

Socialist and

In Co-operation with The



Comment Review

Socialist Party of New Zealand.

OBJECT.—The establishment of a system of society based upon the common ownership and democratic control of the means and instruments for producing and distributing wealth by and in the interest of the whole community.

The Socialist Parties of Australia and New Zealand hold:

1. That society as at present constituted is based upon the ownership of the means of living (i.e., land, factories, railways, etc.) by the capitalist or master class, and the consequent enslavement of the working class, by whose labour alone wealth is produced.

2. That in society, therefore, there is an antagonism of interests, manifesting itself as a class struggle, between those who possess but do not produce, and those who produce but do not possess.

3. That this antagonism can be abolished only by the emancipation of the working class from the domination of the master class, by the conversion into the common property of society of the means of production and distribution, and their democratic control by the whole people.

4. That as in the order of social evolution the working class is the last class to achieve its freedom, the emancipation of the working class will involve the emancipation of all mankind without distinction of race or sex.

5. That this emancipation must be the work of the working class itself.

6. That as the machinery of government, including the armed

forces of the nation, exists only to conserve the monopoly by the capitalist class of the wealth taken from the workers, the working class must organise consciously and politically for the conquest of the powers of government, national and local, in order that this machinery, including these forces, may be converted from an instrument of oppression into the agent of emancipation and the overthrow of privilege, aristocratic and plutocratic.

7. That as all political parties are but the expression of class interests, and as the interest of the working class is diametrically opposed to the interests of all sections of the master class, the party seeking working class emancipation must be hostile to every other party.

8. THE SOCIALIST PARTIES OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND therefore enter the field of political action determined to wage war against all other political parties, whether alleged labour or avowedly capitalist, and call upon the members of the working class of this country to muster under their banner to the end that a speedy termination may be wrought to the system which may give place to comfort, privilege to equality, and slavery to freedom.

Those agreeing with the above principles and desiring enrolment, apply to nearest address. (See back page.)

NATIONALISATION IS NOT SOCIALISM

"Nationalisation," which politically ignorant people mistake for Socialism, and which political tricksters interested in deluding the working class, deliberately mis-call "Socialism" is the same system of robbery which has been practised since the beginning of time.

The enormous wealth which the workers produce over and above that which they are permitted to consume in the form of wages, is known in Marxian Economics as Surplus Value.

The extraction of this Surplus Value from the labor of the workers is the principal object of the economic and political activity of the ruling or privileged class in every country, whether as private owners of instruments of production or holders of bonded securities in the form of State bonds. The form in which surplus value accumulates in the factories is not suitable for our masters' purposes; a market has to be found for it. As "backward" countries, assisted by capitalist investors, enter the realm of commodity production their territory either ceases to be a market, or becomes a less favorable market for foreign wages, and the struggle between capitalist to convert commodities into money increases in intensity. In this struggle opposing groups are continually on the lookout for advantages whereby they may beat their rivals, and they seek government assistance in that struggle.

If the sordid material objects of war were plainly stated, it would be more difficult to obtain working class support for the mass murder which modern war entails, and so the war propagandists by their lies, distortions and half-truths seek to arouse and exploit for base purposes, those noble emotions, sentiments and sympathies which are

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OURSELVES ALONE

Do you remember? You have won great victories for your masters. What are you going to win a victory for yourselves? During the war, you were advised by your leaders not to embarrass your national rulers but to make whatever sacrifices were considered necessary in the interest of "national unity" and so present a united front against the enemy, your masters' enemy.

So you abandoned the struggle (such as it was) for improved conditions and tried to compensate yourselves by working overtime. In that policy you were encouraged by your leaders, the "militants," many of whom had become pro-war only because they were, and still are, pro-Stalin before everything else. Now the fighting is over (at least we hope so) and the representatives of the master class of the victorious nations have met in conference. The same leaders have told you that these conferences are of great importance to you, the working men and women of the world. Always, in peace or in war, there are those who would try to impress you with a sense of your inferiority, that you cannot do anything for yourselves, but that things must be done for you by superior people in whom you should put your trust. You trusted the same kind of people before and after 1918. Have you been so impressed by their wisdom that you are prepared to trust them again?

Don't you think it's time you did some thinking for yourselves? Does it not occur to you that the choice before humanity may be between obliteration by atomic power, or a glorious future

under Socialism?

Do you think that the representatives of the victorious nations in the several conferences, even when such representatives call themselves "Labor" and "Communist," are seriously concerned about your welfare? They are only concerned about robbing you, yes, robbing you. The whole conception of "world security" is based upon the robbery of the working class; how to rob the working class without that class recognising it as robbery, and how the robbers may share amongst themselves the spoils without coming to blows over it.

The befuddled humanitarians and "leftist" imbecilic artists, together with the political clowns who claim to be "leaders of the masses," who try to persuade you to put your trust in Atlantic Charters and master-class conferences at Yalta, Teheran, Dumbarton Oaks, and San Francisco, are guilty of asking the victims of robbers to put their trust in a league of thieves.

To obtain what our present masters, and our would-be masters (the aspiring bureaucrats of a "Communist" State) called "world security," "economic reconstruction" and international "trade," it is necessary to continue the robbery of the working class. As long as the natural resources and the means and instruments for producing and distributing wealth are not commonly owned and democratically controlled in the interest of the whole community they will be used by their owners, privately or through the State, for the enslavement of the actual wealth producers.

Youths Awakening

The propaganda machines of our masters are continually churning out matter designed to stupefy the minds of the proletariat and make the workers believe that "the enemy" are so much worse than ourselves. How well we remember hearing the cries against indiscriminate bombing by Goering's Luftwaffe when the British and Allied capitalist classes were on their knees. However, now that the boot is on the other foot, the machine in Germany is again churning out the use of atomic bombs is justified by the "freedom-loving nations of the world."

This is but one example of the rotten hypocrisy of the capitalist class, but thinking workers everywhere realize that charges hurled at "the enemy" apply equally well to both sides—witness the state of affairs in Australian detention camps, men forced to march round and round in eight hours with packs, hands smashed with rifle butts, beatings, and so on.

Examples are many, and much has been done by the press of the Socialist International in unmasking them. The following reveals that Hitler is not the only one who interferes with the plastic minds of his youth, with a foul end in view.

Children in Australia start school at the age of four to six years. There everything is taught with a bias and many minds are pumped full of patriotism and religious mumbo-jumbo. For religious instruction is compulsory in state schools (a slick move by the owning class).

This goes on year after year, subtle biased teaching which has as its end produced a super-patriot.

However, it is not till the boy is the age of 14 years that he is big enough to carry a rifle. In Australia there is a system of military training of young high school students. Most high schools have a cadet detachment organized on the same lines as, and considered part of the regular armed forces. These cadet detachments are officered by members of the teaching staff with military experience and exist in peace as well as wartime.

Such is the base of thought of the young students that they are particularly liable to join these organisations, and many did so particularly during the war. Membership is not a state high school, but compulsory in some Great Public Schools. I have firsthand knowledge of these Hitler Youth-like organisations, for a time I was a member of what was reputed to be one of the most efficient cadet corps in Sydney.

HUMAN PLASTICS

I joined at the age of 14, a raw recruit, and went straight into camp for a sinister intent of intensive training. In between these camps, which were held periodically, we were trained one afternoon each week after school.

It wasn't long before I began to master the rifle and the elementary drill

which I was given. My zeal for work earned me selection for special training with a view to becoming a corporal. Weekend schools and high pressure instruction from warrant officers of the Australian Instructional Corps equipped me with the necessary knowledge to enable me to pass examination and I was promoted to the rank of corporal. I now had charge of eight cadets, and it was my job to pass on to them what I had learnt.

Zealously I worked on and next was selected for school for another charge of high-pressure instruction. If I passed the tests there I would be promoted to the rank of sergeant, and would be in command of thirty cadets. Along with 200 other N.C.O.'s from other schools I went into camp on the South Coast, near Port Kembla. There all our previous work was revised as well as the introduction of new work, dealing with small arms and mapping. I passed the exam and became a sergeant. Here my cadet career ended. My next step in promotion would have been to Cadet Lieutenant.

I entered that cadet corps in "rookie" I came out an elementary trained infantryman. I knew how to handle a .303 rifle and had practised on a range with that weapon. I could strip a Bren gun, assemble it and use it. I knew the Owen and Steen sub-machine guns, also, but with less precision, the Vickers and machine guns of German and Italian manufacture.

I knew how to direct the fire of a unit in a target, the application of camouflage, how to advance, dig in, retreat, what to do in the case of air attack, how to deal with tanks with improvised weapons, e.g. Molotov cocktail, and how to lead reconnaissance and fighting patrols.

We practised manoeuvres in day and night, were instructed in mapping, range finding and certain platoons were instructed in signals and communications work. These were some of the salient features of the training cadets received. There were many others, formed no part of our training. We were shown on the screen battle manoeuvres, methods of unarmed combat, and theoretical drill with machine guns, etc.

Then there were these films designed to play on our sentiments with lies and racial hatred, turning us into super-killers such as Hitler might well be proud of. Of this type these films of the "Why We Fight" series were typical.

SEEING THE LIGHT

I happened to see this film after I had come in contact with the Socialist Movement and was no longer a super-patriot. The rest of the films were cadets. They greeted the film with unrestrained enthusiasm, unaware of the sinister intent. Patriotism was played upon to breaking point, and the doctrines of race hatred instilled into their eager minds.

The film showed the fascists training their youth and were held up to be

vicious felons for doing so, yet this very audience was being trained in the same way.

So we may now ask: "Who is it that trains youth to be killers of the first order?" The answer is: "Not the Japanese, Australians, Germans or British, but the capitalist class." This class, whether on one portion of the earth's crust or another, perverts the minds of young members of the working class in order to safeguard their own class supremacy in contemporary society.

What is the solution of the problem of dealing with the manufacture of young murderers? Socialist education, and this alone will wipe out racism and racial hatred as it did with me.

Comrades! We awakening youth of proletariat look to you for guidance and assistance in providing this solution. With your help the time will be not far distant when the workers of the world, both young and old, will swell the ranks of the marching army of the proletarian revolution and your shackles will be smashed and we may live free men and women in a free world!

K.J.

Ourselves Alone

(Continued from page 1.)

common to all humanity. The intensive propaganda through radio, press, and pulpit to win the support of working people for war, even though the fact that it is becoming ever more obvious that working class approval for such an international outrage.

Ruling classes don't pour out wealth to protect us from outrage or to shield us from fascism, or to defend democracy, but only to protect their own material interests.

War is for the purpose of eliminating rivals, and thereby ensuring a greater share of plunder for the robbers who are still left in the international gang.

When the workers of the world stop the robbery of their class they will stop all robbery, and they are the only people who can stop it. It is because we are content to be robbed that a master class exists, and our masters have something to make war about.

"Put not your trust in princes," as one old prophet is alleged to have said, but study Socialism for yourselves—not "Nationalisation," but a Social System in which all who are able will voluntarily co-operate in associated labor for the production of all that society needs, and in which goods and services will be free to all men, women and children "without money and without price."

Have faith in yourselves, your class, the working class. No matter what "deficits," one-time "militants," and other humbug may say to the contrary. "The emancipation of the working class must be the work of the working men themselves."

The job cannot be done for you by globe-trotting gazillion champions and international booze artists.

"Ourselves alone" will be quite a good motto when we become a self-reliant working class and when we know

C.W.C.

Happy Days Are Here Again

Officially we are informed that the war is over. Having recovered from their two days of delicious joy, workers seek, with apprehension, the answer to the ever-present question: "What of Tomorrow?"

Before we forget it, let us review the events of the last five years. Such a review must necessarily be one-sided, the unpleasant and the more or less pleasant. On the one side there was all the ghastly blood-pilling, mass murdering, and suffering inflicted on human—working men and women being the chief victims. Unspeakable torture, sadistic cruelty, and wanton destruction everywhere. Nation after nation was involved until the whole world became divided into two massed armies of men, women and children, each army bent on exterminating the other. Scientists strove to outwit each other for the benefit of "their" particular nation and their mighty efforts were crowned with the introduction of the atomic bomb.

In every country the hand of capitalist bureaucracy boosted by the introduction of "war emergency regulations" imposed its vicious discipline on a war duped people. The ubiquitous bomber blasted everything from kindergarten to concentration camp, nobody from a baby to a conscientious objector was safe from the penetrating forces of capitalist hate and destruction.

All the usual horrors of warfare were magnified a hundred fold. Millions killed and maimed by hitherto unknown methods of slaughter. Prostitution flourished as never before, and venereal disease attacked the vitals of thousands of youths who became an easy prey for the professional—and more numerous amateur—camp followers. Hundreds of thousands of homes were wrecked not only by bombs, but by domestic upsets brought about by enforced separation of husbands and wives.

Semi-starvation was imposed upon millions who eked out their miserable existence on ersatz commodities obtainable at prices which entailed the purchasing power of the workers considerably in spite of inflated incomes. Such is an altogether too brief picture of the unpleasant side of the war years.

The so-called pleasant side is not so substantial. For the workers, however, WORK was more plentiful. While wages were pegged, the opportunities for earning more money by toiling long hours helped swell the pay envelope; as against this, the imposition of wages taxes (wage restraints) and inflated prices set off any advantage. Still for the many workers who had been on the dole for years before the war, the prospect of a permanent war-time job was rather pleasant.

The many counters to the hazards of war and disease such as the improvements in the sulpha drugs, the applica-

tion of penicillin to medical purposes, the discovery or re-discovery of D.D.T., the substitution of atabrin for quinine in cases of malaria, etc., all these are pleasant benefits if only for the amelioration of post-war suffering.

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

Wonderful pictures have been skilfully drawn by press propagandists of the "great victory" over the "aggressive" nations. The possibilities behind the application of atomic energy, the potentialities of "radar" and other inventions, spell prosperity in the happy days that are now in the offing. But while the propaganda blows their hollow horns, the new columns of their papers indicate a far different state of affairs.

Already we are told that the end of the war means the end of the job. Millions of working men and women will be unemployed in the U.S.A. before the end of the year. Provincial towns in England like Orange and Bathurst fear extinction as a result of the cessation of the munitions industry in those towns.

A HOME FOR HEROES

The mechanical and scientific improvements made during the war will offset an decline due to the war's dislocation of industry. Further, China, India, and other more or less backward countries have made production strides during the war years, and this will result in further inroads in the world's markets.

The potentialities of post-war production indicate an early glutting of markets with the attendant depression and unemployment, misery and insecurity for the world's workers. After World War I, Mr. L. George addressed a meeting in Liverpool. One of the audience, remembering the sad state of affairs, recalled the Welsh Wizard's statement that he would make England "a land fit for heroes to live in." A speaker in the audience took up the cue: "Well, didn't he. Why, it would take a blinkin hero to stick it, the way things are now." The aftermath of World War II will bring similar opinions regarding the "new world."

Capitalism has no solution for the problems which face us today. The so-called "building-up" will bring but temporary relief. Nationalisation of mines, railways, and other industries merely transfers ownership from private capitalists to collective capitalists, and transforms workers from slaves of the individual capitalist to slaves of the State. Wherever it has been introduced nationalisation or State-ownership has solved the problems for the working class. Development seems to make State ownership, at least of the more important industries, more and more inevitable.

As long as ownership by the capitalist class of the means of life continues, just so long will workers be subject to the dictates of that class. The sacrifices of war will be forgotten in the first throes of depression. The pangs of patrie which were lavished on war-time heroes will be turned into torrents of abuse when these heroes assert their claims to the "New Order." And so long as men and women are prepared to leave their destiny in the hands of capitalist politicians (Labor or Liberal, Conservative or Communist) who are tied to the present order of things, just so long must they suffer the economic evils of capitalism. Whether the working class will see things more clearly depends on the lessons they have learned during the years of suffering. If they have learned little, then it will be a long time before we see truly happy days. If the lessons have not been lost, then the road to Socialism will be so much easier. In any case, there is plenty of room and time for the Socialist Party for all those who really desire to inaugurate a New Order.

A "Communist" Test

J. B. Miles, writing in the "Communist Review," June, 1945: "It is our task to unite in struggle with all who stand for these agreements, (Tehran, Crimea, etc.) A simple test to be applied to all classes, creeds, parties, and other organisations is the attitude to the Soviet Union—namely, to Communism or Socialism—but the Soviet Union in the alliance of nations.

Prior to the Russian Revolution, the name of Communist was applicable to individuals who were class conscious and whose objective was the establishment of Communism. Applied to membership of the present Communist Party the term is a misnomer. It is only the correct application for these people.

Post-War Prosperity

During the "hungry thirties" the Rhonda Valley was notorious as a "distressed area." World War II, however, eased the position, and the Melbourne "Argus," 21/7/45, reports: "Now the war in Europe has come to an end, but the Rhonda outlook for the future is still misty. Already factories are reducing their staffs or closing down altogether, and the queues are forming up outside the Labour Exchanges. The British Legion of the district is dispensing distress payments on a disturbingly increasing scale. Distressed areas are part and parcel of Capitalism and will only be abolished when the working class of the world establish Socialism. Fellow-worker, put your shoulder to the wheel!"

When you have read this COMMENT AND REVIEW

pass it on.

"And The Bishop Had No Reply"

In scholarly English, a native chief asked the Rt. Rev. Dr. L. S. Kempthorne, Anglican Bishop in Polynesia in 1940: "Is it not strange that while all Europe is at war, you come to us to preach in the gospel of 'Love one another?' and the Bishop had no reply." (Melbourne Herald, 11/6/45.)

It is unfortunate that the Polynesian directed his question to a Bishop instead of to a Socialist. A Socialist would have informed him that in capitalist societies production is carried on for the surplus value extracted from the working class by the capitalist class. This surplus value is embodied in commodities which are useless to the capitalist until they are converted into the form of money, i.e. sold. In the selling of these commodities the various capitalists enter into competition with one another, nationally and internationally, a competition that knows only one law, "the law of fang and claw." A competition which regularly breaks out into a war to decide which group of capitalists are to control the markets of the world, for it is only those capitalists who sell their commodities that survive.

Another feature of capitalism is that it is a class society. The working class being propertyless, live by selling their only commodity, labour power, to the owners of the means of production, the capitalist class. This is the basic social relationship of capitalist society and gives rise to an irreconcilable struggle between the working class and the capitalist class. This constitutes the class struggle which, at times, becomes vicious and brutal. This struggle can only be ended by the abolition of capitalist relationships.

Also under capitalism there are far more workers than jobs, which gives rise to intense competition between the workers and explains why some workers today pimp and steal. The fear of economic insecurity, which is inherent in capitalism despite the platitudes of politicians, drives many workers to do almost anything to get a job or hold a job.

Capitalism sets individual against individual, class against class, and nation against nation.

CAPITALIST ETHICS

"Love one another" becomes sheer mockery and hypocrisy under the social and economic conditions of capitalism, and those who preach such an ethic whilst supporting the present system of the capitalist class. This ethic under present conditions simply means that the working class regardless of skin pigmentation, should "love" their masters and should be thankful for the "blessings" that the master class and their system shower upon them in way of pov-

erty, war, etc. A docile working class would certainly be a "blessing" to the capitalist class.

When the working class become conscious of the necessity to abolish the capitalist mode of production and to establish a system of society wherein the means of production and distribution will be commonly owned and democratically controlled by society as a whole, production being for use and not for profit, people will live as human beings. As Engels sums the matter up in his "Socialism—Utopian and Scientific," page 48, "Anarchy in social production is replaced by systematic, definite organization. The struggle for individual existence disappears. Then for the first time man, in a certain sense, is finally marked off from the rest of the animal kingdom, and emerges from mere animal conditions of existence into really human ones." (Italics ours.)

In the social conditions generated by socialist society there will be no bishops required to preach ethics, the ethic "love one another" in such social conditions will be the normal mode of behaviour and not as in capitalist society, mere hypocritical cant.

E.A.W.

AUSTRALIAN BRANCHES

SYDNEY.—P.O. Box 2291, G.P.O.
SYDNEY BRANCH.—Meets Room 99, Station House, Rawson Place, Tuesdays, 8 p.m.

MELBOURNE.—P.O. Box 1449, Elizabeth Street.

MELBOURNE BRANCH.—Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month, at Room 12, Temperance Hall.

SOCIAL HISTORY STUDY CLASS.—Alternate Friday nights at Room No. 12, Temperance Hall, Russell Street, Melbourne.

COMPANION PARTIES

SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA.—P.O. Box 1251, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

SOCIALIST PARTY OF GREAT BRITAIN.—Rugby Chambers, Rugby Street, London, W.C.1.

SOCIALIST PARTY OF NEW ZEALAND.—P.O. Box 62, Petone, New Zealand.

SOCIALIST PARTY OF NEW ZEALAND.—P.O. Box 1929, Auckland.

WORKERS' SOCIALIST PARTY OF U.S.—12 Hayward Place, Boston, 11, Mass.

PETONE.—P.O. Box 62, Petone; Discussion Group, Room 12, 37 Courtney Place, Wellington. On Sundays (except the first Sunday in each month).

AUCKLAND.—P.O. Box 1929, Economic and Discussion Class, Every Monday, 7.30 p.m., Cambridge Union Rooms, Union Bank of Australia Buildings, East Street, and Karangahape Road. For other activities, see "Age" Meetings and Lectures Column every Saturday.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

The glorious days of "peace" are beginning to reveal many rifts in the international lute and the harbingers of "freedom" are in discord; nationally and internationally.

Britain seems to be adopting the old role of policeman, and the rise to power of the British Labor Party has not brought any material change in British foreign policy.

Just as British troops were used to quell the radical elements and those seeking "national" independence in Greece, Belgium, and elsewhere on the Continent, so and they now being used to play the same game in the Far East. Javanese, Indonesians, Indians, and others are now being "put in their place" by the watch of British Imperialism.

What has become of the trumped-up Atlantic Charter, the Four Freedoms? Socialist said that these things were meaningless from a working class viewpoint. We did not have to wait long for history to prove us correct. To our fellow workers, all over the world, black, white, or brindle, we repeat our constant message:

WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE! THE WORLD IS YOURS WHEN YOU KNOW HOW. SOCIALISM WILL TELL YOU.

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LITERATURE

"Western Socialist," official organ of the companion parties in U.S.A. and Canada.

"Socialist Standard," official organ of the Socialist Party of Great Britain.

"Socialism," "Questions of the Day."

Other Socialist literature obtainable on application.

Family Allowances 3d.

Beveridge Reorganises Poverty, 4d.

Socialism and Questions of the Day 1/-

If We Are To Survive 3d.

Socialist Manifesto (L.P. of Canada) 6d.

Principles and Salary of L.P., 4d.

Socialism 4d.

War and the Working Class . . 4d.