

Western Clarion

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and Current Events.

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Editor.....Ewen MacLeod

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VANCOUVER, B. C., APRIL 2, 1923.

"DRUM AND TRUMPET" PATRIOTISM

THE Vancouver daily newspapers have been very much worried during the past week over the activities of the young bloods at the University of B. C. It appears that Sir Henry Newbolt has been at the university lecturing to the student body, his subject being "Poetry and Patriotism." Following upon that "The Ubysey" (the U. B. C. magazine) carried an editorial in which Sir Henry's choice of subject is deplored and his treatment of it challenged. Apparently the points of view of Sir Henry and "The Ubysey" writers are out of touch with each other. Besides the editorial in question the magazine carried the following parody on Sir Henry's own efforts in "Drake's Drum":—

People in the Colonies, very far away,
(Far away and very far below),
So they sent an orator, twenty bob a day,
All the way to Canada, you know.
Pounding on the tom-tom, hammering the drum,
Telling how we vanquished every foe,
—Unimpressed Colonials looking rather glum,
(When the dickens will the blighter go?)

Seven weeks in Canada, long enough to see
(Far away and very far below),
How these poor Colonials are "just like you and me,"
Just as modest—till they start to blow.
Take the news to England—they'll be glad to hear
How we worship Haig and Jellicoe;
Very patriotic, but a trifle too exotic;
You know it really isn't comme il faut.

That poem, or parody, has raised an awful storm by this time and we gather that it is to be withdrawn "with regret." There is not much sense in apologising after you deliberately punch somebody on the nose, which is different from accidentally stepping on a man's corns. But here has been poor old "Lucian" every other "Week End" for a long time in "The Province" encouraging verse among the University students, and the first effort which has brought down the house, so to speak, has to be apologised for as an "insult to a patriot."

And now the students are in for it. They are without the British spirit, the British sense of fair-play, British patriotism and other qualities British. They are, in fact, flirting with sedition. As "The World" (March 28, 1923) says:—

From one strange quarter an attempt at justification of the students has been made. Their ennui at the thought of anyone in these days being thrilled by memories of Drake or Nelson or Beatty has been defended on the ground that it exhibits "fearless independence." It would be kinder to tell the students in question the frank truth. There is no fearlessness in a mean anonymous lampoon; no independence in a collegian biting the hand that sustains him. It is a matter of simple common British honesty that a state-aided institution should not teach, nor encourage nor countenance anything subversive of the principles on which the state is founded. What is law for workmen in Winnipeg should be good doctrine for state-aided highbrows in Vancouver.

We gather from the press that patriotism on the part of these students should lull them into contentment with all dull headed opinion and that on the part of the Faculty new ideas should find them hide-proof. Apparently, however, the practise of rat-

ting the bones of Nelson is wearing out. Patriotism needs dressing up in a new coat—a warm one. We are wondering if "The Ubysey" will tell us what their brand of patriotism is like, not forgetting of course, that gentle hint about those seditious devils in Winnipeg.

Our sympathy to Sir Henry. It's a terrible thing after having told the same old story for so many years to run into a bunch of kids who see nothing in it.

A COMPARISON IN HOUSES.

THE Socialist press in Great Britain is featuring the report of the British labor delegation to the Ruhr region and the recommendation that the report proposes should be carried out. The recommendation is that the Ruhr area should be internationalized. On that score they are being criticized all around, but it is with another part of the report that we are interested.

John Wheatley, Labor M.P. for a Glasgow constituency, speaking there recently said (Forward, March 3/23) that the capitalist press of Great Britain encouraged the tendency to feature foreign affairs in the news, and to divert attention from affairs at home. He said that "the condition of the Glasgow working class was a much greater tragedy than the condition of peoples in Central Europe," and that the delegation—

had not found houses tumbling down about the people as had happened during the past few weeks in Bridgeton; they found the standard of housing immensely superior to Glasgow's and nothing of the slums which they knew here. In the midst of all the present difficulties they had seen working-class houses being erected—houses which would compare favourably in external appearance with middle-class houses here. The people were well-dressed; the children seemed well-dressed and comfortable. They had found no apparent shortage of goods. He believed it might be true that the standard and quality of food was lower than ours, but there were no signs of the extreme poverty and starvation that they had heard so much of. Moreover, there was no unemployment, and the criticism that the apparent betterness was due to the fact that the German workers worked harder than we did was absurd. The miners in the Ruhr Valley worked seven hours from bank to bank—an hour less than our miners did.

We at home were being misled as to the facts of the situation. If the east end of Glasgow were only transported to the centre of Europe it would become the mecca of politicians and philanthropists who were blind to every misery at home. He had every sympathy with the workers in every country who were oppressed by Capitalism, but no class of workers in Germany could compare in poverty to the people he represented in Westminster.

John Wheatley expounds upon a theme—working class housing conditions in and around Glasgow—quite in tune with the facts. We escaped from that region ourselves about as soon as our legs were strong enough to travel, in accord with the facts laid down.

"The Stately Homes of England" is a fine poem, no doubt. It is proper British patriotism to admire it. As Jack Jones says—they stand 'em in rows 'cause they can't be trusted to stand alone. We are waiting to hear what the Glasgow folk think about world affairs now.

SECRETARIAL NOTES.

THE "Clarion Mail Bag" feature is absent from this issue and will appear in next. We have been a little under the weather and have not managed to get the letters turned over to Comrade Earp for inspection.

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J. M. Sanderson, secretary of Local Winnipeg asks us to announce that Sidney Rose has resigned from that local and is not now a member.

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Local Calgary has changed the address of headquarters there.

Note new address: Room 27 Central Building, Calgary, Alta. All mail to the secretary of the Local (W. H. Exelby) or to the secretary of the Alberta P. E. C. (R. Burns) should be addressed there.

How Old is Man?

SCIENCE is having its day in the press. Hard upon the accounts of the recent finds in Egypt, public interest is stirred by the blazing of a star and by the news from Patagonia that a skull has been discovered which seems to belong to the Tertiary Age. Cosmic events and evidences of the early history of man are, it appears, once more excellent newspaper "copy."

Interest in the origin of man is not a new thing. Even before paleontology had attained the rank of a science, Scheuchzer believed he had found the remains of a man "witness of the Deluge." Scientific investigation of the problem began with the discovery of a skeleton in the Neanderthal in western Germany. Here was a skull type which could not readily be associated with modern European man and was at once claimed as an early, extinct form. The cautious Virchow was reluctant to proclaim this single specimen as proof of a new type of human, particularly since he believed that he had discovered in it many pathological traits. However, when similar specimens were found in Belgium, France, and Moravia the existence of an Ice-Age population was established beyond cavil. In the course of time discoveries were made which pushed the period of the appearance of man back into still earlier times. Dr. Dubois discovered in Java remains which, while similar to man, were so distinct in form that they had to be considered as a separate type, which was named the Pithecanthropus Erectus, the ape-man walking erect.

Continued search in ancient gravel beds and other deposits belonging to the early Ice Age finally yielded, in the sands near Heidelberg, the jaw of a human form, a fragment which belongs to a being much more primitive than the Neanderthal race. Additional finds in England suggest the occurrence of a distinctive type in this early period, and recent evidence points to the presence of man even before the Ice Age, at the end of the Tertiary Period. We may now safely estimate that man has lived in Europe for at least 150,000 years.

Since all the manlike apes are found in the Old World, it seems probable that the human species developed in that section of the globe. Quite recently, however, a single tooth found in the West of this country has been ascribed to a manlike ape, but it is the only indication of the presence of man-apes thus far found on the American continent. The long search for human remains belonging to the Ice Age in America has not yet yielded results accepted by careful investigators. No form has been found indicating a human type anatomically different from the modern American aborigines. While scientists in North America are still skeptical in regard to alleged Quaternary (Ice Age) finds, a South American scientist, Ameghino, has claimed that in Patagonia man existed together with extinct animal forms belonging to the late Tertiary or early Quaternary. His evidence, however, is not entirely satisfactory.

It remains to be seen whether Dr. Wolf's find in Patagonia will alter our views in regard to the early occurrence of man in America. If the fossilized skull which this investigator reports finding in the possession of a settler is really what he believes it to be, we shall have to conclude that man existed in America in the days when the present polar regions were semi-tropical and enormous reptiles dominated the world.—The Nation (N. Y.)

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