

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.

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Foreign, 16 issues \$1.00

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VANCOUVER, B. C., AUGUST 1, 1923.

MUTUAL ENTERTAINMENT.

NOT every day do we have the opportunity to entertain a president of the great United States of America, and now that President Harding has departed from us it is hard to determine exactly whether we Vancouverites have given him more entertainment than he has given us. The President appears to be just a big scale politician who pronounces his platitudes with a comic seriousness, and who knows that the traditions of his office will secure for him listeners, if not believers.

It cannot be that in this day and age any first class politician can be found who really believes himself as he speaks. Mr. Harding spoke of Canadian-American relations in the usual platitudinous way of the politician, by which everything on earth moves on moral impulse, directed from on high. His talk of United States interest in world welfare reminds us that the U. S. is the creditor nation nowadays and requires a common meeting place with debtors and partners in international finance, something in the nature of an international, legal clearing house. His chatter about the eternal liberty of all men recalls his easy conscience at Centralia where he spoke the word required by the local law-breakers, representative of local money power. His letters exchanged with Judge Gary of the U. S. Steel Corporation in which the abolition of the twelve hour day is promised, if possible, sometime, remind us that Judge Gary insists upon a revision of the three per cent Immigration Law and has to have Presidential help in that direction, and they remind us also that Gary, Morgan & Co., with their connections "bossed" the Republican Convention of 1920 and financed the campaign which elected Harding. "Who pays the piper calls the tune."

However, there appears no valid reason why we should not open the door to the President any more than to ordinary American citizens, since he appears to represent their hopes, and it is fitting enough that a populace who manage to tolerate the Mackenzie King and Meighan variety of administrators should register pleasure at the sight of another of like kind. And so we erect our bunting—by contract—two "Jacks" to one "Glory"—maintaining the two-power standard in dry goods even if we cannot hold our own nowadays in industry and finance, for Canada's State and municipal bonds appear to be in pawn to the U. S. A. Politically we are tied to Great Britain, to the great grief of the Native Sons, but economically we are being absorbed by American capital. So we become important enough to be visited, and supervised if necessary. And we all know it.

The citizens of the United States glory in the possession, if not in the exercise, of a Constitution, plus sundry Amendments. It would appear to be the present temper of those people that they have more concern in the eighteenth Amendment than in all the others, plus the Constitution, put together. While they and their President rejoice every cele-

bration day over their inalienable rights, they stock their jails with as many men as dare voice opinions after the pattern of the Jeffersonian 18th. century liberalism. Criminal syndicalism is the interpretation now placed upon the Constitutional Amendments guaranteeing free speech and open assembly to the people. Those who, with Lincoln, hold that, "This country with its institutions belongs to the people who inhabit it. Whenever they shall grow weary of the existing government they can exercise their constitutional right of amendment, or their revolutionary right to dismember or overthrow it,"—have to carefully hedge their utterances in face of a well subsidized secret service, organized under what is euphoniously described as the Department of Justice.

The "Criminal Aggression" of George III, denounced in the Declaration of Independence, broke itself over the annexation of Texas by the United States in 1846. The acquisition of Hawaii, the Philippines and Panama, and American domination of Costa Rica, Haiti and San Domingo,—all with a display of force in support of the undermining power of American finance, measure the stride of the United States in the direction of imperialism. It is their great boast that they acquired no territory out of the great war, yet while the other nations were parcelling out the enemies' acreage among themselves the United States managed to secure approbation and affirmation of the Monroe "doctrine," including recognition of their own recent acquisitions. These acquisitions have been made in the interests of good business and if, in proving the venture, the fictitious character of cherished constitutional equal rights has been brought to light, who shall say it is without benefit, even to the oppressed, at home and abroad?

Mr. Harding apparently went to but little trouble to polish up very much argument in his Vancouver address, an address which might very well have been made by any confident schoolboy not very well versed in history. There are no elections to carry here and the unfortified boundary line between Canada and the U. S. does very well as a talking point and does no harm. And so we let him go his way without further ado. Our little merchants are very well pleased at the advertising their market place has had. All the world will now know that prairie grain can be shipped through this port half a cent a bushel cheaper than through the eastern route and that our harbour dues are now down ten cents a ton. Our admiration for the industry of the great republic to the South of us is equalled only by our envy of her profitable returns. Our little business men hope that some day like fortune will come this way—business for the business man and work for the workers! This is the note current in Vancouver's "welcome" to anybody who may happen this way. We are passably rich as it is,—in scenery.

HERE AND NOW.

ANY enthusiastic pessimist who has chanced to glance with any sort of regularity at this mirror of our habitual financial sorrows will glean further encouragement in persistency by a glance at our slender record this issue, from which it will be seen that every day in every way we are getting poorer and poorer—er, Here and Now.

This may be considered to be an inversion of the proper Coue order but we find the other way wont work right, not in finance anyway, for a creditor is not so very easy to deceive as he ought to be. The horrible accuracy of the ordinary schooling in arithmetic enables our printer to clearly see that he will derive small comfort from this:—

Following \$1 each: D. McTavish, S. Clements, J. W. Grayson, A. J. Bell, A. Beaton, G. R. Williams, P. M. Friesen, I. Benson.

Following \$2 each: P. J. Hunt, Dave Watt, F. Neale, R. Inglis.

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Above, Clarion subscriptions received from 12th to 26th July, inclusive, total \$31.35.

CLARION MAINTENANCE FUND.

Following, \$1 each: Ada Cook (per Wm. Ayres), F. Neale, F. Cusack, P. M. Friesen, H. Schlinsog, R. Inglis \$8.

Above, C. M. F. donations received from 12th to 26th. July, inclusive, total \$13.

PARIS-LONDON VIA RUHR

(Continued from page 3)

powerful than Great Britain. It was only by a policy of encirclement that the money merchants of London and Amsterdam, employing as condottiere the hired soldiery of Prussia, Hesse and other German states, as well as the declining naval and military power of Spain, contrived to keep France from gaining and maintaining the hegemony of Europe and adding to it a great colonial domain. A century of class struggles and of war with the states of Central Europe has entangled France in complications which have made it impossible for her seriously to challenge Great Britain's world supremacy. Added to this, France, with a soil much richer than that of Britain, has been handicapped by the fact that nearly all her coal fields lie on the frontier or far removed from the sea coast, harbours and great rivers. This has meant that, in an age when economic supremacy is built on coal and iron in juxtaposition, France has suffered something akin to political eclipse. When, in 1871, Bismarck took from France the only part of the Lorraine orefield then being developed, it seemed as if France must sink to the status of a second rate power.

When, however, in the last decade of the nineteenth century it became commercially profitable to open up the populous rich areas of Lorraine and prospectors began to put forward great expectations of even richer iron fields in Anjou and Normandy, the French metallurgical and banking interests found new hope. They learnt from the incident of Fashoda that as long as Britain and Germany remained economically intact and comparatively friendly that there was no hope of France securing control of the great resources of tropical Africa or of any other unexploited part of the world. They noted in the very same year as Fashoda that the Germans were commencing to build a navy upon a plan which was alarming to the British governing class. Immediately, they saw and made use of this heaven ordained opportunity to make bad blood between two empires traditionally in alliance or, at any rate, favorably inclined towards each other. A mysterious change came over certain jingoistic newspapers in London. The "Daily Mail" ceased to cry that France "must be rolled in blood and mud" and commenced to shriek against the menace of the German navy. Next, the Unionists, the party of the successful industrial and commercial capitalists, took up the cry of protection for the British steel industry against the competition of the German steel industry. Meanwhile there had ascended the throne of Great Britain an ancient rone, notoriously in the pocket of Sir Ernest Cassel and a group of Franco-Belgian moneylenders. Edward the Peacemaker—architect of the bloodiest slaughter in human history—the present Lord Balfour and sundry other British politicians made an alliance, secret in character, which was the diplomatic reflection of a financial community of interests already existing for some time between coteries of moneylenders around one or two houses in Paris, Brussels, Antwerp and London. This dirty gang set themselves—just like the equally unscrupulous rascals associated with the Deutsche Bank and the Bleichroeders their antagonists—to corrupt the mercenary politicians both, reactionary and reformist, of the Balkans, Italy Spain and Russia. Ten years of this intrigue and the French capitalists were able to hurl a combination of powers against the blustering might of German and Austrian Kaiserism. The result of the war is well known to everybody. When it came to making peace, Britain and France alike held their hands up to heaven, swearing eternal allegiance to the divine principle of the self determination of small nationalities. This new policy of radical republican roguery consorted much more with the in-