

Western Clarion

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and Current Events.

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VANCOUVER, B. C., JULY 16, 1920.

EDITORIAL

TRUTH WILL OUT.

WE have in this city, rich in scenery and strangers, three average and representative examples of the daily press. The "Sun" holds the attention of the morning reader, it being the only paper then published; the "World" is widely read in the afternoon and evening in popular restaurants where it is distributed free of charge; and the "Province" may be trusted to regularly present Mr. Jiggs each day as its reliable and salient feature.

The other morning, the 5th of July to be precise, the "Sun" printed an editorial concluding with these words: "With the results of Sovietism before us, why are Bolsheviks permitted to carry on their propaganda in this country? The man who preached Sovietism in this country should be promptly deported or sent to jail." If this has reference to us, we take it as a mark of esteem that we have aroused the ire of the "Sun."

Sovietism, as outlined in the article mentioned, is a cruel and vicious tyranny which has accomplished more outrageous and murderous butchery than Czarism ever attempted. So far, the editorial is up to "Sun" standard in "news" about Russia. Proceeding, Archangel is particularly specified by "late reports," emanating however, so far as the evidence is given, from no greater distance than the "Sun" office. There, "Owners, directors and managers of industries, banks and transportation companies have been assassinated or imprisoned. Everyone is compelled to work for the government. Organized labor in this country with its forty-four hour week and Saturday afternoon and Sunday holidays, will learn with interest that working people of both sexes in Archangel are compelled to 'volunteer' their services at manual labor to the government every Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning from 9 to 12."

They will indeed. And so too will the "Reds" learn with surprise of their utterances in Vancouver as "reported" from the "Sun" office. And if we see our own activities portrayed untruthfully, and find our own utterances twisted to a wrong meaning, how then shall we be expected to swallow "news" from far Russia, prepared for us by the "Sun."

It appears that everybody in Russia has to work. That is the general bourgeois and aristocratic fear of Bolshevism—a fear of work.

In this country, as in all capitalist countries, work is compulsory, not for everybody, but only for the majority. In all capitalist countries there is a minority which is privileged to consume without producing. Soviet Russia has abolished that privilege, excepting among children, and the sick and the aged.

Compulsion to work in Russia, is not compulsion laid on wage-slaves to make profit for idlers whose self-esteem is measured by its accounting. It is the organization of men who are struggling for freedom, the scarcity of whose numbers in the fields of production is prompted by the profit-hungry attentions of the directing influences of other lands, thrust upon them by military aggression. But we dislike to dignify the "Sun" with our further attention, and shall now turn, with some reluctance let it be said, to the "World."

The "World" of July 6th, states in an editorial under the heading "The Truth from Russia," that a damaging attack has been made on the Soviets by its friends and apologists. It calls Mrs. Snowden

a "convinced Bolshevik and pacifist," and twists her own written observations into a statement to the effect that she repudiates the Soviets and all their works. It seems that the "World" is so ill-informed on the matter as to state that the members who composed the delegation were altogether representative of the "advanced wing of the British Socialist Party."

At this stage, and while we are at it, we may as well introduce the "Province," which, a week or two ago presented us with an outline of Ben Turner's "condemnation" of everything in Soviet Russia. It happens that we now have Ben Turner's own outline before us, and if that conservative old political curio could compare it with the story these papers have extracted from it, he would assuredly consider that we have here rather a "free" press, a press, that is to say, that freely compiles his "opinions" without consulting him.

Elsewhere in this issue we have presented the interim report of the British labor delegation to Russia. With the possible exception of Robert Williams, who is an "advanced" reformer, the persons who compose the delegation, instead of being of the "advanced" wing of British labor are of the conservative element.

Some of the delegates have already written personal reports. No restrictions were placed upon their investigations. They had absolute freedom to go where they liked and to see whom they liked. They were permitted freely to enter mills, workshops, factories, public institutions and private homes. Visits were made to persons of anti-Soviet views. Ben Turner says the reports current that anarchy prevails are totally untrue. The streets of Petrograd or Moscow, he says, are as free and peacefully regulated as the streets of London.

All members of the delegation pay a striking tribute to the health organization of Russia and to efforts towards child welfare and education. And all members declare against capitalist aggression by military measures and the use of the blockade. Organization in production and efficient supervision in administrative departments are unanimously agreed upon as being unique and astonishing in results, commanding admiration from all, in face of the difficulties of militarism on the Soviet borders. And all are agreed in the opinion that Russia stands united in her own defence, firm in an iron determination to resist military aggression at the cost, for liberty, of every human comfort. In this connection Mrs. Snowden says the Soviet Government is quite stable and is supported by the whole population.

In dealing with the local press, lest we may be deemed parochial in our healthy prejudices, let us say at once that we do not hold any monopoly upon press "news" concerning Russia, but we have our generous share.

CHANCELLOR Fehrenbach and his delegation from Germany to Spa, have been treated to some finger pointing, head shaking, and "rigid" utterances from Mr. Lloyd George, who professed to be astonished, and who no doubt was a little peeved to learn that a considerable portion of the German small arms remained uncollected, for delivery to the Allied junk heap. The Germans, when they met the florid faced ones at Spa, had but three days of their allotted span to run to make their erstwhile soldiery stand and deliver. The Chancellor announced that delivery on the stated terms was out of the question, and the inevitable extension of time was granted—six months. The Allied representatives manifested a great outburst of indignation, though they displayed but little surprise.

The fact of the matter is that the soldiers have kept their arms, and they compose, in their own retreats and homes, a more formidable force than Germany is "allowed" to have.

The Premier of Poland, who has been at Spa with a dizzy head and both hands outstretched, owns the most appropriate name on the diplomatic list. Grabski!

IT seems that the CLARION is not sharp enough in its points, to turn the untilled fields into fertile soil. F. S. F., in this issue, like J. S. L., in

a former issue, preaches a little sermon that is kindly meant and will be, with a sigh, kindly recorded.

The CLARION writers are all modest folk, and no doubt will be startled into wakefulness by encountering comparison with Mark Twain, and with such queer people too, as Blatchford and Frank Harris. We are directed to these three for our example, of course, but while we know that they are grouped together only as masters of English style and composition, we feel just a little sorry to see Mark Twain in such personal company.

It is a hard matter to write on fundamentals in a manner that is at once sound and easy to read. Instruction upon, and direction towards the understanding of fundamentals, is for the workers the most essential need, and for earnest educators the most difficult task. We agree that in Blatchford's use of the King's English he is as clear as, for example, St. Paul, but his simple words clothe also the generality of the King's ideas. And so also are the general sweets in any attractive educational pastry shop.

Understanding of essential principles can be reached only by patient and attentive study, and our paper will never be appreciated excepting by serious people in their serious moments. Simplicity is as desirable as it is difficult to attain, but if it is required, in addition, that we dress our thoughts in a kind of baseball or Billy Sunday patois that would allure the most insensate, we would consider ourselves in the wrong field of endeavor.

SECRETARIAL NOTES.

Our next issue will contain an article by J. A. McD. on "The Sinn Fein Situation," outlining the Socialist position towards that movement.

"The Revolutionary Socialist" (S. L. P., Sidney, N. S. W.), June 1, reproduces with acknowledgment, from the WESTERN CLARION of March 16th, the article by J. Conlan, entitled "At Last."

Our sometime contributor, Comrade F. J. McNey, sends along three dollars for the Clarion Maintenance Fund, and promises to get in a supply of ink to be used up in the fall. He modestly refers to the other CLARION writers as being more able than himself, which is a nice way to excuse idling away his time working for his master.

While we are on the matter of contributors, we might mention that some of them seem to have forgotten our address. Like ten men trying to help one drowning, each modestly estimates the other's ability as greater than his own, and the victim takes in more water than is good for any man. So with our writers. They think the carrier has broken a wide trail to this office, whereas he calls in occasionally to say there's nothing for us. Concerning the paper as it stands, we have presented the suggestions received to date for its improvement; we have seen no need to present another viewpoint that has been more generally expressed.

Comrade O'Brien sends a short note to say he has been re-arrested, this time on a deportation warrant. He spent 26 hours in jail, and was then released on bail. His case is to be heard by the Department of Labor at Washington. We were under the impression that Charlie was on bail already, and if this is correct, he must be on bail twice.

After our note concerning subs. the other week, we expected the renewals and new subs to roll in collectively and overwhelm us. A glance at our **Here and Now** list will disappoint your eager interest. We promised to furnish lists of subscribers in your district **on demand**. Our gentle readers have sent in one **demand** since our last wheedling paragraph.

A report of Dominion Executive Committee doings, covering the period for six months ending 30th June, 1920, is under way, and will be in the hands of Local Secretaries within a week.

Manitoba Election Campaign Fund is now closed. If you have a collecting card that you received from the Vancouver end, hand it to the individual who gave it to you, or send it to E. MacLeod. If you got it through Winnipeg, send it to Comrade Alex. Shepherd, Box 1762, Winnipeg, Manitoba. Do it now.