

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.

Editor Ewen MacLeod

Subscription:

Canada, 20 issues \$1.00
Foreign, 16 issues \$1.00

872 If this number is on your address label your
subscription expires with next issue. Renew
promptly.

VANCOUVER, B. C., JULY 15, 1922.

MANITOBA ELECTIONS.

A few days from now will disclose the outcome of the campaign for representation by the various groups and parties of working class opinion in the Manitoba Legislature. The government elected in 1920 had a hard time to hold itself together, since there had been elected several fairly evenly balanced groups, all contending fiercely in the battle of surface politics where no fundamental issue was before them, for dominant position. The year before had been the momentous time of the Winnipeg strike, its effect had been disruptive in the smooth groove of party politics, and the government of 1920 has been embarrassed ever since.

Winnipeg has been during the past few years the scene of industrial dispute and political turmoil. The mind of the workers there in 1920 was agitated over the imprisonment of working class spokesmen, yet the result of the election showed considerable muddle as the prevailing state of mind. Since 1920 they have suffered the influence of programmes and policies to occupy their attention and, from what we can gather by reading their discussions, we miss our guess if they are not muddled still.

There has been achieved, however, a healthy interest in all matters affecting working class affairs, and the task of the Socialist is to help it toward understanding. Comrade Armstrong is described by Lestor as "an old soap boxer of the plug variety," which is akin to the arts degree among Socialist propagandists. Once elected, if a Socialist holds that description and takes every opportunity that offers for Socialist propaganda he shows a proper understanding of his job.

There never was a greater need for unity among working men than there is in Winnipeg now. The unity cry of course has visited that centre, but it has been made without any serious consideration of the basis of unity and it has been handicapped by the recent history of those who have been shouting loudest for it. The variety of working class candidates is due to divided opinion among the workers. Socialist education is the only course open toward unification of that opinion. Our campaign follows that course.

SECRETARIAL NOTES

Vancouver comrades will observe the notice appearing elsewhere in this issue to the effect that next business meeting will be held in the Flack Flock, Room 12, first floor. The address is 163 Hastings Street West.

For some time Local Vancouver has had in mind the matter of moving to more convenient headquarters where, if possible, a little leniency might be a feature in the matter of rents. Difficulties have been encountered, not only in rental figures, but in the matter of being able to rent a place at all. No doubt had we been of the Apostolic Faith, The Order of the Goose, a combination of perfectly respectable blind-piggers or a company of loan or realty sharks, we would have had welcome entry but, being Socialists, our presence would over-balance all comers in any neighborhood.

However, the last landlord having lost money somewhere and having raised the rent, another had to be found and he has been found at the address given above. In the matter of mail use the P. O.

address: P. O. Box 710, Vancouver, B. C.

* * *

Some enquiries have been made as to Comrade Lestor's whereabouts, and when he is due to arrive. His article in this issue on the Winnipeg election campaign, indicates his present field of activity. The campaign will end, so far as the present election is concerned, on the 18th July, following upon which date we understand Lestor will head west. It is likely that he will stop off at points en route and make speeches, after the fashion of Socialist propagandists and distinguished visitors. Anyway, there will be a big crowd on the corner when he gets here.

* * *

Talking about corners: Local Vancouver's summer campaign of street speaking is showing good results in good addresses and rising literature sales. Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. Here's the place to sell literature. Get in and help; there can't be too many on hand. Here's the place also where you may discover your abilities as a propagandist. Climb on to the box and open up.

:o:

WASHINGTON AND THE FUTURE OF CHINA.

BY ARTHUR ROSENBERG.

Mr. Wellington Koo, the parade diplomat of the Peking Government, has transferred the field of his activity from Geneva to Washington. The very clever and worthy Chinese was representing his country in Europe in the League of Nations. For some time he even presided over that estimable institution, and thus proved how high a Chinese can rise nowadays within the circles of international diplomacy if he only understands to swim with the stream. Mr. Wellington Koo, further, participated with solemn mien in the decision on the Upper Silesian question. Now he is to participate in the settlement of the Chinese question, and it is perfectly clear that he will have very much less to say in the Chinese question than he did in the Upper Silesian problem. Curiously enough, just twelve days before the opening of the Washington Conference, a very unpleasant accident happened—the Chinese Government has not paid the interest on its American loan which fell due on the 1st of November. To put forward demands in the name of a bankrupt Government is not a very enviable position.

The international position of China, in view of the political dismemberment of that gigantic country, will in fact be extremely difficult. China passed through its Revolution ten years ago. The Chinese middle class at that time overthrew with surprising rapidity the feudal monarchy of the Manchus. The Chinese bourgeoisie was, however, unable to retain political power. In Peking there is a clique of reactionary generals who style themselves the Government of China. Further, in each province of China there is a military governor with some thousands of soldiers. The chief steals precisely in the same manner as his subordinates, and the military governors are fighting one another. The Peking Government has no authority outside Peking. The Chinese Republic serves only as a cloak for a brutal, corrupt, and confused military rule. Only in one part of that country, with its 400,000,000 population, is there a really republican, democratic government, namely, in the big South China City of Canton, where Sun-Yat-Sen is at the head of an independent government. The military governors at all events pretend to recognise the Peking Government as the supreme authority, while Sun-Yat-Sen has openly declared war on the Peking militarists. The citizens of Canton declare that it is their intention to liberate the country from military rule, and to establish a united democratic Chinese Republic. Sun-Yat-Sen was the most prominent spiritual leader of the first Chinese Revolution. He opposed the militarist development, and was striving with his friends of Canton to bring the Chinese Revolution to a successful issue. Sun-Yat-Sen was supported in the first place by the students and generally by the young intellectuals who have grasped the idea that only together with the workers and peasants of the country will they succeed in defeating the Reaction. Thus Canton is giving a new impetus to the Chinese Revolution. At Washington, Mr. Wellington Koo is representing the Peking government. The Canton Gov-

ernment is naturally disliked by the International capitalists because the Chinese Radical Democracy is just as much opposed to the foreign exploiters as they are to the internal oppressors. At Washington the Peking Government has been recognised as the actual representative of China. To this Sun-Yat-Sen answered that he will consider as null and void all the decisions of the Washington Conference regarding China.

The prevailing chaos in China has been very clearly utilised by the Japanese. The Japanese set one governor or ruler against the other, and thus obtained very valuable concessions. For Japanese capital, influence in China is an absolute necessity, because in Japan during the last few years industry has greatly developed. Japan has neither iron nor coal, while China, on the contrary, is very rich in mineral wealth, the exploitation of which in most cases has hardly yet begun. The Japanese are striving to obtain from China the raw materials which they require for the development of their industries. Further, they desire to utilise China as a market for their commodities.

After the victory over Russia, the Japanese in the first place gained the peninsula Liau-Tung, where the Russians had built Port Arthur. At the same time the Japanese obtained the railway line which crosses Southern Manchuria. During the world war the Japanese exploitation of China made great headway. Japan then seized Kiao-Chow from the Germans, and in addition it laid its hand on the railways and mines of Shantung. By such means the Japanese succeeded in actually annexing huge Chinese provinces with a population of many millions east and south of Peking. Notwithstanding the bitter opposition of the Chinese population, which does not wish to be swallowed by Japanese capital, Japan has since the end of the world war obtained still more and more new positions of power in China.

In opposition to the Japanese aspirations for economic predominance in China, America puts forward the policy of the open door in China. Through this open door any one is to be able to enter China in order to do business undisturbed. What American capital means by the open door is obvious from a proposal which recently was put forward by America. According to this proposal, American, English, French, and Japanese banks, which are interested in China, should jointly establish a big consortium. All loans obtained up to the present by China from individual states should be taken over by this consortium. China would then have no longer the separate foreign groups of capitalists as creditors, but united world-capital. The international group of banks would thus establish its guardianship over the economic life of China. It is obvious that in such a fraternity the American capitalists as the strongest would predominate. Thus the open door does not mean free competition, but the replacing of Japanese predominance in China by that of America.

The Peking Government regards American predominance as the lesser evil since America is further off than Japan, and because the American capitalists would carry through their plans in a milder form than the Japanese. America would, if she had her own way, still keep up appearances in China, while Japanese militarism desires to trample down China as it did unfortunate Korea. Wellington Koo, therefore, declared in Washington that China demands unconditional political independence, that China must have control over her own railways, i.e., the Japanese must give up the railways of Shantung and Manchuria. Wellington Koo further demands that the concessions lately granted to foreigners in China should be annulled. This, too, is directed against Japan. It is true the bankrupt gentlemen of Peking by themselves matter little, but the American capitalists like to hear these voices. Hughes, if he wishes to snatch from the Japanese their Chinese booty, can pretend that America, acting unselfishly as usual, appears now as the protector of the suppressed Chinese people. Meanwhile the directors of the America China banks are laughing in their sleeves.

The Communist Review, London.