

# WESTERN CLARION

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CURRENT  
EVENTS

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FIVE CENTS

## Current Topics: the European Tangle

ARTICLE 1— BY ROBERT KIRK.

THE peace of the world is still in doubt; obstacles no less formidable now than when the Treaty of Versailles was ratified on January 10, 1920, still block the road.

They are certainly much more formidable obstacles than the literary scullions of the press, who serve our dear old public with its daily mess of "tripe," are aware of.

The first obstacle encountered by the "peacemakers,"—and which, after strenuous political exertions, in one kind of conference or another since January, 1919, they have never succeeded in disposing of to "everybody's" satisfaction,—is the terms of the peace treaty itself.

Very rarely has an official document ever contained the elements of comedy or tragedy to any unusual degree, yet this one combines both. And these elements can easily be recognized in the condition of Europe today, which the document itself is largely responsible for.

Paying no heed whatever to the social character of the industrial process in all capitalistic countries, the interdependency of any single part upon the whole, or the institutions which have grown up as a result of this system of production and in support of it, the idea of self-determination of nations is put into effect, and empires disintegrate overnight, as it were making compliance with the terms of reparations a physical impossibility for the countries of middle Europe.

With Slesvig and Upper Silesia, subjoined and exploited by Germany, and Austria-Hungary, connected, acting as German vassals, one can readily see the source of Germany's commercial power in Europe.

Each played a part in the industrial process, whatever affected one had its effect on all. Yet, the Allies, in order to break down Germany's power in Europe, dismember the growing body and expect payment for damages through war which the entire body itself could never pay.

Let us consider for a moment these reparations in full, and which I will quote from J. M. Keynes' book, "A Revision of the Treaty," a sequel to "The Economic Consequences of the Peace." An industrious and very praise-worthy effort to patch a pair of pants, rotten and shoddy, every inch of them.

### FRANCE

#### 1.—Damage to Property (Reconstitution Values).

	Francs (Paper)
Industrial damages	38,882,521,479
Damage to buildings	36,892,500,000
Damage to furniture and fittings	25,119,500,000
Damage to land	21,671,546,225
Damage to State property	1,958,217,193
Damage to public works	2,583,299,425
Other damages	2,359,865,000
Shipping losses	5,009,618,722
Damages suffered in Algeria and Colonies	10,710,000
Damages suffered abroad	2,094,825,000
Interest at 5 per cent. on the principle (33,000,000,000 francs, in round figures) between Nov. 11, 1918 and May 1, 1921 or 30 months) say in round figures	4,125,000,000

II.—Injuries to Persons.	
Military pensions	60,045,696,000
Allowance to families of mobilized men	12,936,956,824
Pensions accorded to civilian victims of the war and their dependents	514,465,000
Ill-treatment inflicted on civilians and prisoners of war	1,869,230,000
Assistance given to prisoners of war	976,906,000
Insufficiency of salaries and wages	223,123,313
Exactions by Germany to the detriment of the civilian population	1,267,615,939
Total of the French claims	218,541,596,120

Military pensions	French Frs	1,637,285,512
Allowances to families of mobilized men	French Frs	737,930,484
Civilian victims and prisoners of war	Belgian Frs	4,295,998,454
Total	Belgian Frs	34,254,645,893
Total	French Frs	2,375,215,996

The other claims may be summarised as follows:

Japan.		
Shipping losses	Yen	287,593,000
Allowance to families of mobilized men	Yen	454,063,000
Total	Yen	832,774,000

Jugo-Slavia.		
Damage to property	dinars	8,496,091,000
Injuries to person	francs	19,219,700,112
Rumania.		
Property losses	gold francs	9,734,015,287
Military pensions	gold francs	9,296,663,076
Civilian victims and prisoners of war	gold francs	11,652,009,978
Total	gold francs	31,099,400,188

Portugal	
1,944,261 contos (1,574,907 contos for property losses)	

Greece.	
4,992,788,739 gold francs (1,833,181,542 francs for property loss).	

Brazil.	
£1,215,714 (shipping £1,189,144), plus 598,405 francs.	

Czecho-Slovakia.	
6,944,228,296 francs and 5,614,947,990 kroner (war losses).	

Siam.	
9,179,298 marks, gold, plus 1,169,821 francs.	

Bolivia.	
£16,000.	

Peru.	
£56,236, plus 107,389 francs.	

Haiti.	
\$80,000, plus 532,593 francs.	

Cuba.	
\$801,135.	

Liberia.	
\$3,977,135.	

Poland.	
21,913,269,740 gold francs, plus 500,000,000 gold marks.	

European Danube Commission—1,834,800 gold francs	
15,948 francs French, and 488,151 lei.	

In these claims here presented by French representatives of the ruling class we find the estimate of damage to "property" exceeds by 62,873,709,968 francs the injuries to bodies. While those claims for injury to Belgian property exceed the injuries to persons and the destruction of human life by 23,283,432,299 francs. Life is cheap, eh!

But, I must not waste space on sentiment, for the workers of the world have never yet set a price or should I say "value" (!) on themselves. Consequently they must continue to be reckoned as the cheapest things on earth.

And we will now return to a more careful analysis of the terms of reparations in order to discover to what degree they affect the peace of the world.

A peace, be it observed, which means nothing more or less than uninterrupted exploitation of the earth's resources and the wage-earners everywhere for the benefit of a rapidly multiplying parasitical class and non-producers.

This detailed consideration, for reasons of space, must necessarily be held over to the next issue of the "Clarion."

### Socialist Party of Canada Propaganda Meetings

BRING YOUR FRIENDS—ESPECIALLY IF  
THEY DON'T AGREE WITH US.

STAR THEATRE, 306 Bloor, Main Street

April 2nd	J. D. Harrington
April 9th	R. Kirk
April 16th	W. A. Pritchard
April 23rd	T. O'Connor
April 30th	J. D. Harrington

AT NORTH VANCOUVER.  
126—2nd Street, West.

April 2nd	H. Adie
April 9th	S. Earp
April 16th	C. Stephenson
April 23rd	R. Kirk
April 30th	S. Earp

All meetings at 8 p.m.  
Questions. Discussion.

Great Britain.	
Damage to property	£ 7,936,456
Shipping losses	£ 763,000,000
Losses abroad	£ 24,940,559
Damage to river and canal shipping	£ 4,000,000
Military pensions	£ 1,706,800,000
Allowances to families of mobilized men	£ 7,597,832,086
Pensions for civilian victims	£ 35,915,579
Ill-treatment inflicted on civilians and prisoners	£ 95,746
Assistance to prisoners of war	£ 12,663
Insufficiency of salaries and wages	£ 6,372
Total British claims	£ 2,542,070,875

Italy.	
Damage to property	Lire 20,933,547,500
Shipping losses	£ 128,000,000
Military pensions	Francs 31,041,000,000
Allowances to families of mobilized men	Francs 6,885,130,395
Civilian victims of the war and prisoners	Lire 12,153,289,000
Total	Lire 33,086,836,000
Total	Francs 37,926,130,000
Total	£ 128,000,000

Belgium	
Damage to property	Belgian Frs 29,773,939,099
(present value)	
Shipping losses (present value)	Belgian Frs 180,708,250