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Beeching, William, and Clarke, Phyllis, editors. *Yours in Struggle: Reminiscences of Tim Buck*. Toronto: NC Press, 1977. Pp. 414. Illustrations. \$8.95 paper, \$17.95 cloth

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The leading champion of Communism in Canada, Tim Buck, was interviewed at great length several years before his death in 1973. The transcripts of those interviews have been reduced to some 400 pages and published as Buck's autobiography, Yours in Struggle. The result is a highly subjective and selective account of his many years at the helm of the Communist Party of Canada. Here the reader will discover Buck and his friends inspired by the Russian Revolution, establishing the Party at "a very good barn" in Guelph, riding the rails to spread the message in the early years of the Depression, jailed under Section 98 between 1931 and 1934, and popularizing their Labour-Progressive Party during World War Two. Here, too, are his stories of cordial chates with "Jim Woodsworth," Premier Hepburn, and others.

For the student of urban history, Buck's reminiscences are of passing interest. The interviews dealing with his experiences as a Toronto machinist and labour activist before and during the Great War have been largely omitted. Nevertheless, what remains are a few revealing glimpses of the factors that led many Canadian skilled workers to agitate for a new economic and political order in the first two decades of this century. Born in 1891 in England, Buck became an apprenticed machinist, tinged with the Christian socialism of his Methodist fellow-workers. Keir Hardie and Tom Mann were his heroes. In 1910 the young machinist came to Canada, and found modern methods of industrial production being instituted by Toronto factory managers. Skilled mechanics were being supplanted by unskilled or semi-skilled labour. Automatic, streamlined and continuous operations were set up. Buck alludes to the fact that mechanics like himself often had the latitude in the plant to invent new "gadgets." At this time unionism was often a haphazard and divided affair. Buck's union, the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, a British-based organization for machinists, drew its Toronto membership from almost as many different factories as there were members, for few plants were organized in the modern sense of the word. Still, the predominantly British-born Amalgamated members had retained "their passionate desire for a change" that marked many workingmen in the old country. From 1913 until early 1915, Buck toiled in a number of factories in the United States, and was impressed by management's highly efficient industrial organization, which "made it possible for the company to get far more work than our haphazard methods of work in Canada, where every man pretty nearly took care of himself and his own operations."

The radical ferment in the labour and reform movements greatly accelerated during the world war. Trade unions became more confident and shop committees more effective. Socialism, industrial unionism, and industry-wide collective bargaining were eagerly discussed. Sympathetic interest in the Russian Revolution and disdain for Ottawa's repressive actions under the War Measures Act helped to fuel labour radicalism. The post-war period witnessed a spontaneous and sizeable "upsurge of radical

thinking" and a "belief in the possibility for social advance." Buck does acknowledge that the divided left failed to become the major representative of this sentiment, and that virtually all workers were uninterested in thinking or organizing on a class basis. However, a small group of radical socialists was ready for a sharp left turn. Disillusioned with moderate independent labour politics and the United Farmers of Ontario government, excited by events in Europe, and rejecting the existing Canadian socialist parties as inadequate, they formed the Communist Party of Canada in 1921.

Unfortunately, the account's usefulness collapses whenever it discusses Canadian socialist parties before the formation of the Communist group. The chapter on labour in Toronto politics is a highly inaccurate jumble of parties, personalities and policies. The Socialist Party of Canada is confused with the Socialist Party of North America, as is the Social Democratic Federation with the Social Democratic Party of Canada; James Simpson was not a member of the ILP and was elected to the Board of Control in 1914, not in 1913. The assertion that Simpson "insisted that there must be no organization" of labour political campaigns is false. Many similar examples could be cited. The editors should have been more attentive to these errors, while noting other mistakes such as Buck's confusing of the Taff Vale case with the Osborne Judgement, and his reference to H. H. Stevens' 1935 "People's Party." Buck's autobiography is not very explicit about the causes of his transition to "scientific socialism." But it does remind the historian of the key importance for Canadian labour and radical development of a significant body of British-born skilled workingmen who were imbued with Christian idealism and affected by technological and managerial innovations at the level of the shop floor.

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Warner, Sam Bass Jr., and Fleisch, Sylvia. Measurements for Social History. Beverly Hills: Sage Publications, 1977. Pp. 232. Illustrations. \$6.95 paper, \$15.00 cloth.

First, to keep the record straight, this book is simply word for word the same material that appeared in the Journal of Urban History, III, under the title "The Past of Today's Present: A Social History of America's Metropolises, 1860-1960." Only sixty-five pages are text: the remainder of the book is filled with data appendices in very large print. The appendices have been very modestly enlarged from the original article by the addition of a list which identifies the components of each areal unit of observation.