

## Western Clarion

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VANCOUVER, B. C., APRIL 15, 1922

### GENOA.

NOW that Mr. Lloyd George has, by the aid of a certain deftness which he possesses in appropriating to his own speechmaking use the arguments of others, secured his coveted vote of confidence, the Genoa conference goes forward. There was at first some doubt as to whether the conference would convene at all, for, after Cannes French chauvinism bristled at the impossible idea of meeting representatives from Germany and Russia on an equal footing. Germany must not be given any chance to argue further about the reparations terms, and Russia must first recognise the debt! America declined (in a polite note) to attend, at the same time sending in a tidy bill of expense for patrolling the Rhineland.

The "Genoa Idea" as at first embraced by the liberally minded was that all hands would get together and devise ways and means to work for a solution of common problems: to facilitate the interchange of goods, open up credit, reduce administrative expense, employ labor,—all to be done of course without disturbing competition and private enterprise and ownership as the established order of things. In short, the "Genoa Idea" was peaceful production and profit making. But the French jackals have the reparations bone, even if there is little meat on it, and they will not give it up. Not until the British Prime Minister publicly announced that Russia must recognize the Czarist debts and that no question would be entered at the Conference as to German responsibility for war damages, would France agree to attend. Those guarantees have been made and the Conference is now under way. Mr. Lloyd George seems quite at home in "shaking hands with murderers," and nobody seems to be very much perturbed.

The first session has passed, with a little diplomatic excitement as to the numerical proportion of representation on committees allotted to the various countries, together with some fireworks, mainly about restrictions on discussion of such like subjects as disarmament. In this, first blood (if there be any blood in diploma) is to the credit of Chicherin, who adroitly proposes disarmament all round, much to the discomfiture of everyone. Of course, he is "out of order," and knows it, but reparations and armed forces are subjects that will govern the decisions of the conference, whether they are discussed or not.

We suspect that the new international consortium with headquarters in London, whereby the rehabilitation of Russia under the supervision of German industrial skill and systematic organization will be credited to Germany through the reparations account, will form the background of the British programme. Time alone, however, can give this confirmation.

### BORING ANYWAY.

AFTER all the bluster of the new leadership, self-appointed to lead the workers hither and thither, in and out, the result to date of the order to return to the international unions and "bore from within" has not met with an enthusiastic response. Officials in the international organizations are up in arms. "Forewarned is forearmed," they

say, and they have been discussing the new programmes with alarm, as engineered by competitors who threaten to encroach on their preserves. The "Western Labor News" (Winnipeg) has given much space recently to discussions in labor ranks of the hopes expressed by the new leaders, from which we gather that they do not take kindly to the "boring from within" idea. So too the "Canadian Congress Journal," which, incidentally, betrays an easy aptitude for building up a history of Socialist organizations in Canada to suit itself. The "Journal" shuts the door with a bang and locks and bolts it in the face of the new leadership, which evidently will have to wait a little before the operation of "boring from within" actively commences. With apologies to Gilbert's Major General we offer the following:

Now we cannot help but mention when we see what you're about,

That when "boring from within" you're really "boring from without";

All your Constitutions, Programmes, all your speeches thus result in

What to Leaders of ambition is decidedly insultin'.

### IMMIGRANTS: PICKED AND SELECTED

WHILE the Duke of Devonshire (late Governor-General of Canada) and other enthusiastic exporters of British surplus population have been making glowing speeches in the Canadian Club, London, about the men Canada needs, Sir Clifford Sifton has been making speeches in Toronto about the men Canada wants.

The Duke is an enthusiastic Imperialist and thinks Canada could do with some thousands more men, British born and bred. Sir Clifford used to be Minister of the Interior, and knows all about immigration. He therefore has some bright ideas of his own on the subject. (See "MacLean's Magazine," April 1, 1922).

"There is talk, also, about getting a large number of people from the manufacturing towns of England and Scotland. We do not want mechanics from the Clyde—riotous, turbulent, and with an insatiable appetite for whiskey."

Sir Clifford wants none of these, and the South of England also does not, generally speaking, produce the men he approves of as Canadian immigrants. They will not do. They do not measure up to "The Quality Standard" of Canada's needs.

This is the quality standard.

"When I speak of quality I have in mind, I think, something that is quite different from what is in the mind of the average writer or speaker upon the question of immigration. I think a stalwart peasant in a sheep-skin coat, born on the soil, whose forefathers have been farmers for ten generations, with a stout wife and a half-dozen children is good quality. A Trades Union artisan who will not work more than eight hours a day and will not work that long if he can help it, will not work on a farm at all and has to be fed by the public when work is slack is, in my judgment, quantity and very bad quality. I am indifferent as to whether or not he is British born. It matters not what his nationality is; such men are not wanted in Canada, and the more of them we get the more trouble we shall have."

Sir Clifford concedes there are a few "quality" men to be found in the north of England and Scotland, but, in the main:

"In Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Belgium, Bohemia, Hungary and Galicia there are hundreds of thousands of hardy peasants, men of the type above described, farmers for ten or fifteen generations, who are anxious to leave Europe and start life under better conditions in a new country. These men are workers. They have been bred for generations to work from daylight to dark. They have never done anything else and they never expect to do anything else. We have some hundreds of thousands of them in Canada now, and they are among our most useful and productive people."

This, then, is the "quality" needed for Canada. It matters not what their nationality may be. Not even a dreaded "Hun" would be turned back nowadays, if he had the sheepskin coat, the large family and the capacity for work from daylight to dark without hope of doing anything else.

Not that we're kicking at all! Not a bit of it! We're just sympathizing with the Duke, who is thus

forced to endure the company of those whiskey drinkers who don't like working from daylight to dark!

Those thousands of poverty stricken farmers of the Canadian prairie are now to have some added company in their misery and, while Sir Clifford and the Duke may differ on points, they will both agree that, whatever happens, the world, including Canada, must be made Safe for Democracy.

### THE TERMS

(Continued from page 1)

The Russians, of course, will have a contra account. Their bill of expense will include the expenses met in repelling armed invasion, allied counter-revolutionary propaganda, loss suffered through the blockade; besides this there will follow argument over the present political complexion of the treaties of the Czar's government as now affecting Russia, excluded by the terms of the peace treaty of Versailles.

If they ever get as far as this, Article 4 (personel) will be unusually interesting.

### HERE AND NOW

Here's the very thing. Just what we've been looking for—envy, emulation and jealousy over "prominence" in Here and Now. Not that such a spirit could be condoned in any other walk of life, but in Here and Now all hands will agree that it's positively ethical. Perpend!

"Noticing the enviable prominence accorded the remarks of some sub-renewers to "Clarion," my attention was stirred to gain the same by sending along my widow's mite. But then there's two things: First, I'm not a widow, and second, in view of the claims on me, \$2.60 is not a "mite." However, please renew my sub. and send along (registered) 25 copies "Slave of the Farm."

Thus our old friend "Progress" claims the attention of the community in Dauphin, Man., where he intends to leave a copy of "Slave of the Farm" when he goes calling.

Talking about farms, here's a word from rural life in Alberta:

"It may be of interest to you to know what condition the average farmer is in in this district.

They are living on relief administered by the Alberta Provincial Government. Relief clothing comes from the Red Cross; feed for their stock, seed and a little food also from the Government, which constitutes a first charge on this year's crop.

The average farmer is hopelessly in debt; he has not paid interest during the past three or four years. In spite of their conditions it is uphill work to get them to consider our position and read literature. Co-operation and what they understand by economics they will talk willingly enough, but Socialism! They are afraid of the word and are suspicious of all explanations. At the same time they are afraid to have us meet their spokesmen in public debate, for we are able to analyse conditions and make a more comprehensive survey than they are. Anyway, education is the need, so give us more of it."

Seems like that fellow with the sheepskin coat, his wife and six kids will have to bring an enduring lunch with them when they pass the immigration turn-stile attended by Sir Clifford Sifton.

But here, we set out to make a howl about the need for subs. Best thing after all is to let the figures tell their own story:

Following \$1 each: H. Jameson, Wm. Pasch, O. Peterson, A. Lellman, Dick Burge, D. Hearn, J. R. MacDonald, P. Wallgren, Fred Wood.

H. W. Speed, \$3; Mrs. O. Craig, \$3; N. P. Sorensen, \$2.50; J. H. Moon, \$2; Miss Roy, \$2; C. R. Morrison, \$5; P. T. Leckie, \$2; E. Tallon, \$2.

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Sub rustling contest winners: (1) W. Hoare; (2) H. W. Speed; (3) W. Erwin.

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