

Western Clarion

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VANCOUVER, B. C. AUGUST 16, 1922.

ELECTION DIAGNOSIS.

AN analysis of Manitoba election returns shows Comrade George Armstrong, S. P. of C. candidate in Winnipeg, to be counted out. George will very likely enter a vigorous denial at the use of the words "counted out," but we are in the realms of arithmetic now and are under the spell of the figures on the proportional representation election return sheet, which looks like a book page of logarithms.

Winnipeg sends ten members to the Legislative Assembly, and for the ten seats there were nominated in this election (July 18) 43 candidates.

Of the 43 candidates two received the required quota, only one of them—Dixon, I. L. P.—receiving a surplus over the number required to secure election, the quota being 4030.

Comrade Armstrong's first choice ballots totalled 1273 and at his highest point, after thirty other candidates had been counted out, leaving twelve besides himself, he reached 2126, which left him 1904 short of the quota and 636 under the next highest total. He received, therefore, 853 second choice or surplus votes. Of these 853 second choice or surplus votes 558 were apparently inherited from labor candidates, so-called, of one sort or another, and 295 attached themselves from other sources. Thus he received:

First Choice Ballots.....	1273
From Dixon (I. L. P.).....	187
From Hammond (Workers' Party)....	4
From Henderson (Workers' Party) ..	14
From McCarthy (Labor Party).....	4
From Popovitch (Workers' Party) ..	261
From Sullivan (Labor Party).....	24
From Winning (A.F. of L. & I.L.P.) ..	64
From Others	295

Total 2126

Of the 43 candidates 13 saved the deposit of \$200, that is to say, only three of the thirty-three candidates not elected saved the deposit, Comrade Armstrong's name being among the three.

Of the first choice ballots cast for the 43 candidates, Armstrong's 1273 stands ninth. Comparison between this and the votes recorded in the name of the Workers' Party has been asked for from us, and here it is. The W. P. had three candidates and their first choice ballots recorded these totals:

Hammond	102
Henderson	194
Popovitch	788

Total (first choice) 1084

This shows a difference of 686 between their highest and lowest candidates.

The comparison shows, therefore, that Armstrong's first choice ballots alone totalled 189 over the total combined first choice ballots cast for the three candidates of the Workers' Party.

Of the second choice, or surplus ballots cast for the three W. P. candidates Hammond received 10 (all from Dixon), giving him a total of 112; Henderson received 88 (from various sources), totalling 282; Popovitch received 251 (from various sources), totalling 1039. The total vote cast for the three W. P. candidates, including second choice and other ballots, totalled 1433, the difference between their

lowest and highest candidates on second choice and other ballots being 927.

The comparison shows further, therefore, that Armstrong's final total covers a majority over the final combined total of the three W. P. candidates of 693.

The first choice ballot is, of course, the real gauge of working class opinion from our point of view, and in the jumble and medley of such a variety of candidates of all shades and colors the Winnipeg result has certainly shewn some appreciation and understanding of our work and outlook. Our tactical critics and opponents will surely see now the importance of working-class education and understanding, and devote their attention to the reality of the problem at hand, which is to remove the mass ignorance of the working class concerning its status as a class of propertyless wage workers producing the wealth of society, and without knowledge of the real basis upon which society carries on all its operations.

Winnipeg has been recently the battleground of dispute over organisation, policy, international affiliation, tactics and what not, and a serious examination of the representation sheet we have just been studying shows the measure of influence the dispute has had on our fellow workers outside. They are apparently unaware of any need for tactics as we understand the use and application of the term; they are certainly unaware of the nature of the problem of which they are the most important part. The evidence as we see it is all our way and emphasises the importance of an educational programme which strikes at the root of the problem confronting us: working class ignorance.

The disparity between the votes cast for Hammond, or Henderson, on one hand, and Popovitch on the other, all members of the same organisation and sponsored by it, is indicative of confusion where complete organisation was supposed to exist. Our attention is drawn to this particular feature especially following the continuous advertisement these same men have given to the importance of organisation and their own ability to build it. We gently remind them of it for their good and for their consideration.

So the election is over, and the propaganda keeps on more vigorously than ever.

HERE AND NOW.

We record a somewhat better essay this issue, and cheers (and further efforts) are in order. Optimism, subject to encouragement, will prompt its bearer to inordinate tasks, and the bearer, well primed, may see possibilities anywhere. The matter of getting Clarion readers brings the Clarion to queer places and sometimes to places where it is not a welcome guest. When we find that the Clarion has been lodged in a place where it is not a welcome guest we readily recall the biblical instance of the gross wastefulness of casting pearls before swine.

However, a letter lies before us in which extensive references are made to Miss Christobel Pankhurst and the Prince of Wales. Comment of the Vancouver "World" on a speech by Miss C. Pankhurst (July 1st) is enclosed. Prepare: "Like the fire of Prometheus and the electricity drawn from Franklin's kite her fire was from the height; her remedy of the empyrean, from the source of universal dynamic, and to be conducted along a strained dialectic from the universal to the particular." Our unkind letter-writer compares such wisdom as this to the soothing effect upon him of a Chinese orchestra. This, we suppose, is the purpose of the news-clipping enclosed with our correspondent's letter—to show the influence of the press on those "in high places," and that the P. of W., as one of such is not to blame if he gets queer notions of "democracy" from such reading.

The result being, of course, that we are asked to play schoolmaster to the prince and send him a Clarion. Well, the sub. is paid for, but we'd really be so glad if the prince were a coal miner, a logger, a farmer or, in fact, anything useful.

Well, as we said, the essay comes up a little this time, and the rise is long overdue after all the digging. Efforts for subs. on the part of our readers are appreciated, not alone by us but by the new readers. They'll never be happy 'till they get it.

Following, \$1.00 each: J. Ross, E. W. Fane, B. E. Polinkos, J. Wilson, F. Varney, H. J. Edwards, C. F. Orchard, F. Reynolds, A. E. Cotton, G. Wallack, T. Hanwell, R. Brown, J. T. Redfern, J. Lavery, R. M. Alexander, J. Stark, D. T. Blackie, T. Benninger, L. Betsworth, A. C. Binson, R. Maxwell, C. O'Brien, T. Scott, A. Griffin, G. Gemmell, G. G. Ross ("R"), J. A. Mitchell, Arthur Jordan, Ben Dworkin.

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John A. Beckman 50 cents; A. Tauren 50 cents; John Rivers \$8.00.

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DEVELOPMENT IN SOVIET RUSSIA.

(Continued from page 1)

transition from Capitalism to Socialism is only a question of time, and this is clearly felt not only by the working masses, but also by the more far-sighted representatives of the Old World. Naturally, the fact that the Soviet Republic exists cannot but expedite and facilitate the transition from Capitalism to Socialism.

Nearly half a century ago, the Russian Nationalist Socialist N. K. Mikhailovski, in a letter to Karl Marx, showed that Russia, basing herself upon the peasantry, might make the transition to Socialism sooner than the West European countries, and avoid the intermediary stage of Capitalism. Karl Marx replied: "Theoretically, it is possible that, basing yourselves upon revolution in Western Europe you may make the transition to Socialism and avoid Capitalism, but I can hardly believe in such a possibility."

Today, not only among the advanced elements of the bourgeoisie but in the ranks of a considerable section of the proletariat, the idea of a possible passage from Capitalism to Socialism without a social revolution is widespread. To this pacifist Socialism the Russian Communists, paraphrasing the words of Karl Marx, might say: Basing yourselves upon the Soviet Republic, try by peaceful methods, without blood or violence, to achieve the reconstruction of the world. We do not believe in the possibility of such methods, but we shall welcome your proof to the contrary. Prove it if you can.

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