

## Western Clarion

A Journal of History, Economics, Philosophy,  
and Current Events.

Published twice a month by the Socialist Party of  
Canada, P. O. Box 710, Vancouver, B. C.  
Entered at G. P. O. as a newspaper.

Editor..... Ewen MacLeod

### SUBSCRIPTION:

Canada, 20 issues ..... \$1.00  
Foreign, 16 issues ..... \$1.00

911 If this number is on your address label your  
subscription expires with next issue. Renew  
promptly.

VANCOUVER, B. C., MARCH 1, 1924.

### FINANCE AGAIN.

PERIODICALLY we are required to depart from our Here and Now heading in order to attract serious consideration to the state of "Clarion" finances. Not that it is ever altogether out of financial trouble, but that periodically we are overwhelmed in financial depression more acutely than always. As for instance, now. Figures, we hear the complaint, are generally unattractive, and we agree—especially the figures set forth hereunder. These are not nearly so attractive as those set forth in the press the other day wherein the B. C. Electric Railway Co., Ltd. (local traction and lighting corporation) released a bond issue of \$3,500,000 and the "offerings" amounted to \$85,000,000. Not bad at all, especially when you consider that "The Buzzer" (official organ of the aforesaid B. C. E. R. Co. Ltd.) is perpetually kicking against any suggestion that a public utility is not a public utility. Any such suggestion denotes, we are told, a lessening of public confidence which, in turn, operates as a deterrent factor where finance capital expects a welcome. Public utilities are, of course, public utilities. Readers of "Babbitt" will recollect that this was capable of proof by the professor—by figures imported from Poland (or some such place) and New Zealand.

It will seem queer that we should harp thus upon the B.C.E.R.'s corpulent figures rather than upon our own, but these have, you will agree, a "lean and hungry look" and they need a tonic. Hence our zeal in broadcasting the periodical "S.O.S." There is no use piping to a mournful air in setting forth our monetary woes, the main reason being that it is not likely to be helpful. The need is none the less real on that account, however. That being granted, we are all ready for an increased subscription list before next issue. These few stragglers are our subscription receipts since last.

Following \$1 each: A. R. Snowball, J. J. Albers, O. E. Laimatta, A. Driver, J. R. Wilkinson, B. Bird, C. L. Sallstrom, T. Faulston, J. Pollock, S. Olson, G. Albers, Alf. Jorgenson, O. Erickson, H. J. Edwards, Wm. Braes, C. E. Scharff.

J. Muldoon 50 cents; W. F. Welling \$2; Hugh Ross \$1.30; J. C. Blair \$2; T. Stott, \$2; J. Hole 50 cents.

Above, Clarion subs. received from 15th to 28th February, inclusive, total \$24.30.

### CLARION MAINTENANCE FUND.

J. J. Albers \$2; G. Albers \$1; T. Stott \$1; Wm. Braes \$1.

Above, C. M. F. receipts from 15th to 28th February, inclusive, total \$5.

### SECRETARIAL NOTES.

Comrade Lestor has recently addressed meetings in Alberta at Swallow, Red Willow, Donalda, Meeting Creek, Edmonton, Delburne, Calgary, and other places. He says the reception everywhere has been encouraging and that the movement as reviving from its apathy. We are sorry to record that Com. Lestor has been sick and has been under medical care necessitating an operation for the removal of a carbuncular growth on the neck. This has oper-

ated seriously against his good health and has several times during his present propaganda tour upset his speaking schedule. Everybody is in hope that recovery may be prompt and complete. There is a danger otherwise that platform work for Comrade Lestor may be interrupted for a long time. Better news next time, we hope.

### DEATH OF TOM CASSIDY.

MEMBERS of the militant section of the working class, both in Canada and the United States will learn with deepest regret of the death of Comrade Tom Cassidy, late general organizer for the One Big Union.

Comrade Cassidy had been in ill-health for several months, having to relinquish his organization work in November last, prior to which time he had been doing splendid organization work for the O. B. U. in Western Canada. It later developed that he was suffering from tuberculosis, and in spite of strenuous efforts to combat it, he gradually succumbed to its relentless grip, the end coming on Wednesday evening, February 13th, 1924.

The system has thus claimed another victim, for Cassidy was still in the prime of life, being only thirty-six years of age, but like many other workers his health was undermined with years of labor in the rotten surroundings of the railroad roundhouse.

As a speaker and organizer for the radical labor movement, Comrade Cassidy was an "old timer," and owed much of his knowledge of the movement to the training he received in the Socialist Party of Canada, for which organization he was an old time organizer. He was also, in the old days, a "borer" in the American Federation of Labor and figurer in many skirmishes with the misleaders of labor at the Canadian Trades Congress Conventions. He was also active in the movement on the other side of the border and at the inception of the O. B. U. became one of its staunchest standard bearers in the United States.

Comrade Cassidy had rare ability both as a speaker and an organizer, and his passing means a distinct loss to the working class movement, for there was never a time in working class history when fighters were more urgently needed and when there was a more limited supply.

Internment took place on Monday last at Brookside Cemetery.—O.B.U. Bulletin (Winnipeg).

### AN ANSWER TO F. J. McNEY.

L. T. Morgan, Arts '24, U. of B. C.

When Professor Ely states: "To possess Value a thing must be able to satisfy wants, and it must exist in less than sufficient quantity to satisfy all wants," he means Value in Exchange, not Value.

It is necessary that a commodity must be relatively scarce to possess Value in Exchange.

Nor can a commodity possess Value without being scarce, seeing that "scarcity," used in this sense, simply means "difficulty of attainment" and this again means that its production involves an expenditure of effort. In short, a commodity cannot possess Value (as determined by the amount of socially-necessary labor time) without at the same time absorbing certain costs of production (price of production).

Labor-power, in my opinion, is a commodity—though Prof. Ely would not so consider it.

Prof. Ely considers labor as simply a factor in production, and he states "that the proportion of the product that is attributed to labor is determined by the principle of specific or marginal productivity" (Ely, "Outlines of Economics" (1923), page 424.) Prof. Ely continues that "It will pay the farmer (or anyone else) to extend his employment of labor up to the point where the adding of another laborer to the working force would increase the product by an amount too small to sell for enough to pay his wages, and where dropping a laborer from

the working force would decrease the product by an amount at least sufficient to pay the wages of the laborer." (Ely, "Outlines of Economics," p 386).

Thus it is at once apparent that the price of labor-power is all important in determining just what is the so-called "marginal productivity" of a worker. And since the worker has only his labor-power to sell, his very existence depends upon his finding a market for that commodity. As a consequence, he is at a very great disadvantage when he bargains with a prospective employer, and in the final analysis he is, as a rule, forced to accept a bare subsistence in return for his labor-power because the supply of labor power invariably exceeds the demand. But, and here is where relative scarcity does come into consideration, over a period of years the price received must tend to coincide with the cost of reproducing that labor, or it will tend to become scarce. Of course at any particular time and in any particular field of labor, the laws of supply and demand directly affect wages. Thus the Marginal Utility theory of Value (in exchange) can be made to explain wages—even if there is no absolute scarcity of labor-power.

Possibly you have overlooked what Professor Ely has to say regarding Value (in exchange) in his "Outlines of Economics," appendix A, p. 213, the first paragraph under the heading "Present Conditions of Economic Thought."

"With respect to the theory of value neither supply nor demand, neither cost nor utility, neither the capitalist nor the consumer, is now said to exert a predominating influence in the determination of values. The Austrian School (Marginal Utility theorists, L. T. M.) it is now understood, supplied a needed corrective without revolutionizing the earlier theory of value. The Austrians themselves are seen to have been guilty of laying exaggerated emphasis on the consumer's influence upon value and price, and there is reason to believe that their analysis is based in some degree upon a faulty psychology."

## PLATFORM

### Socialist Party of Canada

We, the Socialist Party of Canada affirm our allegiance to, and support of the principles and programme of the revolutionary working class.

Labor, applied to natural resources, produces all wealth. The present economic system is based upon capitalist ownership of the means of production, consequently, all the products of labor belong to the capitalist class. The capitalist is, therefore, master; the worker a slave.

So long as the capitalist class remains in possession of the reins of government all the powers of the State will be used to protect and defend its property rights in the means of wealth production and its control of the product of labor.

The capitalist system gives to the capitalist an ever-swelling stream of profits, and to the worker, an ever increasing measure of misery and degradation.

The interest of the working class lies in setting itself free from capitalist exploitation by the abolition of the wage system, under which this exploitation, at the point of production, is cloaked. To accomplish this necessitates the transformation of capitalist property in the means of wealth production into socially controlled economic forces.

The irrepressible conflict of interest between the capitalist and the worker necessarily expresses itself as a struggle for political supremacy. This is the Class Struggle.

Therefore we call upon all workers to organize under the banner of the Socialist Party of Canada, with the object of conquering the political powers for the purpose of setting up and enforcing the economic programme of the working class, as follows:

- 1—The transformation, as rapidly as possible, of capitalist property in the means of wealth production (natural resources, factories, mills, railroads, etc.) into collective means of production.
- 2—The organization and management of industry by the working class.
- 3—The establishment, as speedily as possible, of production for use instead of production for profit.