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No. 10

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R. M. Hamilton, Mgr. Fenelon Falls Branch

The Issue.

Some years ago I was amused to hear a speaker at a public meeting declare that there was then only one real issue before the world, and that issue was Socialism. I repeat I was amused because I was not wise. I fancied I knew of several issues far more important than Socialism, which to me was a mere dream of a Paradise never to be. I know better now, having learned that this dream is a science dealing with an everyday question, the most vital question we working men and women have to consider. What is that? Simply how to get a living. It is not an easy question for we find it harder all the time to get even the bare necessities of life. The Canadian press announces that the Duke of Connaught has no home to come to in Ottawa; yet who of our class is sure of even a shack, let alone a decent home, to live in? Our American papers tell us that the President's wife will spend only \$1,000 a year for dress! Why, who among us has a thousand a year income to maintain his whole family?

Fellow worker, there is no more vital issue than this; it thrusts itself upon us; it obtrudes itself upon our thoughts at all times. How can we be happy, or make merry, when we don't know how soon our children will be hungry, our wives be ragged, or we men getting desperate with anxiety over their lot? To-day, thousands of men will not marry because of this dread fear. How many homes are broken up on account of it? You must answer these questions. Though it cause you pain to lose cherished ideals, yet when you learn of the mission of the Socialist army scorning boundaries, creed or color, steadily marching forward till all civilized countries are listening to the tread, the rulers with dismay and the workers with hope, you will rejoice. For it is no dream, it is a reality; and in the day of our might we will strike the chains from the industrial slaves of to-day, the pallid children and weary women who labor their miserable lives away, so that our masters may flaunt their happiness in our sight. Let it make you voice your discontent, for discontented you are. Come with us. You will be mentally free now, and you will be happier than you ever dreamed of, in being one in this army of revolt.

What does the future offer when we triumph? Life full and free; leisure to enjoy the life you were meant to live. We will work to live; not live to work, as we do to-day. I have not offered any more than a sketchy outline of what this issue is. There are many and wide gaps in this brief essay; but read, read, read. You will find, as we Socialists have done, that we build on the rock of knowledge, and the future will be ours.—Ex.

Slums in Toronto.

The struggle for existence in Toronto is becoming so acute that people who have never even seen a slum are now being forced backward into them. People are crowded into filthy houses just vacated by some unfortunates who have been moved into still worse quarters in the slums. People are sleeping in stables with their horses. Other workers are sleeping in shifts; those who work by night drop into beds as soon as the day workers leave them, and the day workers use the beds at night. The authorities are making their usual useless attempts at remedying the evil by "cleaning up," as they call it, and telling a lot of tommyrot to the reporters. What is the use of "cleaning up" a lodging house in any city? Where do they suppose the inmates will go after they have been forced out? A house that has been forced to clean up and lower its number of inmates will charge higher rates for the fewer number, and the ejected ones will seek another crowded house. Capitalists own slums and force the workers to live in them. Slums have existed for thousands of years, and will exist as long as the capitalist system is directing the affairs of the world.—Cotton's Weekly.

British War Trust.

Great Britain has a Krupp scandal, too. And the Socialists of that country are to be credited with the exposure, just as the credit for the revealing of the Krupp jingo conspiracy is due Socialists of Germany. The entire front page of the London Labor Leader (Socialist) is devoted to a sensational account showing that British cabinet ministers, members of parliament, lords, bishops and other prominent men are shareholders in the leading armament firms, commonly known as the "War Trust."

The Labor Leader prints a detailed list of the politicians and dignitaries who own and control stock in firms manufacturing cannon, rifles, warships and other implements of war. On this list are eight ministers of the crown, 47 peers of the realm, 18 members of parliament and 12 bishops and archdeacons. Five of the leading newspaper owners of London are also shareholders. Many of the above are also members of the National Service League, the Navy League and the Imperial League—the bodies mainly responsible for the British jingo agitation.—Appeal to Reason.

Mr. Workingman, why should n't your son have a college education?

The easiest thing the capitalist class has yet struck is the working class.

1836 THE BANK OF 1913 British North America

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Plan Ahead for the Children's Education

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M.W. Reive, Manager