

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.

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Canada, 20 issues \$1.00

Foreign, 16 issues \$1.00

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VANCOUVER, B. C. OCTOBER 2, 1922.

JAPAN.

PRESS news of September 25th announced that the conference between Soviet Russia and Japan over affairs in the far east has broken up altogether. The stumbling block proved to be Saghalien Island. The conference did not last long enough to encounter all the possible difficulties. Japan declined to evacuate Saghalien, and thereupon the conference ended.

In pre-war days Saghalien Island was divided in ownership between Russia and Japan. Russia dominated the northern part and Japan the southern. Since then Japan has occupied the whole and also the territory adjacent on the Siberian mainland. Saghalien lies directly north of Japan and she therefore dominates the Siberian northern coast, controlling the Amur River region and all activities in the Okhotsk Sea.

The fishing areas to the north and west are very productive and are fairly well developed in organization, mainly by Russians and partly by Japanese. Northern Saghalien has been estimated by geologists to contain something like two billion tons of coal. It is said to be a prospective oil field. The island and the mainland territories occupied by Japan hold millions of acres of uncut larch, spruce and fir.

The natural resources of these areas contribute to the needs of Japanese industry. Her supplies are limited of coal and oil. She now imports timber for building construction, and prepared pulp for paper making. Her design is to hold Saghalien and the Mainland coast territories, stretching south to Vladivostok and connecting with Korea. She can thus extend and operate her industrial enterprises throughout an area all approaches to which, by sea, she can control, and by exploiting the natural resources newly acquired she can organize her enterprises with much less dependency upon foreign imports. Thus she balked at releasing Saghalien.

In the meantime, in what we may call her home area, industrial strikes have become a regular feature in her life. The Socialist movement too has taken root. The government, following the habit of organisation and system which it copied from German method has sought, without very much evidence of understanding, to anticipate Socialist propaganda by prohibiting it altogether. They have drafted a bill called "A Bill for the Control of Dangerous Thought," the eight articles of which can easily be interpreted to mean anything a prosecuting attorney may desire. The press of the country has manifested some hostility against the measure, mainly for the reason that under cover of the Bill in question it can voice its own grievances, for there already exists a rigorous press law.

Japan, in her quick development as a capitalist nation has already met the tide of unrest among her working population. An imperialist policy of colonization will provide an outlet. It will carry too the seed of unrest. That goes where capitalism goes,

and there is no escape from it in the long run. That is to say, the question of ownership, not of this, that or the other territory, but of all lands, becomes a question of class ownership, and will be settled by an enlightened working class.

WHY WORRY?

UP to this moment of writing (Sept. 28th) Mustapha Kemal's forces have had five solemn warnings to observe the lines bordering the neutral zone in Asia Minor, and the annihilation has not yet commenced on account of the infringement. It may be judged, therefore, that the point has not been reached where decisive council for military action in the Allied command is agreed.

The press speaks openly of British and French, disagreement, and the general trend of comment on the division of policy has pointed to the fact that the British have promoted the Greek occupation of Smyrna and Thrace and that the French have supported the Angora Turkish Government. All sorts of explanations have been made for the Allied division, for instance, French influence on the side of Turkey as a lever to force British acquiescence regarding German reparations. It is apparent that this had an influence on the French victory in the upper Silesian boundary dispute. At Paris on March 22nd Marshall Foch drew up the military terms agreed to by the Allied Council of Ministers to determine the cessation of hostilities between the Greeks and Turks. Great Britain recognized the Greek efforts as hopeless even at that date and practically abandoned them. It is interesting to note that the terms of the much advertised Montague telegram of last March have formed a basis of the present proposals to Kemal. Turkish debts too, the major portion of which are held by France, are spoken of as accounting for Franco-Turkish unity. By single-track reasoning of that sort Britain should then be supporting France and America supporting Britain. The Ottoman debt in fact is subject to territorial apportionment and Council administration. A country such as Turkey with important geographical and strategical features is necessarily the object of rivalry among nations. A glance at the map will render this obvious. Indeed her own history proves it.

Working class interest in such matters as these is necessarily manifested. All "spheres of influence" are governed to the profit of the ruling class and through the exploitation of the working population in those areas. Spheres of influence are in fact territories where capital operates, at home or abroad, but the working class have not found that out yet. By that time no doubt we'll see a real war to end war.

AMEN!

The third meeting of the Assembly of the League of Nations is taking place at Geneva. The Archbishop of Canterbury preached to the delegates on the text: "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."

(Manchester Guardian, Sept. 8, 1922)

THE Archbishop thereupon received his fee, no doubt, and departed. A sense of humor is a saving grace, even in a well fed godly man.

The "Guardian" goes on to tell of one of the first items of business that came under consideration of the delegates. An unruly Hottentot tribe in South West Africa had refused to pay its taxes and had been visited by a fleet of bombing aeroplanes and a squad of machine gunners.

The Archbishop might now profitably employ himself visiting the Hottentots, advising them to "Flee from the wrath to come" and pay up. No doubt some of his church minions are there already. It's only a matter of time and efficiency; machine guns, bayonets, bombing planes, or an avalanche of bibles—they are all efficient agents in civilizing the heathen.

But isn't the Archbishop quite a jester?

ARTHUR MORROW LEWIS.

SOcialists everywhere will be sorry to learn that Arthur Morrow Lewis is dead. He died unexpectedly on August 22nd. Through his work as a Socialist propagandist in the past twenty years or more many thousands of men and women have made a beginning towards understanding Socialist doctrine. As a lecturer he attracted huge audiences season after season at the Chicago Garrick Theatre. As a writer in the field of what may be called popular science he commanded a wider audience. "Vital Problems in Social Evolution;" "Evolution, Social and Organic;" "Science and Superstition;" "Introduction to Sociology" and other books are known to most Socialists, at least on this continent.

We record this note of his death as the regrettable loss of an active worker in the Socialist movement.

HERE AND NOW.

WE have heard it propounded that there is reason in all things. A glance at the appended totals Here and Now will dispel this illusion at once. They appear to us to present a rigid monopoly in unreasonableness.

Our manner of approach, or the text of our address in search of subs must come under alteration. We must introduce something in the nature of a weekly wail. In any case we must have subs and more of them. It looks as if we were required to point to Clarion qualities to bring forth the essential means of payment. Whereas we had thought that were but harping prosily on the obvious, and a tax on the retiring modesty of Clarion ink-spillers.

We hate to mention it, but we need the money. Verb sap.

Following \$1 each: S. James, R. C. Twist, V. R. Midgley, F. Cithero, G. Darts, Mrs. S. B. Wood, J. F. Kirchman, A. Eisehe, P. Mytton, P. Garvie, E. W. Bacchus, M. Raport.

Following \$2 each: C. Luff, Wm. Braes, Fred Harman, O. P. Lundgard, N. P. Dougan.

W. H. Thomas 50 cents; C. Frederickson 50 cents; W. Van Meer \$3.

Above, Clarion subscriptions received from 15th to 28th September, inclusive, total \$26.

CLARION MAINTENANCE FUND.

Mrs. Griffith 50 cents; G. Darts \$1; O. P. Lundgard \$2; M. Raport \$1.

Above, C. M. F. receipts from 15th to 28th Sept., inclusive, total \$4.50.

ALBERTA NOTES.

Alberta and Saskatchewan P. E. C. of the S. P. of C. Secretary R. Burns, 134a 9th Avenue, West, Calgary, Alta. Local Calgary. Same address as above. Business meetings every alternate Tuesday, 8 p.m. Propaganda meeting every Sunday, St. George's Island (under big tree) at 3 p.m. Correspondence with all comrades in these provinces invited, and all help in co-ordinating activity invited.

Socialist Party of Canada PROPAGANDA MEETINGS

STAR THEATRE, 300 Block, Main Street

SUNDAY OCTOBER 1,

Speaker: CHAS. LESTOR.

MEETINGS EVERY SUNDAY.

All meetings at 8 p.m.

Questions.

Discussion.