

# Socialist and

In Co-operation with The



# Comment Review

Socialist Party of New Zealand.

**OBJECT**—The establishment of a system of society based on 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 organize 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 brought to the system which deprives them of the fruits of their labour, and that poverty 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.)

## THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND THE LABOR PARTY

In view of the confusion created by the many official statements handed out from time to time by the "leaders" of the Communist Party in relation to the Labor Party, it is necessary, in the interest of the working class, to clarify the position. At the outset, it can be pointed out that many of the statements made by the Communist Party are quite true, and from this it can be definitely established that the actions of the Communist Party are flagrantly opportunist and treacherous, especially when we consider the support rendered the Labor Party by the Communists during the last six years.

In the official C.P. pamphlet "Towards a Workers' Government," we are told:

"Labor Governments are systematically BETRAYING the workers. . . . During the Waterside dispute the Labor Governments of Western Australia, Victoria, and Queensland threw all their weight behind the employers. Under the Labor Government in Victoria, waterside workers were shot down in a melee with the police. In Queensland, the attitude of the Government in protecting and herding strike-breakers resulted in the almost elimination of union labor from the waterfront." (p.4.)

We might add that in Victoria, the Hogan Labor Government gave Police Commissioner, General Blamey, a free hand in the situation, and condoned the killing of Allan Whittaker, who was shot on Port Melbourne Pier.

We are then told (p.6) that "The history of the Labor Party in Parliament is a record of political degeneration ending in political bankruptcy."

Dealing with Labor Governments in Queensland the C.P. enumerates numerous hostile acts against the Trade Unionists of Queensland by the Labor Party; the use of armed police against striking meat workers at Townsville; reductions of wage imposed on civil servants by the Theodore Labor Government; attacks on railway workers, waterside workers, and others. The shooting dead of Jack Hynes while on picket duty in 1927. 18,000 railway workers were sacked because they refused to scab on striking sugar workers.

Yet, and note well, L. L. Sharkey, President of the C.P., confesses on page 20 (A Free World Without Violence), (July, 1945),

"Our policy in regard to the Australian Labor Party is a United Front to fight for common aims and to advance the workers' interests."

That the Communist Party can have "common aims" with such a Labor Party reflects the reactionary and anti-working character of the Communist Party.

Again, on page 15 ("Towards a Workers' Government") we find the following indictment:

"The Labor Party has consistently betrayed the workers while occupying the Government benches. . . . thus definitely allying itself with the capitalist class."

So the so-called Communist Party wants a united front with the treacherous Labor Party which, on its own admission, is allied with the capitalist class. Apparently, all the condemnation of the Labor Party and its leaders is so much hog-wash intended to delude unsuspecting workers in a vote-catching campaign. Further, when the C.P. talked of repudiating the united front with the A.L.P., it was lying, a fact borne out by Sharkey's statement, "Our policy with regard to the A.L.P. is a united front."

PRE-WAR POLICY AND THE A.L.P.

A party that panders to political ignorance truckles to popular prejudice, and engages in emotional outbursts must inevitably expose itself to ridicule with (Continued on page 2, col. 1)

## The Communist Party and the Labor Party

(Continued from page 1)

the passing of time. Nothing is more ridiculous than the sentimental slobbering of the CP, with regard to Labor leaders and trade union officials. As soon as some Labor politician or trade union official makes some apparent militant outburst, he is hailed by the CP as a great leader, as quickly as he is blabbed out something more in keeping with the Labor Party's true capitalist outlook, just as quickly must the CP abandon its previous idiotic idolatry. Take, for instance, its condemnation of the Scullin Labor Government as a "Social Fascist Government" the Australia's part in the "World Revolution" (1930):

"The drive against the working class reached new heights of ferocity under the Scullin regime. . . . The filthy social fascist rag, the 'Labor Daily' spokesman for the Scullin Government, urges its readers to buy Australian goods. Like all social fascists, the Scullin Government is adept at using pacifist phrases to conceal its war preparations. . . . These illuminations (strike-breaking shootings, etc.) could be multiplied many times in every State where these social fascist agents of capitalism have been placed in office."

### THE WAR YEARS

Yet, during the war years and since, these very pronounced "social fascists" have been supported, subsidized, defended, and praised by the very people who denounced them in pre-war years. The military and industrial conscription of workers by the Curtin Labor Government, the pegging of wages, the imposition of increased wages tax, the suppression of industrial disputes, despoiled regions, aimed at working men and women, all these measures imposed by the erstwhile "social fascists" were condoned and justified by the Communist Party from time to time.

Nearly every leading Communist who supported the conscription policy of the Labor Party and urged workers to lay down their lives for "their country" stayed safely at home and wanted some safe job on the "home front" or took refuge in the exempted occupation of trade union officialdom. More details re this aspect of Communist-Labor duplicity will be given in another place under the heading of "The Communist Party and War."

With all their knowledge of the treachery of the Labor Party, their experience of the vicious anti-working class policy of the Scullins, Curtins, Camerons, and Chases, the Communist Party officials and members went along with each other in lauding to those well-known traitors to the working class. The history of political compromise can supply no more degrading example of mutual debasement in industrial and political activity. Workers should keep these facts in mind for future reference.

## What Capitalists Really Think of Nationalisation

Under the heading, "Two Sides to British Nationalisation," the Melbourne "Herald" (28.11.45) published the following:

### TIME TO BENEFIT

Right Wing adherents, who had initial qualms that Tory propaganda about the ruthless Labor expropriation of their investments might be fulfilled, have had time to benefit from Mr. Attlee's bromide assurances on compensation.

Actually, industries so far threatened with nationalisation have done very well.

Coal shares, Bank of England shares, and road transport shares have all risen on the promise of nationalisation.

One of the best ways to make money

## Birds of a Feather: Artificial Legs: Real Prices

The leading article in the "Sydney Morning Herald" of 12th November, 1945, in anticipation of the failure to fill the Fourth Victory Loan on the due date, commented as follows:—

"Although some flagging of enthusiasm was to be expected after the end of the war, this sorry result indicates a far more serious reaction on the part of the public which well knows that the immense costs of waging war do not cease abruptly, and that we have still heavy liabilities to discharge. On this point all political leaders are agreed, and at no stage has the appeal been marred by any lack of harmony among the parties, which have been at one in urging the necessity of filling the loan."

The latter sentence includes the so-called "Communist" Party. Here is the evidence from the Editorial of the Communist Tribune, 9th November, 1945:

"Rehabilitation is a foremost Labor Movement plank. The Labor Government, notwithstanding its mistakes, has shown sincerity in its Rehabilitation plans. But a Rehabilitation plan without loan money is faith without works, and it must be filled before the week-end. Prevailing discontents and uncertain-

nowadays is to guess which industry the Government is going to nationalize next, buy shares in it, and then wait for a rise and sell—and your profit, being 'capital appreciation,' will not be subject to income tax."

Evidently Tory warnings that it is an agricultural practice to fatten geese before killing them have not disturbed the majority of investors."

We don't often find the capitalist press proving our case as clearly as that. Yet, Communist and Labor supporters in this country still trot out the old Grey Mare of Nationalisation in order to take the workers for a ride. A knowledge of SOCIALISM will abolish these myths.

HARRY.

# THE WORLD WE LIVE IN, AND THE FIRST STEP

## SYDNEY SLUMS AND THE CITY COUNCIL

"City Council officers who surveyed slum pockets in Surry Hills and Pyrmont found that only 13 out of every 100 houses either conformed, or could be made to conform at reasonable cost, to minimum standards of health and comfort. (Our emphasis.)"

"Of the houses inspected 37 per cent. were damp and had leaking roofs, and eight per cent were vermin-infested. . . . 93 per cent. were sub-standard, and only 6.54 per cent. could be made standard at reasonable cost.—"SM.H.", 2/11/44. The Fifth Freedom: "Freedom to live in HOVELS." (Working class only.)"

## THE WAR AGAINST POVERTY

You will remember that just over 12 months ago, the National Health and Medical Research Council compiled an interim report on the declining Australian birthrate. It expressed the views of 1,400 women who wrote in response to a request by the Council for them to state why they limited their families, or had none at all.

The "SM.H.", 5/12/44, dealing with the report, quotes extracts from two letters which reveals the story running through "many hundreds" of the replies. The first extract reads:—

"What do we owe Australia? It starved us, and our children, after the last war, and will do the same after this if we let it. Therefore, we have decided there won't be so many of us to starve the first time."

This mother regarded the position as not one of "Populate or Perish," but "Populate and Perish." A potential mother writes to the tax:

"I will have a family when, but not before, human values are exalted to a higher status than dividends; human life ceases to be the cheapest commodity on earth; all the amenities that science has discovered are available to all mankind; society can offer me, and my child, a congenial home with good prospects of an education worthy of mention, including music, art and literature."

**WAR AGAINST POVERTY BECOMES AS POPULAR AS WAR FOR PROFITS AND POWER.** (Our emphasis.)

Yes, slaves, when you participate in the WAR AGAINST POVERTY as willingly as you have participated in YOUR MASTERS' WARS FOR PROFITS, and the International Socialist Com., nonetheless will be with us. In the meanwhile, commonwealth, the potential mother's only prerequisites to the having of children will be HEALTH, and PERSONAL DESIRE for such. All curses which have hitherto served to frustrate maternal instinct, will have been eliminated.

The passing of another year of capitalist hell should have helped to bring you to the realisation that capitalism, as a system of society, must be ended, and the sooner the better. If you still remain passive in the matter, fellow-worker, give it serious thought as we glance at reports on some of the happenings of the past twelve months.

Firstly, look at America, upheld by the "free enterprise" advocates as an example of "what capitalism can do."

### THE CAPITALIST CITADEL

New York: "More than 2,000,000 Americans have been rejected from the U.S. Army because of 'lack of educational opportunity,' Dr. John Norton said yesterday."

"Dr. Norton, a Columbia University Professor, was reporting to the Senate Committee on Education on the results of a two-year survey of the 115,000 school systems in America. His report showed that:

- 1,300,000 American adults had never attended school.
- 10,000,000 adults could be classified as virtual illiterates.
- 2,000,000 children between the ages of six and fifteen were not attending any school.—Tally Telegraph, 31/1/45. (Our Italics.)

Even in the "most advanced country in the world," the shortcomings of the capitalist system are present as elsewhere.

Now to India, land of staggering wealth and abysmal poverty.

### CALCUTTA SLUMS AND MR. CASEY

Calcutta: "I have been horrified by what I have seen. I have seen something of the way in which hundreds of thousands of Calcutta's citizens are obliged to live. Human beings cannot allow other human beings to continue to exist under these conditions."—R. G. Casey, "S.M.H.", 4/12/44.

Of course the "citizens" were "coolie classes," and not maharajahs. Every so often some capitalist stooge bursts forth about how appalling he is, at the hovels in which poverty-stricken workers exist, and tells us it cannot go on. They have been telling us that for quite some time now, but despite the fabulous wealth and the labour power available the slums are still with us. The fact is, that slum cleaning does not "pay," except in the process of winning a war, when many of the inhabitants are eliminated, too.

The story is the same the world over. Yes, even in Australia, where we are told, we have "a high standard of living," so let us on to:

So this is the world we live in—stums, bad education, systems, poverty, depression, wars, and so on, ad nauseam. Because some in our midist point to Russia as they way out, let us glance at how our fellowworkers of the Soviet Union are making out:

### SOVIET LABOR DISCIPLINE

Moscow: "Soviet workers are warned in an article in 'Izvestia' that measures introduced during the war to enforce labor discipline must be handed over to the future. . . . 'Absenteeism, lateness, and leaving job without permission must be prevented. All men and women breaking the labor discipline must be handed over for trial.'—"S.M.H.", 24/8/45.

Is it not strange that "enforced labor discipline" should be the order of the day for the Soviet workers? Yes, very! But then, some very strange happenings have occurred in the "Socialist Fatherland" at the hands of the Bolshevik hierarchy, witness:

### SOVIET TRADE UNIONS

London: "Mr. George Meany, a fraternal delegation member of the American Federation of Labor, caused a sensation at the Trade Union Congress at Blackpool yesterday by violently attacking the Russians' trade unions."

He declared they were merely instruments of the State which actively supported the Soviet system of labor blacklists and deportations to compulsory labor camps, resulting in the virtual enslavement of millions of workers.

"We insist on recognising the so-called Russian Trade Union Movement for what it is, a tool of the Government-controlled and Government-dominated labor front."—"S.M.H.", 14/9/45.

This is a damning indictment of the Russian Trade Unions, but as it squares up with reports from many other sources, it is probably very near the truth. Australian Minister to Moscow, Maloney has also been highly critical of the trade union movement in Russia.—"Sunday Sun", 1/7/45.

That doesn't seem to be a very promising way out, does it? Fake unions and forced labor are incompatible with Socialism. We must look to something else, not the State Capitalism of Russia.

### THE WAY OUT

Confucius once said: "The journey of one thousand miles begins with one step." THE FIRST STEP for the working class on the journey to emancipation is SOCIALIST UNDERSTANDING. Having acquired this, the workers will be able to emancipate themselves and obtain the WORLD FOR THE WORKERS!

The doors to SOCIALIST KNOWLEDGE are open. Why not step in, fellow worker?

K.J.

Jimmy Peg-Leg.

lies, provocation by employers and Arbitration Courts, are no excuse for withholding money from the loan."

"CHARLIE."

# — CUTTINGS —

## Tweedle-dum and Tweedle-dee

Despite the display of antagonisms by the various parties in the recent Victorian elections there was very little difference between the programs put forward by the Liberal and Labor Parties. The Melbourne "Sun" (12/11/45) comments on the election result as follows: "It is no less probable that the Labor Party will overcome its prejudice against taking office as a minority government. The flow of the electoral tide entitles it to do so, and there is no good reason why the Liberal Party should not accord it support in implementing legislation which both parties favor, and continue such support as long as a Labor Cabinet administers the affairs of State on satisfactory lines." (Italics Ours.) Socialists consistently point out that whoever administers capitalism, it can only be in the interest of the capitalist class.

## AUSTRALIAN BRANCHES

SYDNEY.—P.O., Box 2291, G.P.O.

SYDNEY BRANCH—Meets Room 99, Station House, Rawson Place, Tuesdays, 8 p.m.

See "Sydney Morning Herald," Meetings and Lectures Column for announcements.

MELBOURNE.—P.O., Box 1440, Elizabeth Street.

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

For other activities, see "Age" Meetings and Lectures Column every Saturday.

## COMPANION PARTIES

SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA.—P.O. Box 1751, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

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

SOCIALIST PARTY OF NEW ZEALAND.—P.O. Box 61, Petone, New Zealand.

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

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 Clubs. Every Monday, 7:30 p.m., Carpenters' Union Rooms, Union Bank of Australasia Buildings, East Street, and Karangahape Road.

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

## The Doctor Prescribes Sedatives

Communist candidate for Williams-town, Dr. Dobbin, put forward a program of no less than twenty-four reforms, from a forty-hour, five-day week to democratic control for bushfire prevention bodies. However, after his lengthy list of reforms this statement is made: "Our problems can only be solved finally when all the resources of the country are owned by the people, that is, when our aim of Socialism is realised." If Socialism is the only solution, why mislead the working class with reforms which, when achieved, still leave the working class wage slaves, Doctor? Vote bait!

## Cheap

After the working class of world have starved, sweated, and slaughtered in the interests of their masters, Lady Astor showed her appreciation recently. According to the Melbourne "Sun," 12/12/45, Lady Astor presented the H.M.A.S. Australia with an antique silver tray "as a small tribute to the war services of the ship's company during the second World War."

Simon Haxley, in "Tory M.P.," estimates the Astor fortune at £15,000,000 in America (p. 161). Cheap insurance!

## Capitalism is the Wages System

The December Communist Review quotes from "Value, Price and Profit," by Marx, wherein Marx shows the need for the working class to resist the encroachment of the capitalist class. What was not quoted was Marx's conclusion: "They (trade unions) fail generally from limiting themselves to a guerrilla war against the effects of the present system, instead of simultaneously trying to change it, instead of using their organised forces as a lever for the final emancipation of the working class—that is to say, the ultimate abolition of the wages system." P. 105.

It is realised that had this been quoted the Communist Party would have required reams of paper to explain the existence of the wages system in Russia.

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## Simple Arithmetic

The Railway Union Gazette of December, 1945, published a cable message from D. Svetov, of the Soviet Central Railways Union. In the sub-heading readers are informed that the Russian railway worker receives four weeks holiday free at a seaside resort each year on full pay. However, further in the article it is stated: "In the current year 20,000 railwaymen will spend their annual holidays in rest homes and at the holiday resorts." Also in the article it is stated that there are 3,000,000 railway workers in Russia.

From the information given, the correct answer should have been that the Russian worker would have a holiday at the seaside once in fifteen years, not every year as stated.

It would be interesting to know the details of the vacation of the notables and the rouble millionaires in the U.S.S.R.

## 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 (S.P. of Canada) . . . . .	6d.
Principles and Policy of S.P., 4d.	
Socialism . . . . .	4d.
War and the Working Class . . . . .	4d.

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