

## Western Clarion

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Editor ..... Ewen MacLeod

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VANCOUVER, B. C., AUGUST 2nd, 1920.

## EDITORIAL

### THE RUSSELL APPEAL.

**T**HE appeal for hearing of Comrade R. B. Russell has been dismissed by the Privy Council, and it would seem that labor as a body have had their ultimate lesson in the law, and are now left to readjust their notions as to justice itself. We shall not be surprised to find that many workers still consider the scales as being a little rusted, but the time is here for labor bodies to set themselves to the understanding of the principles underlying a system of profit production, whereby they may learn that the justice of the law must needs bear down as heavily upon them in its application as the maintenance, through them, of capitalism, produces the misery and unhappiness of their daily labor.

There is no doubt that the next step of the government, now that its action has received the inevitable approval of London, will be to find a suitable excuse to release the prisoners, an excuse, that is, that will enable the government to maintain its cast iron dignity and yield at the same time to the menace of the popular will.

Some talk there has been of a "pardon" and release. There can be no consideration given by labor to any suggestion of pardon for offences that, however the law may view them, must arise again and again, or as long as working men and women are forced into organized co-operation for mutual support against the crushing weight of capitalism.

All workers who took part in the strike of last year will cheerfully proclaim themselves as being equally responsible in their actions as the men in gaol. And there can be no reason in any pardon issued to men who have been compelled to action that is independent of their individual will. By this we mean that men act as circumstances dictate. And that these circumstances change from time to time in detail, presupposes that action must change in accordance. The alignment of the classes in society must undergo change as the foundation, the economic structure, moves. The workers writhe in pain as the fetters close in upon them. Their suffering under their thralldom finds ever new expression which, happily, as the days go on betokens a clearer understanding of the conditions of their everyday life. Those conditions call for a clear understanding on the part of labor, and that understanding will correspond to the material circumstances of the process of production and the factors of life that rest upon it.

The explanation for the actions of labor lies in the developing forces of production. To understand the workings of one is to estimate the qualities of consciousness of the other.

### THE MALADY.

**S**OME time ago, Karl Radek said that the time was approaching when news items would announce the mental fatigue and breakdown of prominent allied statesmen. We have seen that Mr. Wilson has suffered somewhat since he came back from Europe, while several premiers have fallen back upon the rest cure to escape the insistence of post-war problems. Even an office boy functionary like the Canadian premier has had his worries, and now Mr. Lloyd George is "a very sick man."

Now we are not taking the temperature of these gentlemen because we are especially interested in

their welfare, but we like to note that convenient excuses substitute sometimes for capable handling of awkward situations.

The Soviets have travelled a long way since they made their peace proposals to the Allied governments, through Mr. Bullitt, on the 14th March of last year. Then, and before that date, they were willing to conclude peace upon the bandit terms dictated by the Allies, and to that willingness, then as before that time, they could not even secure publicity, let alone consent.

Last March Russia proposed an armistice, which Poland rejected under pressure of an offensive. Today Poland seems ready to accept anything, and, in Russia's dealings with the Allied governments she has compelled attention and she continues to be the attractive news feature, if for no other purpose than to lie about.

As the days go on the strength of the Soviets increases, and their position is rendered more secure. And this is the real dark shadow that meant concessions for the German bourgeoisie at the recent Spa conference. The Allies are plainly worried. They have every reason. Their premiers are sick—sick of Russia.

### THE "CLARION" ABROAD.

The following is part of an article published in the "Abendpost," Rochester, N. Y., which appears in that paper on the 12th July, 1920, under the title "Declaration of the People." The paper is printed in the German language and the translation has been kindly made for us by Comrade O. J. Mengel.

The article is not presented in full because its appreciation is offered from a nationalist viewpoint, although it is not altogether confined to that. As to the matter of republishing the series in pamphlet form, we have already announced our intention to do so. Perhaps, by the time the last article is printed the still smouldering embers of nationalism may have died out.—Ed.

**I**N as much as English propaganda is carried on in this country at present, just as actively as during the war, and much more actively than before the war, which is very significant, as it had already been attended to by the English for the last 20 years, to utilize the press of this country, and as, according to an article in the "Irish World" (New York) of last Saturday's edition, not less than 300 British or Canadian editors of so-called American journals, it is of the greatest importance that the inhabitants of this country, who are not greatly enamoured with England, should understand the world-wide intriguing carried on by England during the last 20 years.

A good opportunity to do this is available. The "Western Clarion," a semi-monthly paper, issued in Vancouver, B. C., publishes since March, a series of articles entitled, "The Economic Causes of War," that will open the eyes of all who read them. The paper is a Socialist paper, but the articles deal mainly with historical events, and the writer constantly gives his authorities for his statements.

The paper has also subscribers here, and I got a copy by chance, and in consequence I obtained the copies containing the rest of the articles; generally copies of a journal published weeks previously are unobtainable. The journal can be obtained here (Rochester, N. Y.) at No. 580 St. Paul St.

I consider the series of articles so important that I sent a request that the articles be re-published in pamphlet form and sold throughout the States. My object in mentioning this matter is to induce the subscribers here to back up my request to the journal by a similar request.

**STATEMENT BY L. C. A. K. MARTENS.**  
Representative in the United States of the Russian  
Socialist Federal Soviet Republic.

July 8, 1920.

**I** welcome the announcement by the State Department that the restrictions which have hitherto stood in the way of trade between Soviet Russia and the United States have been removed.

I must say frankly, however, that the statement published this morning, as it stands, does not at all dispose of the problem of establishing trade between Russia and the United States. There is no indication in the statement as to how or whether Russia is to be permitted to pay American business men for goods purchased in this country. We have

long been prepared and willing to establish credits in favor of American manufacturers in Esthonia. The Federal Reserve Board, however, some time ago, issued a warning to all American banks advising them against honoring any drafts drawn upon Esthonian banks. In this manner all plans for the payment of American goods by drafts on Esthonian banks were effectively checked. We cannot establish credits by the deposit of Russian gold in American banks so long as there is danger that these deposits may be molested. The statement published this morning gives no assurance that any practical credit arrangements may be effected. It is further stated that postal communication and travelling facilities are not to be restored. It is plain enough that trade cannot be resumed if there is to be no opportunity for the establishment of the essential means and facilities for international commerce. Trade is dependent upon an intricate machinery for transfer of funds with proper guarantees and securities on both sides, and commerce cannot be successfully carried on without postal and cable communication and the ordinary facilities for travel and international intercourse. The announcement of the State Department, while ostensibly setting aside restrictions, appears actually to announce a policy of continued restriction.

Although the question of diplomatic recognition in all its formalities and niceties may be indefinitely postponed, the effective resumption of trade relations must depend upon the establishment of a certain minimum of political relations. The English and Canadian Governments in their commercial negotiations with Russia have already recognized this fact. Mr. Krassin has returned from London to Moscow for the very purpose of perfecting the political arrangements essential to the resumption of trade. The Canadian Government has sanctioned the establishment of a Commercial Bureau of the Soviet Government in Canada and has officially approved the commercial arrangements already entered into between Canadian business interests and the Russian Government.

This morning's announcement of course has excited much interest and we have been overwhelmed by inquiries from American business men who desire to know just how this statement affects their opportunities for trade with Soviet Russia. We can only refer them to the American Government for a further explanation of its policy. The Soviet Government is ready, as it has been ready for over a year, to establish trade relations with America. We will gladly go more than half way to meet any practical arrangements. All we ask is the right to buy goods in the American market, to have them shipped to Russia and to pay for them. If the statement is composed, with its many reservations are heartily glad. But the spirit in which the statement is composed, with its many reservations and ambiguities, compels us to await developments before deciding upon its practical outcome. — "Soviet Russia."

## 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 irrespressible 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 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.