

Western Clarion

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Editor Ewan MacLeod

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VANCOUVER, B.C., DECEMBER 1, 1921.

THE ELECTIONS

NOMINATION day, November 22nd, resulted in the official entry of five S. P. of C. candidates contesting constituencies in the Federal election, four in B.-C., and one in Manitoba. In Winnipeg, Man., while we had Comrade Bartholomew listed for Centre and Comrade R. B. Russell for North, sufficient funds were raised to meet expenses in but one constituency and thus Comrade Bartholomew's name was withdrawn.

In Calgary, while election manifestos were printed and the name of Comrade Frank Williams was listed as candidate for the constituency known as East Calgary, nomination day passed without his official entry, this too on account of lack of funds. Peculiarly enough, in this constituency, the "labor" candidate, self-styled enemy of corruption—champion of justice, and so forth, charged Frank Williams, representing Local Calgary of the S. P. of C., with the backing of the Liberal party. The "labor" candidate referred to is Mr. Irwin (Reverend), whose book received attention at some length in these columns last issue. Details are given in the following note, sent by Local Calgary, S. P. of C.:

At a meeting in the Collingwood School somewhere near Wilmore, Alberta, on October 28th, Mr. Irvine, speaking in his own behalf as the Farmer-Labor candidate for East Calgary, made the statement that the Socialist candidate opposed to him, Frank Williams, was being backed by the Liberal party. The implication was that the backing was financial. Challenged by some of his audience to substantiate the statement, Mr. Irvine, of course, failed to do so. He was maliciously spreading a rumour implicating his Socialist opponent in a despicable piece of political trading. The statement was a plain ordinary lie, and to politicians lies are useful.

Now, as to our backing, what are the facts? Comrade Williams of Local Calgary, was named by the members of that local, early in October, as the Socialist candidate in the forthcoming election, the riding to be contested being left for later decision. No announcement of any kind was made, however, until November 6th, on which date handbills were distributed, requesting the aid, and particularly the financial aid, of the class conscious workers of Calgary, and publishing at the same time, and for the first time, the intention of the local to contest East Calgary—if funds permitted. In the meantime, subscription lists for the purpose of collecting these funds had been circulated, but had met with no great response. The nickels and dimes in working-class pockets are not numerous these days; and after trying for six or seven weeks to raise enough to see us over nomination day, we have to publish our inability to make the grade. We have not the means to pay the deposit required. Working-class pockets have not been equal to the task of financing a working-class candidate.

The aid of the Liberal Party which we were credited by Mr. Irvine with having accepted (ten days before our intentions were announced) has never at any time been offered, nor has any other sort of aid, except of the working class; neither, had it been offered, would it have been accepted. The "Enemy of Corruption" cannot understand that. He has since said that for the Socialist Party to accept the kind of support mentioned would be good business, and that he would have no bones to pick with the party if it did business in that way. To him it may appear to be all right. To us it is merely a compromise. It is no part of the Socialist Party's function to further the designs of its opponents. The "champion of justice" may see it simply as good business; but to us it is treason. And we remember that he attempted to capitalize even the rumour.

He seeks the support of the workers, on the farm and in the factory. We are out of the fight, on election day, at any rate. At the same time we submit that the Farmer-Labor candidate, the author of "The Farmer in

Politics," is neither honest nor informed, neither understands the position of those he seeks to represent nor knows how their evil situation may be remedied. Bob Edwards, in the "Calgary Eye-Opener," of November 19th, says that Mr. Irvine is "purely disinterested—a poor recommendation. He seeks the support of the workers—the farmers and laborers, the disinherited and expropriated; the class to which belongs the Socialist-opponent he slandered. Let it pass. But keep it in mind on election day. And remember, that the only hope for all the workers lies in their taking such action as will lead to Socialism. Champions of Justice have abounded in all times, but the remedy for working class difficulties is still to seek. On election day Frank Williams will not be in the field in this riding, the workers of East Calgary will not be able, then, to vote for a Socialist. They can, however, still vote against their enemies by casting their ballot for

SOCIALISM.

Such matters are important to us. To Mr. Irwin, votes, by any and all means obtained, are sufficient to satisfy his Christian conscience. Thus the "able politician" secures the votes—or hopes to—of a credulous working class. One thing he knows for sure: he will never secure anything but well earned contempt from a Socialist.

In Winnipeg (North) Comrade R. B. Russell's candidature is opposed by a candidate of "The Worker's Alliance," an organization made up of various groups of social democrats, young labor leaguers, Jewish Nationalists, Communists and others. The organization came to life in this form some three or four weeks ago. The various groups, national associations mostly, probably number 2,000 when combined. They have issued a manifesto, in which the numerical "weakness" of the S. P. of C. seems to worry them more than the strength of the master class. We are expected, no doubt, to disagree with and to condemn their policy of nominating a candidate against us. On the contrary, we prefer their open opposition to their support if they are not in agreement with our policy and principles.

In Vancouver (South) Comrade Kavanagh, candidate of Local No. 1 is opposed by a nominee of the F. L. P., under the banner, of course, of "labor." Questions have been asked us—why do we oppose the labor candidate? In this instance, so far as placing an S. P. of C. nominee in the field is concerned, in the matter of precedence the "labor" candidate was the second arrival. Not that we do not have opposed him had he arrived first—we oppose all with whom we are in disagreement—but we await with interest the standard of judgment of the workers of Vancouver South on December 6th. Now's their opportunity to see our differences.

In Burrard, Vancouver Centre and Nanaimo the candidates are simply Socialist, Coalition and Liberal, excepting that in Centre an "independent" is listed. Efforts to organize joint meetings of all candidates in these constituencies have failed, excepting that in Centre, Comrade O'Connor managed to inveigle Mayor Gale (Liberal) to one joint meeting. In Burrard and Nanaimo the candidates of the master class sections have more wisdom, if less courage, than the Mayor of Vancouver, who talked for half an hour or more to an audience of 1,000 people without a murmur of applause at the joint meeting with our nominee.

Altogether, up to this date of writing, we have had many meetings and our propaganda has reached the attention of many people whose interest we probably would not have arrested had this not been election time. Our speakers are few and their energies have been taxed to the utmost. They have laid down the terms of the issue as we see it in this campaign—not tariff adjustments nor the fulfilment of election promises—but the ending of systematic exploitation of one class by another. Now, as always, that has been the keynote of our activities. The settlement lies with the working class.

SECRETARIAL NOTES

Comrade J. A. McDonald writes from Wellington, New Zealand, to say that he has arrived in that region and has addressed a number of meetings so far. The governmental regulations obtaining there are very tight and John A. doesn't know how long the privilege of "free" speech will last. His letter says he is booked to speak on "Banned Literature," which is a live issue in those parts. His lecture should be instructive for, judging by the list published by the "Maoriland Worker" of banned literature he is thoroughly familiar with his subject. The list published includes the "Western Clarion."

Part two of Comrade R. Kirk's article "War in the Pacific" will appear in an early issue. The job hunting occupation has taken Bob out into the wilderness for the time being. Similarly with Comrade Stephenson. A review of Veblen's "The Engineers and the Price System" is on the order sheet and we'll get it when Chris. has made the final guess on the nature of the contents

HERE AND NOW

We have not been overwhelmed with anxiety during the time between this issue and last in counting the Clarion subs. that have staggered along weakly day by day. Still we need more of the much despised inflated currency which is the subject of so much discussion and examination these days. The subject of credit finance is one that our economists can explain to a nicety; our specialty seems to be in experiencing the lack of it. Financial credit—an alluring subject—always applies to other people; its practical workings always carefully pass by the Clarion basement. (Therefore we keep on kicking, encouraging, wheedling,—and by the empty echo from the coffers we'll have to keep on at it. Here we introduce the totals added since last issue.

Following \$1 each: H. F. Anderson, P. W. Kobitzsch, A. W. Cantrell, A. H. Russell, N. Sorlie, N. J. Naylor, M. Goudie, F. Noha, Geo. Rupert, F. Reynolds, S. H. Colwell, J. Jenkins, H. Williams, S. Earp, J. S. Merson, Isaac Benson, W. Johnson, R. Thomas, Dr. Curry, C. F. Gall, J. G. Lowe, W. Bowker, T. Carr, W. W. Lefaux, J. Gray, R. C. McKay, G. A. Brown, A. M. Davies, J. T. Redfern, C. N. Stewart, W. S. Mathews, Wm. H. Hunt, P. M. Friesen, Roy Addy, J. C. Blair, W. Gazeley, C. Stewart, J. H. Reid, J. Elliott, J. Nyholt, R. Green, W. Mulholland.

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