

The Fenelon Falls Gazette.

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FENELON FALLS, ONTARIO, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1911.

No. 45

A Merry Xmas

AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

I have just bought a large quantity of goods, from the best makers, for the Christmas trade.

Chains
Necklets
Locketts
Bracelets
Watches
Clocks

And other articles. Prices as low as can be sold for the quality.

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The Old Reliable Jewelry Store.
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Every housekeeper ought to pick from purity for this occasion—and it's here—the purity—and its cost isn't any higher than you're used to paying.

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R. M. Hamilton, Mgr. Fenelon Falls Branch

The Vagueness of Socialism.

Anti-Socialists sometimes talk a lot of guff about the vagueness of Socialism. I remember running across a representative of this class. Said he: "One thing I have against Socialism is that I can't understand it. I can't get a definition of it that will not be repudiated by the next Socialist that I come across. A member of the Social Democratic Federation gives me one definition, a Clarionette has another, and one of the Independent Labor Party wants something totally different from either. If I could get a good working definition they would all agree to, we might discuss it with some chance of getting ahead."

I asked him, first of all, what business he had attacking, or, indeed, talking about, what on his own admission he "could not understand." Then I took up his challenge for a definition. Anti-Socialists accuse us of being agnostics, atheists and free thinkers. It's a lie; but let it pass. Attacking us on this ground is arguing that Christianity is right; since, if it were not right, our being Anti-Christians would be no ground of attack at all. Rather, it would be a recommendation.

Now, suppose one of these agnostics, atheists, or free thinkers against whom you fulminate, Mr. Anti, should say: "My great objection to Christianity is that I can't understand it. A Methodist insists on one principle, a Baptist on another, a Presbyterian on a third, and an Episcopalian disagrees with them all. Yet all of them claim to be Christians. Give me a definition of Christianity that they will all agree to." What would you think of that argument, Mr. Anti-Socialist Pharisee? It's remarkably thin. Well, it is your own argument against Socialism. How would you meet the Agnostic?

You would say: "Eliminate the side issues and questions of policy and government. Find out what all the Christians are agreed on. That is fundamental Christianity." "Well," I reply, "have you not sufficient intelligence to do the same in the case of Socialism? Why should we not have sects and 'wheels within wheels,' just the same as the Church? Have you honestly tried to ascertain upon what things all Socialists are agreed; or is your failure just the result of laziness? My opinion is that 'the wish is father to the thought.' You want to find Socialists disagreed, so you follow the easy method of imagining the disagreement."

Now for the challenge. Socialism will be defined in four words. It is a definition with which every Socialist in the world will agree. Whatever the difference of the various Socialist bodies, on that one thing they are agreed. That one thing is fundamental Socialism. It is COLLECTIVE OWN-

ERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT. Now, then, Mr. Plausible. "One good turn deserves another." There are my politics in four words. Will you please put yours into fifty. You can't? Then don't you ever have the amazing effrontery to call our political platform "Vague." It is nothing but colossal impudence for these old party spoilers to talk as they do. So far from being vague in our motives, we are the only party with a definite object, which we consistently pursue. It is the Grits and Tories, with their long winded and ever changing stories, who are "vague" and who disagree amongst themselves.

The Socialist Party is the only party which is international. It has the same aim and object in every country, and pursues the same object consistently. It is the only party which has a definite end in view for which it strenuously works. It is, in short, the only party existing whose objects are not wrapped up in a mist of words, and hidden behind a lot of long winded verbosity. The less old parties say about vagueness, the better for them.—Walter F. Harris, Bergen, Sask.

Things Asked About.

Woman Suffrage.—Socialism is the only movement that is consistently for suffrage for all women, regardless of whether they have property or not; and that has declared for the "abolition of all laws that in any way discriminate against women." By ending at once the necessity for women and child labor in industries, it would do more to elevate womanhood and the home than any movement the world has ever known. Women are members of the party now, are candidates of the party everywhere, and women Socialists are almost as numerous as male Socialists.

Direct Legislation.—The Initiative is the power given the people to propose enactments through petition to the legislature. The Referendum is the submitting of laws, proposed either by them or by the legislature, for passage, the people's voice being final. The Recall is the power to "turn off" any official whom the people may think does not do their will; recall being enforced through a petition signed by a specified number of the people. These three propositions, taken together, constitute what is known as "direct legislation." Socialists have favored these measures from the first. They are cumbersome compared with democracy contemplated under the socialization of industry, but they are in the line of popular control of things, and so are means to an end. And they are being adopted very rapidly in the various countries of the world.—Cotton's Weekly.

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