

THE LABOUR LEAFLET.

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THE DUTY OF WORKERS

(1) That, recognizing the evils which do repeatedly arise by placing control of organisations completely in the hands of a Central Body or Executive is proposed that all members enquire and advise for and introduce both new members and adherents.

Any member can conduct a Sub-Branch or Group by having literature for sale and distribution of that nature required to make enlightenment on the the various Labour Questions and Socialism.

Each Branch, Group, Association, League, or Society adhering or co-affiliated with "The Ploughmen's Club and Socialist Union" can be locally independent and self contained.

(2) That intercourse for purposes of co-operation, and the carrying on of propoganda of enlightenment, and also of progress of unity, to be kept up between the different members composing the Union by the exchange of reports, correspondence, literature, and the holding of open meetings were convenient, through the medium of special Committees, of Secretaries, and speakers approved of by the various members, branches, and groups composing the Union.

(3) That at least one General Convention or Conference be held each year ; also local conventions or conferences can be held in any locality, when so agreed on by a large enough number of *bona-fide* members and adherents earnestly interested.

Members so agreed to contribute, and by collection or in any other economical and just way defray the expenses of meetings, etc., when there is not enough funds in hand by the local Treasurers or Secretaries.

The arrangement for meetings, conferences, and conventions to be placed in the hands of the members of the branches or groups in the locality in which they are to be held.

(4) That all members, societies, etc., entering into membership or co-affiliation with this Society shall give in by communication or otherwise their acceptance and adhesion to the "Declaration of Principles," also to the Programme Constitution and the doctrines thereof, as contained in the various numbers of the Labour Leaflet.

THE AGRICULTURAL BOARD

With necessary Sub-Branches, as contained in our programme, No. 3 Leaflet means a Board for Scotland with branches for each county, elected by adult suffrage of the working class, that Board to be responsible by collecting the whole rents of rural land, the millions of money at present being collected by private individuals who have no right to it at all, the money to be put into use for to create accommodation for the carrying on of the agriculture of this country and the making of the land productive, and to provide employment for all people willing to work.

In a wage-slave society it is said there are but three kinds of people, namely, workers, robbers, and beggars. The workers are of two kinds, *i.e.* — first, Socialists; second, cowards ; The first want to abolish robbery and beggary, the latter to continue it.

[OVER.]

Compensation.

Few questions are so likely to bear directly on the practical politics of the coming time as that of compensation for the withdrawal of special privileges.

Special privilege may be regarded as the power of living — either wholly or partially — upon the fruits of other persons' labour ; and the privilege of living on the labour of others is most notably enjoyed by landlords, burglars, shareholders in limited companies, pickpockets, and State sinecurists.

As the reverse side of special privilege, we have unjust privation, which in our present society has reached such extremes that many men women and children die daily in London of starvation — starvation either slow or sudden. In London, women toil fifteen hours a day for ten shillings a week.

The hereditary landlord who lives entirely upon the earnings of those who work or live on certain land, has merely inherited the legal privilege of taking from the workers some portion of the good things which they produce, and makes no pretence of having created anything by his own labour. Those brave Irishmen and others who refuse to give to this large-scale robber, are shot down and killed by an organisation called "Tory Government" whose main aim and function is to uphold the power of the privileged classes to live upon the labour of this deprived classes.

The Capitalist or shareholder, who live entirely on the interest which he has inherited, fills no real social function, adds nothing to the stock of useful articles in the world, and is as purely a predatory animal as the burglar or pickpocket. - As an example of the way in which the non-working shareholder takes the bread from the worker, we may mention that a labourer at the docks is paid at the rate of fourpence halfpenny an hour, but any one hiring him of a Dock Company, is charged by the Company eightpence an hour for services. A clerk who tallies cargo receives from the Dock Company 3s, 6d. a day, the 'Company is paid for *his* services, by the agent or owner of the ship, at the rate of nine shillings a day.

Our social system admits of all degrees between such persons as live altogether on the labour of others by virtue of privilege, and those who have to labour long and hard, for the barest subsistence.

The army of the unemployed is essential to the existence of the privileged classes; while the unemployed are hungry, and greedily demanding employment, their competition compels the labourer to accept for his work only so much as makes his position a degree less bad than theirs ; just as much or little, as will keep a, roof of some, kind over his head.

On the other hand those persons who can specially assist the privileged classes, directly or indirectly, in maintaining their right of taking the fruits of labour from the masses, are paid extravagantly high wages. The Lord Lieutenant of Ireland receives £20,000 a year ; the Archbishop of Canterbury £15,000 a year (what a contrast with the Carpenter of Nazareth!) ; the Secretary for War gets £25,060 a year ; the Queen takes something like £300,000 a year ; and Sir Charles Warren receives a, salary of £1,500 a year for doing his best to prevent speech and meeting in Trafalgar Square and occasionally whitewashing an over ardent policeman.

Strict justice demands that all those who have enjoyed privilege enabling them to take an unfair social advantage, should compensate those who have been deprived ; but for those who have been robbed, to pay compensation to the robbers is rather too monstrous a proposition even for a Tory Government to make. The more moderate section of our existing social reformers recognise that the payment of rent of land and of interest (*i.e.* rent of industrial appliances) to individuals who have neither created the land nor constructed the industrial appliances, is the main source of the social injustices of the time ; and they would probably be satisfied to waive the claim of the poor to be compensated by those rich persons who have lived without work, if they be made to honestly work their living