

Western Clarion

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and Current Events.

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THE DAILY NEWS.

NEW, domestic and foreign, real and imagined, if not altogether nutritious mental fodder for modern man, has come to be as necessary to him as the quick lunch he swallows, both outputs of his much advertized present era of social service, the same being, of course, social service plus cash on delivery.

Nothing is astonishing nowadays. The news is swallowed in rush order and there is no surprise if it is contradicted in the next edition or even of the next edition goes so far as to confirm what was in the last. Murder, arson, patrioteering, theft, suicide, war and near war, conferences, national and international, bankruptcy, the stool pigeon and secret service industry, treason and sedition, deaths by accident, lynching, hanging, wood alcohol, liquid fire, the Ku Klux Klan and slow starvation. There is the news. The Morning Liar glories in it, and while there's plenty of it all's well with the world. And all for a nickel! Besides the everlasting "less than cost" ads. and the stock quotation columns. These last are ever reliable. They are the index of finance, the daily certificates of good or bad health in business. They are reliable because they are never "written up", which is to say they are never tampered with nor doctored for swallowing. They are not interesting to the people for they are not news and they are not interesting. Anyway, the people have a habit of avoiding the substance.

Being beyond astonishment our newspaper reader devours his news without a wink. He knows he lives in that world under description. A mild surprise, it is possible, might overtake him if the familiar daily record of human trouble, activity and distress were missing and the world presented an appearance of Christmas-all-the-year-around, without legendary attachments. He might.

Suspended from our strap in the street car the other day we overheard one fellow passenger greet another, the latter reading "the news:" "Hullo, Bill, what's the news?" "Oh, nothing," says Bill, "just the usual stuff." "The usual stuff," we found in that issue in course of time, was a front page manifest of the blessings of civilization, a measure of man's stride in its wilderness. We learned that there was actually an idea current in London financial circles that the constant harping by the French on reparations was not sincere. The French did not expect to get reparations as per schedule, but intended to seize and hold, forever if they could, the Ruhr; because Rhur coke was necessary to complete the industrial entity of French iron and steel. French iron and steel in Alsace-Lorraine had been necessary to German coke coal in 1871. Now the Ruhr coke is necessary to French iron and steel. Being so simple, books have to be written and conferences held over it. British finance could, for the time at any rate, offer no actual opposition to the plan, although British finance did not like it. For the Franco-British united front at Lausanne must be maintained in order to ensure to British finance the lion's share in Mosul oil. The withdrawal of American troops from the Rhine indicated a breach, even if only temporary, between French and American interests, to the satisfaction of British finance which, as usual, credited its home-made diplomacy with another triumph, for the French and Americans have been overly friendly at

Lausanne and are not appreciative of the legitimate needs in oil, of the far flung British Empire.

Likewise the Turk, the obdurate, obstinate, argumentative Turk, who seems to mistake Turkey as a place for Turks to live in. Lord Curzon, who has apparently made little impression on Turkish credulity concerning British anxiety over the minority races still surviving cruel destruction, forgetful somewhat, we think, of the British living, registers sincere diplomatic piety and reverence for the British dead. In the name of the British dead British forces will occupy Gallipoli where thousands of them lie, victims of the war "news" of their day—the usual stuff. Even the dead have their uses in Imperialism.

We found, in course of our pursuit of the news that the Ku Klux Klan was out of favor in Wall Street and was not wanted in Canada. The burning of half-a-dozen Roman Catholic Churches in Eastern Canada was too much, all at once. Yet the K. K. K. denied participation in such matters for, said their advocate, K.K.K. activities are confined to U.S.A.! Wall Street requires that the mind of the negro population be not subject to so much racial disturbance, because if European immigration keeps falling off the industrial tasks it has been in the past imported to fulfil must be performed by the negroes.

A New York pastor—according to the news—has discovered the Age of Reason. He is convinced, and argues about it, that Jesus was really human, that he performed no miracles and did not walk upon waters. This man (the pastor of course) may reach maturity in time. After he is finished with Emanuel Swedenborg, now out of vogue some hundreds of years, he may in time catch up with the humor of Voltaire. His Bishop, anxious to avoid the unwelcome publicity of a heresy trial, sends him something of an up to date presentation of the epistle of the Holy Cardinals to Galileo for his heretical depravity in the seventeenth century. Of course we advance!

Next we learn that the price system has penetrated the tombs of the Pharaohs, in Luxor, Egypt. The process of robbing the dead has been suspended for a little while, because "those who provide the money do so in expectation of sharing in the rewards," and "American as well as English interests are involved." News and picture copyrights are to be registered where possible and the commercial end "worked" to the full. For particulars as to the price of sharing in this scientific research work apply: Archaeology Limited. Another link in the evolutionary chain, past and present.

The drab, uninteresting, hard to read items on the Finance page reveal that during September, October and November, 1922, seventy seven corporations in the United States jointly declared dividends of a billion and a quarter dollars. Standard Oil of New Jersey 400 per cent, Standard Oil of New York 200 per cent, Standard Oil of California 100 per cent, Standard Oil of Kentucky 33 1/3 per cent. And so on. The items are unending and will continue, no doubt, so long as "the people" find them hard to understand. Anyway, they are not "news."

So there we have a draft of a day's news of worlds events. The usual stuff. The only item missing is Harrington's "Cosmic Cop," directing the traffic on the universal highway.

The Clarion Mail Bag

BY SID EARP.

The news relating to the advance of French troops into German territory is exciting much discussion amongst those who are interested in international affairs. Dangerous complications have already been precipitated, which may be speedily utilised by other aspirants to a declining world commerce. The imperious demands for trade cannot be checked indefinitely, for in the process of trading in the wares produced by the working class does Capitalist Society maintain itself. And so, in spite of conferences and talk fests, the predatory spirit of Capitalism is again to the fore, and armed

men, members of the working class, go to the settlement of a problem in which their interests are not involved, and out of which they will gain—nothing. While a national viewpoint prevails in the minds of the workers, the real issue which is of a social character will remain unseen and disregarded.

Our part, as students of society, is to bring forward the real issue; the contradiction between the social production of wealth and its private appropriation. With an understanding of this fact in their minds, the emancipation of the working class will be made possible and easy of achievement, and the present welter of national rivalry and strife will fade away, let us hope, never to return. Towards the realization of this ideal let us work deliberately and with good courage.

Although the "Mail Bag" is not large this time, it is distinctly encouraging; small gains but sure, characterise the movement in Canada.

Writing from Billtown, Nova Scotia, Comrades Parry and Sim, who are old time readers of the "Clarion," express their warm approval of our efforts as propagandists. They consider the Party's attitude towards Soviet Russia as stated by Com. Stephenson's recent article, to be the correct one; but too late in appearing for best effects. They enclose three subs and two dollars for the Maintenance Fund.

From St. John, New Brunswick, Com. M. Goudie writes in cheerful strain, enclosing ten dollars for the Clarion and an order for literature. The boys in St. John sure have the right spirit; would there were more like them. Ontario is represented by Com. A. M. Neelands of Chatsworth, who sends in one dollar sub. to the Clarion. From Woodstock, Ont. W. H. Murray sends a request for information regarding Robert D. and Duncan M. Murray, two brothers with whom he wishes to communicate. They were both in Vancouver within recent years, and Mr. Murray asks our assistance in locating them. If anyone can help in this matter please write or call at Headquarters. Archie Morey writes from Ottawa, Ont., asking for back copies of the Clarion.

Com. Charles Lester writes from Brandon, Man., saying he is on his way west. Comrades at various points may expect Charlie any time. As a useful man to the revolutionary movement Com. Lester is worthy of our best support. His address is not certain, and he will advise points of call when due to arrive.

From Swalwell, Alta., Com. Kolden sends his best regards to the Party along with two sub. renewals and two dollars for the Maintenance Fund. Com. Isaac Brown sends a sub. from Travers and a dollar for the Maintenance Fund. Also a sub. from W. Robertson, Haynes, Alberta. Com. C. E. Scharff writes from Millet, Alta., expressing his appreciation of the article "The Farmers Misery" appearing in a recent issue of the Clarion. He considers it to be a timely contribution and expects it added some interest to the U. F. A. Convention held in Calgary, 16th January. He suggests that we send copies of the Clarion to the officials of the U. F. A. Also encloses two subs. and a contribution to the Maintenance Fund. Com. W. Dorney writing from Retlaw sends in five subs. from farmers in that district. Good work.

Dan Srigley sends word from Wimborne, Alta., to say that Local Wimborne is now holding Economic Study Classes every Wednesday night, taking the S. P. of C. Manifesto as a text book. He encloses two subs. and two dollars for the Maintenance Fund. Thos. Darnley sends in a two years' sub. from Brule Mines, Alta. An order for a copy of Morgan's "Ancient Society", comes from Henry Schnee, Granlea, Alta., also two subs. from Com. Frank Tipping, Carolside, Alta. Robert Gardner sends in an order for literature from Eagle Hill, accompanied by best wishes.

Writing from Fiske, Saskatchewan, Com. P. J. Hunt expresses appreciation of the lectures given by Charles Lester in that district recently and hopes that he will continue as a teacher amongst the workers. He also likes the "Mail Bag" column. He says the farmers in that district are nearly all broke, and encloses three dollars for a sub. literature

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