

## Western Clarion

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and Current Events.  
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VANCOUVER, B. C., SEPTEMBER 16, 1921

### DOMINION ELECTIONS

THE political trumpet has sounded from the headquarters of class rule, and the government, as the saying has it, "goes to the country." In the present case Mr. Meighen names the question of tariffs as the pet issue, and his government might as well hang its hat on that peg as on any other. In politics as in war some more or less plausible excuse is required as a rallying cry, and if it happens to be time worn it is the more likely to appear important and difficult of settlement.

To the wage workers of Canada the question of tariffs is of no more importance than the shape of the prime minister's hat. Tariffs concern those who own and control in a greater or lesser degree the products of labor, and labor these days is quite plainly in the same position of hunger and want whether it be located in a country of free trade or of tariff protection. No solution lies there of the worker's problem, and no solution will be found by anyone but himself.

In spite of appearances the worker has only one problem, and that is to secure unto himself the means whereby he produces the necessities of life. The necessities of life are produced by the working class alone, and world wide working class misery and destitution serve only to illustrate it.

Present day society is based upon class ownership of the means of life. Election cries will express the class interests of those who give voice to them, while the promises issued by the several competitive master class political parties will be generous, while the productive processes are in the hands of private owners the share of the wealth enjoyed by labor will be a slave's portion.

The election will appeal to the worker as an equal with his master. His condition of wage servitude will be forgotten or, if alluded to at all it will be pictured rosy in terms of foretold continuous employment and prosperity. The antagonism between master and wage-slave, propertied and propertyless, will be denied existence and its burial advocated and prophesied in the happy co-operation of capital and labor.

The condition of misery and hunger of the wage workers of all lands today, sharpened and brought into relief more noticeably through widespread unemployment, is but the inevitable condition of class ownership of the means of wealth production. The worker's interests as a producer and non-owner are opposed to those of his master, owner and non-producer. The political expression of the two must stand opposed, and while the machinery of State is in the hands of the master class it must be used to conserve their interests, consequently the interests of the working class are opposed to those of all sections of the master class, whatever their parties may be called, and a working class political party must oppose all other parties, to the end that the working class may take control of the machinery of state.

The Socialist Party of Canada has already four candidates in the field. Comrade W. A. Pritchard will contest the constituency of Nanaimo, Vancouver Island; Comrade J. D. Harrington will contest Burrard; Comrade T. O'Connor, Vancouver Centre;

and Comrade J. Kavanagh, South Vancouver. The Winnipeg comrades are in convention at this date of writing and other parts of the country are yet to be heard from. Volunteer workers for organizational work are urgently required, literature must be distributed, meetings arranged and funds collected. The expenses will be heavy and the heavy election deposits must not keep us out. All comrades are urgently called upon to help, financially where possible and in all cases with personal aid. Working committees must be active in the various constituencies, and they must proceed with organizational work at once.

### HERE AND NOW

Following, one dollar each: Cumberland Lit. and Athletic Assn., H. A. Black, J. E. Lindberg, H. Viudeg, W. Mitchell, W. R. Miller, G. Ross, C. Cezar, G. Sangster, R. W. Hattley, H. Judd, J. Harries, A. Smith, W. J. Inglis, F. A. Charters, F. E. Moore, A. Stedman, G. W. Fairidge, Geo. Rossiter, Geo. Wallick.

Sid. Earp \$5; M. Vanger \$2; T. Roberts \$2; W. Hoare \$4; J. Glendenning \$9; G. Kabrugl 50 cents; J. J. Egge \$2; J. Fraser \$2.

Above, Clarion subs. received from 30 August to 13 September, inclusive, total \$46.50.

The "sub" barometer, "set fair" last issue, has cracked up again and, (to be truthful) if we are not surprised—considering the working class pocket—we are privileged to be disappointed.

It seems to be that when we do not hoist screaming signals of distress and speak quietly, whispering our woes, we inspire more anxiety among the blessed sub-hunters, but be it known to all men (in caution), that the "Clarion" printer is become a dread person with a faculty for figuring and a holy distrust of the ungodly. With him, the matter of working class education is stated only in terms of cash calculated in the form of printer's costs, and when confronted with his side of the story we are impressed with the weight of his unwelcome ideas. Conveyed to our readers, this impression means that we must have more "Clarion" subs. This is intended as a whisper to that effect. Lie in wait for the unwary. They need education and the "Clarion" needs subs., ergo—even things up a bit by reducing our fear of the hungry printer.

### CLARION MAINTENANCE FUND

Katherine Smith \$5; Oscar Motter \$5; Jock Henderson \$5; F. Clark \$1; B.L.J. \$2; G. R. Ronald \$1.

Above, C. M. F. contributions from 30 August to 13 September, inclusive, total \$19.

### SECRETARIAL NOTES.

Comrade Stephenson's article "What is a Point of View?" which appeared in last issue, will be continued in the issue of 1st October. Some further points raised in the letter of enquiry dealt with by him in the present issue will also be attended to in next issue if possible.

**NOTICE:** Local (Vancouver) No. 1 will elect campaign committees on Tuesday 20th September, at 8 p.m. All workers willing to help are requested to attend.

### PHRASE WORSHIPPING

H. G. Wells wrote a satire on "The Misery of Boots" wherein he emphasises the foolish practice of suffering pain in order to be fashionable. "Boots" however, is not the only folly which the wise animal inclines to.

He is given in a lamentable degree to copying, and indulges his vent in all his manifold activities, aping his superiors, so called, in airs, dress and gait, and suffering with a patience, the more remarkable because it so rarely manifests itself in efforts which make for comfort and security. It is furthermore worthy of note that this proclivity is best expressed by the term I use above—aping—

Swift has given us a revision of what the horse should think of man; let us be thankful the apes cannot speak.

But more than fashion in dress, is the havoc wrought by slavish worshipping of phrases. The labor press is not free from this vice. If some hack discovers in his reading a felicitous phrase, and boldly claims the lights of discovery, it is seized upon within a short time by every ink-spiller in Christendom. And however appropriate its advent may have been, its subsequent usage is generally vague in meaning, where it does not actually deceive.

Some one discovered in Homer where the bard sings of the snare laid by Vulcan to trap his erring spouse: "Came Appollo of the Golden Bow." Or perhaps it was Hotspur's "Came there a certain Lord." And then after "Came" everything, when Lissagaray penned his magnificent phrase, "Bismark prepared the war, Napoleon III. wanted it, the great bourgeoisie looked on. They might have stopped it with an earnest gesture. M. Thiers contented himself with a grimace," he little realized how his words would be reuttered a thousand times weekly in all the radical and intelligencia organs of 1920-21. Everything is a gesture nowadays. If you propose to start a study class, you are told society cannot be saved by a gesture. If you seek to enlarge the sale of some book, you are met with the suggestion that a gesture should not be confounded with a revolution.

The logic is perfect. It is unanswerable. It has one fault, its apparent truth obscures its measureless stupidity. Between the action contemplated, and the term applied to it is a chasm distant as the interstellar spaces. But the radical press and their intelligencia contributors affect this style of reasoning, and all the labor press howl in chorus. The Misery of Boots Forsooth!

In his "Civil War in France," Marx says: "the proletariat cannot simply lay hold of the ready made state machinery and wield it for their own purposes." He then goes on to demonstrate why. What goes before and immediately follows this sentence is a searching analysis of the working class and its relation to class government. No matter. A section of the working class who estimate noise as the one revolutionary factor, have torn the sentence from its context, and hold it as a guiding star. In itself it is meaningless. Perhaps that explains its popularity. For of a surety, meaning is not an essential factor in some quarters. Take the "vivas" of Latin peoples. No doubt in France and adjacent countries "Long Live" this and that, has significance and force, lustily shouted by males on the rampage. It has historical force, and traditional values. It belongs. And its use is never outraged, by combinations childish and hysterical, as when introduced interminably in working class periodicals published in England. "Long live the Social Revolution," "Long live the Class Struggle," sounds more like the cry of an ignorant police spy than evidence of revolutionary fervor where the social revolution is yet a thing remote.

Then there is the famous denial of Marx by Marx himself, which has at last wandered from the books of Spargo and his kind. These wise men are very fond of commiserating Marx on his latter day expounders. Whenever they have cause to object to working class activity, they invariably sigh, "Poor Marx! no wonder he said, he was not a Marxist." Of course Marx did not say it, a fact which has little weight with them, but which ought to weigh greatly with us. In the early days of Marxism, there appeared in France a school which fastened upon Marx's fair hair, and perpetrated even greater departures from his philosophy, albeit calling themselves Marxist. Asked what he would be, should he go to France, Marx replied he did not know, but at least he would not be a Marxist.

Copying the mouthings of literary cheap jacks is not any more edifying than aping the fashion of social cheap jacks. The master class are willing to expend vast sums to fool the workers. Those who speak for the workers should endeavor to prevent them from getting this service free, gratis and for nothing. J. H.