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POINTS OF VIEW.

THE present attitude of the S. P. of C. and the Clarion toward labor parties and the like is a matter of comment in our pages, and we take it that our attitude has not been sufficiently definite in the form of its utterance to emphasize the hostility of the S. P. of C. to all other political organizations "allegedly labor or avowedly capitalist," or words to that effect—as in past days.

It is quite true that recently we have been hesitant in criticism of, say, such newly arrived appearances as the British Labor Government, or the cutting edge of our remarks has not been so keen as has been hitherto usual when dealing with people whose outlook has not been precisely like our own. Likewise in the local field of endeavor, although we have not sunk our organizational identity in associating with other groups in politics we have taken action quite contrary to the action taken in the previous B. C. Provincial Election.

In the local action we had little or no alternative confronting us otherwise than to play the part of a non-participant negative, and when the situation is looked at now the election is over we are unable to see that any harm has been done or that our tradition as a factor in the education of the working class has been amended or detrimentally affected in any way. Otherwise than that we have reached more people than has been usual at our election meetings and our propaganda has suffered no hurt.

The war years and the years after have brought problems of party attitude and tactics to us which hitherto we had escaped. The war years brought official hindrance to our activities in various parts of the country, brought a censorship on the party organ and tended to disintegrate the organizational machinery of the party. Following upon that when we had begun to rebuild after the war the industrial union enthusiasm pervaded the western Canadian atmosphere, and its organizations, in building themselves up, tended to weaken our own by recruiting to their work the energies of many of our people. The Russian revolution and the literature that came from it set our membership, in common with other people, in a turmoil, and the whole movement seems to be at the present time suffering apathy which may be accounted the opposite extreme from those days of expectancy. The matter of the Third International affiliation brought forth a split in the party and divided opinion among workers generally. Those were different days from these. Revolution was abroad then. Party loyalties were suspended or broken throughout the European world. Capitalism had lost its grip. And ideas were losing their rigidity, a rigidity which they have not regained.

Afterwards, we have not had the same inclination to be dogmatic in our attitudes and we have welcomed various points of view.

In the practical play of politics any body, labor or socialist, will sooner or later find itself confronted with circumstances which will tax its resources or overcome, consistently with ideas prevailing inside and out of its body as to its principles, aims and the nature of the groundwork it has already laid down. So far as the Labor Government in Great Britain is concerned its own back benches appear to be very much concerned with this very matter at the present

time. Their criticism of their own government's action concerning the adoption of the recommendations of the Dawes Report is a case in point. Yet the government received the support of its own party. It is so with all its problems, and these problems will be set before it as hard fact matters wherein theory and practice must get along with the best possible grace.

In our own case, we have the relationship of our past and present attitudes to work out, and if we are in no special hurry to decide upon definite courses it is an indication of the fact that while we can teach we can learn, and perhaps gather strength as we go along. One thing is certain: in the past we have succeeded in imparting to the workers at large in Canada where we have effected contact with them an idea of the value to be gained in study and reflection and the worth of such an attitude in meeting the problems of working class life and aim. For the moment we are somewhat introspective.

Perhaps our attitudes have become less mechanical. At anyrate we are working them out as best we can.

SECRETARIAL NOTES.

Writing from Nanaimo, Comrade Arthur Jordan, Secretary of the S. P. of C. Local there, advises us as follows:

"We are holding a joint picnic at Oyster Bay, Labor Day, September 1st. The workers of Cowichan-Newcastle and Nanaimo Electoral Divisions have amalgamated for this big picnic. I have been made secretary and Comrade Ratlef is chairman, along with a live committee from Nanaimo, Ladysmith, Northfield, Extension Mines, South Wellington, etc.

"I was instructed to invite Comrade W. A. Pritchard to speak, also Frank Brown, M.L.A., and R. L. Neelands, M.L.A. All workers in Vancouver who are interested are invited to come and join the crowd. Oyster Bay is close to Ladysmith. If enough comrades can be gotten together in Vancouver they may be able to charter a boat and make the trip together."

We have given this such publicity as we have been able to among our own membership in the hope that it might be possible to muster a sufficiently large contingent from Vancouver which would warrant chartering a boat for Ladysmith on that day. The obstacles are many, however, and at this time of writing the likelihood is that we shall not succeed in organizing the needed number. The return trip can hardly be made in one day, leaving time and energy for the pleasures of the picnic. However, this is an earnest of the organizing capacities and enthusiasm of the Vancouver Island workers, and it seems to us to be a good sign. Whoever gets to that picnic will have a good day of it and a good welcome.

Comrade C. Lester is at the moment in Edmonton. In the past few months he has covered many hundreds of miles of prairie country talking in the farming communities. Recently he was in Drumheller. He says District 18 is suffering from the initiative of the mine owners at the present time in the tendency to provoke trouble. Lester has had meetings there which have been attended by police armed with smoke bombs. At Drumheller there was arranged a meeting and demonstration in Elgin Field, Saturday, 2nd August, and on the following day a meeting was held in the Regent Theatre, Com. Lester being the speaker on both occasions. There and at Wayne the police seem to have deemed it their duty to attend in number. The miners have been five months on strike. Lester reports that the excitable sort of propaganda among the miners is not what is wanted, and this they are beginning to see. He says his meetings were well attended and that his talks were well received.

Calgary, Alberta.—At the headquarters of Local Calgary every Thursday at 8 p.m. there meets a class for the study of economics. Everybody is welcome. Come to this address and hear working class matters and problems dealt with in a manner of

moment and interest. Address, 134A 9th Avenue West, Calgary, Alberta.

VESTED INTERESTS.

MODERN social problems are an especially good field for the study of factors affecting cultural changes. For, in the first place, there is a wealth of material, because at the present time many social problems are occasioned by the frequent cultural changes. Furthermore, the student of modern social changes has a certain advantage over the student of changes in earlier cultures because of the greater detail and fuller record. Of course the factors in modern social changes are not instantly clear, but they are certainly not as obscure as the forces of the remote past. Very probably, therefore, an examination of some present-day changes may reveal additional factors affecting cultural change. It is not necessarily true, though, that the same forces operating today to effect or resist cultural change have operated at all times or operated in earlier cultures.

One factor affecting change in modern society that is quite easily observed is the power of a particular economic class. Modern society is differentiated into economic classes. Wealth and income are quite unequally distributed, so that one class or group has a very large proportion of the total amount. And there is plenty of evidence to show that the group or class that has the major portion of "the good things of life" is not so eager for change as those whose incomes and material possessions are scant. Those who derive exceptional benefit from rent, interest and profits resist changes that endanger or affect adversely these sources of income. The interests of these groups have been referred to as "vested interests." Groups not benefiting so much but suffering from the existing disposition of property are more likely to institute and support changes. Two other points should be noted in this description. One is that the possession of money and property in modern society is closely correlated with power. The other point is that economic conditions are closely interrelated with many other cultural features, so that many suggested changes today affect the economic situation and the effect of the economic situation in modern society reaches far into other fields of culture. The result is that an economic class is in powerful opposition to a great many forces of social change.

It is also true, however, that the power of this economic class has been very influential in promoting change. As employers they are in large part responsible for business enterprise, which has materially transformed the American continent in a very short while. Of course this material progress is not to be accounted for wholly as a result of the ability of the class of entrepreneurs. Much of this material change, through inventions, was inherent in culture; that is, such material changes as the development of steam and electrical power would probably have occurred under various systems of property distribution. Still, in the past, the opposition to business enterprise on the part of the wealthier class has not been conspicuous save in exceptional cases. In a society differentiated into social groups, some group will be identified with the forces of change while another group with interests more highly vested in the existing culture will resist the forces of change.

Opposition by the vested interests to change has not been so frequently observed among the simpler cultures. However, a somewhat similar opposition to change among peoples with more primitive cultures seems indicated by Dr. Parsons in her study of custom. She points out that there is a "will-to-power" element in custom, which resists a change in the custom. This will-to-power is, however, rationalized, so that the true motive is not apparent. Thus certain rules of obedience for children seem designed for the comfort or power of the adult. The perpetuation of such rules may have utility for the more powerful class; how the parents and adults. So that in primitive society power is unequally distributed. The elders, males, warriors, religious leaders, may have much power, while slaves, women, or children

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