

Western Clarion

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VANCOUVER, B. C., NOVEMBER 16, 1921....

THIRD INTERNATIONAL REFERENDUM.

THE D. E. C. of the S. P. of C. have issued a call for the Party vote on the question of affiliation with the Third International.

Party members should be well enough informed on the question at issue. The matter has been thoroughly discussed in open meetings in the various locals and in the Clarion columns. No discrimination has been shown in the matter of printing the various viewpoints presented, and no complaints have reached us on account of bias or personal prejudice in the handling of any article, for or against affiliation in these columns.

The vote will be taken on unconditional affiliation, based upon the twenty-one conditions laid down by the second congress of the Third International, Moscow, August 1920. These conditions of affiliation remain unaltered after the sitting of the third congress 1921, which re-affirmed them. The question is simply for or against affiliation on those conditions.

In issuing the call for the referendum the D. E. C. have no recommendations to make to the Party membership. The vote will be taken by each Local under its own supervision and returns made to the D. E. C. secretary. Locals should see to it that all members are given a fair opportunity to record their votes, for or against. There may be some members who will be unable to attend on the meeting night when the vote is called for. Provision should be made for them.

When all returns are in the particulars will be published in these columns.

SECRETARIAL NOTES.

Local (Vancouver) No. 1. We are requested by the Secretary of Local No. 1 to state that now that the D. E. C. have called for the vote on the matter of affiliation with the Third International, Local No. 1 will take a roll-call vote on the 13th December. Meetings and organizational work in connection with the elections will prevent Local Vancouver voting on the question before that date. Members unable to attend will have their votes recorded if sent in writing to H. Grand, secretary, Local No. 1, 401 Pender street, east, Vancouver, B. C., on or before 13th December. Just state simply, "For affiliation" or "against affiliation." Unconditional affiliation on the basis of the 21 points will govern the referendum.

Comrade J. A. McDonald writes from Australia to say that he is now journeying to New Zealand. His note of activities in Australia will appear in next issue. The following from the "International Communist," will prove interesting to classes elsewhere.

We are pleased to report that the Materialist Conception of History Class, which began on last Thursday, was a great success, having an attendance of over 70. Monday night's class was increased to over 80 students, so we feel confident now that success is assured. Com. McDonald is certainly the most capable teacher that has ever struck Australia, and we can easily understand his reputation in the States.

Other activities are progressing much as usual. On Sunday, Domain doings were especially good, the weather having become a little milder. Paper sellers were mustered in great force. Papers were completely sold out, and literature sales were brisk.

Com. McDonald made his debut on the Domain platform, and had gathered round him a huge and interested audience. Other speakers assisted in bringing the meeting to a successful conclusion.

We are most enthusiastic regarding our classes, because we know that "knowledge is indeed power;" and it is something to be proud of that the Sydney Branch of the Communist Party has been successful in organising the largest classes on scientific subjects ever been held in Australia. Next Sunday, Com. McDonald lectures on "The High Cost of Living." Do not miss it!

Speaking of New Zealand—that country, among others, has been made quite safe for democracy. We have always had difficulty in securing delivery of any literature we sent there and now the "Clarion" is under the official ban. Now and then single copies manage to squeeze their way through, but bundles never reach their destination. Clarion writers will understand why Clarion articles reproduced in N. Z. papers are unacknowledged.

Comrade P. T. Leekie has been having a rough time in Ottawa talking to the people on the street corner. Throughout the summer, with the help of a few comrades, he has been trying to hold meetings on the street corners. Such is the general attitude to working class efforts towards education in Ottawa that he and the few comrades with him have been constantly hindered, though not stopped, by the rowdy and respectable elements of that city whose function it is to charge his soap-box and disrupt the meeting. Peter says free-speech and a free-fight go together. Now the winter classes are commencing and it is to be hoped that next summer's open air meetings will benefit from the help of a few recruits.

Speaking of education, a writer in "The B. C. Veteran's Weekly" says:

The Anti-Waste Committee in the Old Country have decided that education costs too much, so they have denounced it at all their meetings. Their argument is that the modern child is not really keen on education; a poor argument, for what healthy child really is until it is taught to be so. Therefore the extensive education of the present day is unnecessary, and anyway the world cannot afford it.

"This argument is curious enough had it come from the uneducated, but when such a brilliant thinker as Doctor Inge, the celebrated Dean of St. Paul's, is on the side of the anti-educationists, it becomes a serious matter, especially as Dr. Inge treats the subject somewhat flippantly when he says that like liquor in America education should belong to the privileged classes."

The article says further that it is held by some folk that "too much knowledge only leads to discontent."

This must be Dean Inge "at his worst," to quote G. B. Shaw. The "celebrated Dean" doesn't take working-class education very kindly. Working class education by working-class educators means the elimination of the Dean and his kind. That's why it's "too expensive."

Just to remind you: A Clarion sub. costs only one dollar for 20 consecutive issues by mail to your address or to the address of anybody you know who needs introduction to the paths of working class education.

Comrade W. Lewin, secretary Calgary Local reports that Frank Williams will be a candidate for the S. P. of C., probably in Calgary East in the Dominion Election. Subscription lists are issued by Local Calgary No. 86 to raise funds to meet the deposit fee (\$200) and the general expenses incidental in a constituency covering a wide area. A note "To all Comrades," at the head of the subscription list says: "It is precisely when the system hurts us most that the fight against it must be carried on most vigorously. We ask all comrades to place their donations on this list to the end that the opposition of the working class to the subjection imposed on it by modern society be unflinchingly maintained in the coming contest, and the socialist position be explained as widely and fully as possible."

Donations should be sent to the secretary of the Campaign Committee, Wm. R. Lewin, 134 a 9th Ave. West, Calgary, Alta.

PLENTY AND FAMINE.

Dr. Nansen's Appeal for Russia—Food Rotting While Millions Starve.

Dr. Nansen, speaking at Manchester, Oct. 7th, said he considered the Russian famine the greatest problem of Europe and the world for the time being. From the reports he received there were between 20 and 30 millions of people at this moment hungry. There were at least ten million lives at stake, and an American Commission which had been in Russia considered that the deaths of between two and three million people this winter could not be prevented.

The need of the district affected was for the provision of something like four million tons of food supplies, chiefly cereals. The Russian Government he said provided they were able to collect the taxes they would be able to gather about half the require-

ments of the famine area, or about two million tons of cereals, and he really thought the Soviet Government were doing all they could to help the people. They were carrying food from Western Russia, where the famine existed. That was the situation in Russia. On the other side, in Canada, there was a crop of six and a half million tons, nearly six millions of which was for export, or three times as much as was needed to save the whole famine-stricken districts of Russia. In the United States farmers had their crops lying decomposing in their stores because they could not get rid of them, and in the Argentine there were large quantities of wheat which could not be sold because the exchange was unfavorable. In that country maize was actually being burned as fuel for locomotives. Yet here they saw fleets of vessels lying idle because they had nothing to carry.

Committees are busy in Canada collecting funds for the purchase of food supplies. Send contributions to Miss A. Schultz, secretary Russian Famine Relief Fund, P. O. Box 3591, Station B., Winnipeg, Man., or to the Clarion office. The following amounts have been received at the Clarion office up to and including 10th Nov. 1921. Further contributions will be acknowledged.

C. Martin \$5; M. W. Smith \$5; Wm. Clarkson \$5; T. B. Miles \$2; H. H. Hanson (collected) \$14; Katherine Smith \$5; C. H. B. \$1; Abe Karme \$1; H. H. Hanson (second contribution, collected) \$10; Dr. Inglis, (collected) \$88. Total \$136.

HERE AND NOW.

Contrasted with the allied war budgets—past and present—or the astronomical figures denoting acquaintanceship between ministers of finance of one country and another, these figures here below look ill nourished, but to us they indicate a "back to normalcy" tendency in Clarion finance which is all to the good.

A little more cheerful growling will do no harm, and our deeper tones are hereby keyed to connect with those delinquents whose subs are on the expired list. If you can find that dollar send it in. We know we'll get it in time, but if you have it send it now—now's the time we need it. (This ought to do for a pathetic appeal for once).

Enter, the figures since last issue. Enter the hope also that they do not weaken in issues to come.

Following, \$1 each: Geo. Jamieson, H. Sellons, C. Donner, A. J. Bell, R. B. Swales, D. A. Black, W. S. Matthews, J. McKinley, O. Mengel, A. McKenzie, S. Berry, H. Melbo, P. T. Leekie, J. Kirchmann, Edwin S. Robinson, Wm. Murray, J. W. Heaton, P. J. Hunt, J. F. Woloshyn, J. Halle, S. Webster, G. A. Brown, R. Goddard, P. Garvie, J. Johnston, F. W. Parsons, W. Miller, C. Luff, G. Andrews, W. R. Miller, Wm. Allen, D. Louis, S. Lowery, H. Arnold, E. Hallor, G. Darts, T. Tidrington.

Following \$2 each: T. Uuhill, S. Oliver, J. Harrington, C. Martin, F. R. Hallam, W. Orr, E. Antijutte, L. B. LaMarche, Alex. Shepherd, R. Sievwright, Wm. Olsen.

Sid Earp \$1.50; Jim Lott \$3; J. Doern \$3; Chas. Foster \$5; Frank Cassidy \$4; J. F. Kirk \$4.05; H. Campbell \$2.25; J. Knight, (Frisco Marxian Club) \$7.20; H. G. Mingo \$1.50.

Above, Clarion subs. received from 28th Oct. to 10th Nov., inclusive, total \$90.50.

DOMINION ELECTION 1921.

SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA CANDIDATES.

ALBERTA.

Calgary: Frank Williams.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Nanaimo: W. A. Pritchard.

Vancouver (3 seats)

Burrard: J. D. Harrington.

Centre: T. O'Connor.

South: J. Kavanagh.

MANTIOBA.

Winnipeg Centre: H. M. Bartholomew.

Winnipeg North: R. B. Russell.

Campaign funds are urgently required. Send contributions for Alberta, B. C. or Manitoba to:

W. R. Lewin, 134 a 9th Ave. West,

Calgary, Alberta.

E. McLeod, 401 Pender St. E.,

Vancouver, B. C.

H. M. Bartholomew, Box 1762

Winnipeg, Man.