

Western Clarion

A Journal of History, Economics, Philosophy,
and Current Events.

Published twice a month by the Socialist Party of
Canada, P. O. Box 710, Vancouver, B. C.
Entered at G. P. O. as a newspaper.

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Subscription:

Canada, 20 issues _____ \$1.00
Foreign, 16 issues _____ \$1.00

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VANCOUVER, B. C., MARCH 1, 1922.

UNITY.

THE Socialist movement throughout the world has been torn with dissension and dispute during the past few years, particularly since 1919, the year of the founding of the Third International. Among the larger parties of Europe the irritating factor to them has been that they have been placed in something of a defensive position and their calm has been disturbed by the early insurgent policies of the Third.

After the war capitalism had set itself toward reconstruction, and the Third International set itself toward the reconstruction of the Socialist movement as an active fighting movement for the destruction of capitalism. This was in the order of things, since the Third was born in Russia and the need of the Russian revolution for outside support demanded a policy such as was laid down and which, generally speaking, reflected Russian conditions.

The Second International failed to rally its old adherents when it tried to assemble them after the war, and out of the disagreements that arose was born the Vienna International, generally known as the 2½ International. These still exist as separate bodies, the Second having headquarters in London. The Fourth International was formed in Germany in 1921 by the Communist Labor Party of Germany, its point of disagreement with the Third being that the Third had abandoned its programme of world revolution.

In 1920 the Congress of the Third had decided to form a Red Trade Union International, and in 1921 the Red International of Labor Unions was formed. Its main object of attack, as a rival organization, was the International Federation of Trade Unions, Amsterdam. Out of the 1921 Congress of the R. I. L. U. was formed, from a congress of minority representatives, the Syndicalist International, the point of disagreement being unity with the Communist Party. Apart from all these there is the Anarchist International, reports of their congress of 1921 not yet having come to hand.

It is not surprising that with all these existing organizations there should arise a cry of unity. The Socialist press everywhere is now engaged in dissecting the pronouncement on unity recently made by the Third. The following is a statement summarizing it:—

"Therefore the Communist International approves the demand for a United Working Class Front. The Communist Part in every country will enter into negotiations with every other working class organization (right, centre or left) to establish a common fighting programme. The Communist International is prepared to enter into negotiations with the Second International, the Two and a Half International and the Amsterdam International to establish a programme of common action. ("The Communist," London, January 28th 1922. Emphasis theirs.)

The general tone of comment on this is critical, charging a change of front on the part of the Third. The full explanation of its intention will not be forthcoming until the special International Congress of the Third, which was hurriedly called to meet at Moscow on the 20th February, issues its latest theses. "The Communist" (above quoted), organ of the C. P. of Great Britain, and an organ of the Third Inter-

national, in the article dealing with the matter anticipates the charge of change of front. They drown the reader in words and insist that the position remains unchanged. They come very near to meriting the denunciation given to Kautsky by Trotsky, in his humorous way, as being busy in theoretical swindling. To us the programme looks like a complete abandonment of the former position. We can only judge that, of course, when we see it applied. Practice is the test of all programmes.

SECRETARIAL NOTES

Local (Vancouver) No. 1 regular Sunday evening propaganda meetings are now held in the Star Theatre, 300 block Main Street (east side, north of Hastings Street). A branch local has been organized in North Vancouver, and propaganda meetings in the headquarters there have brought a good attendance up to date. See frontpage notice for meetings this month.

The Winnipeg comrades, now reorganised in a new local of the S. P. of C., having been "expropriated" by the new conscience that pervades the movement these days, have been without a headquarters since reorganisation but are now re-established at 530 Main Street.

In our last issue the article entitled "Problems of the New Conference" should have been credited to "R." The reason for the omission of the familiar letter we do not know but the fault is ours. We have sought absolution.

Comrade Leckie, in response to our hints, opens a new series—Economics for Workers—this issue. The series will constitute the substance of his lectures on Economics in Ottawa during the Winter session in the study classes there. We record a bright notice of Comrade Leckie's "Economic Causes of War" in the February "Plebs." Leckie's pamphlet is coupled in review with two books, "Oil, Its Influence on Politics" (Delaisi), and "North England: An Economic Geography" (Jones), in this fashion:

"Here are three books of interest and importance to the proletarian student of world affairs; that is to say, of interest to every intelligent proletarian student, for it becomes clearer every day that the student who does not go on to apply his grounding in Economics, History or Geography to the actual world problems of 1922 is failing in his duty to his fellows and belying the whole aim of Independent Working Class Education. "Economic Causes of War" is a reprint of a series of articles which appeared in the "Western Clarion" of Vancouver. They were very capable articles, although in book form they are a little too discursive to serve as a text book. The author has evidently read his Boudin, Brailsford, Morel, etc., to good purpose, and he also makes effective use of quotations from such Imperialist writers as Usher, Holland Rose and Arnold White, and from the capitalist press.

Comrade Moses Baritz writes from Manchester saying:

"Jack McDonald's reference to me in issue No. 856 seems to imply a falsity about my position and also my influence in Australia.

Baritz goes on to say that he is not to be held responsible for the present position of the A. S. P., now A. C. P. We do not interpret J. A. McD's remarks to mean anything but that Baritz has done good educational work in Australia.

The Party vote on the question of affiliation with the Third International on the basis of the 21 points resulted in a majority of 18 for affiliation of the returns from Locals and members-at-large. The referendum, of course, was completely sabotaged by the secessionists who left the Party at once after

recording their votes, thus leaving us no choice but to disregard them. Counting their votes the majority for affiliation stood at 18, but since several times that number have left us the Party membership obviously stands opposed to affiliation.

PARIS COMMUNE CELEBRATION

Comrades and Friends!

On MARCH 17th, in commemoration of the most outstanding event in proletarian history during the 19th century, A SOCIAL AND DANCE will be held under the auspices of the SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA in the CLINTON HALL (corner of Clinton and Pender Street E—half a block from the car line on Hastings E.)

The Social will be enlivened with good wholesome proletarian refreshments, after which Dancing to the music of a first class orchestra will be the order of the evening. And, as a becoming close to the most enjoyable event of the season a library of carefully selected books from the social sciences, history and fiction will be given away.

Tickets: ONE DOLLAR EACH.

THE "WESTERN CLARION" APPEALS TO THE READER.

Buddy, the mail in P. O. Box 710, Vancouver, B.C., contains very little evidence as yet that you have been rustling subs. with a view to boosting the "Clarion's" circulation until it was around the 10,000 mark.

I gave you the job and added an incentive to keep you to the work and here, right at the start, you lie down on the contract.

Had the "other fellow," the master, hired you to perform the same task for him the chances are good that he would have stood over you nagging, cussing, and growling until you had completed it.

Here, thousands of miles from many of you, and but a few yards from the rest, I have never once used an abusive term.

You can't let me down, Buddy; I've said that ten thousand subs. can be gathered in by the end of this year, that it will be done, must be done in order to provide an incentive, a stimulus to "Clarion" writers to keep on growing and giving of their best.

It is often said that "we can't go back," a phrase which implies that we have gone ahead. How far ahead are you of your savage forebears, Buddy, in point of culture and economic independence? A suit of shoddy rags; a shelter of shingles?

Social experience has made it possible to measure space, weigh planets, plumb the depths of the ocean, span rivers, tunnel mountains, lay steel ribbons around the earth for freight to be carried on, navigate the seven seas, bringing the fruits of labor from one land to another. Yet the status of the workers if not worse now than two thousand years back is at most but very little improved.

Never was the human family in such a sorry plight as the result of blindly following political shysters, purblind religious and labor fakirs, unable to harness the social forces which are just as liable to blot out the race as natural forces have wiped out animal species in the past.

The function of the "Clarion" is to deal with all such problems as have arisen out of past and present conditions; examine these problems, investigate them, understand their causes, and trace their effects.

Buddy, you remember that old philosopher who said "as a man thinketh so is he"; apply it now to a people and see if you can get a better vantage point where you can observe the tendency of present human activities and the interplay of thought upon conditions.

I want you to think, Buddy, I want you to taste the sweets of meditation. But more than this I
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