

Western Clarion

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and Current Events.

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VANCOUVER, B. C., NOVEMBER 16, 1920.

EDITORIAL

B. C. ELECTIONS.

THE S. P. of C. enters the campaign in two districts only in this election, namely, Vancouver and Prince Rupert. In Vancouver, where there are six seats, we have nominated Comrades Dennis, Earp, Harrington, McQuoid, Smith, and Stephenson, and in Prince Rupert, J. H. Burrough, nominated at a convention of various labor groups, made this declaration:

"It never entered my head until last night that I might be called upon to stand, but if I am chosen I shall stand on the platform of the Socialist Party of Canada. I am not concerned with the opening of closed towns or the reform of conditions for wage slaves, but I would abolish the wage slave system entirely. I would go to Victoria to spread the propaganda of revolutionary Socialism, for that is the only remedy to present day conditions. If that stand is not endorsed by this meeting I would decline to become a candidate."

We quote the above from "The Daily News" (Prince Rupert), in order to correct the reports current that Comrade Burrough is running under the banner of the F. L. P. In the matter of campaign manifestos, that of Comrade Burrough appears in another column. Vancouver has issued as its first manifesto the same proclamation of party principles as was used in Winnipeg in the election there. Further literature will be issued as the campaign develops. Polling day is December 1st. It is evident that the workers throughout the Province are alive to the opportunities offered for Socialist propaganda in such a campaign as this. We have had repeated demands made upon us for candidates to contest outlying electoral districts. We have not yet recovered from the effects the war has had upon us one way and another, and in the meantime we shall proceed steadily with our educational work in every field. While there is evidence all around of the good work our propaganda has done, it is necessary for us to see to it that our educational growth finds its expression through the workers developing their own spokesmen in their own fields. We have been all along insisting upon systematic study. We should insist too upon systematic effort towards the development of class consciousness among the workers.

SECRETARIAL NOTES.

A misplaced line in the article of F. Clark, "Is It a Democracy?" in last issue rendered a sentence unreadable. It should have read: "The history of the past five years proves that the mass of the people don't give a hang about their political privileges so long as their economic privileges are fairly secure. In other words, if jobs are plentiful, and hay and oats are coming regularly to the masses, they are not interested in their political privileges. Conscription in Great Britain and Canada, United States espionage acts, government by order-in-council or court injunction, "Dora," jailings, deportations, expulsion of regularly-elected representatives, etc., were of less importance in the eyes of the masses than the price of sugar, or the latest baseball scores."

We are requested by the Literature Secretary of Local Winnipeg to draw attention to the fact that our Literature Price List applies in all respects to their department, and that orders may be filled by application to J. Sanderson, Box 1762, Winnipeg. Bundles of "Clarion" back numbers, may be had from the same address, free for distribution.

The latest class to be organized is reported from Kamloops. Comrade Orchard reports the formation of a class to study "Socialism, Utopian and Scientific." A class on economics has been organized around Sechelt logging district by Comrades Don-

ovan and McKenzie. Comrade McKenzie in the meantime, has met with a serious accident. Comrade Donovan is therefore directing the argument on "Value, Price and Profit," in the time honored way.

Comrades at outlying points, news dealers, local secretaries and others interested should write to: The Educational Press Association, 182 St. Catharines Street East Montreal, for a literature list. They advertise "The State and Revolution," by Lenin, and we have ordered a supply. Their stock of this work is exhausted but they report a further shipment due. Local secretaries should see their literature list at once and order their supplies so that they may be able to estimate the demand.

We are constantly in receipt of communications regarding medical relief for Soviet Russia. During the past few months we have lent our earnest aid to this worthy endeavor, and have from time to time forwarded collections and donations received to the Soviet Russia Medical Relief Committee, 362 De Kalb Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y. (Dr. Wm. Mendelson, secretary-treasurer). This committee, which has the approval of L. C. A. K. Martens, Soviet representative at New York, is now located at 60 St. Marks Place, New York City, and its treasurer is now Dr. John Guttman. We have from time to time published their financial statements in these columns, and we expect to present in next issue a statement in detail of supplies already sent to Reval and received there. In the meantime there has been organized in Winnipeg, Man., a Medical Relief Committee for Soviet Russia and Soviet Ukraine, M. Popovich, secretary, Box 3591, Postal Station B., Winnipeg. We are advised by the Committee of Brooklyn (now New York), that the Winnipeg Committee has their endorsement. We now learn of the formation of the Soviet Russia Medical Relief Fund, Chicago, Ill., Chas. L. Drake, Director. This "Fund" issues some literature in furtherance of its "drive" for relief moneys, literature which is hardly distinguishable from ordinary liberal claptrap. Now, we have no desire to prejudice in any way the cause of medical relief for the suffering people of Russia, but would point out that if these committees would expect maximum results they had better work cohesively and assign territories to one another. As it is, each secretary is writing appeals and letters to the same individuals all over the country, and each is duplicating the work of the other. For instance, in August, the Brooklyn Committee sent out letters to arrange a lecturing tour for Isaac McBride. The Chicago people are now sending similar letters, and we are informed that the Winnipeg Committee too are now working to the same end. Curiously enough however, not one of these committees seems to know anything of the existence of the other, and the unfortunate correspondent is required to make arrangements with all three on one affair. We are informed that Chas. L. Drake, who is Director of the Chicago Fund, is the same director who toured Sir Oliver Lodge over this continent some time ago. He addresses us as "Dear Comrade," and he says that the meetings held by Isaac McBride will be "non-political, but radically Socialist" in character. Local Vancouver, of the S. P. of C. have already declined (twice) to arrange a meeting in Vancouver for Isaac McBride, mainly on the grounds that the Russian situation does not warrant the employment of highly paid lecturers touring the country, in view of the fact that publicity is constantly given to the need for contributions towards Soviet medical relief, and that the Russian Revolution is a constant feature here in regular Socialist propaganda. We mean no disrespect to Mr. McBride, and we will continue our endeavor towards medical relief, but we seem to see a danger of a regular industry springing up, built upon the miseries of the Russian people. We have before us now two appeals requesting funds, and each is supposed to be inserted in the same issue. If we are earnest in attending to working-class matters, let us be sensible in our arrangements. These committees have been overlapping one another's efforts constantly. It may be the result of worthy zeal, but this is not efficiency. If they are overlapping at this end, who knows but they are overlapping at the point of despatch? This is not intended otherwise than as a note of encouragement.

The following is from the "Evening Standard," March 22nd, 1920:

"The first Levée since 1914 was held today at St. James's Palace, and was a brilliant function, the glorious sunshine enhancing the pageantry and color of the proceedings. There were some 400 presentations to the King.

"Dr. Von Sthamer, the German Chargé d'Affaires, attended the ceremony, and was presented to the King by Earl Curzon of Kedleston, Secretary for Foreign Affairs. Dr. Von Sthamer, in turn, presented the members of his staff.

"A feature of the presentations was the number of representatives of new States who were intro-

duced, among them being representatives of Finland, Poland, and the New Balkan States."

And the following is by H. G. Wells on Russia:—"And this spectacle of misery and ebbing energy is, you will say, the result of Bolshevik rule. I do not believe it is. This desolate Russia is not a system that has been attacked and destroyed by something vigorous and malignant. It is an unsound system that has worked itself out and fallen down."

"It was not communism which built up these great impossible cities, but capitalism. It was not Communism that plunged this huge, creaking bankrupt empire into six years of European Imperialism. Nor is it Communism that has pestered this suffering and perhaps dying Russia with a series of subsidized raids, invasions and insurrections, and inflicted upon it the atrocious blockade. The vindictive French creditor and the journalistic British of are far more responsible for these deathbed miseries than any Communist."

The capitalist press editors don't like Wells on Russia at all. They have already given wide publicity to his story of Russian conditions. It is a terrible story of disease, cold, destitution and want. The capitalist press editors, however, have been forced to include his interpretation of causes, for the very simple reason that Wells is too strong a figure in English journalism for them to wilfully distort his despatches. So they report him "faithfully" and then quarrel with his reasons. Wells' story is a story of the result of six years' incessant warfare and three years' blockade. By his showing misery was the inheritance of Communist control, not the outcome of it.

This is the composition of the British House of Commons:—Landowners, 115; insurance directors, 61; coal directors, 17; shipping directors, 30; textile manufacturers, 19; general manufacturers, 13; bank directors, 28; oil directors, 4; brewers, 10; lawyers, 102; army officers, 50; naval officers, 12; doctors, 10; labour members, 67.

This is the House of Lords:—Insurance directors, 94; other mercantile interests, 84; bank directors, 68; shipping directors, 33; coal directors, 29; lawyers, 28; oil directors, 11; brewers, 11; textile manufacturers, 10; railway directors, 62.

Comrade Jack Kavanagh has gone to Prince Rupert at the urgent request of the Dominion Executive Committee, to help Comrade Burrough in the electoral campaign in that district. The process of working class education in and around the northern district that has been going on constantly of late, and the nomination of Comrade Burrough is a striking evidence of its influence. With the arrival of Comrade Kavanagh, the campaign will develop in proportion, because outside points will be reached and people from outside points will come to the centre. Winter classes were in process of formation when the election date was announced, and the classes will now start off with enthusiasm, whatever the election result may be. Comrade Kavanagh may go over the G. T. P. as far as Smithers. The comrades there are advised to communicate with him c/o J. H. Burrough, Box 833, Prince Rupert.

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(Continued from page 1.)

volution might take place without any Marxian students. But what would it be? Chaos, confusion, bloodshed, anarchy. This we want to avert. The greater the number of those who understand the nature of the struggle, the greater the possibility of a bloodless fight. Let education be our watchword!

J. A. McD.

S. P. OF C. VANCOUVER CAMPAIGN MEETINGS
November 15th Finnish Hall
November 17th Pender Hall
November 22nd Ash Hall (Fraser Avenue)
November 30th Pender Hall

Meetings at 8 p.m.

HERE AND NOW.

Following, One Dollar each—Major Hyslop, R. Dickson, J. Keen, G. H. Kimball, E. D. Mitchell, F. Herman, J. M. Brown, E. A. Evans, S. J. Rose, A. Shepherd, W. B. Mitchell, C. Crook, R. Hatley, C. Donner, A. Harris, Jim Cartwright, J. Pack, G. Wallack, F. J. Enman, H. Black, B. McLeod, A. Tree, A. E. Cotton, R. Sinclair, H. C. Mitchell, G. Beattie, Jake Klein, Wm. MacIntosh.

Following Two Dollars each—J. Nelson, T. DeMott, J. Sanderson, F. J. McNey, D. Caird, D. Stewart, Frank Cassidy, \$19; C. E. Ingram, \$4; J. J. Albers, \$4; H. Roberts, \$3; Hugh Russell, \$3; J. A. Untinen, \$3; J. A. McD., \$8; Elsie Thorburn, \$6.

Total subscriptions received from 28th October to 11th November, inclusive, \$90.

CLARION MAINTENANCE FUND

Major Hyslop, \$1; R. Dickson, \$1; J. Nelson, \$1; Wardrop, \$1; C. Donner, \$1.85; J. A. Untinen, \$4; J. Pack, \$1; F. J. McNey, \$3; Larson, \$2; F. S. F., \$1; H. C. Mitchell, \$4; Wm. MacIntosh, \$4.

Total donations for C. M. F., from 28th October to 11th November, inclusive, \$24.85.