

## 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, 30 issues \$1.00  
Foreign, 14 issues \$1.00

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

914

VANCOUVER, B. C., APRIL 16, 1924.

### THE THIRD PARTY.

**T**HE day of the Third Party seems to have arrived. The position of orthodoxy in politics, divided into two main rival party contestants for power, has suffered a serious shake-up. Not that there have never been more than two parties anywhere. In Great Britain, for example, Labor has been a Third Party of some political consequence since 1906, but not until two years ago has its challenge for power been a serious threat to the established Two Party system. In Canadian Federal politics the government of the day holds office through the aid of the Progressives—the Federal Third Party—and in several Provinces the farmers in politics have upset the old routine in form if not in fact. Here in B. C. too we have a quite expensive and privately owned Third Party booming forth its qualities, based largely on the iniquities of the old tenants of office. In the United States there appears to be universal agreement that a Third Party is now in order and there is hope and expectation that a well organized Third Party will step up. And by all accounts it will.

Now with all this it may appear strange that the fact has escaped public attention that there have been and there are now Third Parties of all shades and color. By Third Parties we mean, of course all Parties that live and have their being outside the two old ones. Taking important cases first—our own, of course—we have the condition in Canada that the Progressives have inherited more consideration as a factor in politics than any other group not clothed in exact-fitting orthodox garments. We have two Labor members in the Federal house who receive as much attention as their representative voice is considered to be entitled to, and no more.

In the Province of British Columbia we are to have an election soon again, if the gossips are to be believed. The last election and the policy of the government then to be elected was conditioned very largely upon the best appearing program concerning liquor selling. Public interest appeared to be centred upon that. In the election to come what is known as the "beer plebiscite" seems to be the hinge upon which the date of election opens or closes. And in spite of the fact that the Socialist Party and Labor Parties of one sort and another have been skirmishing incessantly for many years there suddenly crops up a disgruntled element born from the two orthodox parties and constitutes itself at once a Third Party, recognized as such in the public eye, to the exclusion of all other Third Parties claiming attention.

The political parties of the working class, however may be the platform they stand upon and the program they formulate, rest their case in the hands of the working population of the country for understanding and endorsement. Apparently the working population, when it looks for change, insists on recognizing whatever may be nearest in complexion to that which it has cast off and not—as of course it should—that which is farthest from it. This is a lesson which has yet to be learned among some of our friends whose good intentions weigh well against the noise they make in proclaiming their inexperience. We entertain high hope that the coming election will provide occasion for arresting

general working class attention to the best laid schemes now current. These conditions being laid down we hazard the opinion that the Third Party, if a live one is hatched actually to crow in the Legislative Assembly, will be one not very different from the two that crow there now.

### AMBITION ASSERTS ITSELF.

**A**S we go to press we encounter the following nasty little piece, headed "From Our Own Correspondent," in the B. C. Federationist April 11, 1924. We reprint it in full:—

Nanaimo, April 10.—Politically, it would appear from information gathered here and there, that the atmosphere is not very clear. The Socialist party of Canada—about seven in number—still persist, without consulting the workers, in attempting to foist upon them W. A. Pritchard, of Vancouver, as the workers' candidate. This action is resented by many, who have nothing personally against Mr. Pritchard, but who feel that other methods should be adopted in such matters, and that other candidates might be available who would be more in touch with the local situation, and receive a much more enthusiastic support. It is almost certain that, if the former persist in their tactics, there will be two labor candidates in the local field.

H. M. Bartholomew, of Winnipeg, a member of the Workers party of Canada, is to speak here, in the Foresters' Hall, Friday, April 11th, on the subject: "The Gang Behind the Government." Tom Barnard in the chair.

There! Now Tom, next time you send these nice little despatches don't try to hide behind the screen of "Our Own Correspondent," and while you are at it be decent and say you are pining to be that other candidate.

Here's what we'll do. We'll be workmanlike about the matter, which seems to worry you. Consult with our folk in Nanaimo, call an open convention and let the Nanaimo workers name their candidate. But don't try to jig it up. Ambition suffers frustration sometimes when it becomes too heady. Consult the workers by all means. That policy will never go astray for long.

### HERE AND NOW.

**I**N our halcyon days we held the good acquaintance of a Chinaman who was friendly enough to unload his troubles and worries on to us as they came to him. His troubles and worries—he was a business Chinaman—consisted of a chronic scarcity of assets as against liabilities. Recounting his declining fortunes his practise was to enumerate the "good" figures against the "bad" figures and to exclaim—"no can live long!" He might have made a fair living as a prophet.

We stumbled across some figures concerning mortality in newspapers the other day. Apparently the past ten years have seen the death of forty daily newspapers in Canada. Forty-seven weeklies and four semi-weeklies died in 1923. By all accounts the ante-mortem pronouncement most favored by one and all was attuned after the fashion of the Chinaman—"No can live long!"

Long life, Here and Now, depends on subs and our hope of subs rests on you. What will the answer be? These are whispers to go on with:—

Following \$1 each: A. Briggs, F. Reynolds, George Paton, Frank Kelly, O. Rayner, George Bowden, N. Sorenson, H. Oppikoper, J. Bennett, Parry & Sim, J. Wilson, H. W. Speed.

Following \$2 each: P. J. Hunt, Harry Judd, D. MacLeod, C. MacDonald, "R. S.", D. Sullivan.

A. H. Giles \$1.15; E. Simpson \$4; C. Lester \$6.

Above, Clarion subscriptions received from 27th March to 10th April, inclusive, total \$35.15.

### CLARION MAINTENANCE FUND.

D. MacLeod, \$2.50; W. J. Kennedy \$1; Frank Kelly \$2; N. Sorenson 50 cents; "F. C.," \$1; Proceeds from Paris Commune celebration social and

dance \$29.35. (Note: The total surplus amounted to \$39.35. The sum of \$10 is held in reserve for future use of the Social Committee).

Above, Clarion Maintenance Fund receipts from 27th March to 10th April, inclusive, total \$36.35.

### THE LAW OF AVERAGE

**B**EFORE a marksman can win a place on the Bisley team he must be a good "average shot," that is, he must be able to shoot well at all ranges. Places on the team are determined by the three stages of the Governor-General's match.

When poultrymen speak of a good average egg type bird, they do not mean a chicken that shows a record performance for one month, but one that produces good results over a period of twelve months. A chicken, to be a good "average layer" must be able to lay well in all seasons.

A switchboard operator's report is not complete until he estimates the "average power" used by the various consumers.

The astronomer measures the "average" rainfall; the statistician records "average hours and wages," etc., etc.

Marx, when writing of "Value," said it was not the least skilled or unskilled labor that determined the value of a commodity but that it was the "average labor" involved in its production, within a given period etc. Capitalists realize the meaning of the term average, and in the mad struggle for average profits world competition is forcing them to make what is considered necessary "average labor," today, less necessary tomorrow.

### USE VALUE OF COAL.

**C**OAL is not produced "based on the amount required for domestic use, industrial processes and production of power," therefore, we cannot expect it to accomplish its various purposes without discrepancies arising somewhere. When coal appears on the market it is invariably in the form of a "feast or a famine." One province has a bountiful supply while another shows a great shortage. This condition is not confined to provinces, but affects every city and household. To mitigate this inconvenience arising out of "Production for profit" the salesman advises buying coal in the summer to ensure its possession in the winter. The politician orates on developing our own (?) coal areas, etc. Some capitalist economists have even attempted to show that the use value of coal has an influence on its price. That a price is not the barometer of use value is easily seen when illustrated by a train. If for some reason the price of coal was to rise to \$23.50 per ton, a train running between two divisional points would still require the same tonnage, as formerly to take it from point to point. The use value of coal consists in its utility to man, that is, the measure of the want it will fill. It may be used in a humble stove, to give heat, or, a gigantic engine to produce power. When measured by a "calorimeter" various grades of coal will record different calorific values, or in other words, a different number of "heat units" per given weight. This is the "Use Value" of coal, when used as fuel, and it is very obvious this is not determined by the desires of men or what they are prepared to pay for various grades.

A. G. McC.

## ECONOMIC CAUSES OF WAR

By PETER T. LEOKIE.

NOW READY

Preface by the author.

132 PAGES.

Per Copy, 25 Cents.

Ten copies up, 20 cents each.

Post Paid.