

THREE MONTHS PROPAGATING SOCIALISM.

WE often hear the phrase from those somewhat pessimistic members of our class, that: "The workers are not ready for Socialism." Whilst this is quite true, as evidenced by the fact that capitalism still exists, and that (as shown by recent elections returns) the working class still votes for exploitation, yet, three months amongst the miners of B. C. and the farmers of Alberta, have convinced me that there never was a time when they were so ready and eager to listen to Socialist propaganda.

Compared to the hardships endured by former propagandists over the same territory, my tour was a "bed of roses." At no time did I find myself under the necessity of having to sleep under a blanket of "Western Clarions" with the solar system for a roof (as happened once to one of our poor itinerant organizers). Nor did I at any time have to travel 40 odd miles, over the prairie with the temperature at 50 below, as did Charlie O'Brien and Wilfred Gribble.

All along the route between Calgary and Edmonton, I was being constantly asked as to the whereabouts and well-being of the above mentioned comrades, as also Tom O'Connor. It speaks well for the pioneer work of these comrades, that the present attitude of these Alberta farmers, the extent of their acquaintance with the Socialist philosophy (which amazed me), is almost wholly attributable to their efforts. In the farming districts I was able, due to the wonderful system of co-operation prevalent amongst the farming comrades, to have a meeting almost every night in the week. I sold out my stock of literature, which weighed about 75 lbs., in four meetings around Stettler and Red Willow.

Literature sales were good all along, but particularly so amongst the farmers. Only once did I come near to martyrdom. I was informed before starting the meeting that a custodian of morals and property was to be in attendance to make sure that I, Bolshevik propagandist, should say no word derogatory to the character of him who is, by the grace of God, Emperor of India and Ireland. Happening (as is always the case with red propagandists) that I was dealing with important matters, the emperor did not come into my line of attack. I was told afterwards that the guardian who stood at the rear of the hall, had a warrant for my arrest on his person, but when we take into consideration the fact that these people are selected as horses are, by avoirdupois, and except in rare cases, are quite mentally unfit for the simplest tasks in life, how was the poor fellow to know when I was casting an aspersion on the sacred personages or institutions of capitalist society? In Calgary, I met the funniest person that ever was. He was the reporter for the "Calgary Herald." At my meeting, he was quite exasperated at my having, amongst other frightful historical disclosures, referred to the first Earl of Shaftsbury as a hypocrite. This poor little pen-pusher got blue in the face over it. I thought for a moment that he was going to burst a blood vessel. He wrote a letter to the "Herald," about me, and he used the awfulest language, just made me tremble all over, so it did. He finished up by challenging me to go over to London and give my speech there in the east end, where Earl Shaftsbury had established a "ragged school" (how nice of the old boy)! Of course, I can't go to London, even did I have the desire, so I had to pass up the "challenge." However, I challenged the lil' pen prostitute to a Donneybrook, but there now, that wasn't fair.

Another incident in Calgary, which still further convinced me that my humble efforts were meeting with success, was the furore caused by certain parts of my talk, in the ranks of the "Irish Self-Determination League," the president of which denounced me in vigorous language, for having referred to De Valera as a bourgeois shyster and a few other things. Americans at the meeting were shocked at the description I gave (from American historians) of the lives of the fathers of that democracy. So I had representatives of patriotism from the leading capitalist countries aligned against me, and to

headquarters I sent a report of progress. The "Herald" was displeased with the audience at the meeting, which showed itself, with the few exceptions mentioned, to be overwhelmingly red in sympathy. This was particularly evident on the following Sunday, when an international paralyzer from the A. F. of L. held down the platform of the forum, and he was swept off his feet by an avalanche of questions, and was clearly shown that the workers in Calgary had listened long enough to capitalistic spokesmen. The only defenders this person had were those who on the preceding Sunday had tried to oppose me.

I expect to be in Calgary again early in January, and would be glad to have representatives of the Self-Determination League of Ireland, the "Sons of the Fathers of American Independence," "The Boys of the Chelsea School," with a couple of parsons or priests thrown in, all ready like Crusaders, for an attack upon a beardless Bolshevik.

FRANK CASSIDY.

Editor's Note.—Comrade Cassidy will be in Alberta again probably before these columns are read. Communications and enquiries should be directed to him c/o A. B. Shaaf, secretary, Alberta P. E. C., 100016—93 St., Edmonton.

NOTES ON THE NORTHLAND

A PART from the fishing, metal mining, lumber and pulp industries, which are situated on the coast, the northern portion of B. C. will not affect, to any appreciable extent, the struggle between the workers and their masters for possession of the reins of power.

The country between Prince Rupert and Prince George is populated to a large extent by workers who are endeavoring to escape from the thrall of capitalism by going on the land. That it is impossible to do so, is slowly, but surely, becoming apparent to many of them.

Farming on a small scale, eked out by occasional jobs in the tie camps, constitute the means of procuring a living for the majority of the settlers therein.

In places such as Smithers, and other divisional points, there are railway workers, who can be counted as part of the steady population. Not forgetting several specimens of that ubiquitous parasite, the real estate agent.

Different members of this species, who are, of course patriots, attempted to disturb some of the meetings held at small towns along the line, but without success.

In addition to these, there is a large body of transient workers, employed in the tie camps and small mining camps in the district. The G. T. P. railway from Jasper to Prince Rupert, is gradually being turned into a branch line of the Canadian National, so low is the government estimate of this district as a wealth-producing area. This will undoubtedly react on the mentality of the farming community, who, at this time, cannot see beyond roads and bridges, promised but never built.

If the settlers were the only ones to be reached, it would not repay the energy expended in spreading propaganda amongst them, as they do not affect the food supply of the country. The transient population, loggers and miners, do, however, make the spreading of working class knowledge worth while, as they can disseminate the same as they move around.

It is rather difficult to get speakers into these places, as the outside districts do not seem able to develop speakers of their own. In order to carry on propaganda in that country it will be necessary to establish a circuit through the Crows Nest Pass, up to Edmonton, and along the G. T. P. as far as Prince Rupert. If only carried on at intervals of three months such tours would repay in time the cost involved.

There can be no doubt as to the interest taken in explanations of present world affairs from the Marxian standpoint. The meetings held in the Prince Rupert district on behalf of the Socialist candidate drew the largest audiences. They came to these meetings each week, although the propaganda was not at all of an electioneering character, but purely educational.

We are short of speakers and need to develop

some. At the same time it would be well if outside points attempted to produce their own speakers. Local No. 1 is neither the birthplace of the human race, nor yet the fount of wisdom.

J. KAVANAGH

PRINCE RUPERT ELECTION.

Statement of Finances.

Receipts.

C. L. C., O. B. U. Collection Books—	
Prince Rupert	\$50.00
McLeman, A.	64.25
Gray, C. F.	22.00
Prescott, J.	30.00
Hammond, W. S.	15.00
Allen, A.	4.00
Shaw, F.	15.00
Derry, W. H.	3.00
Pillford, W. A.	9.00
Snellman, A.	5.00
Morris, W.	12.50
Gagne, Z. P.	17.00
Upton, A. E.	23.00
Garcau, J.	48.00
Johnson, C.	48.00
Morrison, M.	124.75
Habird, Logan	34.00
Crocker, D.	25.00
Coates, T.	45.00
Johnson, E.	5.75
Taport, F. G.	7.00
Harrington, I.	55.00
Cann, J.	6.00
Per F. L. P.	13.00
Collected at meetings	127.66
Total	\$799.65

Expenses.

Convention expenses	\$ 51.80
Postage	80.00
Telegrams	18.75
Locks and keys	1.70
Printing (Latta)	92.85
Stationery, etc. (Wrathall)	24.55
Printing (F inks)	87.45
Printing and Ads. (Daily News)	53.25
Printing and Ads. (Empire)	90.00
Ads. B. C. Federationist	12.00
Voters' List, 1 dozen	3.00
Electric Heater	14.75
J. H. Burroughs—	
Expenses to Essington	4.95
Expenses to Terrace	15.45
Expenses to Ocean Falls	27.50
Halls and Ads. Terrace	8.00
C. Newspan, boat hire	10.00
L. W. I. U., dermatype, sheets and postage	1.00
Provincial Elections Act	1.00
Total	\$598.10
Total Expenses	\$598.10
Cash on hand	201.49
Total receipts	\$799.65

Note.—After the accounts had all been paid the sum of \$100 was voted to the Socialist Party of Canada for general propaganda purposes; \$75 to the Central Labor Council, O. B. U., Prince Rupert; and the remainder of \$26.49 was ordered held in trust pending the formation of a local of the Socialist Party of Canada in Prince Rupert.

ELECTORAL RETURNS.

Burrough (Soc.), 676; Formby, 562; Newton, 698; Pattullo 1501.

HERE AND NOW.

Following \$1 each—M. T. Swanson, A. Karme, B. Simpson, D. McPherson, L. G. Atkins, J. R. Flynn, J. Nyholt, P. Ellison, W. McQuoid, O. Larson, V. Prescott, W. S. Matthews, R. Zimmerman, C. H. Lake, J. Olson, W. Bell, J. Wight, D. A. Black, H. Norman, Geo. Paton, R. A. Fillmore, N. Taylor, J. Lysnes, J. Fraser, A. Woodhall, C. F. Morrison, T. Shaw, W. Morris, H. Arnold, J. Sinclair, J. C. Blair, A. Spruce, R. Bessant, J. A. McD., D. Klemperer.

Following \$2 each—S. Oliver, J. J. MacDonald, J. Berry, Bert Smith, M. Milliken, E. E. Cole, A. P. McCabe, S. Earp, R. Inglis.

Following \$3 each—M. Goudie, J. Sanderson, B. Dworkin, W. Craig, W. A. Brown, J. Watson.

J. Ewart, 50 cents; T. Hanwell, 50 cents; C. H. Cove, \$5; T. Twelvetree, \$5; W. De Waard, \$1.20; F. Kissacks, \$1.50.

Above, "Western Clarion" subscriptions received from 28th December to 11th January, inclusive—total, \$84.70.