

The Principal

THE ALARM CLOCK

Wound Up and Set Monthly at McGill University

VOL. I, No. 1

JANUARY 1933

PRICE FIVE CENTS

TIME TO WAKE UP!

AN EDITORIAL

This is a student publication; it is intended primarily for circulation on the campus; the material contained in it is contributed by students, faculty members and recent graduates of McGill. It has no financial assistance from outside the University and must stand or fall entirely by student and faculty support. Neither is it officially linked to any campus organization, though the Editors are all members of the McGill Labour Club. The name, we hasten to add, has no sinister significance.

It is the purpose of the Editors to provide a means of expression both for literary effort and for the best thought of students on Canadian economics and politics. Articles representing any shade of opinion will be welcomed and those which are of sufficient merit will be published as space permits. The only criterion of selection will be the desire of the Editors that all material appearing in the journal shall have the literary and intellectual calibre which befits a University publication.

The Editors would like at the same time to make clear their own political conviction and the viewpoint from which the editorial policy of the journal will be conducted. We believe that the existing economic structure, based upon private property, profits and individual control of industry, is in process of rapid disintegration, causing untold human misery

and wrong; it is daily proving itself unjust, unintelligent and unworkable. We believe that social harmony and social justice will not be restored until individual control of production, trade and finance has been entirely eliminated and replaced by social control of these functions. The exact nature of such control is a matter for discussion and experimentation. It certainly does not mean that government as at present constituted should take over industry as at present constituted; rather, the machinery of government and the mechanism of our economic life should both be so altered and integrated as to enable the coexistence of material wellbeing and a real democracy.

We believe that every effort should be made to bring about this change by parliamentary action of a constitutional character. We do not believe that either the Liberal or Conservative parties, dependent as they are upon the financial support of individualist financiers and industrialists, would dare to consider fundamental changes of any sort; the people of Canada can hope for nothing from them except the prolongation of a dying system. We are adherents, therefore, on the political side, of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, on the educational side, of the League for Social Reconstruction.

The response of many students to such a statement can be anticipated: the glorious old labels—"red", "radical",

"socialist", will once more be brought into play. Surely it is not necessary to point out to educated persons that the use of epithets does not constitute argument. Students should shun that loose reliance upon catchwords which characterises the unintelligent man and which usually masks mental vacuity. We want you to argue against us; but talk facts, not slogans.

It may well be that any attempt to induce students to give serious consideration to current Canadian problems will be greeted with derision. Students may prefer jest and jollity; if so, jest on; I dare say the world will manage to roll along without our advice. But events are happening all around us—events about which our academic courses, with their emphasis upon established truth and long-run tendencies, will tell us little. Down in that real world where the workers and farmers of Canada live, forces are at work which will mold the life of this country in the next generation. We may ignore these events and these forces and thereby earn for ourselves the title of a socially useless class, and the merited contempt of the ordinary man. Or we may endeavour to understand these forces, to guide and control them; we may fulfil the function of true students in all ages—the steering of a troubled population through stormy waters and critical periods into new levels of culture and civilization.

Kurrand-a-Vayres

By Beatrice C. Ferneyhough

During a prolonged and enforced stay in Kurrand-a Vayres a friend of mine made a close study of conditions prevailing there; and summed them up in a letter telling me of his intended return here.

In view of the gravity of the situation here, I have thought it worth while to offer this picture he drew as an example of what can be achieved in a well-ordered state.

He wrote—

* * *

Kurrand-a Vayres is without doubt the

state which puts the highest value upon human life and the human passions. Here the foibles and weaknesses of human nature are closely studied; and every precaution is taken that may ensure that none will go to waste. Inevitably love and sex and all the illusions centring about these subjects are matter of chief concern. Dance halls, peep-shows, and institutions known as brothels, and all entertainments attractive to and likely to induce the perversion of sex and the enslavement of the passions flourish here; and are diligently subsidized by the church and educational systems. These, by a judicious suppression of sex knowledge, and a deliberate frustrating of

all normal passions in the young, produce a race lacking both in decision and self-respect, a prey to doubts, fears and superstitions, and readily lending itself to enslavement to an ideal of mechanical progress. Practically every trace of sincerity and individual vision has been wiped out.

In this state the education of women is most notable. Priding themselves on their broad-mindedness the citizens of Kurrand-a-Vayres have opened their schools and universities to women. But by a careful poisoning of the impressionable minds of young girls against the idea of a free indulgence in the delights of love (by asso-

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has this?