

Western Clarion

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and Current Events.

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VANCOUVER, B. C., OCTOBER 1, 1923.

PRESSING NEED.

WE learn, it is said, through trial and error, and if the truth of the observation be granted, it follows that we are now learning fast.

In the matter of learning the world seems to have abandoned hope in its normal educational institutions, as witness the cry of educational authorities all over the civilized world that but a small percentage of governmental and municipal expenditure is devoted to schooling. The vastly greater percentage goes toward the output of war material of one sort or another.

And so the children in this and other lands go to school on the half-time system, the grown ups go to work on the half-time system, and the business of the several administrations, so-called, is to see that enough military might is stored up for use at any time. Education, it seems, costs too much.

The ideals and standards of education in the capitalist world are suffering from shock today. Uncertainty, industrial and intellectual unrest assume a positive character in challenging the standards of the old order. Perhaps, in a world suffering the immediate outcome of the "trials and errors" of 1914-18 there is a tendency toward the feeling that in partially abandoning the educational programme there is not so much lost after all.

But what of ourselves? Capitalism, before or since the period of the war, has amply demonstrated its hopeless incapacity to ensure the workers a constant supply of life's material benefits. Experience was the educator there. Yet the great hope of the commonwealth on the part of the great majority was suspended until such time as the official schooling in gross patriotism had driven worker against worker at the behest of those interests higher up on the social scale. From then on, through trial and error, the workers' viewpoint one and all have come under some sort of change, and out of it all, from each and every school of thought there has come some sort of expressed opinion that whatever curriculum might be needed by the workers and in whatever school of opinion it might be propounded, the educational programme already swallowed was of less use to the worker himself than it was to the master for whom he worked and for whose lands and factories he fought. The question has arisen, expressed in many forms, why did he do that and why has he suffered ever since the untold miseries of capitalist society's weight, expressed in hunger and want?

It would seem that in the fact of these happenings there would be a general hurry and scurry to the quarters where educational facilities are to be found. Yet, not anywhere, not in any school of socialism or laborism is the educational or the news carrying journal in any better financial position, relatively, than the orthodox school. The workers' educational enthusiasts have been overcome by apathy, and the "militants" in the labor movement demonstrate a hopeless lack of necessary schooling in meeting their adversaries, excepting, that is, in the uses of declamation and abuse.

As to the Family Journal and its place in the financial affairs of men, we refer to our present

and recent records in subscriptions. We are convinced that, although working class resources are always strained, the lack of Clarion subs. is not due altogether to our readers' lack of the dollar. Nor is it due to lack of sympathy with the Clarion outlook not to its material, considered as a whole. All working class journals appear to be quite as much affected as we are, and the procedure of general appeal for financial support seems to be as regular with them as with us. The reason is general apathy.

We have sent out a considerable number of "subscription expired" notices since last issue and we would call attention to the need, for response. Apathy must be overcome. It is impossible to over-emphasize it that if the Clarion is to be maintained the Clarion must have a greater subscription list. Our opinion, biased perhaps but firm, is that the workers are sorely in need of its continuance, for they will have to approach its point of view sooner or later. Let it not be another case of trial and error.

HERE ARE NOW.

Following, \$1 each—L. G. Atkins, Gustive Lee, C. F. Schroeder, Harry Grand, C. W. Allsop, G. P. Craig, J. Pryde.

Following, \$2 each—J. W. Bailey, Katherine Smith.

Above, Clarion subs, from 15th to 28th September, inclusive—total, \$11.

CLARION MAINTENANCE FUND

Frank Williams, \$2; Harry Grand, \$1; J. Pryde, \$1; T. Richardson, -1.

Above, C. M. F. receipts from 15th to 28th Sept., inclusive—total, \$5.

THE FUTURE OF THE RHINELAND.

The aims of France's policy, as pursued by her most influential statesmen and soldiers.

BY FRANZ DAHLEM (Berlin).

THE great war was fought for the conquest of new fields for exploitation and new markets, for the purpose of defeating competitors and imposing favorable economic treaties. The central powers lost the war. It is not they who are now exploiting—as they intended it should be—the natural resources and man power of a Rhineland-Westphalia and Lorraine-Belgium that lie beneath their sway. The matter is entirely reversed. The Entente was victorious. And it is now reaping the harvest of its success. France's share of the spoils of war lies for the most part in Europe; she is now proceeding to fetch this, and to secure her title to it.

Here is merely intended to show, with the aid of some data and statements made by the leading men of France, the general line being taken by French Rhineland policy; we shall not here enter into the question as to how far the influence of Anglo-French antagonisms has modified this line, or is further likely to modify it.

At the end of the year 1916 the French ministry set itself the following war aim in the West:

"France claims Alsace-Lorraine with the frontiers of 1792, the Saar district, and also demands the formation of an independent German state on the left bank of the Rhine, as a buffer state between France and Prussia."

On February 14, 1917, the following agreement was reached between the government of Czarist Russia and the Poincare government, in return for the cession of Constantinople to Russia:

"1. Alsace-Lorraine is to be restored to France.

2. The frontiers are to be extended to at least the limits of the former dukedom of Lorraine (thus approximately to the line Trier-Kaiserslautern. Ed.) are to be drawn in accordance with the judgment of the French government, as required by strategic necessities, and are to include the whole iron area and the whole Saar district as French territory.

3. The remaining districts lying on the left bank of the Rhine, outside of the French districts, are to be converted into an independent and neutral state,

and are to be occupied by French troops until the enemy states have completely fulfilled all the conditions and pledges contained in the peace treaty."

These arrangements were upset by revolutionary Russia.

General Foch, the commander-in-chief of the allied troops, held tenaciously to the above agreement at the conferences which preceded the conclusion of the Versailles peace treaty. It suffices to cite the following from his memoranda of November 17, 1918 and January 10, 1919, at the peace conferences:

"Compared with the 64 to 75 millions of Germans living in Germany on the other side of the Rhine and in the surrounding states, the numbers of the population on the left bank of the Rhine are only as follows: Belgium 7,800,000, Luxemburg 260,000, Alsace-Lorraine 1,900,000, France 39,600,000, a total of 49,560,000. If we add to these 5,400,000 on the left bank of the Rhine, we obtain a total of 54,960,000.

... As this total by no means reaches the number of the German masses, it follows that there can be no neutral states on the left bank of the Rhine. The population on this bank must be in a position to take up arms against the German danger when it arises. Neutrality is a chimera, even from the standpoint of defence, for it must be an armed neutrality, and must be combined with the action of the neighbouring powers.

This state organization must lead to the adoption of an anti-German attitude on the part of this population, a political attitude which can become military at a given moment. Thus the men capable of bearing arms must be organized, in times of peace in numbers proportional to those of the population, as troops adapted to fight against Germany in case of war.

Besides this military necessity, such an arrangement must be accompanied by the following measures: 1. Germany must be absolutely prohibited from any military access to, or any political propaganda in, the country left of the Rhine; this country may even be protected by means of a neutral zone on the right bank. 2. The military occupation of the left bank of the Rhine is to be secured by the forces of the allies. 3. The left bank of the Rhine is to have its necessary markets secured by participation in a joint customs' regime with the other western states."

At the peace conference the standpoint of Clemenceau-Tardieu with regard to the western frontiers of Germany was, in view of the Anglo-American opposition, finally formulated as follows:

"1. In the general interests of peace, and in order to secure the execution of the fundamental clauses of the League of Nations, the western frontier of Germany is drawn on the Rhine. In consequence of this Germany renounces all sovereignty over, and all customs' connection with, the territory of the former Empire lying on the left bank of the Rhine.

3. The territories on the Left bank of the Rhine (with the exception of Alsace-Lorraine, are to be

SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA

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