

## Western Clarion

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VANCOUVER, B. C., MAY 16, 1924

### POLITICAL UNITY.

**T**HERE has recently occurred here a B. C. Federated Labor Party and Trade Union affiliation with the Canadian Labor Party, with which is affiliated also the Communist (Workers') Party. The idea is toward unity of all labor forces, more particularly during election periods. Without exhaustive examination of the clauses of the tentative Platform and By-laws adopted at the recent convention of delegates it may be generally assumed that the policy likely to be pursued in connection with the adoption of candidates is that these may be nominated by the several individual affiliated organizations and, in turn, endorsed by the major body. This is likely to mean the elimination of some aspirants, but it is to be supposed that has already been taken for granted by all bodies concerned.

These notes are set forth without prejudice to the formation of any organization promoting real unity among workers on the political field or any other. The political success of Labor in Great Britain has lent something of a flip to Labor elsewhere. It has undoubtedly had its influence upon the recent fall of Poincare in France, although in this connection the chronic unevenness of the French Budget, the state necessity of increased revenue from taxation, the failure of the Ruhr policy, the instability of the franc and the unwelcome necessity of general acceptance of the Dawes Report are by no means to be neglected as important factors. There are others too.

However, labor and socialist activity in the political arena is the prevalent atmosphere of the day: Ebert and Scheidman in Germany, Branting in Sweden, Vandervelde in Belgium, MacDonald in Great Britain, not forgetting the Soviet power in Russia. It is thus not an unfair assumption that these present tendencies in Canada towards unity are of the nature, somewhat, of following suit. It is to be noted, however, that in those countries where working class parties have attained political success, of whatever particular complexion in the technique of inclusive proletarian politics they may be made up, there the system, so called, of the production and sale of commodities has been choked up and unworkable. Russia first, then Germany, then Great Britain and now, in a measure, France; with the lesser countries a similar progress can be seen in events.

Looking to this continent, the U. S. A. has had to go no further than to promote a Third Party, while in Canada, since the most important productive department in the country is agriculture, and since the farmers have suffered severely from depression in prices since the war period, the tendency has been to reduce parliamentary representation through old orthodox channels and to seek to build their own political bodies. They have done this with some considerable political success. Labor in Canada has a tendency to follow that lead, to unite its scattered forces and also to co-ordinate its efforts with those of the farmers.

Now it appears that our own attitude is in question, more particularly since the B. C. Provincial election is scheduled for 20th June. It is agreed that our influence in the body of thought among the

workers of this country has been of a positive character and has been singularly effective over the past years and is so recognized now, in spite of sundry hopes expressed to the contrary.

The idea of unity is good insofar as it tends to break down the thin ideological partitions which have prevented unity of action in certain quarters. In point of fact the present unity is in some respects a re-union. In respect of ourselves, however, while we have no desire to obstruct the path of working class unity in political action our members are not likely to take their Party Constitution so lightly as to alter it without very serious consideration. That constitution precludes affiliation, for instance, with the C. L. P. and no local area can alter it alone.

It is characteristic of all ideas that are worth while that they give rise to a great deal of dispute and argumentation. The position of the S. P. of C. has been held to tenaciously over many years and has been found to be useful. If it has been somewhat isolated from the general working class activity its point of view has found a great deal of attention centred upon it from that fact alone. If unity where organizational identity were in no danger of suffocation were possible the case might be different. That, of course, is a matter still to be demonstrated. Meantime, towards unity we express a goodwill, which is not so empty a sentiment as these few words might seem to make it.

### HERE AND NOW.

**I**N the regular setting forth of these totals in small sums we are continually reminded of that biblical verse which says: "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever." This has come to an appreciable common use, although, as is well known, we have no reputation for blasphemy.

But it would appear that our condition of penury is to remain static until the shadows flee away or the poets bob their hair. It is hard to be cheerful under the circumstances. Hence the gloom indicated herein. Here follows the monetary expression of that gloom:

Following \$1 each: H. Wilmer, Martin Ophus, J. C. Blair, T. B. Roberts, P. M. Friesen, E. Johnson, W. Smith, H. W. Speed, Wm. Sheepmaker, Wm. Mitchell, A. N. Roberts, C. Luff, R. V. Hastie, C. Saunders, C. M. O'Brien, J. Hunter, T. Hughes.

Following \$2 each: Mike Macdonald, E. Anderson, Wm. Breeze, C. A. Harding.

Jim Lott, \$5.00.

Above, Clarion subs. received from 29 April to 16 May, inclusive, total \$30.

### CLARION MAINTENANCE FUND.

Martin Ophus \$1; T. B. Roberts \$3; St. John Comrades, (per S. E. White) \$8.25; "B. L. J." \$2; Wm. Mitchell \$2.

Above, C. M. F. receipts from 29 April to 16 May, inclusive, total \$16.25.

### LOCAL No. 1, VANCOUVER.

The business meeting held on the 13th inst. decided to hold its nomination of candidates meeting in connection with the B. C. Provincial election on Tuesday 20th May. It is hoped that a full attendance of members will be present.

The French newspapers, and even the French minister of finance, accuse enemy foreign countries, above all Germany, of having brought about the fall of the franc by their manoeuvres. The French minister of finance spoke in parliament of a conference alleged to have been held in France by bankers from the occupied territory, in which united action for the fall of the franc was resolved upon. The kernel of this assertion appears to be as follows: Until the stabilization of the German mark the French franc was used more and more in the occupied territory as currency. After the stabilization of the mark, and the simultaneous depreciation of the franc, this latter was supplanted as a general medium of circulation in this territory. No one

wanted to take French francs in payment any longer, and the francs thus liberated in the occupied territory streamed back to France, or sought investment in pounds and dollars. It is an actual fact that on some days French francs could be purchased in the occupied territory for German money, at half the price paid in Berlin.

The depreciation of the franc once begun, that process has been repeated which we already know too well from the history of the currencies of Germany, Austria and Poland: the alarmed foreign owners of French money speedily converted this into pounds or dollars, the French capitalists sought to provide themselves with an adequate supply of foreign currency, so that the demand for foreign bills far exceeded the normal requirements of the economic process. It is of course impossible to say whether—as maintained in some French circles—the English from political motives have exercised pressure for the fall of the franc. The French press asserts that English capitalists have converted their francs into dollars to a wide extent.

The depreciation of the franc has naturally been accompanied by a parallel depreciation in the value of interest-bearing French bonds. This means that the French investors who put their savings at the disposal of the state until the year 1923 for the purpose of the restoration of the devastated districts and covering of the state deficit, by their purchase of state bonds, became equally distrustful. Short term state loans have become harder to place of late, along with increasingly high rates of interest. It goes without saying that a movement for the sale of French state bonds set in. According to calculation, published by the "Ere Nouvelle," French investors have suffered a loss of 19 milliards in state bonds since November 1919, as the result of the rate of exchange.

If we regard the fact of the failure of French loan operations in the inland market not only from the financial stand point, but from the economic point of view, we see that it means that the saving powers of the French people are exhausted; that is, France is no longer able to obtain, from the annual production of values of her own economics, the sum required for the restoration of the devastated territories.

E. VARGA.

### EVOLUTION OF COAL.

(Continued from page 3)

forthcoming the material interest which takes them into the arena today will take, drive, them out again tomorrow and this regardless of whom their successors will be. In exchanging coal into gold it is not necessary for a seller to be gifted with the power to see, to understand its fossil nature or useful purposes. For proof of this statement let anyone ask his dealer how much coal is required to concentrate or reduce a given quantity of metallic mineral, or, if he is selling coal under specifications, that is, it has been proved to give a certain "Calorific Value" so many B.Th.U. heat units per given weight. These questions have a very important bearing on the "Use Value" of coal, yet we find that 99 9/10 per cent of those who sell coal are not concerned about its composition or utility. What is of vital interest to the seller is the array of prices and many have no hesitation in saying they do not give a damn what becomes of coal after it passes through their hands. That Profit is the Primary motive behind the production and sale of coal is so palpably self evident and needs no further elaboration, to any one with his eyes open.

A. G. McC.

## Social and Dance

Don't fail to attend Local Vancouver's Social and Dance to be held in Oddfellow's Hall, 6th Ave. and Main, on Friday 23rd May. Tickets are 50c and 25c (men and women). Refreshments free. Come along and bring your friends with you.