

Western Clarion

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and Current Events.

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VANCOUVER, B. C., OCTOBER 1, 1920.

EDITORIAL

SOCIALIST STUDY CLASSES.

SOMETIME during this month the commence-
ment will be made of classes on history and
economics—on other subjects too, perhaps, but upon
these certainly.

It is the function of the S. P. of C. to advance
the education of the workers in such matters as
affect them as a class suffering exploitation of their
labor in capitalistic society.

In general, the workers today do not understand
the basis of their operations as producers of wealth.
They have learned to produce wealth, and the edu-
cational institutions of capitalism have been content
to furnish them with such instruction as is neces-
sary to their efficiency as producers of wealth.

Throughout the Socialist movement, lectures, propa-
ganda, class studies and literature generally, deal
mostly with history and economics. The educa-
tional institutions of capitalism may be relied upon
to properly guide the student in astronomy, botany,
biology, physics, grammar, mathematics, etc., but to
the study of economics and history there enters a
consideration affecting capitalism itself as an in-
stitution. To study history and economics is to
examine the roots of society itself, to consider the
growth and development of human relationships up
to the point of present day society, and to examine
the part played in present day society by all per-
sons within it, that is, as persons assisting in the
production of the things necessary to feed and clothe
society.

Socialists find that the workers generally are suf-
fering from class education. The ideas of the rul-
ing class concerning the growth and development of
society, and the root principles underlying the sys-
tem of wealth production now obtaining, have been
imposed upon the workers. They have been taught
to strive for efficiency in labor, to be honest, and
to save. In their succeeding generations they have
followed the teaching and their lot has not been
improved. The Socialist educational system is an
effort to rescue economics and history from the
biased channels of capitalist learning. The insti-
tutions of capitalist learning are crumbling against
a positive Socialist onslaught. The measure of
their decay lies in capitalism itself; when its pro-
cesses of production, of exchange, of expansion, are
out of order, these schools are rendered weak, be-
cause they have to uphold a system which is not
smooth running, which, most of the time, is strug-
gling with its own mechanism. They are apolo-
gists for a system of wealth production which is
readily seen to be crumbling, as failing to provide
for the wants of its population.

The study classes will take up history and econ-
omics, and those who pass through these classes,
provided they are equipped, not so much with super-
intelligence as with earnestness and diligence, will
understand why the "lot" of the workers, under
capitalism, is to produce as much as what they
consume will allow, and to leave the rest to their
masters.

SECRETARIAL NOTES.

Comrade Frank Cassidy has gone east from Van-
couver on an organizing and lecturing tour in the
inner B. C. country. He began at Merritt, and has

visited Princeton and Hedley. He reports good meet-
ings held at Merritt and Hedley particularly. He
intends to go through the Crow's Nest Pass, and will
visit any location where good meetings are likely
along that route. So that comrades who can give
us any local information tending to facilitate
Socialist propaganda that may be useful as a guide-
ance to a propagandist touring their district, will
do well to write to us. Frank is in constant touch
with us, and we can pass the word along.

Comrade Charlie Lester leaves Vancouver on the
2nd October for England. He will speak wherever
meetings can be arranged within the time at his
disposal in Canada on the way east. His first meet-
ing will be in Fernie, where he will speak on the
6th October, and if meetings can be arranged he
will speak at places immediately east of that point.
The Winnipeg comrades are likely to hear him talk-
ing for a week or more to as many bewildered na-
tives as they can assemble. Comrade Lester ex-
pects to be away three or more months. We hope
to be able to present his viewpoint on working-class
matters as they appear in Great Britain, in these
columns in course of time.

Places to which the CLARION goes are, among
others, Norway, Switzerland, Denmark, France,
Holland and China. The latest territorial recruit
on the subscription list is Czeko-Slovakia, Bohemia,
where (therefore) anything may happen soon. But
what about places like Saskatchewan, Manitoba, On-
tario and Quebec, to say nothing of Alberta and
B. C.?

It helps, of course, to educate the heathen abroad,
but let us worry away at our own heathen as much
as we can.

The Fifth Edition of the MANIFESTO of the S.
P. of C. is on the press. This contains the preface
to the Fourth Edition, and also the preface which
appeared in our last issue. This last mentioned pre-
face directs attention to the summary of events as
contained in the preface to the Fourth Edition,
and points to the position of the S. P. of C. towards
the war and the events connected therewith as be-
ing sound and well judged.

As we went to press last issue we were informed
that the John McLean who has been writing articles
on industrial matters, in the "Free Press" (Winn-
ipeg), is not an ex-professor of mathematics as the
article in our last issue stated. It was understood
that he had been a professor of mathematics in the
University of Manitoba, but we are informed that
some of the student bodies in that mental gymna-
sium have protested the insinuation. We understand
now that he graduated as a Rhodes scholar from
Oxford, and that since then he has been connected
with what is sometimes called the "educational sys-
tem" of India. He is now a Winnipeg barrister. So
the shivering mathematicians have saved their faces
after all, and our circle of acquaintances among the
dusty minded citizens is increased by one. These
legal gentlemen seem to have one jealous eye on
their precious legal superstructure and the other on
us at all times, and if we don't go breaking legal
windows now and then, they manage to explain in
the press how we should.

"The Revolutionary Socialist," (S. L. P., Sydney,
N. S. W.), August 14th, reproduces "What Com-
merce Means," by J. A. McD., from our issue of 1st
June, 1920.

The following sums have been collected by Julius
Mitchell for **Soviet Russia Medical Relief**, and the
amount of \$7.50 has been sent to Dr. John Guttman,
secretary, by us:—Clarence Vreeland, 50c; George
Vreeland, 50c; George Hucliek, 50c; J. McKinnon,
50c; Karl Houds, \$1; Julius Mitchell, \$3; Hugh Han-
sieton, 50c; E. U. Landry, 50c; T. Bolhuis, 50c; total,
\$7.50.

Two more articles of "Economic Causes of War,"
by Comrade Peter T. Leckie remain to be printed.
After that we shall attend to the printing of the
book, which, judging by the appreciation accorded
these articles, should have a good reception. Com-
rade Leckie commences in this issue a new series of
articles: "Materialistic Interpretation of History,"
written particularly for the attention of beginners
in the systematic study of History. It is hoped that
these articles may prove useful to history classes
throughout the country this winter.

John A. Maguire is the secretary of the **Alberta
and Saskatchewan Provincial Executive Committee**.
He will welcome correspondence or enquiries rela-

tive to Party matters from Alberta and Saskat-
chewan. Address: 93—10016 Street, Edmonton.

We expect to be able to present an article soon
from the pen of C. M. C. His last article in these
columns was "Armenia," (March 1st, 1920).

Comrade Stephenson has promised to end his Veblen-
ese meditations soon. From which we conclude
that our readers are to hear from him. Next to
Veblen himself, in the interpretation of his sayings,
Chris. usually makes the greatest number of correct
guesses. (We'll suffer for this).

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A LETTER

Editor, WESTERN CLARION:

In your issue for August 16th, there is an article
on the "Dictatorship of the Proletariat," by F.
S. F. In it he says: "... it becomes tragic ...
to find temperamental personalities like Debs link-
ing hands with shuffling Kautsky, and affirming
their belief in "democracy" as opposed to dicta-
torship."

It is well to bear in mind the actual words used
by Debs to the committee bearing his nomination to
his grand residence in Atlanta. I quote from the
July "Liberator": "I regret that the convention
did not see its way clear to affiliate with the Third
International without qualification. There is some
difficulty about that phrase about the dictatorship
of the proletariat. A 'dictatorship' does not imply
what we mean. It is a misnomer. Dictatorship is
autocracy. There is no autocracy in the rule of the
masses. During the transition period the Revolu-
tion must protect itself." These words of Debs
surely clear him of the charge. His support of the
Moscow International practically pigeon-holes him
for the substance of that dictatorship whether he
likes the phrase or not, and "phrases do not make
a revolution."

This is submitted, not in any hero worship of
Debs, but because it is well worth while to get as
far away as possible from the religious habit of be-
ing inexact. F. W. THOMPSON.

IN REPLY.

In reply to Comrade Thompson, who infers that
my statement in regards to Comrade Debs is "in-
exact," I think, if he will read the whole of Debs'
speech of acceptance, he will find, as near as I can
remember, these words also:

"We Socialists are utterly opposed to dicta-
torship in any form . . . we believe in democracy for
everyone."

We'll, in Russia, there is a dictatorship of the Com-
munist Party, in the interest of the working class,
that is just exactly what the word means, and it is
not in the least what is called democratic. So I
think Comrade Debs has "the religious habit of
being inexact," for a Dictatorship is a Dictatorship.

As to whether he is for the substance or not, that
would be hard to say, till he got up against it, for
he, too, is one of those lovable characters that
think "kindness and tolerance are worth more than
all the creeds in the world."

Debs can support Lenin, yet Berger can support
Debs, and Berger has no use for Lenin.

Ah, well, "Gene is a man for a' that."

FRED S. FAULKNER.

MANIFESTO

— of the —

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