

# WESTERN CLARION

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EVENTS

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FIVE CENTS

## A Propaganda Campaign Across Canada

By Frank Cassidy

In these trying days of unemployment, bread lines, etc it is well worth while to know just what the great mass of the working class is thinking. To find this out it is necessary that one move amongst them as much as possible over a wide area. So it was that I welcomed the proposal made by R. A. Fillmore last summer, that I go east to the Maritime provinces, and get in some propaganda in that part of Canada, which, despite the airy mouthings of the "actionists" of Montreal, Toronto and other eastern points, has had no progana meetings since Gribble, and O'Brien, (Western organizers of the S. P. of C.) were there some years ago.

Winnipeg was my first stopping point en route, and I spoke at several meetings there during my stay of 3 or 4 days. I was in time to be present at the trial of Kaplan. The details of this affair may some day be published but since the party in now rid of Kaplan's supporters in Winnipeg, the affair need cause us no further annoyance.

The one thing we learned after the treachery of the one charged and of his colleagues, had been exposed, was that on leaving the hall Kaplan grinned and stated that he had put up a fight anyway. The "fight" by the way, lest any ill-informed person associate these "actionists" with militancy, consisted of lying on the witness stand all through the trial, and concluding by boasting that they would lie persistently about everything and to everybody, to gain a point.

I found the same tactics advocated by the "actionists" of Montreal, and I am informed that they have also been endorsed by a few in Vancouver, one of whom in connection with his alleged affiliation with another political party openly stated, "We can lie to you and you'd never find out in a thousand years." Advocates of, and adherents to, these kind of tactics may feel a certain sense of valor surging within their manly bosoms as their dauntless hearts keep urging them on and ever on, to deeds of daring do, but the writer (maybe through an atavistic trait of his progenitors, the "species Hibernia"), is inclined to the opinion that when people insist on proclaiming themselves "fighters" the old fashioned Donnybrook is a much more manly way of proving themselves such, and lying is a coward's substitute.

I had a long conversation with the boys in Toronto. Most of those I spoke to were members of the Communist Party, (since "The Workers Party"). I will say for them that they disapproved of the "tactics" employed by Kaplan in Winnipeg, and roundly denounced such methods of "securing control." I spoke at several meetings in Toronto. The one thing which struck me most was that the attitude of the working class towards Socialism shows a marked difference from Winnipeg. The further east the smaller the crowds who attended meetings. An unemployed meeting in Toronto with half a dozen speakers, including myself, attracted less than 400 people, despite the fact that thousands of handbills had been circulated, and also that it had been given wide publicity in the "Workers Guard." This in the second biggest city of Canada, with more unemployment than any other city in the Dominion. I could not help but compare the situation with that of Vancouver, Calgary, or Winnipeg, where the S. P. of C. have been "philosophizing" for some years, and how, in Vancouver,

the Empress Theatre could be jammed with 1800 people each Sunday during the winter. In Calgary, also, where we recently polled just over 1900 votes for a "red" candidate, or in Winnipeg where four S. P. of C. men were sent to prison for their activities in the strike, whilst the "actionists" of Montreal and Toronto played pool.

In Ottawa I met Comrade Peter T. Leekie, and we held an open air meeting that night, at which we had an audience of between 3 and 4 hundred.

### Socialist Party of Canada Propaganda Meetings

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

STAR THEATRE, 300 Block, Main Street

March 19th.—Speaker, W. A. Pritchard.  
Subject: "The Paris Commune."

March 26th.—Speaker: T. O'Connor.  
Subject: Working Class Politics.

AT NORTH VANCOUVER.  
126—2nd Street West.

March 19th.—Speaker: Sidney Earp.  
Subject: "The Paris Commune."

March 26th.—Speaker: Robert Kirk.  
Subject: "Social Revolutions."

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

We held the crowd for over three hours, and disposed of a lot of literature; all went well until towards the end of the meeting, when some young civil service pups started making a noise. After a while, some of them went away and came back with reinforcements and finding themselves strong enough, they rushed us, and we had to wrestle our way out of the crowd. A couple of policemen, standing a few yards off, laughed, and made no attempt to interfere, as was, of course, to be expected.

Nine or ten "actionists" were on the inside of the ring, but made no move; I am not saying that they were afraid; maybe they were just adopting some new "tactics," but anyway, with the assistance of Leekie's brother, and a few more S. P. of C. men, we made our get-away.

I was informed, before leaving Toronto that the "actionists" of Montreal had no love for the S. P. of C., and that I would have a stormy welcome. However, I located the headquarters of "The Montreal Labor College," and entered right into a heated controversy with those I found there. They didn't like the S. P. of C., I learned from their denunciation, because that party published articles on "The Materialistic Interpretation of History," and other educational subjects, which they of the "Montreal Labor College," with few exceptions, could not understand.

The "Voice of Labor" was a much better paper than the "Clarion" I was informed, because it had cartoons in it, and gave all the strike news, with other news items of general interest. Also, the S. P. of C. did not advocate armed insurrection. I

argued that we must necessarily be suspicious of the fighting proclivities of anyone who speaks of armed insurrection for some time in the future but fears to further propaganda at the present time, when there is no great element of personal danger.

Likewise I called their attention to the preface to the fourth edition of The Manifesto of the S. P. of C. on the question of the possibility of a peaceful revolution. Montreal, I found to be somewhat the same as Toronto as regards adherents to any working organization claiming to be revolutionary. A few hundred can be induced to attend a well advertised meeting. From Montreal I proceeded to New Brunswick. A Oromocto I had two meetings amongst the farmers. Like the farmers in the western provinces, those of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia are finding it very difficult to do any more than just keep alive, and absolutely impossible to keep out of debt.

Under these conditions, they readily attend propaganda meetings and make good listeners. I arrived in Nova Scotia in the midst of the election fever, and, of course was met with hostility by most of the labor leaders. "Labor" candidates were in the field, and they, quite reasonably, argued that the conducting of socialist propaganda meetings in the vicinity would injure the chances of the "labor" candidates. However there were enough reds in the city of Amherst to keep me going for two weeks with a meeting each night. We can expect to hear more of Amherst in the near future. Of all the towns I have visited on my travels I believe the proportion of unemployed to the population, was greatest in Amherst. At Sidney mines, C. B., I had one good meeting, and sold about \$15 worth of pamphlets. I found the miners throughout Cape Breton and Nova Scotia to be much the same as the miners of the west, with regard to their understanding of the class struggle. The occupation of a miner, and the conditions under which he works, bring him hard against capitalism in all its nakedness, and the miner is generally the best of the raw material for the fighting battalions of the working class.

In Glace Bay I was prevented from holding any meetings by the opposition of some of the leading lights of the labor party. I could not get the use of a hall, and as it was the dead of winter, I could not very well hold any open air meetings. However, I went back to Roscoe Fillmore's place in New Brunswick, and waited there until the election was over. After the working class had again signified at the polls, its desire to have capitalism continue; (on the 6th Dec.), I proceeded once more to Nova Scotia, this time going by way of St. John, from where I crossed the Bay of Fundy to Digby, reaching Billtown; I spoke at several meetings which were arranged for me by comrades Parry and Sim. I stayed two weeks amongst the farmers.

Whilst at Billtown, I received an invitation from the boys in Halifax to go there and stay for two weeks. Accordingly I went to Halifax on the 29th Dec. My activities there have already been published in the "Clarion," and further mention would be mere repetition. The Dalhousie University, which we challenged to debate, did not answer. I had a further invitation from Mr. Forman Way to come to Cape Breton, but as we were informed in Halifax that the Labor Party was running a candidate in the by election, I could forsee the same opposition to

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