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Editor: **Ewen MacLeod**

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S. O. S. I

THE Clarion call goes forth to direct attention to its state of finances. The "Clarion" keeps its head above water mainly by subscriptions, and these have fallen off alarmingly in the past month or two, so much so in fact that we are faced with a difficulty in meeting printing costs. Look at our "Here and Now" list in this issue, total subscription list of \$38 since last issue, which represents about 31 per cent. of bare printing cost per issue.

"Clarion" readers will clearly see from these remarks that our prevailing mood is optimistic. But what is to be done to keep the paper going? Readers can help by finding new readers for us. And Locals can help in the time of present need by looking up their account with us. We need the money and we don't like to mention it but, as "Plebs" says in similar circumstances "as usual it's important."

The many letters we receive are complimentary to the "Clarion" and its work. It ploughed a lone furrow in the educational field in this country in the past during many years and its influence is felt and recognized. But when we communicate this cheerful news to the printer we find it brings no discount in the bill of costs. We want new readers and renewals from old readers. Look at the number on your address label. If it is 845, your subscription expires with next issue. Please attend to it.

THE "SAFETY FIRST" COMMUNISTS.

"A total absence of perspective, an unprecedented looseness of thought and debility of interest, a fathomless Philistinism, an unbounded cowardice of conception—these are the chief characteristics of the position taken up by the 'centre'." — (Zinoviev).

OPENING with the above quotation, a full page article, intended to be a criticism of the "Policy of the Socialist Party of Canada," appeared in "The Communist," volume 1, No. 1, May 1st, 1921. The place of origin is not stated, but the front page states "Published by authority of the Third (Communist) International in Canada." "Clarion" readers have already seen Comrade Harrington's review (see "Clarion," April 1st) of "The Communist Bulletin," "published by Canadian section of the United Communist Party of America." So far as we know, the copy then reviewed (vol 1, No. 1) of "The Communist Bulletin" represented the first and last issue of the paper, under that name anyway. The outstanding feature of "The Communist Bulletin" was a convenient ability in appropriating phrases originated for quite other purposes by other people, and an unhappy defectiveness in arranging them suitably to fit their new and strange setting. A self-imposed anonymity rendered this literary swiping a safe procedure, and under cover of hiding it was presumed, evidently, that as many revolutionary phrases, brave words and heroic utterances might conveniently and safely be printed as the page would hold.

But now, suffering a little from exposure no doubt, "The Communist Bulletin" has stepped aside and "The Communist" takes its place. "The Communist" claims authority for publication by the Third International in Canada. We have this to say concerning "The Communist" and the Third International, without prejudice to the latter,—if its

policies in Canada are really committed to the care of those responsible for this publication, then they are committed to the care of a group of men who are not familiar with the present state of mind of the workers of Canada, who do not know the history of the proletarian movement here nor its present measure of strength, and who cannot, in the safety of an obscure hiding-place, inspire confidence in the working class in the advocacy of boldly pronounced policies without evidence of responsibility. Revolutionary policies for immediate use cannot be promoted with the workers' confidence, having for their watchword "Safety First." And that is the position of these arm chair, war-like phrasemongers of "The Communist."

Now let us briefly attend to their criticism of ourselves. In relation to the S. P. of C. the tactics of "The Communist" are quite in line with its predecessor, although Comrade Harrington does not anywhere figure in the denunciation under its new appearance. Anybody who knows the history and propaganda of the S. P. of C. knows that the following statement is untrue: "When this party (the S. P. of C.) did succeed in electing party members to local provincial legislatures, they translated the principles of Marxism into waging a campaign for the exclusion of Asiatics from the country." The following statement, particularly that enclosed within the marks indicating quotation, presumably from us, we must leave to speak for itself. It represents either a deliberate effort at falsehood and misrepresentation or a clumsy attempt at editorship.

"The attitude of this party towards the industrial struggles of the workers can be correctly estimated when that peculiar 'theory' known as 'the commodity struggle' is taken into consideration. In order that the party should not take part in the struggles of the workers it was necessary to find some theoretical basis for their shrinking from actual struggle, so the theoreticians discovered a new sociological law which says: 'The industrial struggles of the workers are manifestations of the commodity struggle, a struggle between buyers and sellers of labor power.' These struggles are not part of the class struggle, because only those who are conscious of the existence of a class struggle can take part in it. Therefore, it is the duty of all 'Marxians' to leave the industrial struggles of the workers severely alone and concentrate upon the education of the workers to a recognition of the class struggle which would enable them to elect a majority of Socialist Party members to the House of Commons, and thereby achieve emancipation from capitalism.' Thus there grew up the conception of Marxism as being of a purely educational character which has been the policy of the Socialist Party of Canada until today."

Now where did "The Communist" get the idea of palming this nonsense off as having originated in our policies? And where did these inventive truth seekers get it that we "were blinded with the idea of a gradual, peaceful transition to Socialism by means of the election of a majority of 'scientific Socialists' to the House of Commons and the subsequent legislation of the bourgeoisie out of existence." That statement concerning us constitutes an item of news. But we are not given to future fancies. "The Communist" is, as usual, so far as we are concerned, in error. At election times we have always taken the position, as in our regular propaganda, that we are using parliamentary institutions for Socialist propaganda purposes. Here is where "The Communist" betrays a lack of knowledge of our propaganda and its history. They will help to save our space, which we consider to be of some value to the workers of Canada, if they will take the trouble to read our literature. Let us say at once that wherever we find a workman who is earnestly concerned over the interests of his class, let him call himself a Communist or a Socialist, we can cheerfully meet him on common ground for the purposes of arriving at a common understanding and for united effort. But let us draw the attention

of "The Communist" to the apt quotation they have innocently selected from "The Communist Manifesto": "The Communists disdain to conceal their views and aims. They openly declare that their ends can be attained only by the forcible overthrow of all existing social conditions." Now these people admire that statement. They say Marx and Engels "sum up proudly" by declaring it. Marx and Engels said it. They endorse it. But who are they? Marx and Engels, we take it, were just as proud when they signed their names to the document as when they wrote it. They had every reason to be. That was what was meant by the open declaration. But these people, while endorsing what Marx and Engels wrote and signed, fail to sign the endorsement. They have chosen in this paragraph the very best quotation in all Marxian literature, illustrative of their own nervous condition.

The desire, we assume, among Communists is for Communist unity. The general contents of "The Communist," vol. 1, No. 1, rather than making for Communist unity in this country will tend to disrupt the movement. If we are to have interpreted for us the policies of the Third International we prefer to have them outlined by our own members and comrades generally, whom we know through contact with us and through common experience. Up to date, their courage has kept pace with their utterances. Evidence of sincerity goes a long way with the working-class.

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PLATFORM

Socialist Party of Canada

We, the Socialist Party of Canada, affirm our allegiance to, and support of, the principles and programme of the revolutionary working class.

Labor, applied to natural resources, produces all wealth. The present economic system is based upon capitalist ownership of the means of production, consequently, all the products of labor belong to the capitalist class. The capitalist is, therefore, master; the worker a slave.

So long as the capitalist class remains in possession of the reins of government, all the powers of the State will be used to protect and defend its property rights in the means of wealth production and its control of the product of labor.

The capitalist system gives to the capitalist an ever-increasing stream of profits, and to the worker, an ever-increasing measure of misery and degradation.

The interest of the working class lies in setting itself free from capitalist exploitation by the abolition of the wage system, under which this exploitation, at the point of production, is cloaked. To accomplish this necessitates the transformation of capitalist property in the means of wealth production into socially controlled economic forces.

The irrepressible conflict of interest between the capitalist and the worker necessarily expresses itself as a struggle for political supremacy. This is the Class Struggle.

Therefore, we call all workers to organize under the banner of the Socialist Party of Canada, with the object of conquering the political power, for the purpose of setting up and enforcing the economic programme of the working class, as follows:

1. The transformation, as rapidly as possible, of capitalist property in the means of wealth production (natural resources, factories, mills, railroads, etc.) into collective means of production.
2. The organization and management of industry by the working class.
3. The establishment, as speedily as possible, of production for use instead of production for profit.