

THE COMING ELECTION.

A large number of workmen throughout the land have entirely lost faith in the ability of the various political parties of Capitalism to do anything to relieve the economic pressure brought to bear upon the working class under the present system, even were they actuated by a desire to do so. These workers are looking for relief to come by way of some political movement that springs into being as an expression of the interests of the working class itself. They are rapidly awakening to the fact that the Socialist movement of the world expresses the hopes and aspirations of enslaved labor to break the bonds whereby it is now chained to the chariot wheels of capitalist exploitation and outrage. The workers of every country on earth are looking forward to the crystallization of these hopes and aspirations into concrete and effective action along the lines of conquering the public powers on behalf of the working class and the use of those powers for the deliverance of Labor from the thralldom of wage slavery. That they are not to be disappointed is evidenced by the tireless and unvanquishable persistence with which the Socialists push forward their assault upon the entrenchments (the State) by means of which Capital enforces its brutal regime of robbery, rapine and slaughter against the working class.

In the heat of a political campaign the time is propitious in which to precipitate Socialist sentiment into concrete action. Then is the opportune time to fan the flickering spark upon "liberty's altar" into a consuming and irresistible flame that will spread consternation in the ranks of the industrial bandits and commercial pirates, who, vampire-like, suck their substance and power from the quivering flesh of their economic slaves.

Fortunately for the workmen of B. C., the exigencies of capitalist political chicanery have necessitated another election of members of the Provincial parliament at an early date. It is expected that official announcement of the fact will be made within the next few days. Although the time will undoubtedly be short between the announcement of the date of the elections and the day of polling, the heart of every busy Socialist will leap with joy at the prospect of the conflict. During these campaign times, while political discussion is rife, the workman is particularly receptive to reason, and the task of converting him into a staunch defender of the interests of his economic class in human society is rendered easy.

However much the political expression of Capital is split into contending factions during the coming campaign, the fact will still remain that but two political movements will be in the field. The one, though perchance split into several noisy factions, will stand for the present system of property, based upon wage-slavery and production for profit. The other, the Socialist Party, will stand for the freedom of Labor and production for use. Either position is irreconcilable with the other. Between the advocates of each there is an irrepressible conflict of interest that will not down. It is war to the knife and the knife to the hilt between them, and this must continue until wage-slavery is abolished and production for profit has become a matter of past history.

Every sign upon the horizon is portentous of the Social Revolution that shall sweep Capital from its throne and usher in the day of Industrial Freedom and Peace. The Class Struggle waxes fiercer, the enthusiasm for Liberty grows stronger. The "social atmosphere is surcharged with the electricity of the coming storm." Every Socialist candidate elected is a lightning flash presaging its rapid approach. Let the workers see that these flashes follow in such rapid succession that capitalist tyranny will be speedily swept into oblivion by the retributive wrath of a working class that has been outraged and enslaved all down the centuries of civilization.

VANCOUVER CONVENTION.

Nomination convention will be held in the headquarters of Local No. 1, at 212 Hastings Street East, Wednesday, March 6th, at 8 p. m.

W. A. PRITCHARD,
Secretary pro tem.

As there are four Locals in Vancouver Riding, viz., Lettish, Finnish, Local Vancouver No. 1, and Local Vancouver No. 69, the above call for a convention cannot be considered as the proper method to pursue. Steps should have been first taken to create a committee as provided in Sec. 3, Art. 11, of the Constitution, such committee to have arranged for a convention and the carrying out of all work incidental to the campaign in case a ticket was placed in the field. As the date of official nomination of candidates has been fixed on March 12th, the time is too short to allow of the strictly regular course of procedure. Therefore, on behalf of the Provincial Executive Committee, the secretaries of the various Locals are requested to take immediate steps to notify their

membership of the convention to be held as per above notice. Only members in good standing will be eligible to participate in the proceedings.

E. T. KINGSLEY,
Secy. Prov. Ex. Com., S. P. of C.

Local Vancouver 69 meets in Labor Temple basement, Sunday, March 3, at 3 P. M.

THE SOCIAL REVOLUTION.

By Josephine Conger-Kaneko.

In these days of rapid reforms, "insurgents" and "progressive" politicians, it is sometimes perplexing to the person who has the interest of society at heart to know just "where he is at." In other words, he can't tell the difference between the things the Socialist means to do for society and those the other parties or reformers promise to do, and are doing. When Socialists get some power, as they have done in certain localities, they at once busy themselves with such measures as cleaning the streets, looking to tenement laws with a view of bettering housing conditions, taking steps toward shortening hours of work, enforcing factory inspection, prohibiting child labor, demanding payment of taxes by the rich, and so on, and so on. To all of which the social reformer heartily agrees. Even club women will agree with every measure ever introduced by Socialists in any locality in the United States.

Where, then, is the difference, asks the well-meaning reformer, between the work of the Socialists, and that of other individuals and parties who also work for shorter hours for labor, for sanitary homes, and better civic conditions? And he has a right to his question. Also, his question should be answered ever so often, that he may not forget the answer, and may finally come to understand its meaning.

The reformer, through a spirit of altruism, and a hazy understanding that it would be better for society as a whole, would make conditions better for the "oppressed classes." The Socialist would have the "oppressed classes," which is the working class, as a whole, make conditions better for itself, to the end that it might finally come into control of the laws which regulate the conditions under which it lives.

In this Social Revolution Kautsky says, "It is not the striving after social reforms but the explicit confining of one's self to them which distinguishes the social reformer from the social revolutionist—a political revolution can only become a social revolution when it proceeds from an hitherto oppressed class."

The freeing of the negro slave by the Northern Yankee was a vastly different thing—to the negro and to society—than if he had freed himself. The latter would have implied an intelligent capacity to use his freedom after he got it. It would also have meant that he INTENDED to use it after he got it. When the little coterie of American traders precipitated the American Revolution they were perfectly aware of their reason for doing it, and they quickly followed up the advantages gained by their act.

So the Socialist works constantly to this end: That the working class may better its condition, gradually, or otherwise, as the case may be, consciously and always INTELLIGENTLY, to the end that one day it may wake up and find itself master of the situation, and general boss of the works.

Naturally the immediate demands of the Socialist appeal so strongly to the reformer, and to the average person who is chafing under the heavy harness of the capitalist system, that political parties are constantly pushed to the extremity of granting, or apparently granting, certain reforms that "look just like Socialism." But they are not Socialism, from the fact of the difference in their intent and purpose. They are only palliatives, or "quieting powders."

Don't let the working class man and woman mislead themselves on this point to the end that they will sit down and let the capitalists and reformers do it for them. That is just what our enemies most desire.

An oppressed class cannot be free until it frees itself! This is the revolution the Socialists are working for.

In the presence of Death how beliefs and dogmas wither and decay! How loving words and deeds burst into blossom! Pluck from the tree of any life these flowers, and there remain but the barren thorns of bigotry and creed.

We live on a grain of sand and tears we call the Earth, and what we know of the Infinite is infinitely limited, but little as we know all have a right to give their honest thoughts.

PRICE LIST OF SUPPLIES.

(To Locals.)

Charter (with necessary supplies to start Local).....	\$5.00
Membership Cards, each.....	.01
Dues Stamps, each.....	.10
Platform and application blank per 10025
Ditto in Finnish, per 100.....	.50
Ditto in Ukrainian, per 100.....	.50
Constitutions, each20
Ditto, Finnish, per dozen.....	.50

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