

Democratic party of Canada. The majority of its officers and members are British-born, English-speaking Canadian citizens, and its constitution and platform call only for political action. The decree making it a heavily punishable offense even to continue to be a member of such an organization is an unnecessary and unwarranted invasion of personal liberty. The party, in its printed platform, declares that it will support any measures that will tend to better conditions "under capitalism," such as: 1, Reduction of hours of labor; 2, the elimination of child labor; 3, universal adult suffrage without distinction of sex or regard to property qualifications; 4, the initiative, referendum, and recall. There is nothing revolutionary in these ideas, but the party aims at a social revolution by political methods. To quote:

"The object of the Social Democratic party is to educate the workers of **Canada** to a consciousness of their class position in society, their economic servitude to the owners of capital, and to organize them into a political party to seize the reins of government and transform all capitalist property into the collective property of the working class. This social transformation means the liberation not only of the proletariat, but of the whole human race."

This is not palatable to the great majority of Canadians, but it is the commonplace of Socialism everywhere. No other Government, not even the German or Austrian, has tried to prevent Socialists from preaching this doctrine, however fantastic, utopian, or unjust it seems to other classes. So long as Socialists propose to attain their objects by constitutional—i.e., by political—means, punishment would be persecution. If any Socialist has used seditious language or has agitated against war effort he should be held to account, but to impute to him as a crime mere membership in a political party, advocating only political action, is an outrage on the principles of freedom and justice which Canadians ought not to tolerate.

AN INFRINGEMENT OF LIBERTY.

Recent orders in Council have banned publications printed in any enemy language, and have illegalized certain specified organizations, and any Association which "professes to bring about any governmental, political, social, industrial, or economic change" by the use of force or physical injury, or which advises or defends forcible measures. Some of the enemy-language papers printed in **Canada** should have been proscribed earlier, as they were blatantly seditious, though not more so than Mr. Bourassa's *Le Devoir*, which is still protected. Probably most of the groups or associations which have been declared unlawful during the war also deserved their fate. The Industrial Workers of the World and the various Russian and **Ukrainian** revolutionary societies were undoubtedly mischievous. The authorities cannot penetrate into all the secrets of the enemy-language coteries, but it is the safe and not unreasonable course to compel them to suspend their activities when there is a suspicion that they are carrying on an anti-war propaganda or fomenting strife. It is surprising, however, to find on the prohibited list the Social