

## Western Clarion

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VANCOUVER, B. C., FEBRUARY 2, 1923

### PARADISE LOST.

**F**ORTUNATELY, the imp of perversity did not urge us toward the church where Mrs. Snowden broadcasted her full dress prejudices against those tyrannical Russians the other night. We read the tenour of her very respectable plaint in the columns of the press and we are to congratulate ourselves at times that our receiving set has not yet materialized.

We gather from the press that Mrs. Snowden, outwardly, is pleasantly voiced and handsome, and that inwardly she has a plexus of prejudice against any state of affairs which is not attuned to her liking, however progressive, constructive, or well ordered it may be. In some respects she is, by desire, patterned in the intellectual groove along which travels the mind of her husband, Philip Snowden. He, however, has it to his credit that he is somewhat of a matter of fact man, and if his prejudices are strong he strives to support them by matter of fact methods. Witness his uncouth speeches on the British Budget—from the days when he was a volunteer apprentice Chancellor to the day of his adolescence when he stepped into office. He has always been a disciple of security and, concerning relations with Russia it was always evident that with him security—at any rate officially patterned, however real—came first, and the broad human touch second. Mrs. Snowden, in telling her years' old tale about her trip to Russia has had her feelings ruffled by the things she saw and did not understand. A much better drawing-room viewpoint of Russian affairs than that given by Mrs. Snowden has been given by Prof. Sarolea of Edinburgh University. He specializes in languages and literature, consequently surface appearances in conduct and culture attract more attention from him than the tedious work of investigating the undercurrents in social life,—exports, imports, factors in production, housing, comparative prices, reconstruction or breakdown, from whatever cause, in any industrial avenue. The appearance of distress is enough with such people, whose culture is but skin deep, to condemn any administration and the code of its operations with which they are unfamiliar, at first glance. It is manifest that neither Professor Sarolea nor Mrs. Snowden go very deeply into the whys and wherefores of the awful sordidness of their own British social groupings, and if they are not very comprehensive in that field their impressions abroad are of very little value.

Irrespective of Mrs. Snowden's old wives' tale about Russia we understand the British Trade Union delegation, recently returned from that country, tables a very favorable report of work done in reconstruction, and that is not at all surprising. Not even Mussolini could maintain the iron heel over a period of years without some appar-

ent degree of satisfaction among the people or an outcropping of revolt tendencies of magnitude. It seems silly to have to insist that no dictatorship is indefinitely absolute, and that the security of any such administration lies, in the long run, in its wisdom in anticipating and greeting the popular will.

Russia, no doubt, is a far cry from Paradise. But don't say a word about England.

### UNEMPLOYMENT.

**I**T is perhaps because the area of their administrative operations is so restricted that municipal councils betray a very narrow viewpoint when dealing with the persistent question of unemployment. Because seasonal factors increase or diminish the magnitude of employment, at this season when the unemployed are more in evidence than at other times and when they camp on the doorsteps of the civic fathers, the quality of aldermanic wisdom and the width of its outlook is brought forth in startling bareness. Locally, while hungry men are now and then grudgingly given a crust or an impossible pile of rock to uselessly break by hand labor, this meagre charity is dispensed in the proper and hungry spirit, and virtuously and condescendingly. The men are always called drifters, and the City always, although it likes to have on hand some surplus labor, refuses to recognize that surplus labor is necessary to the system as we have it.

Looking over some reports on unemployment published by the International Federation of Trade Unions, we find that in their month of December returns there have been shown increases of unemployment. This, of course, affecting certain trades, is "seasonal," but the volume of unemployment is always large these days anyway. We publish these figures in another column, and would call attention to the fact that they refer principally to members of trade unions. There is a vast unemployed army outside of the organized trades at all times. Our village pump aldermen would say they were all drifters.

We suspect, however, that these days even city aldermen are aware of the fact that unemployment is an essential feature of the system of wage labor employment as we have it today. The problem before the armies of unemployed here, there and everywhere else is at which door to grumble loudest and from which department, Federal, Provincial or Municipal they are to seek recognition for the immediate relief any such situation compels them to demand.

### ALBERTA NOTES.

#### Calgary.

Business meeting of Local Calgary, S. P. of C. is held every Second Tuesday at 8 p.m.

Economics Class every Thursday at 8 p.m.

Address: 134a, 9th Ave. West, Calgary, Alberta.  
Everybody Welcome.

### LESTOR ON THE PRAIRIE.

Comrade Lestor is again on a propaganda tour, at present in Alberta. All comrades there will, we hope, give him every assistance in the furtherance of the work of propaganda.

### HERE AND NOW.

Our totals, Here and Now, are not very pretentious. The record will be doubled-up with those of next issue.

### UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES.

**T**HE unemployment figures for the past month show that there has been an almost universal increase of unemployment. As, however, trade has not changed for the worse, it may be assumed that this is due to the usual seasonal rise of unemployment in winter. Even in Germany, where the economic crisis due to the currency stabilization reached its height in August last, after which the autumn months showed a considerable decrease in unemployment, November again showed a slight increase. Hungary and Roumania are going through bad times on account of the deflation policy of their governments, so that there is a good deal of unemployment in both. The following survey shows the respective degrees of unemployment in different countries during the closing months of 1924:—

**Australia.**—According to the reports of 412 trade unions, with a total membership of 403,960, at the end of September, 38,482, or 9.5 per cent. of their members were unemployed. The corresponding figures for the end of June, 1924, were 32,708 and 8.3 per cent., and for the end of September, 1923, 28,122 and 7.4 per cent.

**Austria.**—The number of unemployed in receipt of benefit rose during the first half of December from 115,000 to 130,000. On November 25th, 88,237 persons were in receipt of unemployment benefit, and at the end of November, 1925, 77,550.

**Belgium.**—According to the reports of 1,492 recognized Unemployment Fund Centres, with a total membership of 612,230, 18,444 members were either wholly unemployed or doing part-time work at the end of October, against 19,488 in the previous month and 12,691 at the end of October, 1923.

**Canada.**—According to information received from trade unions with a membership of about 155,000, at the end of October 6.8 per cent. of the members were unemployed, against 5.9 per cent. in the previous month, and 5.2 per cent. at the end of October, 1923.

**Czechoslovakia.**—According to the official statistics the total number of unemployed at the end of September was 73,006, against 78,774 in the previous month. The number of persons in receipt of unemployment benefit directly from the State was 7,418, against 8,491 in August, while those receiving benefit through the concerns numbered 15,590, against 17,714 in August.

**Denmark.**—According to the statistics of the trade unions which sent in reports, 84,347, or 9.6 per cent. of unemployed at the end of November was 8.6 against 6.5 in the previous month and 11.4 at the end of November, 1923. In the middle of December there were 27,518 applicants for work in the whole country, against 25,892 in the previous week, and 32,000 in the middle of December, 1923.

**Finland.**—According to the statistics of the Labour Exchanges of the larger towns, the number of unemployed registered at the Labour Exchanges on the 8th November was 1,803, against 1,289 in October, and 779 at the end of November, 1923.

**France.**—The number of persons registered at the Labor Exchanges on Nov. 29, 11,863 (7,750 men and 4,113 women) against 10,483 at the end of Oct., and 9,703 at the end of November, 1923. The number of unemployed in receipt of benefit on December 4th was 479, against 415 at the end of November, 1923.

**Germany.**—The number of unemployed in receipt of benefit was on December 1st, 436,449, against 426,723 on November 15th, that is to say, there has been an increase of 2.3 per cent. Reports from 42 trade unions with a total membership of 3,430,000 showed that on December 1st 8.4 per cent. of the members were unemployed, and 12.2 per cent. were on short time work.

**Great Britain.**—Of the 979,734 members of the trade unions which sent in reports, 84,347, or 8.6 per cent. were unemployed at the end of November, against 84,659 or 8.7 per cent. in the previous month, and 110,743 or 9.9 per cent. at the end of November, 1923. Of about 11,500,000 persons insured, against  
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