



96/1

Dr Anton Pannekoek
(Retired Professor of Astronomy)

Amsterdam

Holland

Regenlessetgan 8 —
Universiteit
Leid.

16 Mar 48
on way

I William Watson 96/1
27 Canal Street
Kirkintilloch
nr Glasgow
Scotland

Dear Comrade,

In writing you this letter I am taking a chance in you receiving it, at a vague address which I have taken from a magazine published in America called Politics edit by Iwight MacDonald. In that number of Politics Sept 1946. there is a article of yours. Failure of the Working Class in Europe. As a matter of fact I have read over a period of a number of years quite a lot of articles of yours such as in Charles H. Weiss magazine International Socialist Review and another magazine called the New Review published in New York U.S.A. ~~Here~~ These articles of yours in these two magazines ~~are~~ were written before 1914-1918 war. Since that time I never saw anything written by you up to that magazine Politics with that article of yours, so I see you still retain your analytical powers, as a thought it was a masterly article. From the time I have read articles of yours you must be getting up in years now. From what I have read years ago, and only been able to get bits here and there, is that bit pertaining to the Communist Labor Party of Germany, bit that has never got a chance to ever get published in the English language. I suppose what happened to that bit, just

Return if undelivered to
William Watson
27 Canal Street
Kirkcubright
in Glasgow
Scotland



9612

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There was none of that lit now published
in English. If you can either sell me ~~any~~
any of that lit or mutually exchange
with each other for other lit published in
this country. There was a comrade I wrote
to in America years ago and edited
a quarterly Magazine called Radical
Review and also translated part of your
Practical Differences in the Labour Movement. I
know he went back to Germany after the
last war 1914-1918, did you ever hear
of him or know him (Karl Dannenberg).
He held to the outlook of Daniel
Dehon the American. Dehon writings
in general are tabooed in the socialist
movement. ~~Dehon~~ Dehon is just in
the same position as yourself you are
not recognised. As for myself I follow
the outlook of Dehon to give you a
rough idea. Industrial Unionism is our
position, so you will see we are in the
same train of thought. With that is not
much more I can say until I hear from
you, trusting you are keeping well and
hear from you soon.

I am
Yrs Fraternally
Wm Watson

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the same what happens to lit pertaining to the Church it would come under the Index. I expect the lit of the Communist Labor Party of Germany would come under the Moscow Index. The reason for me writing you is that I am interested in trying to get some of that old lit, written by these organisations, lit pertaining to the criticism of parliamentarianism etc. If it is possible for me to try lit from you, or if you are agreeable to a mutual exchange of lit, such as I could send you lit from here, and you could do likewise for me from Holland. I am interested in getting anything written by yourself, also lit written by Herman Gorter. I am also interested in getting lit written pertaining to his criticism of parliamentarianism in the various socialist organisations of Europe *Domela Nieuwenhuis*, *Socialism in Danger* etc. *Herman Gorter*, *Historical Materialism*, *Herman Gorter*, *Anarchism and Socialism*, *Herman Gorter*, *Imperialism World War Social Democracy*, *Herman Gorter*, *Open Letter to Comrade Lenin*, *Herman Gorter*, *Moscow International*, *A Pannekoek*, *World Revolution and Communist Parties*, *A Pannekoek*, *Tactical Differences in Labour Movement*, *A Pannekoek*, *Mass Action and Social Democracy*. There is also pamphlets etc written by *Taupenborg*, *Wolffheim* which I am interested in getting. *H. Roland Holst*, *General Strike and Social Democracy*.

96/3
Dr A Pannekoek
Leist (Holland)
8 Regentesselaan



21 April 48
on way in

I

William Watson 96/3
27 Canal Street
Kirkintilloch
nr Glasgow
Scotland

Dear Comrade,

From the time I wrote you last and also since I received a reply to my letter, I have seen in a copy of the Industrial Worker April 7 1948, that a article of yours and also an advert stating a book of yours is getting published by the New Essays group of N.Y. I have wrote away for a copy of it, and also wrote J. A. Dawson of Australia. I have now discovered that you wrote articles to Living Marxism and New Essays under the pen name of J. Harper. I read first the Council Correspondence, later Living Marxism and now New Essays. I remember reading a good article of yours in Council Correspondence on Trade Unions. I hope I manage to get your book Lenin as a Social Philosopher, and also copies from Australia of your Workers Councils. In your letter you don't mention if you so desire me to send you any list, just say the word and I will send you on a variety of the different socialist publications. I suppose you will get many of the popular socialist publications or other words most fashionable or properly speaking more Labour Party list and S.S.P. list. Do you ever get sent you any of the list of the Socialist Party of Great Britain who claim to be uncompromising Marxians. Their

From Wm Watson 27 Canal Street
Hirkintulloch nr Glasgow
Scotland

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position is this organic consciously and
political. (whatever the mean by consciously
I don't know) To me the an Anarchists
tainted with Political varnish. I could
also send you some of Guy Aldred
publications an anti-parliamentarian
from the Bakunian standpoint, he
calls himself a Marxian Anarchist.
Then is also the Socialist Labour Party
lit I could send you, who follow
the outlook of the American Dehon.
If you wish any of the literature just
say the word and I could send it on
to you from time to time. In many
respects Dehon position and the
Councils Communist outlook stands
nearer to each other than the other
groups. I quite understand when you
mention in your letter people holding
to old ideas, instead of keeping
abreast of the times, but I also recognise
like a country of America which was more
advanced industrially than any of the
European countries before the 1914-1918.
War, which gave ~~a position~~ the
Socialist Movement in America a
experience which the European
movement did not get until the
1914-1918, and as far as my information
goes (Gorter and you) are they best
expression I have read in recognising
that ~~you~~ ^{new} experience. Your position
in the Trade Unions is the same as

Dehon, and if you have not seen any of Dehon lit I would be too pleased to send you whatever I could get of them for you. To get all Dehon pamphlets you would need to write to America. I could give you the address Arnold Petersen Nat Secy 61 Cliff Street N York 8, N.Y. U. S. A. What ever I have of S. Z. P. pamphlets I could send you from here such as the following Dehon. Reform or Revolution.

- " Socialism vs Anarchism
- " Two Pages of Roman History
- " Burning Question of Trade Unionism
- " Socialist Reconstruction of Socialist (or Principles of Industrial Unionism)
- " As to Politics (an discussion)

and other S. Z. P. pamphlets which I cannot remember the name of a present. There is a debate with Dehon and Harriman on the Trade Union Question, I would advise you to write to America for it, it has been out of print for years and I don't know how it is not kept in publication. There is other publications I will suggest for you to try and get in my next letter when I get more time to look out their names. This is all I can think of at present but just say the word and I will send you on whatever I can of the different lit. All that

F

I know of your groups and lit, is what I have read from time to time over a period of years. I have never seen any of the Communist Labour Party of Germany lit any more than they writers names in the official organs of their paper and an few insulting remarks on the part of Zinoview, putting down Gorter merely as a poet and you merely as ~~as~~ a student of the heavens, which to me was no argument. This is all I have to say at present trusting you are keeping well and hope to hear from you soon again. and also let me know if you want me to send you any lit.

I am
Yrs Fraternally
Wm Watron

antr. 26.11.11

William Watson 9615
27 Canal Street
Kirkintilloch
nr Glasgow
Scotland

June 1. 1948.

Dear Comrade,

In answer to your letter which I received the other day, and also must thank you for the booklet you sent me of yours I see as a Philosopher, and you can rest assured that I will be reading it as soon as I get time. Will I have the following to send you of the S. Z. P. literature

De Leon. What Means this Strike.

De Leon. Reform or Revolution.

De Leon. Socialism or Anarchism.

De Leon. Two Pages of Roman History.

De Leon. Burning Question of Trade Unionism.

De Leon. Socialist Reconstruction of Society or Principles of Industrial Unionism.

De Leon As to Politics.

That is all that can be got of De Leon pamphlets published in this country. For the rest of De Leon pamphlets you would require to write someone in America. That is all I have of De Leon pamphlets at present and if I come across any of the American S. Z. P. tit I will send them to you.

Then are other three S. Z. P. pamphlets I am sending you. Development of Socialism in Great Britain. (The first pamphlet ever published on Industrial Unionism in this country. 1907.)

James Connolly. Socialism Made Easy containing his Essay on Industrial

Unionism. (This pamphlet was written by James Connolly who was shot in the Easter Rising 1916 in Ireland) Whom I expect you have read about. The other pamphlet I am sending you is written by Wm Paul. Scientific Socialism. All these I will be sending you at the same time as this letter. If you know anyone in America who could get you a copy of a Debate with Dehon and Joe Harriman. (Socialist Trade and Labour Alliance vs Trade Unions.) It is a debate on the ~~Union~~ ^{Boring from within} question whether one should ~~work in the~~ ^{Boring from within} trade unions, or fore from the outside of Trade Unions. I think in the early history of Dehon and S, Z, P, there are experiences which the experienced long years ahead of the Socialist movement in Europe, which the Socialist movement in Europe only began to see from 1914-1918. war, whereas the S, Z, P experiences goes back to 1890. Boring from Within Period in S, Z, P 1890-1895. (Proved out the failure of Working Within the Trade Union. 1895. The ~~Starting of the first attempt~~ of a Socialist Trade Union, the first attempt to fight the conservative trade unions from the outside. Which is well explained in the Dehon & Harriman Debate which I would advise you to get at all costs. As a matter of fact I have not got a copy of my own, I only got a
read

of it years ago. Then is another one I forgot
 to mention Ninth Convention of S. Z. P.
 (Pamphlet 1896.) Touching on all of that
 period. The next important experience
 in the S. Z. P. in America was pertaining
 to political action. At Tenth Convention
 of American S. Z. P. 1900. When the S. Z. P.
 was the first to explain clearly the
 difference between Reform and Revolution. Prior
 to the 1900 Convention the S. Z. P. had
 a immediate demand Platform, the same
 as all other reform platform parties, in
 that conference the immediate demand
 platform was cut off, and the S. Z. P. concept
 of political action took a different nature,
 instead of a constructive aspect (Legislative)
 instead it took a destruction aspect. Which
 you will see in reading Dehon pamphlets.
 The last aspect of Dehon in his experience
 in the labour movement is on Industrial
 Unionism which you will read about in
 the last two pamphlets. Socialist Reconstruction
 and As to Politics. If ever I manage to get any
 other of Dehon I will send it on to you.
 What I would suggest for you to try and
 get a hold off of Dehon is from America
 Ninth Convention of S. Z. P. 1896. pamphlet.
 Dehon's Harminian Debate. (S. Z. P. is Trade Unions)
 Proceedings of 10th Convention 1900. Book (Pamphlet)
 Brissenden. Launching of S. W. W. (Published by a
 American Professor and a very fair account.

and a copy of First ~~Comm~~ Convention of I.W.W.
1905. I think some comrade could get you these
from the S. Z. P. in America. At present I
got a read of a old Communist International
with a reply of Leon Trotsky (to a one hour and a
half speech of Herman Gorter) but the rotten
feature you don't get reading Gorter Speech.
You would think that Lenin and Trotsky at that
time were afraid of the Western analysis.
This is all I can say at present trusting
you are keeping well and must thank
you once again for the booklet you
sent me.

I am
Yrs Fraternally
Wm Watson



96/17

Dr A Pannikoe
Leist (Holland)
8 Regentenslaan



S.W.

15 Feb 51

William Watson
27 Canal Street
Kirkintilloch

96/17

Dear Comrade,

The reason for me writing you
I got copies of your Workers Councils, which
was published in Supplement form in the
Southern Advocate for Workers Councils, could
you give me any idea if it was ever completed.

I have the following of your Worker Council.

Aprils 1948, May 1948, July & August 1948,
November 1948, March 1949, May 1949. I am
up to page 192. could you give me any
idea how many more parts there are to it,
and do you know if it was ever completed
in Australia. I am sending you a pamphlet
recently published by Socialist Labor Party of
Great Britain Marxism vs Stalinism, will
be sending you it at the same as this note
of mine to you. It is three years now when I
wrote you before asking you about for some of
your old publications and also Herman Gorter and
Rieuwenhuijsen. Excuse this short note of
enquiry and if you can give me that
information I would be obliged. Trusting
you are keeping well and hope to hear
from you soon.

I am

Yrs Fraternally
Wm Watson

Dr A Pannekoek
Leist (Holland)
Regentenslaan 8.

Beantwoord



William Watson 96/12
27 Canal Street
Kirkintilloch
nr Glasgow

Dear Comrade, Scotland
I ~~have~~ heard today,
that you were coming over to the
I.L.P. Summer School (London) ^{or}
if you happen to come up to Glasgow
I am quite willing to take you round
some of the old comrades of the
movement both of Glasgow and Edinburgh.
One comrade I could take you to, is a
James Muiray (Anti-Parliamentarian) leader
of the Open Forum in Glasgow. I could
also arrange ~~it~~ for you to see old
comrades of the Socialist Labor Party
who live in Edinburgh. If it is the
case you are coming to this country please
write and let me know. This is all
I can say at present trusting you are keeping
well and hope to hear from you soon.

I am
Yrs Fraternally
William Watson