

Western Clarion

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and Current Events.
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VANCOUVER, B. C. OCTOBER 15, 1921

GET IN AND HELP

While the orthodox political parties all over the country are talking to a bewildered working class about the lying habits of each other, the working class, patient and hungry, are wondering when the three-meal-a-day period is due to set in. Meighen is touring Eastern Canada talking about how the country has been run, and Mackenzie King, in the same area has been talking about how it should have been run. If words were nutritious, the working class would have enough to carry them from one election date to another.

Explanations aplenty have been made as to why it is that a vast working population of wealth producers in this country is turned out of mill, mine and factory, the chance to earn a living taken from them. The war in Europe and the ensuing difficulties of "re-establishment" have come to be the stock-in-trade excuses of the politicians for the hunger and want that follow unemployment to the mass of the workers. The true explanation lies deeper than that. The workers have served a full apprenticeship in listening to wind bag politicians in the years gone by. If they will attend to the campaign conducted by their own class candidates in this election they will come to an understanding of their own troubles, of employment as well as unemployment.

The nominees of the Socialist Party of Canada are now hard at work in B. C. and Manitoba. Alberta comrades are making their preparations for the campaign. They are likely to have three or four candidates in the field. Campaign funds are hard to gather, and earnest support from all interested workers is required. So far, the nominees of the S. P. of C. are:—

B. C. CONSTITUENCIES:

NANAIMO—W. A. Pritchard
VANCOUVER, (3 Seats)—

Burrard: J. D. Harrington

Centre: T. O'Connor

South: J. Kavanagh

MANITOBA CONSTITUENCIES:

WINNIPEG (3 seats):—

H. M. Bartholemew

R. B. Russell

Chas. Stewart

SECRETARIAL NOTES

Local Vancouver study classes are under way. Economics, every Sunday at p.m. History, every Thursday at 8 p.m., at 401 Pender Street East. Come all, and welcome! Bring with you any interested workers of your acquaintance. No fees. Membership in the S. P. of C. is not essential to class membership.

Classes about to be formed anywhere will do well to consult the article by "Geordie," in this issue, reprinted from "The Red Flag." This should prove helpful and it answers many questions as to how classes should be conducted. "Geordie's" series "Concerning Value," will be continued in next issue.

The case of the "B.C. Federationist, Ltd." and of A. S. Wells, manager, has been adjourned again for a week. Funds for defence are urgently required.

Federal Election, 1921

Socialist Party of Canada Manifesto No. 1

In entering candidates for the forthcoming Federal Election, the Socialist Party of Canada reaffirms its position; and has neither promises to make nor apologies to offer.

We contend that modern society is divided into two major groups: the owners of wealth producing machinery who receive its benefits in the form of surplus values, and the operators of that machinery, the modern wage-working class, who receive for their labors, when working, sufficient in the form of wages to represent mere subsistence.

These relative positions are today maintained by virtue of the fact that the coercive powers of society (the State) are held and wielded by the representatives of the master class. It does not matter to our present argument that divisions between certain sections of the masters produce struggles on their part to obtain or maintain (as the case might be) control of the administrative and governmental machinery.

This is well exemplified at the present moment. During the early days of last year, several of our party members were given jail terms in the City of Winnipeg for allegedly engaging in activities which supposedly resulted in setting class against class in the community. Now, today, behold the tariff! The present premier of Canada has deliberately launched an election campaign which has for its object the setting of the industrial (town) against the agrarian (country). Over against this position is set the righteous indignation of Mackenzie King, one-time expert for the Rockefeller interests, who decries tyranny and desires freedom.

But what is this all about? A whole host of gentlemen (and ladies), some distinguished for what they have said, some for what they have done, and still others for what they have neither said nor done, now spread themselves throughout the land, beseeching the listening ear. They are all apparently solicitous, too, for the welfare of the dear worker, the back-bone of the country, the horny-handed son of toil. When before, one might enquire, was such interest displayed on behalf of the workers? And come to think of it, 'twould seem as though such performances were indulged in only at election time, when working class votes are sought for the purpose of giving sanction to master class purposes.

Members of the Working Class! We desire, as workers together with you, to deal openly, candidly, bluntly. At a time when the means of producing those things necessary to human sustenance have developed to a degree never before thought of, unemployment, with all its devastating misery and degradation for you, as workers, stalks abroad through the land with all its irritating unpleasantness. Is this not an appropriate time for asking (and having answered) the question as to why such a state of

Contributions sent to this office will be forwarded.

A book has reached us entitled, "Farmers in Politics," by Wm. Irvine, of Calgary, Alberta. A review should prove interesting during these election times of such a book, and we promise to devote a column or two in an early issue.

HERE AND NOW

Some wiseacre long ago said that "Silence is Golden." We've tried it out and our conclusion is that the ancients didn't have to worry about "subs" or they wouldn't have framed that text for future use. If they'd had printers to face day by day, presenting an appalling bill of costs, they'd have started a yell for "subs" there and then. We're yelling for "subs" here and now. Look at our totals. If the adding machine companies depended on us for trade they'd be bankrupt and starving, with nothing to add up but their accumulating worries.

Let the truth be known. The best way to spread it around is to increase the sub. list.

things exists? Will the spell-binders of the master class supply this answer? Will they even as much as attempt to meet the question? They will not. They cannot. They dare not.

But we dare, and we will.

Things are today produced not because of their utility to mankind, primarily, but because of the profit that can be realized in their disposition. Not the needs of hungry men, women and children, but profit, profit, profit—that is the guiding principle of modern commercial life. The worker's wages representing merely sufficient food, clothing, and shelter, on an average, to maintain in working order a worker and his dependents, are merely a fraction in value of the result of that worker's labor. This surplus (the difference between the value of what the worker gets and what he creates) must of necessity find its way to the world market and there, in competition with the products of other workers of other nationalities, seek a purchaser. The result of this situation is a market glut, industries close down, workers are thrown out of work in their thousands, unemployment results. And the present period of unemployment is remarkable for the feature that it is universal in its scope and applicable to all industries.

A high tariff and a corresponding high cost of living, or a low tariff and a corresponding low cost of living, are questions of import only to our masters. They do not affect in any way the position and real interests of the working class. Does not your own bitter and painful experience tell you, plainer than any theorising might, that when you can live cheaper you can work cheaper: a lower cost of living means a lower price for your labor-power?

All these various schemes and palliatives are useless. Even if they possessed any merit they are damned in their making by their authors. Think seriously if you will and tell us whether the alleged reforms and acts of parliament that have been passed in the last quarter of a century, ostensibly for YOUR benefit, have resulted in any benefits to you; or have they not rather tended to fasten upon you in still firmer fashion the chains of wage slavery.

The only question worth while for you is: Shall those who work the machinery of wealth production own that machinery and thereby benefit from its functions; or shall the present masters (whether represented by Liberal free traders or National tariff-mongers) continue in their ruthless work of exploiting labor for the sake of profits?

If you are desirous of registering a protest against a continuance of the present system of production and exchange, you will do so by marking your ballots on election day for the candidates of the party of your class—The Socialist Party of Canada.

HERE AND NOW

Following, \$1 each—C. L. Pearson, F. Harman, Mrs. G. Kolonn, J. S. Lidgerwood, B. Peake, C. Lee, W. G. Lindsay, J. Wedin, F. Kissack, A. Beaton, A. Legge, W. Truscott, A. Manson, S. R. Davy, J. Greenwood, T. Richardson.

Wm. Craig, \$3; Parry and Sim, \$3; J. Henderson, \$2; Sid Earp, \$5; H. Norman, \$2; R. C. McCutchan, \$2; Gus. Johnson, \$2; W. Hoare, \$2; W. E. Dickens, \$2; W. Lewin, \$3; W. Scott, \$2; J. J. Albers, \$3.

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Above, C. M. F. contributions from 29th September to 13th October, inclusive—total, \$14.50.

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