

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALBERTA PEOPLE

With the great experiences of 1936 fresh in our minds, on the threshold of the New Year, 1937, the Communist Party extends its most sincere greetings to all the people of Alberta. We greet the Social Credit people, the members of the C.C.F. and the Canadian Labor Party; all trade unionists; the farmers in the U.F.A.; all Protestants and Catholics; the rank and file of the Liberal and Conservative Parties; the married and single unemployed in the cities, towns and on relief project works. Feeling proud of the progressive efforts and determination of our people, we look forward with confidence, in the firm belief that 1937 will see the Alberta people close their ranks and march forward with greater speed on the road to a better life.

1936 ON RECORD

During the last twelve months the people of Alberta registered on many occasions their desire for unity in the interest of progress. The unification of the miners' unions, which resulted in considerable improvements in living and working conditions of the miners, points the road ahead for the rest of the industrial workers. The limited unity established in the Edmonton Provincial by-election, and during the civic elections in Edmonton, Calgary and Lethbridge, are valuable experiences for the future. The wide support given the unemployed in their struggles for the right to live indicates that there is a growing desire to end the present conditions of poverty and want in the midst of plenty.

At the first session of the Social Credit government, we saw an attempt, on the part of Premier Aberhart, to win the good will of the money lenders, in the belief that they would later on allow him to carry out his Social Credit program. The introduction of the Magor budget placed additional burdens on the common people.

The pressure of the developing unity movements of the progressive people, together with insistent demand from the Social Credit people for progressive action, influenced the Provincial Government to introduce the history-making legislation, namely, cutting down high interest rates and entirely abolishing interest payments on all old-established debts. This action of the government was enthusiastically endorsed by a wide section of the common people, resulting in broadening the support for the government and clearing the road for bringing closer together the various sections of the progressive people.

MONEY LENDERS ATTEMPT TO STOP PROGRESS

The big money lenders felt quite uneasy about the progressive turn the Social Credit government was taking. A campaign was launched by the bondholders and money lenders which aimed at the destruction of the Social Credit movement and the capture of the Provincial Government for the money barons who wish to continue to exploit the people and rob our province of its natural resources. In this they are ably supported by all enemies of the people from coast to coast. By their withdrawal of money from industries, additional thousands have been compelled to swell the unemployed ranks, causing unnecessary suffering to many of our people.

The Federal Government continually refuses to grant the just requests of the Provincial Government for financial assistance to enable it to carry out its proper functions and duties of caring for the poverty-stricken section of the population. Agents of the reactionary forces are at work inside the Social Credit government endeavoring to bring about a split. The so-called People's League has been formed for the purpose of creating confusion, to split the Social Credit movement and check the growing unity of the common people. By these means they hope to discredit and defeat the people's movement for higher purchasing power and to recapture the Provincial Government.

The struggle of the Alberta people for a better life clearly demonstrates that there are two opposing forces, namely—the progressive people and the reactionary money-lenders. The money-lenders control most industries and financial institutions in the province; they are supported by the daily press and have unhindered access to the radio as well as other means for spreading ~~propaganda~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~support~~ ~~of~~ ~~we~~ ~~find~~ ~~careerists~~, ~~job-seekers~~, ~~corrupt~~ ~~politicians~~, ~~agents~~ ~~provocateurs~~ and those who would sell the Alberta people and our natural resources for thirty pieces of silver.

To the progressive forces belong the overwhelming majority of the Alberta people—the workers, farmers, middle class and professionals; all those who stand for a better life for the common people; all those who do not want to see the majority of the population go without the most elementary necessities of life. The progressive people are opposed to giving the natural resources of the province to a group of idle, rich, reactionary money-lenders; they aim to use the wealth of the province in the interest of the Alberta people.

COMMON UNDERSTANDING ESSENTIAL

The experiences of 1936 clearly indicate that if Alberta and the present government are to be saved from falling into the hands of reactionary money-power, much closer co-operation and a greater measure of unity between all sections of the common people is urgently needed.

The profit-hungry financiers of Canada are concentrating their forces on Alberta. They are attempting to recapture the Provincial Government. It is now clearly the duty and responsibility of the people of Alberta to assist the Social Credit movement and the Provincial Government against the threat of reaction. Not a single progressive man or woman can afford to stand by as an idle onlooker. By our united efforts we can stay the hand of reaction. By friendly consultation and discussion we will find a common road toward further progress and a better life.

FIRMER GOVERNMENT POLICY NEEDED

The government's policy of trying to satisfy and find support amongst both opposing forces is wrong and must cease. The government cannot serve both the money barons and the common people. The Aberhart government can successfully repel the attacks of the reactionary money power, if it carries out immediately a firm progressive policy backed by a united people.

The government should heed the voice of the different divisional conferences of the Social Credit movement, as expressed in the many resolutions adopted by them. It should allow no consideration to the money-lenders. It should provide the people with an opportunity to enjoy a greater share of the result of their own toil.

REACTION PREPARING

The reactionaries are working to bring about a governmental crisis. By sabotage, threats, intimidation and misleading propaganda, they hope to frighten the Provincial Government from introducing new progressive legislation. Their paid agents, working inside the Social Credit movement and in the ranks of the government, are endeavoring to create splits, confusion and dissension amongst the Social Credit people.

The hidden forces that stand behind the People's League are using progressive-sounding phrases as decoys, in their endeavor to rally support to the cause of bondholders and rich money-lenders, who aim to recapture the Provincial Government for their ends.

WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

At the coming session of the Provincial Parliament, a smashing blow must be directed at the reactionary forces. Steps must be taken to wipe out the shameful situation of unemployment. Money for increased relief grants to the cities and municipalities will have to be found. Works project camps closed down; the young unemployed people given a decent standard of relief. The present Minimum Wage Law strengthened and extended to cover all employed workers at a rate not less than 50 cents per hour. Heavy penalties must be provided for, against those employers who interfere with, or discriminate against workers for trade union activities. The lowering of high interest rates was enthusiastically endorsed by the Alberta people. The Government can now safely proceed still further along this road. This is a sound policy. This must be the Government's answer to the attacks of the profiteers and bondholders. Such must be our answer to all those who are opposed to a progressive Alberta. This will mean more purchasing power to the common people. This will give Alberta people a chance to enjoy some of their cultural heritage. These and similar proposals have been discussed and talked about by thousands of Alberta citizens. This discussion must now be organized.

The C.C.F., the U.F.A., the Trade Unions, the unemployed, as well as the Social Credit groups, must discuss these proposals. This is how the people can assist the Provincial Government to defeat the enemies of the common people. Resolutions from every gathering of citizens, demanding the Federal Government keep their hands off Alberta, must be sent to the Federal authorities. The Provincial Government must be encouraged to go forward on the road of progress; on the road to a better life for our people.

With solid backing from a united people, the Government can now proceed to wipe out the shame of starvation and want from the midst of the riches of our beautiful Province.

Nineteen thirty-six brought prosperity to the bondholders and the rich people; brought increased unemployment and greater misery to the common people. Nineteen thirty-seven can become a prosperous year for the common people.

COMMON PEOPLE — CLOSE RANKS

To-day, the fighters for unity are building a bulwark against reaction with the same determination and enthusiasm our fathers and mothers put into their work in the struggle against nature. Through hard work and many sacrifices, they made beautiful farms out of the wild prairies, built cities, constructed railways and highways, dug mines and built industries. The fruit of this toil has now been taken away from us by the people who never participated in building this Province. These people have mortgages on our farms and homes; they own the railways we built and the mines we dug; they evict us from our homes in the cities; they treat our sons and daughters as beggars and outcasts. It is these same people who are now attempting to recapture the Provincial Government in order to assure the continuation of their robbery. Let every opponent of unity consider these facts well.

We can recover Alberta. Nineteen thirty-seven can become a happy year for the Alberta people, if we, in the spirit of our great pioneer forefathers, with courage and determination, will close ranks, and go boldly forward against the enemies of the people.

ALBERTA PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, COMMUNIST PARTY OF CANADA.

A. HOGARTH, Provincial Secretary.

Listen in to Communist Party radio broadcasts on Friday, January 8th, from the following stations:

Edmonton—CJCA, from 6:50 to 7 p.m.

Calgary—CFAC, from 6:45 to 6:55 p.m.

Lethbridge Station—At 8 p.m.