

## Western Clarion

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and Current Events.

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VANCOUVER, B. C., JANUARY 2, 1922.

### ENTER—THE WORKERS' PARTY

**N**EW working class parties are interesting to us, not when the self appointed prophets, well anointed with their own past errors and self-sufficient in their shallow conceit are busily engaged in a sort of literary shadow-boxing with an imaginary and worthless enemy, but when they lay down to the scrutiny of our wondering gaze the actual basis of their performances, done or to be done. The business of pining to be "taken on" by somebody is regularly accompanied by a process of beating the air in an effort to attract attention, with the well rehearsed tricks practised to seduce the interest of the inexperienced, by the common tout at a penny fair.

"The bearings of this observation lies in the application on it." (Dickens)

Thus in the past year we had a storm-in-a-tea-cup sort of occurrence in eastern Canada. Our friends the Communists discovered us to be worthless and of no earthly use to the working class, and they decided, after sundry individual issues of several papers, (vol. 1. No. 1. being then the hall mark of up-to-date opinion) that the time for action was here, so they held a convention. Nothing that existed in the way of a working class political party was any good, and therefore a smart stepping and well ordered party was on the agenda for immediate formation.

What happened? We'll judge by results—it's an unkind way to judge, sure enough—and say: Nothing. In saying this we're not forgetting the poor devil who sat up nights and pored over countless clauses of a Constitution that was, for the new party to have proven an invincible rock upon which to build. Genius unrewarded. Toilsome nights over a scrap of paper!

As for us—we had our time of chastisement. We couldn't quite gather the drift of the matter in looking for the logic in it, but we gathered the idea that all that was necessary to the success of the Communists was the death of the S. P. of C. But somehow or other we kept on breathing, even though every breath drawn was to have been our last, and we're still alive to hear the hymn of hate or the song of praise, and to criticise the music.

It having been found to be a grievous error that a corner in wisdom could be maintained intact, our friends discovered themselves to be unpopular. A new organisation and a popular one became, in course of time, the order on the dispatch sheet. Some thing must be done. What must be done? Why! Hold a convention! Of course.

Thus comes into being the Workers' Party of Canada, born, Toronto, December 11th 1921. Now for "the application on it." These were the organisations represented, as given in the official minutes of the proceedings.

The Ukrainian Labor Temple, Winnipeg. One Big Union, (Timmins) Ontario. Workers' Alliance, Winnipeg. Russian Progressive Library, Toronto. Ontario Labor College, Toronto. Jewish Workers Educational League. Guelph Workingmen's Club. International Workers' and Soldiers' Association, Hamilton. Lithuanian Educate Circle. Melland Lodge 131, I. A. of M. Fabian Society, Hamilton. The Young Peoples' Jewish Socialist Educational Club, Toronto. Finnish Socialist Organisation

of Canada. Bulgarian Socialist Society, Toronto. Progressive Study Club, Sudbury. C. N. U. X., (Toronto). Montreal Labor College. Workers' Educational League, Toronto. Kitchner Labor Club. Womens League for Peace and Freedom, Workers League Montreal, Jewish Proletarian Culture League, Workers' Educational Club, Ottawa.

The chairman was J. Macdonald, Toronto, lately of the I. L. P. The chief business of the convention seemed to be to read the now familiar standard funeral oration over the S. P. of C., judging by the reports of speeches made. Special space in this connection is given to one Popovitch, of Winnipeg. He must have been judged to have been good at it. We don't know whether Popovitch is really a well trained liar or just a fool, but he has managed to invent a membership that we "once had" of 3,000. He must have mistaken our past reports for the figures of the national debt. But we have a notion that it pays to give attention to anyone who represents, or claims to represent a large number of foreign born men. They're recognised as "good pay."

The next item of business on the agenda, in order of importance, was the election of nine delegates to form a Provisional Executive Committee to carry on until—take it easily, dear reader—the next convention, which is to be convened three months after date. That's action!

The only disappointment we have to register is that three more months must go by before we shall see the fruits. But we have a promise, this time from the U. S. A. Strange as it may seem, our industrial life is managed from the U. S. A. So too, it appears, our working class efforts are to be managed from there also, or it may be that copied is the proper word. Anyway, a Communist Party there means a Communist Party here. The death of a Communist Party there means the death of the Communist Party here. An effort to produce a "popular" party there means an effort to produce a "popular" party here. The abandonment of the underground route there means its abandonment here. The convention program there means a convention program here. An attitude assumed there means an attitude assumed here. Here follows a pronouncement issued by the American Labor Alliance:

"The Workers' Party is a conscious effort of Labor to again take up the siege against its ancient enemy. From this beginning of revolutionary consciousness will grow the party of action that will unite the workers and strike off the shackles of slavery. It will enter into their every struggle, it will defend them and lead them to battle. It will organize them in the shops and mills, in the mines and fields. No element of American labor will be exempt from its penetrating and life-giving force. It will lead the workers to unity and thru unity to victory.

Out of the Pit, Labor is springing to battle!  
United, the victory is ours!"

Such nice words have come our way for many years. They make continuous and pleasant reading. Our interest lies in "the application on it."

As for us, we're past being astonished at anything in the way of new programmes. Not even if we were to receive the stamp of approval ourselves would it astonish us. Fact is, we have a hunch we command rapt attention, for there seems to prevail a notion that if only the S. P. of C. would change its shirt the whole world would change with it. There lies a further field for education.

### HERE AND NOW

At this season of the year, when, in spite of appearances contrariwise, most men consent to be regarded as human and are sometimes even caught yielding their features to a smile, it seems a callous and matter-of-fact business to introduce to the festive atmosphere such a sordid matter as pence.

It is worthy of note that Christmas in Protestant times, has never succeeded to a place among Caledonian holidays. Merely to state that fact is not to explain it, but we cheerfully and hereby surrender any and all rights in the exactitude of historical lore to the care of those who venture to lay claim to it.

But Christmas,—being a quarter day and therefore a rent day—is thus heavily handicapped among the discerning, and any companion vessel to the carafe that may appear to be the favorite at this time may be taken to drown the memory of a landlord's sorrowful countenance as well as to celebrate the joy there is in eluding him.

Anybody can easily find or adopt an excuse for anything, and to those who won't have such help as is here offered, the Winter Solstice will serve the most pernicky—the rejoicing that comes with the warmth of the returning sun, as the books have it. So be it that our readers are as other men (and women) are, for the time being in good humor, our fell design may have its way and we may venture to introduce a New Year effrontery from a personage no less important than the Postmaster. He speaks:

Post Office, Vancouver, B. C.  
15th December, 1921.

### Notice to Publishers

Newspaper rate of postage on and after the 1st January, 1922.

In accordance with the amendment to the Post Office Act passed during the 1920 Session of Parliament, newspapers and periodicals printed and published in Canada daily, three times a week, twice a week, weekly, fortnightly or monthly, sent from the office of publication to regular subscribers and to newdealers resident elsewhere than in the place of publication will, on and after the 1st January, 1922, be subject to postage at the rate of one and one-half cents per pound.

Francis E. Harrison,  
Postmaster.

That rate is exactly double the present rate. The high cost of spreading ideas! We can't hope for credit at the P. O. (With all their faults they're wiser than that). So we fall back upon our history—this time upon the history of a month, stated in terms of cash received and too easily counted.

We record here a solemn warning to the patient ones who read these notes that we are bordering on the serious and are near to invoicing their interest for what it will bring in cash.

This time we'll let the figures pipe up their weak-voiced financial chorus. It's really only a whisper for a month.

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