

## 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

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

VANCOUVER, B. C., DECEMBER 1, 1922.

### THE DIFFERENCE.

"By working 10 hours instead of 8 hours, production will be so much increased that there will be more and cheaper goods for the German consumer. In other words, by working 10 hours the German people will reduce the cost of living while raising the standard of living.

"The time will come when the workers will realize that by working only 8 hours they can earn enough to keep alive, whereby working 10 hours they can earn not only the minimum for existence, but a margin for better living."

—Hugo Stinnes.

**H**ERR Stinnes puts it very nicely: appealingly: with the deep feelings of conviction. He is almost as anxious as David "the Wizard" over the small rights of labor. It is a pity to break in on a good man's dream. But that is the way of capital—it cannot permit society to realise its aspirations.

Quite obviously labor is the fountain head of wealth. It is equally obvious that the more labor—in production—the more wealth. And if there is more wealth, there is also a greater available abundance of comfort, and a better potential standard of living. So the remedy for want is work; for misery, more work. Why not adopt the simple remedy? Because the Capitalist class owns the kite and flies it—as circumstances determine—to suit itself.

The Capitalist class, owning the means of life, operates them soldly for profit. If the market is brisk, Capitalist "prosperity" prevails; if it is not, the process of competition drives the index of efficiency to a higher level; the standard of living to keener economics. It is true the expansion of capital is the expansion of labor. But it is via the world market. And in opening up the world market for exploitation, labor is expanded for the same purpose. But the competitive conditions of production induce cheap production; cheap production compels more and greater machinery; more and regulated organization, and more standardised production. Therefore, although the expansion of Capital involves the expansion of labor, the reproduction of capital reduces the production of labor. For, the more machinery is in operation, and the more efficiency is developed, the more labor is displaced and the greater is the amount of production per man; while the more hours the man can be induced to work, without physical exhaustion, the more profits are realisable from the surplus values in production. So that the greater the volume of net production per man per hour, the cheaper is production as a whole, the wider is its possible market and the greater the volume of surplus.

Since labor-power exchanges equitably in terms of the market, the cheapening of the cost of production means the cheapening of employment. Consequently the distribution of the wealth produced increases on the side of the owner and decreases on the side of the worker. For, although efficiency methods may maintain—or even raise—the wages of the necessary labor, they depress the living standards of the general laboring class. And ultimately they reduce the wages of the actual workers by competitive pressure, thus continually balancing cost and value. Consequently the relative value of surplus (profit) is constantly augmented to the master class; the relative value of wages constantly diminished. So that the difference between the 8 and 10 hour day is, to the former an increase in the volume

of cheap production—therefor of trade—therefor of profit; to the latter a more exhaustive exploitation and a more precarious existence.

There is another side to the picture. The wealth of the world is the labor of the world; hence the market of the world is the producing nations themselves. If giant machinery, by cheapening production gains entry to the possible market simultaneously, by progressively increasing unemployment it progressively consumes purchasing power. Prices may be cheap, but there is a constantly growing proportion unable to purchase at all. The market shrinks steadily, production falls, stagnation ensues on the stimulus of profit, till crises, deeper, darker, larger, shroud the seething world in misery.

Increased production inevitably means increased unemployment. Cheap production means an ebbing standard of life, not a rising one. Increasing wealth signifies a contraction of social prosperity. And the "margin for a better living" is no rose-lipped laughter of happiness, but a fear whose image has distorted the mind, as its substance has already corrupted the world. If it is impossible for labor to maintain itself on 8 hours' work, it will be increasingly impossible on 10. If the standard of life declines on the former, it must decline more rapidly on the latter. If prices fall in the readjustments of profit-production, social life must grovel in its deeper degradation. And if the capitalist sees nothing but ruin in the system of 8 hours, the application of 10 hours to the same system can have no other effect than the acceleration of the procession of ruin. So that the difference between the 8 and 10 hour day is not merely a difference in the degree of capitalist "prosperity": it is witness to a steeper gradient in the inclined plane of capitalist dissolution. And that Herr Stinnes, in common with his industrial kin, is forced to this reversal of the social forces of production is evidence that, however stormy the end is like to be, it cannot be long delayed. R.

### CLARION MAIL BAG.

(Continued from page 3)

sold. He also expresses the hope that more meetings will be held in the future and encloses a sub.

Vancouver Island shows distinct signs of life this time. Writing from Victoria, Com. C. Bright sends a sub. renewal and a dollar for the Maintenance Fund. An enquiry for books and an order comes from J. E. Brown, Comberland. He also encloses a sub. renewal and a dollar for the Maintenance Fund.

Com. J. Cartwright sends a brief letter from East Wellington with two subs. and enquiries about two previous ones which he sent in on Oct. 22nd. We received them alright, but did not include them in Nov. 1st. "Clarion", as the list was already made up and at the printers. An order for literature comes from Port Alice, also a sub. from Gibson's Landing. A short letter from Com. J. A. McDonald enclosing an order for literature was received. He says the lectures and classes are doing well, and prospects for the future are good in San Francisco. The Proletarian Party also send a renewal of their Clarion bundle subscription from that city. Subs. from Bakersfield and Los Angeles were also received. Writing from Cleveland, Ohio, Com. Swanson organizer for the Proletarian Party states that they have rented permanent Headquarters in the Labor Temple, and that study classes are being held. They have been busy all summer on the street corners, and Charles O'Brien spoke at a meeting on Nov. 18th. The Local meets every Tuesday evening and any S. P. of C. members visiting Cleveland will be made welcome. The National Student Forum, Broadway, New York, have sent in a list of questions to be discussed at their conference on Dec. 26, 27, 20th. Com. E. Anderson, sends a sub. and greetings from Huntley, New Zealand. This summarizes the correspondence up to Nov. 11.

Lack of space precludes lengthy comment upon the correspondence received since the above was written, but we are gratified to note the earnestness shown by comrades far afield in advancing the phil-

osophy of Socialism among the working class. From Ottawa, Com. Wm. Pasch sends a short letter enclosing a sub. renewal and wishing the movement towards education every success; he is sparing no effort in attracting subscribers but says it is "some job." And we know it. Com. Auddell, formerly of Ottawa, but now in Montreal, contributes a good letter and two subs. Describing his experiences in Montreal, he says there is a good field for propaganda. He addressed four meetings and literature sales were good. Having the advantage of a knowledge of both French and English languages, Com. Auddell should be of great use to the movement in Montreal, but he is unable to stay there very long. His future address will be 374 Market St., S. Lawrence, Mass.

Com. Rose sends a brief note and a sub. from Winnipeg, and Com. Moore does likewise. A long letter containing an order for literature comes from "Sandy," the live wire of Winnipeg Local.

Writing from Brandon, Com. G. Craig sends a long letter in which he comments upon McNey's article on the I. W. W. He is of the opinion that we know words more by sound than by their real meaning, and suggests that a glossary of words used by students, inserted in the "Clarion," would be of advantage to everybody.

From Youngstown, Alta., Com. Hughes sends two subs. From Whitley, Com. B. Polinkos sends four subs. and a literature order to the amount of \$2.25. Good work! Com. Gus. Albers of Edberg, and Com. J. Knor of Eckville, Alta., are also doing their bit for the "Clarion." Writing from Hanna, Alta., Com. Chas. Lestor says that he has held two good meetings there, and also three meetings at Stanmore. Audiences are appreciative, in many cases having to come a long distance to the meeting place. Com. Lestor wishes to thank those who are assisting him on his tour. From Swalwell, Alta., Com. G. Beagrie sends a short descriptive letter of Lestor's meeting in that district. In Swalwell they are much interested and are asking for more. He encloses four subs. to the "Clarion." Com. McNeil writes again from Erskine, Alta., enclosing a sub.

Writing from Eyebrow, Sask., Com. Thos. Foulston sends a sub. renewal and a dollar to the Maintenance Fund. He says that if the weather is favorable when Com. Lestor gets in that district, he could arrange to hold two or three lectures in school houses.

From Edgewood, B. C. Com. Shipmaker sends a short note with a sub. renewal. He says that when he was an industrial slave, he occasionally had a dollar to spare, but since he became a stump rancher, a dollar has become a rare thing to him; he agrees with the doctor "that while there's life there's hope." Com. F. Harman sends word from Victoria that they are making an effort to get a History Class going, but the attendance is very small so far. Com. J. Hubble is with them just now, but his health is still very poor.

Com. N. MacAulay writes from San Francisco, enclosing a sub. renewal and two dollars for C. M. F. From Los Angeles, Calif. Com. Ulrich sends four dollars for the "Clarion," and expresses the hope that the Party will be able to publish in pamphlet form the continuous articles running through the "Clarion."

From New York, Com. J. F. Maguire sends greetings to W. A. P. and enquires for Frank Cassidy's address. He is glad to know that we are still holding Sunday propaganda meetings, something they cannot do in New York, also says the movement there is still chaotic. Sends two dollars for Maintenance Fund. From Des Moines, Iowa, comes a lengthy letter from Com. Frank Williams enclosing three subs. and a dollar for the Maintenance Fund. He has been in Des Moines for two months and has come in contact with the S. P. A. local. He proposes to start a study class in history and economics for the benefit of the younger comrades, and hopes to be sending in a few subs. to the "Clarion" before long. Our best wishes go to Com. Williams in the fine effort he is making in spite of adverse circumstances. This summarizes the correspondence up to Nov. 25th.