

Western Clarion

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and Current Events.

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Editor: Ewen MacLeod

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902

VANCOUVER, B. C., OCTOBER 16, 1923.

ADVERTISING THE PORT.

VANCOUVER'S little business men have long since gone on record as favoring any policy which would bring this fair city all the advertising and publicity it might be able to get. Good roads for tourists' automobiles, tourists' auto-camps, harbour facilities for shipping, grain elevators, dry docks, reduced harbor dues, reduced grain rates, a welcome to all who may have investment to make or money to spend, and a rigorous cross-country warning to all other unfortunates to stay away. The beauties of the surrounding area of Vancouver have been encouraged as the theme in every advertising huckster's song and story, all to the end that one day Vancouver shall be a port as great as any other, anywhere.

But bad advertising comes with good, and the working population has to be taken into the reckoning as something otherwise than just part of the scenery. Just recently the street car company's employees managed to secure a few cents an hour increase without a strike, and now the longshoremen have broken the advertizing picture by striking for a similar few cents, which action has incurred the anger of the little business men and those whose philosophy consists of "Watch Vancouver grow," because it happens that a stop on the waterfront means a stop in grain shipments through the port. The boss blames it all on the Reds in the union.

Well, now, the great big world outside of Vancouver houses quite a few reds and our little business men should know that there is no important business centre on the map without them nowadays. It simply completes the advertizing picture. And then again, there are a few Reds outside the union also whom the boss finds it somewhat hard to interview.

Anyway, it is always funny to see the boss disregard his own much respected laws in time of a little labor trouble, and to read the record of his petty hypocrisy. The matter of a strike is a test over the volume of the grub pile and the working conditions under which it is earned. The boss knows that; the worker knows that; everybody knows that—excepting, apparently, the public. Who is the public anyway?

ENCOURAGING SIGNS

IT is quite common to see all sorts of argument and discussion in the socialist and labor press nowadays on the decline of radicalism, the set back from the spirit manifested a year or two ago in working class ranks. We observe that the A.F. of L. convention at Portland, just ended, has set its seal of disapproval on every utterance which tended to voice any sort of policy for labor out of the mud-rut-groove in which it has been set for over forty years. Labor Congresses have recently acted in the same manner in England and in Canada.

Now we suspect that this is simply an expression of the general attitude of labor itself in these English-speaking countries toward matters affecting general working class conditions. All hope seems to be relegated to the beyond. A year or two ago labor was on its tiptoes, expectant. Today, labor shows disappointment and is overwhelmed in ap-

athy. The Socialist movement is affected likewise and concerning working class educational activity we constantly hear it said: "Oh! what's the use!"

This we consider to be a showing of disappointment over something. Some proposition or other has not proved up to what the now disappointed ones considered to be a prospect. Education is not entirely decried, but it is denounced as too slow, monotonous, and unrewarded an activity to be interesting. There will be no argument needed to press home this statement, nor need the point be labored. Labor meetings, socialist meetings, communist meetings—all sorts of working class meetings are now "somewhere to go" when the weather is bad and nothing entertaining is to the fore. And working class journals! The labor journals in general would be suspended one and all if they did not find support through mass union payments for subscriptions. Likewise our own case. We have been going behind now for a long time in finance for Clarion support. We have not been surprised that the Clarion should have had to worry about finance, under the prevailing circumstances. But we are of the opinion that the working class mind has now a tendency to shake off its apathy and to recover something of its realistic balance. In such a case our voice is likely to gain a hearing.

The winter season approaches and the time is on hand for winter work in educational class work, propaganda meetings and so forth. As usual, the preliminary work is done by those who carry on, in season and out. The time is here to break down the barriers of indifference and to get into the old-time stride. People have to have it proven to them that they can't remain indifferent for ever. The way to do that is to demonstrate the worth of the Socialist Party work and the need of its continuance.

As to the Clarion, readers will be pleased at the effort toward financial recovery this issue. As usual again, the effort comes largely from those who realize the need of continued educational work and who have not surrendered activity to the wave of apathy lately so popular. Their efforts must gain support and encouragement, and that rests with the reader. We are of the opinion that the support will not lag so much now as hitherto. Not often do we prophesy. Don't let us fail.

HERE AND NOW.

Following \$1 each: J. Johnston, J. Woods, T. Dorill, W. P. Black, J. Jenkins, T. Shaw, C. Steen, H. Adie, J. Ross, C. Luff, A. H. Russell, G. Crow, J. Dennis, R. Brown, H. J. Whitechurch, C. Bowie, J. H. Richardson, A. Manson, T. Hughes, Mrs. G. Korlann, H. Asson, Walter Wilson, G. Gemmell, J. Jardine, B. W. Sparks, F. Creer, J. F. Knorr, J. J. MacDonald, C. B. Robertson, P. Mytton, H. Carlisle, J. E. Palmer, J. R. Lawson, E. Antijuntti.

Following \$2 each: J. Cadwalles, D. Balnave, H. Maitland, Jas. McLennan, Dr. Hawkins, J. H. Greaves.

J. Cunningham \$3.

Following per Sid Earp—W. Steen, \$1; H. Gazeley \$1; C. Page 50 cents.

Above, Clarion subscriptions received from 29th September to 12th October, inclusive, total \$51.50.

CLARION MAINTENANCE FUND.

J. Ross \$1; H. J. Whitechurch \$1; D. Balnave \$2; D. W. Anderson, New Zealand (collected) \$4.27; G. Gemmell \$1; J. J. MacDonald \$5; A Friend \$5.

Following per Sid Earp:—C. Martin \$1; S. Earp \$1; E. Higham 50 cents; C. Steen \$1; E. Burns 25 cents; W. Steen \$1; E. Sollis \$1; A. Sollis \$1; W. Wickwire \$1; D. Burge \$1; F. Locke \$1; H. Adie \$1.

Above, Clarion Maintenance Fund donations received from 29th September to 12th October, inclusive, total \$30.02.

LOCAL (VANCOUVER) No. 1.

Local Vancouver meets every Tuesday, 8 p.m., at Rooms 12 and 13 Flack Block, 163 Hastings St.,

West. All members are urgently requested to attend the business meetings of the Local, to take an active interest and part in its work, and in general to dispel the prevailing apathy.

Propaganda meetings on Sunday evenings are now under way and every effort is necessary to help the comrades responsible for the arrangements in carrying them forward.

The Local has appointed a committee to arrange for a social and dance to be held in the near future. Success depends upon general interest. Step in and take an active part.

FOLLOWING THE LEADER

Years ago, when we lived on a farm in the country, my father kept sheep. And there was one peculiarity in the sheep psychology that I remember very well.

The sheep were kept in a lot at night and turned out on the prairie during the day. Instead of a gate, the lot had what were called "bars." These were wooden pieces extending across the opening one above another, and were pulled to one side when the sheep went in or out. Sometimes, in their eagerness to get out, the sheep would begin their activities before all the "bars" could be "let down." The sheep nearest the opening would jump over, and the rest would follow. Before many had passed, the remaining "bars" would, of course, be taken out of the way. But every sheep in the flock would jump at that particular place in imitation of those in front, even though the obstacle were no longer there.

This copying instinct is a survival of the past. It originated in different conditions from those in which civilized sheep live.

Sheep are mountaineers. They came from the highlands. In their pre-domestic existence they lived in flocks, each flock being led by a wise old ram of experience and courage. These flocks were often pursued by wolves and other animals. The sheep escaped, not by hiding or fighting, but by flight. The life of the flock often depended on the skill and faithfulness with which the members of the flock copied their leader. And the practice sheep have of following and imitating their leader was no doubt acquired through the necessity, when pursued, of leaping over the same chasms and rocks that their chief and those in front of them leaped over, whether they could see the reason for it or not. Those who did this survived in the struggle for life, and those who did not do it went down or were destroyed.

The copying instinct is, therefore, of great use to a species living as sheep lived in their wild existence, but of no use to them since they have become lowlanders. The instinct to follow the leader exists in all animals that live in flocks and herds. It is useful in most of them.

At the Chicago "stock yards" advantage is taken of this copying instinct of sheep by having a trained ram lead the sheep to the slaughter. The sheep have the nature to follow the ram, and when they arrive at the killing place the ram steps aside and escapes, to lead another flock a little later. This is an instance where the leader-following instinct in sheep is of use to men but not to sheep. Hogs and cattle do not have this instinct; and they have to be prodded and whipped by men to get them to the killing place.

J. H. MOORE.

SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA

PROPAGANDA MEETINGS

EVERY SUNDAY

THEATRE ROYAL

SUNDAY, 14th OCTOBER.

Speaker: J. HARRINGTON

All meetings at 8 p.m.
Questions. Discussion.