and a siege maintained. Stomach endurance becomes the main criterion of the strikers' success.

If the labor market is in a favorable condition some concessions can be gained. But these are usually small and temporary. When the contract expires the previous problem again appears, and a similar readjustment or another strike is in order.

There is no way of getting more than the value of the commodity labor power, and periodical struggles are necessary to get even that. The stronger economic situation on the part of the employers militates against any impressive victories for the side of labor.

Glancing over the fiscal condition of the steel trust, as revealed by the balance sheet for the past year, we are convinced that the vicissitudes of life have leaned generously in the owners' direction. There is no danger of imminent starvation, no recourse to selling pencils on the street corners, no thumbing rides on the highway, no applications for public relief.

The statement shows that in the 1958-59 period the company has made a profit of $4.345 for every worker on the payroll. It indicates that $2.28 for every man hour worked during this period has gone into the treasury of the steel trust.

This is the best financial report in the history of this giant corporation. The next best was in the previous year when $3.047 per employee was garnered by the trust.

Yet the company harps upon the subject of "labor inflation." They produce phony figures to show that high wages are the main cause of inflation. We know by a study of economics that wage increases, instead of being the cause of price increases, are a belated response on the part of the workers to catch up to the soaring cost of the needs of life.

One of the bigshots in the Steel trust made this statement to the press — "we don't mind paying higher wages if the labor we buy for the wages is improved and increased." What a generous, public-spirited character this tycoon must be.

It amounts to saying that if you contribute another dollar daily to the take, we'll gladly refund you an extra 25 cents. Who wouldn't? No one could possibly lose on this sort of speculation. The more you pour in the more we'll dribble out.

He says that "We" don't mind paying the wages. But it seems to us that the wages are produced without the "We" entering into the deal at all.

It is an obvious fact in economics that the working class produces all the wealth there is. In the U. S. at present between 400 and 500 billions of dollars worth of wealth is produced every year.

This wealth consist of mansions, shacks, mink coats, overalls, juicy steaks, pork sausage, and every other edible, housing unit, and uniform that the mind can think of. The owners of steel and other kinds of wealth contribute nothing to production. They just own. They have a penchant for destroying values instead of creating them.

Another new feature, for this particular period, is the organized attempt on the part of the various trusts to smash the unions.

Two years ago a series of round table meetings were held by the executives and officials of steel, oil, rubber, automobiles, electric manufacturing, railroads, and others. These gatherings have been reported in such trustworthy journals of big business as the Wall Street Journal, Fortune, U. S. News and World Report and Business Week.

The consensus of opinion among the delegates was that the union people were flying too high and would have to have their wings clipped. They would have to be reduced to the status of mere adjuncts of the big companies. Steel, being one of the largest and most powerful groups of capital was selected to make the test.

In the present strike the steel workers are as well equipped as a union can be to put up a fight. They have a healthy treasury, an enthusiastic membership, and promised financial support from various other unions who are in a position to contribute on a lavish scale. A test of strength between the two forces is assured.

Our sympathies, as always, are with the workers on strike. We encourage and assist them whereever possible. But ours is not a maudlin attitude based on a sentimental attachment to others of our kind. We take an objective view of the situation and are ever ready to point out the limitations as well as the possibilities of this line of action.

As Socialists we know from study and experience that even when strikes are won the victorious workers are right back on a wage slave basis, exploited of all they produce as they were before. They have made no lasting or important gains, even on the economic front and whatever small wage increases that have been obtained are soon wiped out in the inflation process.

Capitalism has nothing to offer to the working class but hard work and poverty, and the sooner those employed in oil, steel, rubber, autos, and other departments of industry awaken to this fact the sooner will Socialism, the only solution of our social ills, be introduced and maintained.

J. A. MacDONALD

FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH

The horse's mouth is a fantastic machine for the production of weird and contradictory stories of what is and what is supposed to be in this outmoded social setup of ours. It is made up of phenomena that includes radio, TV, the press, periodicals, pulpits and other paraphernalia. It is controlled by about 10 per cent of the people of this world and is used usually to help keep the other 90 per cent boxed into a narrow canyon where they will continue to be known by several socially acceptable names — the one we choose to use today will be "useful citizens."

Russia Hails Canada

"Russia yesterday broadcast a (Dominion Day) 'tribute to Canada,' saying that the traditions of the two countries have much in common." Said Moscow Radio: "On Dominion Day we join Canada in recalling the inspiring road they have travelled. Just under a century ago the revolutionary democrats of Russia welcomed the appearance of the Dominion and applauded its political slogans of liberty, equality and fraternity."

Liberty, equality and fraternity? In a statement made by R.E.G. Davis, Canadian Welfare Council director, headed:

Housing Not Fit For Animals

A press conference was told that a "low estimate of the number of Canadians needing low rental housing is 250,000 and in every urban centre people are living in housing not even animals should live in."

The number of Canadians needing HIGH rental housing, which is about the best contemporaneous term which might be used to describe what Canadians might NEED, was not mentioned.

However, what the Russian rulers actually admired was what most rulers admire, not liberty, equality and fraternity as reality, but as "political slogans," themselves excepted of course.

And in further reference to "progress" as far as the housing situation is concerned we might quote Harry Young, Business Editor of the Daily Colonist, June 6, '59 in a heading:

New Homes Stand Empty

He states that "in greater Vancouver more than 500 new homes have yet to find an owner and the number