question. In practice man must prove the truth of thought." Therefore to find out the truth of a theory it must be acted upon. But the activity set up changes the situation. The thought or idea on which we acted had some meaning for us, so then, if the changed situation fulfils the meaning of our idea it is a true idea. Knowledge that cannot be validated by practice is dogma.

The subject matter on the social sciences is quite different from that of the physical sciences. The phenomena of the physical world do not result from the purposive activity of human beings; they arise independently of any end or meaning; they are purely objective. But the behavior of men is always directed towards some human goal or purpose. Therefore all theories of history, economics, sociology are subjectively influenced by human values and are advanced in support of some purpose or end in view. The relevancy of all facts concerned is judged from the value they may have in furthering the desired end. And of course these theories must, to find experimental confirmation, set up social activity in a certain direction. To go in a direction means that some facts will be more important, more relevant than others, and as facts assist or retard progress in pursuit of the purpose, greater or lesser values will be given them. And accordingly as one goal differs from another different modes of action will objectively express the truth embodied in different sets of facts. The social theories adopted by each class reveal the desired goal. And since there can at present be no unanimity of purpose, what may be a true theory for one class will be a dangerous untruth for another.

This is not to say that social theories do not contain any objective fact. They do, more or less. But the point is that different values will be given to the same set of facts in so far as they are relevant to the purposes of the theories. It is an objective fact that capitalism has harnessed the forces of nature and brought the world under socialized production, but the value a Socialist attaches to those facts is quite different to that which would be given by a manufacturers association or the Bank of England.

A judgment of fact need not necessarily be a judgment of value. That pure water freezes at 32 degrees Fahrenheit is a fact, and any theory based on a supposition that it will freeze at 35 degrees is demonstrably untenable, but where actual facts conflict with class interests no one can escape the necessity of passing a judgment of value upon them. Theories may be true or false, but it is absurd to characterise values as true or false. There is no such thing as class truths any more than there is such a thing as class science; but there is such a thing as class purposes and aims, and every class places its own standard of value on the facts at its disposal.

The Socialist approaches social and economic problems from the stand point of the international revolutionary proletariat, and his conclusions are oriented with reference to the needs and final aims of that class. That does not render his conclusions less objective, less scientifically accurate, but it makes them partial in their bearings and sets in motion activity intended to move society in a particular direction. The objective truth of Socialist theory finds expression in practice, in the revolutionary act.

At first sight it may seem unscientific to intrude subjective values into an objective study of society, but man cannot look critically upon the society in which he lives without being at the same time a part of it, and he cannot prevent his sympathies betraying him into a partial attitude over the class conflicts which arise.

W. C. CURREY

PASS THIS COPY :——
——: TO A FRIEND

The Socialist Party of Canada

and

The World Socialist Party of the United States

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 society as a whole

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

THE COMPANION PARTIES OF SOCIALISM HOLD:

1. — That society as at present constituted is based upon the ownership of the means of living (i.e., lands, factories, railways, etc.), by the capitalist or master class, and the consequent enslavement of the working class, by whose labor 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 of 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, 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 plutocratic privilege.

7. — That as political parties are but the expression of class interests, and as the 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 COMPANION PARTIES OF SOCIALISM, therefore, enter the field of political action determined to wage war against all other political parties, whether alleged labor or avowedly capitalist, and call upon all members of the working class of these countries to support these principles to the end that a termination may be brought to the system which deprives them of the fruits of their labor, and that poverty may give place to comfort, privilege to equality, and slavery to freedom.

Those agreeing with the above principles and desiring enrollment in the Party should apply for Application for Membership form to secretary of nearest local or to National Headquarters.

THESE SIX PARTIES ADHERE TO THE SAME SOCIALIST PRINCIPLES:

SOCIALIST PARTY OF AUSTRALIA — Box 1440; G.P.O. Melbourne, Australia.
SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA — P.O. Box 751, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.
SOCIALIST PARTY OF GREAT BRITAIN—Rugby Chambers, Rugby St., London WC1.
SOCIALIST PARTY OF IRELAND — 34 Lr. Buckingham Street, Dublin, Eire.
SOCIALIST PARTY OF NEW ZEALAND—P.O. Box 62, Petone, New Zealand.
WORLD SOCIALIST PARTY OF U. S.—3000 Grand River, Room 307, Detroit 1, Mich.