneel to Gawd an' pray,  
That He may be with their gang, Bill,  
While they murder, rape and shoot  
The ones who ups and tries to stop 'em,  
Grabin' gold an' land an' loot;  
It suits 'em, does this cursed game,  
Bill,

Fer it stops the common herd  
From puttin' two an' two together.  
But this Gawd, He seems ter me, Bill,  
Not only blind, but deaf as well,  
Or He'd hear the mighty wallin'  
That would shake the depth o' Hell,  
As it comes from kids an' women  
As in agonies they twist,  
On the rack an' in the fire,  
In the poison gasses' mist;  
They hasn't done no bloomin' harm,  
Bill,  
But lived peaceful lives an' prayed,  
And believed the bloomin' Prayer-  
Book,  
An' its teachin's they obeyed;  
An' this is all the thanks they gets,  
Bill,

Fer their worship an' their love;  
He jest cocks a deaf ear to 'em  
From His Throne that's up above;  
So yer see it makes one think, Bill,  
If there was a Gawd at all,  
He'd manage this 'ere place quite dif-  
ferent,  
There'd be peace an' goodwill to all.  
—J. S. C.

One often hears it said of some millionaire: "He added millions to the wealth of the community." And a lot of people actually believe it. The facts are that a few thousand workingmen produced millions in wealth and made this man rich while making a bare living for themselves. The rich man himself produced nothing. If he added millions to the wealth of the community he holds the title deed to it.

We are informed that the Rockefeller Foundation has many experts at work trying to discover why hungry babies cry. Bet you a million the Rockefeller Foundation wouldn't employ one expert to find out how hungry babies may be fed. The Foundation will leave that for the crazy Socialists who have a loony idea that hungry babies will stop their crying if only they are fed.

### ...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

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### STATE CONTROL OF MINES.

#### Statement of Welsh Miners' Official.

In a statement made on Monday Mr. Vernon Hartshorn, a member of the executive of the South Wales Miners' Federation, announces, in connection with the Government scheme for the control of mines, that already assurances had been received on the important point of the status and rights of the miners. Those assurances, he says, are quite satisfactory, and at present there is not anything to be feared on that score.

The Government control scheme (he adds) is for the present in its rudimentary stages. The Government is proceeding slowly and cautiously, in order not to rush into unnecessary difficulties. This initial stage will, however, soon be over, and out of the new control there will have to be built up a great scheme for the benefit of the nation in various directions. It is certain that the Government does not intend that State control shall be merely formal, and without any practical effect upon the industry itself, or upon the part which the industry plays in the life of the nation. State control has in it the beginning not only of the solution of problems of production, but of distribution as well. The miners hope not only that State control will prove to be beneficial to the industry itself, but that the general public will also reap many advantages from it. It would not benefit the householders if the Government dealt simply with the output and left distribution entirely to the mercy of middlemen. If the scheme is to benefit the general public there must be State or municipal control of middlemen and dealers as well as of coalowners. The distribution and sale of house coal at any rate ought to be largely, if not entirely, under the control of the local authorities.—Huddersfield Worker.

### LABOR AFTER THE WAR.

At Keighley on Sunday morning a meeting held under the auspices of the National Union of General Workers was addressed by Mr. Will Thorne, M.P. (general secretary), and Mr. Walter Wood (district secretary). Mr. W. Bland, prospective Labor candidate for Holmfirth Division, presided.

The Chairman, looking forward to the depression in trade that he foresaw would follow the end of the war said that this would give the employed his opportunity, and even now the employers were consolidating their position.

Mr. Walter Wood thought the war was likely to result in the salvation of the workers, who would claim, on account of the great sacrifices they were making, to have a greater right to say what their life should be.

Mr. Will Thorne, M.P., said that if, after the war, the Government attempted to keep the workers hemmed in and restricted on the lines which had been agreed to voluntarily, and were not prepared to let them get back to economic freedom, there would be ways and means at the disposal of the workers that would break the back of any Government. He claimed that the wage-earners had been more patriotic than many of the employers.—The Worker.

### FRENCH SOCIALISTS.

#### Significant Vote on Relations With German Socialists.

The French Socialist National Congress last Thursday discussed the general policy of the party. M. Jules Guesde, in opposing the resumption at present of international relations, said

that the Internationale had not been capable before the war of maintaining peace, and to-day a reunion would mean only division. The struggle introduced between the various fractions would set the proletariats one against the other.

By 1,537 votes to 1,407, Congress adopted a motion declaring that it would consider the question of a general reunion of the Internationale only when the German Socialist party had transmitted to the International Socialist Bureau precise resolutions defining the attitude which it intended to take in view of the refusal of the Central Empires to define clearly the character of their offers of negotiations for peace.

At the close of the sitting the Congress voted a resolution in favor of the party being represented in the Cabinet, and authorizing the presence of M. Thomas in the Government of National Defence as Minister of Munitions.

### INVESTIGATE THE CHARGES.

A. A. Heaps, the Social-Democratic candidate for alderman in Ward 5, has formulated some very definite charges of wrongdoing in connection with the election in Ward Five. These have been made public and a copy has been sent to the City Council.

It is unreasonable to expect that a candidate for civic office who becomes aware that unlawful practices have been resorted to should himself undertake the task and expense of an investigation. In this instance it is, doubtless, quite impossible to do anything of the kind. But they should nevertheless be investigated. It becomes the duty of the City Council to see that an investigation be held.

It is held by some that the whole of the evidence will be brought to light in the trial of the protest which has been lodged by Mayoralty Candidate Dyson. It is by no means assured that the evidence will be delved into if it should be found that it relates only to the aldermanic contest and not to the mayoralty. On the other hand, the protest might not be pushed through to a conclusion, at least the option of seeing that it does not belong to the city.—Winnipeg Voice.

### MELTING POT.

"Germany wants peace," the newspaper headlines declare. It is about the only thing left in Europe worth having.

"Germany is beaten"—of course, but it reminds us of the beating that Pat Malone got. Paddy came home to his wife one night in an awful state, minus a nose and an ear, with his arm in a sling and his eyebrow chewed. "Fighting ye ar-r-e again," says Biddy, "and did ye let that dur-r-t-y little spalpeen, Mike McGinty, beat ye again?" "Whist! Whist!" says Pat, "don't spake disrespectful of the dead!"

Never before in the history of class rule has the hypocrisy of the exploiters of humanity and their hangers-on been so brazenly and impudently exposed as at the present moment.

It is rotten! At a time when speculators and exporters of foodstuffs are feeding the war demons of Europe and starving the workers of America, when murder machine makers are using such vast quantities of point paper material in their accursed explosives that the price of paper is forcing publications to the wall—at a time when the high cost of living, caused by allowing this gang of parasites to pursue their criminal traffic of cornering and shipping abroad for profit the necessities of life, has brought forth the grim spectre of hun-

ger in our land, come forth the shameless panders of plutocracy, with all the effrontery of a King Louis of France, telling the poor to eat grass!

And with them, like the priests were with King Louis, are the soul-savers, calling on the hungry to come to Jesus.

Demonstrations are being held in the cities, to show how a poor person can live on a cent a meal or less. And the reverend doctors of delusion are holding prayer-meetings in the workshops and factories to hypnotize the poor into worrying about their "lost" souls instead of their starved stomachs.

The whole thing is raw enough to start a red revolution.

## THE FUTURE OF WAR AND PEACE

### II.—General Causes of the War.

(By Mervyn Smith.)

For purposes of home consumption many of the reasons given as causes of the war are encouraged and permitted wide circulation. However, the shooting incident at Serajevo or the violation of Belgian neutrality are excuses and not causes. The idea that the German Kaiser precipitated the conflict out of pure wantonness must appear absurd on a moment's reflection. Wars are not planned and paid for by a few individuals. A crowned ruler is nowadays a survival with only nominal powers, or a noisy exponent of prevailing imperialism, and at most a partner with financial and industrial oligarchs. Not even a military party is all-powerful unless it receives the support of other elements of the upper classes. Nor do many of the commonly advanced "explanations" really explain the situation. Conditions of race, religion, government, social habits and character, are so varied amongst even allied nations on both sides, that they furnish no common and adequate motive for the general participation. Only the economic situation does this.

It seems strange that two countries recently considered as opposites in important respects should to-day be found as allies. On the surface Germany and Russia appear more possible allies than do England and Russia. That it is not so indicates that in alliances social freedom in the contracting nations is not considered. Alliances are made for the purpose of protecting interests—and those of the most "material" kind. Throughout a large part of the last century British and Russian aspirations conflicted in the Near East. But when German influence began to make itself felt in Turkey, when concessions were received and the Bagdad Railway begun, when, in short, German aggressiveness threatened to leave both Britain and Russia without a problem to dispute, then these two covert enemies came to an understanding and united against the newcomer. The British, who so long helped to keep the Russians from Constantinople, now seem prepared to allow them this city "as a reward for their efforts in the war." It is obvious that in the future, for some time at least, Russian occupation would menace British interests less than German occupation.

The incorporation of Constantinople and parts of Turkey with the Russian Empire would aid the development of Russia to full capitalist robustness and give her control of the outlet to the Mediterranean. But it was just in the direction of the Balkans, Turkey and Persia that Germany was turning her eyes. These countries, with Austria, linked together by the Bagdad and other lines, would form an economic union of vast strength. It would stifle Russian ambitions, threaten England's commercial supremacy and furnish German capital abundant opportunity to realize its imperialist dreams. The Triple Entente was formed to prevent the success of German aspirations. The

annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1908 was a German and Austrian victory. But Germany suffered through the Agadix incident, and again after the Balkan Wars, when the Serbian successes kindled bright hopes for a greater Serbia. Such a Slav scheme if successful would have destroyed the continuity of the projected world empire and prevented German gains from the exploitation of the backward nation. The Serajevo shooting furnished the Central Empires the excuse to strike with force of arms. True to their economic interests England, Russia and France were forced into the struggle. And beneath the fine phrases of the belligerents is heard the hard metallic language of steel and gold.

(To be continued.)

### A SLEEPY CHURCH AWAKENING.

The report of the Rev. J. T. Ferguson, representing the Synod Presbyteries of High River, Macleod, and Kootenay, to the 1914 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, as reported on page 44 of the acts and proceedings of the assembly, under the caption of "Social Unrest," will be of general interest to our readers. The report is as follows:—

"The attitude of a large number of wage-earners and members of labor unions towards the Church has not become more friendly. The influence spreading eastward and inward from the deplorable events of the prolonged labor disturbances on Vancouver Island, which brought representatives of labor into sharp conflict with government, has proved embittering and mischievous. The utterance of preachers and the deliverances of Church courts, given forth with laudable intention of helping to heal between the class interests involved, were belated and sprang from imperfect knowledge of certain phases of the dispute. There was, however, a prevailing impression that the supineness of the Church in the face of an approach to anarchy was not creditable to our sense of social justice. Many people have been reading Winston Churchill's 'Inside the Cup.' I have been asked everywhere what I thought of it. Its challenge to the Church will be more loudly heard as time goes on. The vehemence and perseverance of the Socialistic attack upon the Church cannot be overlooked. It has to be studied and explained. It is closely related to the attitude of large sections of people towards the Church as an institution, and it affects any effort which the Church may make in the direction of reaching numbers of people who are at present alienated from her. Our young missionaries are often much perplexed in endeavoring to meet the hostile criticisms with which they are confronted; and even the most experienced men find it difficult to lead those who are subject to Socialistic influences into hearty alliance with the Church. The feeling of many men is expressed in the action of certain Scotch miners who, when a subscription sheet on which contributions were solicited for missions was presented to them, wrote upon it the single emphatic word, 'Never!'"

One of the arguments against woman's suffrage is that woman's place is in the home. What irony! Seventy-five per cent. of the women have no homes. A rented house is not a home, it is just a place to stay. A mortgaged house is not a home, it's hell. If woman's place is in the home let society see that she has a home worthy of the name.

Now that the capitalists have got a strangle hold on all governments and enough people have been killed to satisfy the Malthusian theory, we ought to have peace.

The things that people reject as foolish their children accept as wisdom



# PLATFORM

## Social-Democratic Party of Canada

We, the Social-Democratic Party of Canada in convention assembled, affirm our allegiance to and support of, the International Socialist Movement.

By virtue of the ownership of the means of production and distribution (natural resources, factories, mills, railroads, etc.) all wealth the workers produce, accrues into the hands of the capitalist class. This property the capitalist defends by means of the state (the army, the navy, the judiciary.)

The object of the Social-Democratic Party is to educate the workers of Canada to a consciousness of their class position in society, their economic servitude to the owners of capital, and to organize them into a political party to seize the reins of government and transform all capitalist property into the collective property of the working class. This social transformation means the liberation not only of the proletariat, but of the whole human race. Only the working class, however, can bring it about. All other classes maintain their existence by supporting the present social order.

The struggle of the working class against Capitalist exploitation produces a constant state of warfare between these two forces for the control of political and economic power.

As a means of preparing the minds of the working class for the inauguration of the Co-operative Commonwealth, the Social-Democratic Party of Canada will support any measure that will tend to better conditions under capitalism, such as:

- (1) Reduction of hours of labor.
- (2) The elimination of child labor.
- (3) Universal adult suffrage without distinction of sex or regard to property qualifications; and
- (4) The Initiative, Referendum, and right of Recall.

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# THE CANADIAN FORWARD

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### SECRETARIAL NOTES

Your Dominion Executive Committee for 1916 is now defunct, and I patiently await the incoming executive board, as it is not good for democracy that government and administrative power be vested in one person no matter how capable, even for so short a time.

The Ontario report is in, and while not being extremely encouraging, it gives no occasion for pessimism. We are just about holding our own. The membership shows a slight increase, and one new local has been added to the glorious numeral of sixteen (16) since my last report.

We have reason to complain at the limited support we are receiving for the Forward--both financially and by way of supplying copy for the same. I anticipated that we should have so much correspondence that we should have to lay some of it over for lack of space, especially with the burning questions that are agitating the public mind at the present time.

The red-week plans are not yet fully matured, and I will report further upon this matter in the next issue.

Some well-informed people are betting large odds that the war will be over on the 29th of February, that will be the time for you to get busy; let the sail trimming take place at once and steer for Socialism--not the United States.

Secretaries and members please note, we desire your contributions and cordially co-operation to make this paper fit the bill.

Subscriptions coming in are by no means sufficient to cover the cost of production. It costs approximately \$75.00 per issue. The amount received since last issue on subscriptions is \$25.00. This should be an invitation to all and sundry to get busy with the mental defectives who are suffering from the financial prosperity we read so much about.

Take it into the home of your friends, hand it around to your workmates; ay, make it a text-book for your Sunday school lesson--it is necessary wherever two or three Dubbs are gathered together in order to discuss current events. "Do not let the slogan be--Everybody's doing nothing except each other."  
J. BAINBRIDGE, Secretary.

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### NEW POEM OF BURNS.

Shows Plainly the Independent Signet of the Bard.

January 25th was the anniversary of the Scottish national bard, who in truth it can be said that he was truly the poet of democracy. The following poem was unearthed at St. Andrew's, Scotland. Its authenticity is undisputed. In fact, the poem is "Burnsian" from the first word to the last. It would pass for a volume of Burns, condensed into one stanza. For the latest discovery fairly reeks with the independence which characterizes the entire works of Scotland's world-honored bard.

These verses were composed by Burns and presented to the nobleman addressed, upon being called up from the servants' hall (where he had been sent to dine along with them) to add to the entertainment of the company, along with which company he had been asked to go on an excursion to Bass Rock. On presenting the verses he put on his hat, turned on his heel and retired:

My Lord, I would not fill your chair,  
Tho' ye be proudest noble's heir.  
I came this night to join your feast  
As equal of the best, at least.  
'Tis true that cash with me is scant  
And titles trifles that I want.  
The King has never made me kneel  
To stamp my manhood with his seal.  
But what of that! The King on High  
Who took less pains with you and I,  
Has filled my bosom and my mind  
With something better in its kind  
Than your broad acres, something  
which

I cannot well translate in speech.  
But by its impulse I can know  
'Tis deeds, not birth, that makes men  
low.

Your rank, my lord, is but a loan,  
But mine, thank Heaven, is all my own.  
A peasant tis' my pride to be;  
Look 'round and 'round your hall and  
see

Who boasts a higher pedigree?  
I was not fit, it seems, to dine  
With these fox-hunting heroes fine,  
But only came to bandy jests  
Among your lordship's hopeful guests.  
There must be here some sad mistake;  
I would not play for such a stake,  
Be a buffoon for drink and meat  
And a poor earl's tax-paid seat.  
No, die my heart, e'er such a shame  
Descends on Robert Burns' name.

### WHEN THE BASE IS ROTTEN.

You cannot have a great nation when the base is rotten. You cannot build a great nation when twelve millions of people are on the verge of starvation. It is socially impossible. Mr. Hughes, Prime Minister of Australia, at Cardiff, March 24th.

Speaking at Cardiff last week Lord Rhondda said no one ought to be allowed to make profit out of the war. The Government should have taken all extra profits of shipowners and coal owners. He had suggested that the Government should take over the Admiralty collieries and make what profit they liked if they guaranteed the owners the ordinary profit, but he was told by a man who knew less of the coal trade than he (Lord Rhondda) did that it was not practicable. Trade unions, the speaker continued, should be placed in exactly the same position after the war as they were before the war. The interests of employers and workmen were identical.

A statistician comes forward with the estimate that there are at least 16,000,000 tunes in existence. That's nothing compared to the number of tunes a politician can play when he comes forward for your votes.

Woe to America the day the European war ends. On that day the panic will begin.