

## Education.

THE function of a Socialist paper is to spread knowledge of their enslaved conditions to the workers. These workers have not acquired much learning beyond "the three R's." Hence, when a paper is handed to them, it should be full of interesting articles bearing on their conditions, or comment on current affairs, written in clear, simple, lucid English.

When I hand the "Clarion" to a fellow slave, it provokes some thought in me to have him look it over with vague lacklustre eyes. Then hand it back saying, "Maybe it's all right mate, but I don't savvy."

I think: "Well, he is typical of my class. Without him and his class we will be nowhere, and if he can't appreciate the present-day "Clarion," have we to wait 'till he uprises bloodily with his fellows, and trust that we can take him by the hand and enter the promised land, singing 'Lead kindly light?'"

When tired, workworn Mrs. Smith gives it back to me and says, "Gee! you must have some brains, to read that," I may feel flattered, but that does not help her any. Or when the "school marm" said, "Good paper, but very academic, don't you think?" I could but sadly agree.

I raise the point that too many writers are afraid they will be deemed ignoramuses unless they impress us with the wide extent of their knowledge, and the uncommon words they express it in. What is the use of covering the whole field of human progress in one brief article? Why give us in issue after issue a flashy, sketchy outline of the doings of the human race from Caesar to Morgan, and on one page?

Why! There is matter enough in any episode of any period, to give us an exhaustive series of articles, and that might be worth something. But, bless me, I think it easier, and much wiser to refer budding students to the masters, than to have them learn the schedule of human progress by rote from "Clarion" writers, however well posted.

The slave who can eagerly devour the account of Jack Dempsey's demolition of Jess Willard, is not always a fool, or even dull. But, rather, used to popular, slangy language, that puts the news across in quick style. And why can't that same language be used in the "Clarion?" Not in extreme baseball style, but in sufficiently vivid, compelling fashion as to get by.

R. Blachford is certainly fitter to grow roses than propagate Socialism, but he can teach some of our writers how to express themselves so a poor mutt can catch on. Frank Harris, of "Pearson's" is garrulous enough, but he knows how to catch the eye. Or take a lesson from Mark Twain, a voluminous writer, yet how simple to understand. Take his beautiful "Joan of Arc." The English of it almost sings itself to you. Not all writers are of this type; several of our regular "Clarion" scribes are delightfully clear and simple, but I won't call out names.

But I will emphasize again, that a mass of vague generalizations, covering a space of twenty-thousand years of society's life, covering with a few sweeping, all inclusive phrases a whole period of history, wherein modes of production of wealth changed, where the system of distribution of the same was radically altered, bringing in its train rebellious migrations, new gods, new ideas, new habits of thought, new ways of looking at nature, new customs, new manners, bringing strange races together, opening up virgin fields of exploitation, and so on; so vast a subject, so all embracing and universal in its scope, such handling of them is a travesty on education. Far rather use up a dozen issues on one phase alone, than bore old-timers, and drive potential recruits away.

My paper supply is out, but I think I voice the views of a host of dumb sufferers; I will assume that I do anyway. Science can be popularized without dilution. I so maintain.

F. S. F.

## "A Warning"

THIS is an era of prosperity. The working class of America is in a far better position today than they ever were. Jobs are many. Workers are few. So great is the dearth (Detroit) of common labor that is cheap, that the great manufacturers are contemplating importing a few million coolies.

The worker seems to have forgotten the late war wherein over 30,000,000 human beings were sacrificed to the greedy god of Capitalism. Forgotten are the blood stained, stinking, trenches of France. He has a job. He is making "good money." Why worry about the future?

The Socialist, however, sees that the future is not at all bright for the working class. He does not claim to be a prophet, neither does he claim to be a Madame Thebes; but strange to say all his predictions invariably come true. Why? Because he understands the laws that govern society. Let us see why the future is fraught with danger for the working class.

Prior to 1914, the productive possibilities of this country were such that we were able to export in the fiscal year of 1913, threequarters of a billion dollars worth of manufactured goods. In other words we were then producing a substantial surplus beyond the consumptive power of the domestic market. At that time the number of workers out of employment was large. So great was the distress of these unemployed workers, that soup kitchens were established in many cities.

The war saved the day. The U. S. became the great source of supply for all war materials for the allied nations. The expansion of plant capacity and productive possibilities was stimulated enormously, by all possible means. Every effort was made to overcome through the use of mechanical devices, the withdrawal of three million young men from industry for military service. An industrial revolution took place in this country. It is undoubtedly true that the power of consumption of the U. S. has increased substantially as a result of the war. But it is also undoubtedly true that the expansion of productive possibilities has more than kept pace with this increase in the power of consumption. Moreover, since the signing of the armistice, the great majority of factories have increased their productive possibilities enormously. In Detroit alone over \$300,000,000 is being spent in plant extensions.

The demand for American products today comes not only from the domestic market, but from all over the world. But in the domestic market and in the rest of the world, it is an abnormal demand, due primarily to the war-caused exhaustion of reserve stocks. The belligerent countries of Europe are gradually resuming their normal production. It is reported that Belgium has already attained 85 per cent. of her former productivity. Great Britain is fast re-establishing herself, as the mounting figures of her export trade month by month disclose. The significant statement issued by the packers of Chicago recently, to the effect that the export trade in meat had already ceased entirely, is but one indication of the manner in which Europe is progressing. France recently placed an embargo on American automobiles. Italy is gradually cutting down her imports from America.

We must also not lose sight of the fact that prior to the war, the U. S. was a debtor nation. A large portion of her exports was used to pay the interest on capital which had been borrowed from Europe. Now the situation is reversed. The U. S. is now a creditor nation. Europe owes this country approximately 14 billions. When conditions return to normal, Europe will begin sending her products as payment of the interest on that enormous debt. These imports will come into a market which has a capacity to produce substantially more than it can consume. What will be the result?

Either American manufacturers will have to acquire markets wherein they can dump the enormous surplus or they will have to cut down production. But most of the European countries are in the same position. Their productive possibilities have increased greatly. Great Britain is adopting Amer-

ican methods in her factories. They also must have new markets.

Unless some unforeseen event occurs, American manufacturers in the near future will start to cut down production. This will mean that a great unemployed army will be created. Wages will go down. The worker will be offered a lower standard of living. Instead of strikes by unskilled labor for an increase of wages, we shall have soup kitchens, bread lines and men clamoring for work at the lowest possible wage.

JOHN TYLER.

## Russian Gold

ON June 10th the Swedish Government decided that the gold sent to Stockholm by the Soviet Government (about a million sterling) is to be held in a Stockholm bank under the control of the Government. Baron Palmstierna, Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs, has explained that the Swedish Government had nothing whatever to do with the exportation of gold, because, in principle, it did not interfere in the business affairs of private parties nor in contracts which might be concluded by Swedish nationals. The sole task of the Government, he added, was to see that the trade with Russia conformed with the decisions taken by the Supreme Council in January and February, as also with those reached at San Remo.

At the meeting of the Permanent Committee of the Supreme Economic Council held in Paris on June 11th, the French Government's point of view about Russia was apparently put quite frankly. They insist that all debts to France and to individual Frenchmen, whether contracted by the Tsar's regime or subsequently, shall be recognized, paid in gold, and have priority over all other claims.

According to the "Times," M. Krassin has intimated that if force of circumstances should make it desirable for the Soviet Government to accept the liability for all these debts, although contracted by Imperialist or bourgeois Governments, then the Soviet Government would as a counter-balancing factor insist upon inheriting also the rights and privileges secured to Russia by former treaties, even though such treaties might have been secret—notably the Soviet Government would insist upon the execution of that part of the Treaty of London of 1915 which accorded Constantinople to Russia.

Furthermore, the Soviet Government, if compelled to recognize and assume the burden of the debt, would insist on writing off against it the charges incurred by the Soviets in overcoming the attacks of "White rebels," in so far as such attacks had been financed or supported by any foreign Power. It would also be necessary to charge against the debt all expenses incurred in reconstructing the country after the damage caused by these campaigns.

A representative of a French paper, the "Liberte," has had a confidential interview with Krassin and published it in his journal. M. Krassin says that history records no instance where a revolutionary government has paid the debts of the former regime. He added:

"At this moment I declare to you once more, in the name of my Government, we are willing to discuss this question on the occasion of entering into peace pourparlers with you. Nevertheless—and I insist upon this—if you compel us to continue this war with Poland or in other directions, we shall withdraw our promise. . . . You are perfectly able to make peace with us. We sincerely desire to make peace with you, and during the pourparlers for peace we will discuss the question of the debt. That is our attitude in a nutshell."—"Common Sense," (London).

## Labor Defence Fund

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