

ENGLISH SECTION

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Prime Minister Baldwin's Socialist Son Tells Why Labor Seeks Again to Govern in England

Amazing gains made by Labor at the recent elections in England have served again to focus public attention upon the British Labor Party and arouse speculation over the probability that the Laborites will once more attain control of the British Government.

In the accompanying timely article Oliver Baldwin, son of Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin, discusses the issues involved in the political battle between the British radicals and conservatives. Strangely enough, young Baldwin, although the son of England's leading Conservative, is an ardent Socialist and the most vigorous opponent of his father's policies.

By OLIVER BALDWIN

LONDON, November, 1927.

Great Britain is in the midst of a class warfare that becomes more bitter with each action of the present Conservative Government. To explain the causes of this growing chasm between capital and labor, first let me state clearly that in Great Britain there are three distinct classes—the capitalists, the middle class, whose political allegiance is divided, and the working men and women. Of these, the working men, women and children number some thirty millions and the capitalist class but three millions.

I am only concerned with the struggle between the thirty and the three millions, and my first explanation of this warfare is that these two classes are brought up with entirely different aims, objects and ideals. The one class is able to receive as much education and knowledge as it can assimilate; the other is denied any further education but that of national schools, which are left at the age of fourteen.

The capitalist class is taught the pride of class and empire, the glories of fox-hunting and amusement, and is launched into the world to conserve what it has and see that the working men and women provide it with anything further it might need with the least possible amount of trouble.

On the other hand the working class (as the poor are called here), is doped in school with imperialist humbug and pandered to in the press with the doings of our inefficient and idle aristocracy and the glories of the material prosperity of our profiteers. Apart from this the sole aim and object of the thirty millions is to buy bread.

They are not concerned when they become grown up, with conserving, for they have nothing to conserve, neither does their enthusiasm run to extravagant imperialism or nationalism, for they know nothing of the first and they have no material connection with the latter, since their sole possessions are the clothes they stand up in, the odd bits of furniture

they have bought and their labor power, which is exploited to the full.

During the war, when the working class was urged to fight for the saving of the country, it flocked to the forces entirely oblivious of the fact that it did not own a square inch of that country. In those troublesome years the working men were hailed as "saviors," "gentlemen," "heroes" and many other fatuous appellations by the fat and comfortable generation whose follies had brought about the war.

The war over, having lost some eight hundred thousand of their class, the working men were urged back to the factories and shops to pile up wealth for those who had stayed behind. The moment the trade slump began the Conservatives (that is, the party of the capitalists) urged emigration to the returned "heroes" as a cure for overpopulation and were surprised that an enthusiastic response was not forthcoming.

Unemployment increased and it became clear to the people that the object of industrialism was neither to supply cheap goods to those that needed them nor to pay a decent wage to the producers thereof, but simply to make profit for those who already possessed.

The amazing success of nationalized industry during the war was kept from the knowledge of the people and the depression in trade was put down to the war and the idleness of the workers.

Little wonder that the working class began to see through the whole game, and the increase in the Labor Party strength showed that things were changing and people were awakening.

The Conservative Government fell in 1924. In the same year Labor's term of office came and passed and the Conservatives returned to power with a majority of some two hundred seats and a minority of votes in the country, which proved the hypocrisy of our democratic voting system.

The election was won by a carefully fostered panic about Russia, which revived the dying germ of the jingoism the people had learned in the national schools. Lord This and Lady That rushed about waving flags and called on the people to save themselves from polygamy, assassination, revolution and the devil by voting against the Labor Party, and then returned to feed their favorite Pekinese dogs on fresh meat at half a dollar a pound.

The past denial of education to the workers hid its work and the bluff succeeded. There were soon two million unemployed in the land and another million receiving poor-law out-relief or living in work-houses.

Then the Conservatives really set to work in earnest and wages began

to come down. Still the unemployed figures went up and instructions came to labor exchangers to refuse any extension of unemployed insurance benefit, which meant that where a man could not get a job after his insurance out he was to be refused any help whatsoever.

This policy was announced by the English press, which deliberately misled the country to believe that unemployment insurance benefit was paid out of charity by the State and not as an ordinary form of insurance, whose premiums were paid by workers in work. Thereupon the poor rates went up in order to support those who had lost their benefit through no fault of their own.

The old days of master and man are over. Fifty years ago, even thirty years ago, masters have paid wages to their workmen who have been forced to cease work owing to lack of orders and kept them in health and comparative comfort out of recognition of their past services.

Today that is unthinkable. A working man is once more part of a machine and his employer is a combine. When his days are over, he is discharged and he dies in a work-house, the medal-ribbons he won in the war to save democracy being pinned on his coffin and the medals themselves gracing the window of the local pawn-broker. Is there any wonder the class-war is a fact?

The British capitalist has not yet realized that if his workmen are to work well they must first receive good wages, secondly, be decently housed, and, thirdly, have an interest financial and otherwise in their work.

Because he has none of these things today and British capitalism seems incapable of providing them, the workman's ideas turn naturally to other methods of production and distribution, and every wage reduction strengthens his faith in radical methods.

Once the working men of Great Britain have seen through the humbug that is dished out to them by the popular press and the captains of industry there will be a great change. Gradually and surely the radical message and idealism is breaking through their material outlook on life and it was quite obvious in advance of the recent elections that the Conservative majority would dwindle rapidly.

The capitalist's best friends in Great Britain are the Communists

and snobbery. The Communists are deliberately confused with the Labor Party and the old women's vote is thereby assured for the Conservatives. Snobbery is used whenever a good Labor man becomes dangerous to the existing state of things. When this happens, he is given large dinners and larger cigars by the capitalists, introduced to the King or the Queen or the Prince of Wales, given a medal to wear on his chest or made a "Sir," offered bribes (which he may or he may not take), and patted on the back. This works wonders with some but has become rather overdone.

Things are coming to a head. No amount of lying to the public will stop the awakening; no amount of persecution can hold back the waves of progress. They can parade all their court debutantes, like a crowd of Zulus with ostrich feathers in their hair, or line up all their dukes and duchesses in flashing diamonds and decorations, or the streets with military bands playing; but the working man of today will not be so easily impressed by these symbols of the past.

The chasm between classes will not disappear till true democracy arises in this land and equality of opportunity will make one class only which is dedicated to the service of the community rather than sacrificed to the profit of the individual.

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People of U. S. Lead In Prosperity and Happiness

Washington, Dec. 4 (AP) In prosperity and happiness the "people of the United States" so subject of admiration and study the world over, says Secretary Davis in the annual report of the Department of Labor wherein he called for maintenance of high wages and welfare; for the control of immigration and for the modification of antitrust laws to allow the condition he described being maintained. He declared the "simple secret of national prosperity" is the maintenance of high production and high wages which have resulted in the cessation of strike activity, and predicts this condition will continue.

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