

THE RED FLAG—EXTRA

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VANCOUVER, SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 1919

Attempt to Twist Entirely Innocent Correspondence Into Incriminating "Dreyfus" Documents Is Exposed

THE terrible conspiracy to subvert constitutional government is now laid bare. A letter by a wage-worker to R. B. Russell, of the Winnipeg Central Strike Committee contains the following words: "I have been asked by some of the railroad men here if it is possible to stand all expense. I have just received a shipment of Bolshevik funds for this purpose." Seeing the term "Bolshevik" is applied to every one who has a kick, from school children wanting a longer or a shorter meal-hour, to monastery priests striking for better grub, we fancy the government has discovered a mare's nest. However, that is not our concern. The letter written by R. B. Russell and published in the Vancouver Sun, June 21, was addressed to C. Stephenson, secretary of the Dominion Executive of the Socialist Party of Canada. Nothing the government and the press have done to date affords us greater satisfaction. When a powerful institution like the Canadian government can, through its representative officials, act in such a thoroughly despicable manner, we know they have absolutely no case against our arrested comrades. In the first place, "the sender of the Bolshevik letter has not been disclosed." In the second the name of the recipient of the second letter has been withheld. Thirdly it has been deliberately mutilated to arouse resentment among the strikers. The entire letter is herewith printed without comment, at present, except in regard to the "Dark Places, being in our interest."

We have always worked in the open. We have been raided several times. For months our mails have been opened by government agents; not only official matter, but private mail of individuals has been abused. Our paper, the Western Clarion, has been suppressed. And yet in face of these facts which suggest that the government must know as much about our business as we ourselves do, **NO ATTEMPT HAS BEEN MADE TO SUPPRESS US**, although all other non-scientific and semi-secret organizations have been suppressed. Anything we are guilty of now, we were guilty of any time the last twenty years. We therefore ask the wage slaves of Canada to carefully analyze the present conduct of the government agents in Winnipeg, and judge it such matters are compatible with a good case, or is it the last desperate effort of a lost cause?

We also publish one of the many letters we have addressed to the Chief Press Censor's office; to this one, we may add, we have no reply on our files.

**DOMINION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,
SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA.**

Winnipeg, Man., Jan. 30, 1919.

Mr. C. Stephenson:

Dear Comrade: Your letter with due-stamps and charter applications received, also due-books received under separate cover, with copy of "Soviets at Work," and bill for M. P. E., indebtedness which I will take up and remit cheque to cover same in a day or two.

Following my night-letter regarding the Winnipeg situation, I will give you an outline of the happenings. At the last Trades and Labor Council meeting, we had a great victory and killed the Labor Party for sure. We had another mass meeting called for last Sunday to discuss the causes of the German Revolution, under the auspices of the Party. It appears that the Great War Veterans approached the management of the theatre and told them if they opened the theatre there would be trouble. We were also advised not to hold the meeting. However, we turned up at 3 p.m. on the Sunday and were refused the theatre. The soldiers were out in full force, about 3,000 strong. We then decided to hold the meeting in the Market Square. When we got there the soldiers had marched there and it was clear to us that there was going to be trouble. It had been told them that we were going to commemorate the death of Liebknecht and Luxemburg, and they were filled up with the propaganda that all Germans were Huns and they would not stand for it. The police, advised us not to start and just then someone hoisted a Union Jack and the soldiers started making anyone who looked like a foreigner kiss the flag, and beat them up, taking their money off them and kicking them into pulp—then they proceeded to our headquarters and broke up all the furniture and smashed the windows, etc. They continued this for the rest of the evening, breaking up all sorts of places and pilfering to a great extent. They then started to demand the scalps of Armstrong, Blumenberg, Russell and Johns, and so the battle continued. It started again on Monday, still demanding the blood of the above comrades. The police stood aside and let them do as they damn-well please. However, it is clear to me that they had been well instructed not to touch the English-speaking gang, for if they had been eager to get me or any of the others, they knew where to come, as I was at work every day in the Labor Temple and also on the streets, but their whole efforts were directed towards the aliens. On Monday they went to Swift's plant and demanded all aliens to be fired, and the manager

agreed, provided the returned soldiers would take their jobs—but he told them they would not take the work, as only aliens would do it. The other firms have all agreed to fire the aliens if the returned soldiers agreed to stop rioting and all has been quiet. There has been considerable damage. Blumenberg Shop is all smashed up. The Swifts plant is closed up, having fired about 500 aliens and they have sent a letter to the returned soldiers to supply them with 500 men, but they will not take the jobs, with the result that the soldiers' committee doesn't know what to do.

They have called a mass-meeting for Thursday night, and the Board of Trade has given them the Industrial Bureau free, provided no socialists are allowed to attend.

The newspapers have been very active, diverting their attention to the foreigner and trying to place the blame on the Socialist Party of Canada, as has also been the Board of Trade, who have demanded the mayor to prohibit all meetings of a contentious nature, who has issued a proclamation to that effect, and, as expected, our noble labor aldermen have issued a signed statement to the press, stating that the riots have developed into a labor trouble and for that reason the soldiers and labor people ought to get together and solve the problem. Makes one feel like presenting them with a bottle of glue, so that they can stick together.

However, in another part of the paper, where the interview that was held between the labor aldermen, the mayor, the Board of Trade, and returned soldiers, the paper states that the labor members stated in no uncertain tones that they had no connection with the Socialist Party of Canada, neither had they anything to do with any of their meetings; in fact they are reported as saying that the ultra-socialists are our worst enemies. This is good food for the capitalist press, which makes the most of it, and they realize that we have pretty nearly got control of the Trades and Labor Council, and believe me, when we get it we will use it to our advantage.

In yesterday's paper they are still attempting to direct the attention of the soldiers to the socialists, saying that the soldiers are watching for an announcement of socialist meetings, and warning the owners of halls and theatres what will happen to their property if they let us have it, and inviting the soldiers not to allow us to hold open-air meetings.

However, it will soon cool off and then we will be able to get at them and give them the truth, ex-

(OVER)

**THE DOMINION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,
Office of Secretary, 401 Pender Street East.**

Vancouver, B. C., Jan. 9, 1918.

Ernest J. Chambers, Esq.,
Chief Press Censor for Canada,
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Sir: In reply to your letter of the 2nd inst. we beg to point out that, far from us persisting in the determination to misunderstand the principles of the Canadian Press Censorship and the action of the Government in suppressing the "Western Clarion," it is you, in our opinion, who persists in ignoring the facts of the case and our repeated request for specific information.

We might possibly assume one or more points for which the "Western Clarion" was summarily deprived of its right to existence. We might, possibly, assume ninety-nine points and then be wrong, it might be the hundredth point which called for its official execution. We do not know, and we are not prepared to take action upon assumptions. You, at least, are the people qualified to know and it is from your department we seek for this information, which, we contend, up to date, has not been furnished us.

If you remember, we requested information as to whether or not the paper was suppressed for quoting from other periodicals which are still permitted free circulation. This question has not been answered. The voluminous extracts from the paper which your department submits as objectionable matter does not supply us with the reason for the suppression, else why the eight months' delay in taking action on your part.

We demand only the application of the principle in British law that the accused be furnished with a properly formulated charge, that the specific point, or points, in which we have erred be brought to our attention. You persist in ignoring these requests. Either you can answer and will not, or else you cannot. To no other conclusion will your replies to our various letters allow us to arrive.

And, finally, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we are not willing to be suppressed solely because our analysis of history, our teachings of economics and sociology does not altogether coincide with the view of these sciences adopted by your department. Failing some definite charge or information upon this matter we will take the matter to the highest court known, that of public opinion, in which we cannot and shall not be denied a hearing.

Sincerely yours,

C. STEPHENSON.

plaining our position. I am trying to arrange to get addressing the returned men, as quite a number of them are starting to see a little light and think there is something wrong.

However, we will have another issue of our paper out next week, but we are now minus rooms, and everybody scared to rent us space; but we will get over it.

I see the Duke of Devonshire reported in last night's paper as saying that Bolshevism requires dark and hidden places in which to flourish and if taken in time and dealt with in the proper manner it can be outrooted. If his statement is correct, the actions of the authorities, in attempting to drive us to dark and hidden corners, is in our best interests. But, to draw this over-long letter to an end, I can assure you that every attempt to suppress us will only give us more determination to carry on, until we stop out of our shackles, and you can depend on us to get at the workers in some way, until we can hold meetings again.

If you send us down 500 copies of the Soviets at Work, we will get them out amongst the soldiers and see if it helps.

I will close now and will send you cheque for bill submitted in a couple of days.

Give our best wishes to the comrades on the coast and assure them we are still alive and will be heard from in a short time.

With best wishes to yourself and the comrades of the D. E. C.

Yours for socialism,

R. B. RUSSELL.

Secretary Manitoba Provincial Executive.

P. S.—Good reports from Toronto and Montreal. Will send them later.

Russia that the French Government would not tentative" government of Finland.

The ways of diplomacy are inscrutable indeed.