

To give one example: the theories of organic and inorganic development known as evolutionary, are accepted by all men of science and also by most of the professors of theology. Sixty years ago, and before Darwin's "Origin of Species" and Spencer's "First Principles," Karl Marx outlined the evolutionary theory as applied to society. And in 1905 Professor Darwin stated that "applying the evolutionary method to the state, we found that the state would progress until it reached the point when it could no longer properly perform its functions; then a revolution was necessary for that progress to go on and a new state to be established." I think that one example should be enough to prove Karl Marx a genius, and as his labors have been of great benefit to the working class he is entitled to our respect. I think that Comrade Rosoman's article was sufficient proof of the robbery of the producing class.

In regard to the "Appeal," why should we not criticize? I am certain that it is not above criticism. As for its "doing things." Proof, my friend not assertion. If its mission is to educate, what has it done for Downie? As for "man being a two-fold being" and having a "spiritual part as well as a physical." What medieval rubbish for a 20th century man to talk about. Anyone with a smattering of knowledge about biology knows that the individual commences its existence when the male sperm meets the female ovum and they coalesce into a single celled individual. As there were no spirits, bottled or ethereal, in the sperm and ovum, when and how did they get into the individual? As my friend Downie, it is time he quit believing the medieval superstition of dead priests and started to know something of present day science.

As for seeing articles in the papers from the "Appeal" and none about the "Clarion" I can prove otherwise. I have seen articles from the "Clarion" in the "International Socialist Review," "The Weekly People," and the "Grain Growers' Guide." And to boot all the very articles Downie criticizes was quoted in full and an editorial article on it too in the "Weekly People" of Nov. 12th.

Yours in the scrap,

ED FULCHER

The side tracks of reform hold no lure for the poor of the slave who really understands her position in society. The man or woman who fights for the whole thing will come nearer getting it than those who foot-away time advocating municipal dog tax.

#### ALBERTA'S GREATEST DISASTER

On Saturday morning a report reached town of another of those frightful colliery disasters seemingly indistinguishably associated with the coal mining industry. We use the word "seemingly" because, although realizing that to eliminate all accidents is not possible, we do know that it is undeniably within human scope to decrease very sensibly the fearful toll of blood and limb that is exacted in the production of fuel on this continent. The boast of newspaperdom, echoing the reactionary and grossly materialistic thoughts of the dominant class of the present day society, screechingly interprets "Prosperity and Progress," in a narrow and sordid, and limited to a very small percentage of the community in whom egoism has reached superlativeness.

The vast difference between the mortality of the toilers under the earth, on the European and on the American continent, has called forth comments from writers, but despite their iterated and reiterated statements regarding the subject, there is no appreciable change effected. To accomplish the object desired will necessitate not only the stirring into action of public opinion, enlightened through the medium of the labor press, but a strenuous determination on the part of those immediately involved to refuse absolutely to enter these death traps and incur the risk of immolation of themselves and the consequent misery to those dependent upon them for support.

Let us cease from generalization, and deal exclusively with the Bellevue catastrophe, the worst up to date in the annals of Alberta.

The following is an extract from the report that appeared in our issue of November 5th, under the caption of "Fortunste Explosion—Nobody Hurt—Material Damago Only."

"On Thanksgiving Day an explosion occurred in No. 1 Mine. . . . The cause of the explosion has not yet been ascertained, but it is very significant that the fan stopped over Sandsy, which would no doubt contribute to the mischief. It has of late become quite a practice to allow the fan to remain idle over Sunday, and as there is only one fan for No.1, the mine must of necessity fill up with gas."

"It is interesting to note that there are only two outlets to this mine, Nos. 45 and 81 chutes respectively. . . . The distance from No. 1 to the face of the entry is approximately 2,450 feet. The fan, which is of the 'Pushor' type, is located some few hundred feet from

the mouth of the mine, and is approximately two and one-half miles from the face of the entry."

We would call the attention of our readers generally, and those versatile pen artists of the press who feel it incumbent upon them, regardless of their ignorance of mining engineering, to attribute the blame to the carelessness of the miner, as they pass judgment of an unthinking mind, that in the explosion above referred to there was nobody inside the mine at the time, hence it could not have been "the recklessness of some foreigner striking a match to light his cigarette or pipe." These corporation-hypnotized sycophants, if not utterly devoid of a scintilla of analytical acumen, are urged to examine the following FACTS, which are a matter of record and not surmise.

An explosion took place on Thanksgiving Day, when there was not a single human being within the mine.

Now read copies of the communications which passed between Bellevue and Edmonton, and you will see that

Bellevue, Dec. 3, 1910. J. F. Stirling, Provincial Inspector of Mines, Edmonton, Alta.

Bellevue Miners' Union desires the presence of the Inspector immediately. (Signed) JAMES BURKE. Edmonton, Dec. 3, 1910. James Burke, Bellevue, Alta.

For what reason is Inspector required at Bellevue? Wire immediately. (Signed) JOHN STIRLING, Provincial Inspector of Mines, Bellevue, Dec. 3, 1910. J. F. Stirling, Provincial Inspector of Mines, Edmonton, Alta.

There is gas in considerable quantities in the mine since explosion. (Signed) JAMES BURKE. Edmonton, Dec. 4, 1910. James Burke, Bellevue.

Your wire received. Have instructed Inspector Heathcote to make investigation at Bellevue immediately. (Signed) JOHN STIRLING, Provincial Inspector of Mines, Edmonton, Alta.

The outcome of these telegrams was a visit on December 7th, and concrete evidence of this is posted at the mouth of the mine on a notice which reads:

This is to certify that I, Elijah Heathcote have examined No. 1 seam and found the timbering, ventilation and general condition to be good, and did not find any gas present."

(Signed) ELIJAH HEATHCOTE, District Inspector. Dec. 7th, 1910.

The above, given by a government official who is supposed to be duly qualified, in plain language, and intelligible to both miners and officials of the company, that the mine is safe, yet, within 48 hours an explosion occurs and 31 men are hurled into eternity! The layman must be forced to the conviction that gas does not recur spasmodically at such short intervals as above quoted, viz., Dec. 3, gas; Dec. 7th, no gas; Dec. 9th, EXPLOSION!—District Ledger.

Our morals are determined by our environment." When the contributors persist in sending in semi-legible pencilled copy, written on both sides of torn, near-white paper, is it any wonder that the morals of the editorial staff go on the hog?

#### REPLY TO "IT'S UP TO PERCY."

I did not get the Clarion for several days after it came owing to short days and much work, but when I did get it and saw the above heading I said to myself: Aha! What's this? A bone to pick with a parson, I suppose, and read it anxiously through but happily it did not appear to be from a parson. Before I answer it I might say that if any parsons or priests don't like what Socialists say they should study books on evolution and science and Socialist standard works; as their supposed arguments are no arguments at all to a Socialist. When a parson declares that he preaches nothing but the truth, his is an idea of his own that he calls the truth or something he has read from some book or the Bible. Socialists want proof, not mere statements without proof. So I refuse to occupy space by answering any of the usual kind of parson-kicks.

Now, with regard to Mr. Downie's letter, I am glad he has written it as it is a sign that he is seeking knowledge on the subject (or he would not own that he reads the Clarion and Appeal to Reason). I might say that each clause of his letter would make a good subject to write upon; but as I have a wage-slave with me and 3 or 4 more coming along they will be disturbing my thoughts so I will confine my answer to the two items charged up against me by our correspondent, hoping that other comrades will take up the other clauses and deal with them (page 3, No. 608.)

With most readers of the Western Clarion the subjects of production of commodities and the selling cost are so familiar that it seems like "vain repetition" to us. But let me give the advice that has been my experience, as I used to think similar thoughts to our correspondent's at one time. My advice is, get all the books you can on Socialism (scientific) and study them. There are some good little books that the editor of Western Clarion can send you a selection of