

## Western Clarion

A Journal of History, Economics, Philosophy,  
and Current Events.

Published twice a month by the Socialist Party of  
Canada, 401 Pender Street East, Vancouver, B. C.  
Phone Highland 2583.

Editor ..... Ewen MacLeod

Subscription, 20 issues ..... \$1.00

**814**

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

FEBRUARY 16, 1920.

### EDITORIAL

#### THE ISSUE.

THE Allied Governments have failed in their campaigns against the Soviet on all fronts, the squibs of those scattered brigands, Messrs. Kolchack, Denekin and Yudenitch having proven ineffectual in anything but noise.

If we were so innocent as to look for even a modicum of truth in the daily press, no doubt we should have followed those unhappy bandits in their disordered retreat to the furthest corners of Europe. If the Soviet forces ever actually capture those gentlemen, no doubt we shall read of their trial in a well-appointed Russian Court of Justice on charges of conspiracy, and of endeavoring to impose upon Russia foreign forms of government.

But while the British Government has failed miserably so far in its efforts against Russia, its antagonism to labor is manifested well enough within its own boundaries. Industrial strife and political turmoil accompany the imperialistic worries involved through "conquest" over the General Powers. This in a measure accounts for the uncertain position of the coalition mixture of opportunists, commercialists and imperialists of which it is comprised. All parliamentary parties in Britain, including labor, are divided between jingo and anti-jingo elements. The Labor Party is loud in its dislike of Capitalism, and the degree of its critical effectiveness may be measured in its volume of sound.

And while it is spending its energy in producing evidence of its sagacity and capacity for office, Mr. Churchill, that erstwhile sprightly and irresponsible political clown has experienced a moment of discernment. The Denekin paymaster announces that the basis of industrial unrest lies in the property system itself, in individual ownership.

The actual point in dispute, he says, is really whether there shall continue private ownership, or be substituted for it as fast and as far as possible communistic ownership of all means of wealth production, transportation and exchange. "The issue," he says, "is a very plain and a very great one."

The answer of the Labor Party is not yet heard, but after all, the Russian has proven Mr. Churchill's most effective schoolmaster.

#### WORK.

WORK is a subject as uninteresting as it is appetizing. Man, as Marx has it, "sets in motion arms and legs, head and hands," to appropriate nature's productions in a form adapted to his own wants, in which are concerned chiefly the activity of man, the subject of his operations and the tools with which he operates. While the soil is the basis of his operations, it has come to be that those tools essential to present day production are a factor of importance in the process equal not only to the soil, but equal also to man himself.

To read man's history we must examine the tools with which he works. As Franklin says, "Relics of by-gone instruments of labor possess the same importance for the investigation of extinct economic forms of society, as do fossil bones for the determination of extinct species of animals."

Ostensibly, in the labor process, man engages only in the production of articles of use to himself and needful to the maintenance of society. In the pro-

duct lies the story of the nature of his effort upon nature's material.

Today, man is engaged so much in production that is directly contributory to the final appearance of his useful labor in other completed forms, that his efforts are characterless and he is but a cog in the universal machine, and those products belong not to himself but to the owners of the tools with which he must operate to produce them.

In reality the object of his activity is the production of profit for his master. His work is ultimately but the consumption of his energy, exhausted under the will of his master whose energy in turn is consumed in adding his columns, the totals of which determine, in his eye, the degree of efficiency of the world's workers in producing not food, clothing and shelter, but profit for the capitalist whose slaves they are.

#### SECRETARIAL NOTES.

Our circulation this issue is 6,000, and if present evidence means anything we shall have another thousand in a month.

This issue contains the first of two installments of a pamphlet by Professor Thorstein Veblen: "Sabotage." We intend to reproduce this as a pamphlet to sell at five cents, and hope to be able to reproduce a pamphlet in the same way each month, which we shall be able to do if financial encouragement warrants. The exchange rate operates to our disadvantage so far as obtaining literature supplies from the United States is concerned. We shall have to apply ourselves to the production of as many pamphlets as we can turn out. The following note from Kerr and Co. should be taken note of by literature secretaries:—

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE TO OUR FOREIGN STOCK-HOLDERS AND CUSTOMERS.

It will hereafter be impossible for us to fill foreign orders for the following English books reprinted by us:—

The Evolution of Property (Paul Lafargue).  
Revolution and Counter-Revolution (Karl Marx).  
Socialism, Its Growth and Outcome (Morris & Bax).  
Socialism, Utopian and Scientific (Frederick Engels).  
Value, Price and Profit (Karl Marx).

Orders for these books from countries other than the United States should be addressed to the owners of the British copyrights, Messrs. George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., Ruskin House, Museum Street, London, W. C. (1) England.

CHARLES H. KERR & COMPANY.

We have had orders from many comrades recently for books by various authors. Comrades are requested to note that we have no literature in stock other than may be found advertized in our Price List of Literature. We shall be glad to book orders for such other books as may be required, but if the book required does not appear in the list, comrades will know they must wait.

A new edition of "Red Europe" is on the press, printed on better paper than last edition which is entirely sold out, and having typographical errors eliminated. The new edition contains an appendix, written by Comrade W. Bennett, the nature of which is an admirable statement of the achievements of the Bolsheviks, and with press quotations which bring the news matter of the book itself up to date.

Comrade Bartholomew commences in this issue a series of ten articles on Socialism. At the time the "Clarion" was suppressed, the series then running was interrupted. We have induced Comrade Bartholomew to re-write the whole.

As we announced last issue, Local (Vancouver) No. 1 offers a premium of one choice of three books to the individual securing the highest amount of paid subscriptions. This is effective each issue. Comrade Bennett heads the list this issue, and calls for "Ten Days." He threatens to earn "Six Red Months" next issue.

In these days when we are talking and writing about the excellence of the Labor College as an institution, Toronto (of all places) has simply gone ahead and established one at 28 Wellington Street East, Toronto. The curriculum includes Economics, Industrial History, Political, General and Current History, History, Structure, Aims and Problems of Labor Organization, and Public Speaking. Various additional subjects are to be included as time goes on. Fees are: For one class for the term (Jan. 5th to April 30th), \$1.50; for each additional class, 50c. Honorary Secretary, Florence Custance, Ontario Labor College, address as stated.

We reproduce an article in this issue from the "Grain Growers' Guide." The freedom of the age we live in is therein well defined.

A series of lectures on Economics is being delivered at the Brotherhood House, Vancouver. Some three or four of the fourteen lectures have been given. Professors Angus and Boggs (Univ., B. C., Polit. Econ.) are the lecturers. These lectures have been well attended up to date, and we understand some interesting discussion has taken place. The interest taken in this science by those "not in academic bowers" is no longer a matter of astonishment, and sometimes it is found to be a more real and genuine interest than that manifested within the walls of learned institutions. While we may sometimes err in that we become advocates rather than investigators (to borrow an apt phrase from Jack Harrington), our academic friends should themselves be sure of their quotations and should consider hastily arrived at interpretations. Otherwise, healthy prejudices are fostered as much as (under such circumstances) they deserve to be.

## Incentive

EVER since Socialists first commenced to criticize and analyse the capitalist system, and to predict a future state of society in which competition and exploitation in industry would be abolished, where all shall work, and each receive in return the equivalent of the full product of his toil, it has been the custom with defenders of capitalism, professors, priests, politicians and others, to declare that such a condition of society is impossible. They tell us that in such a system there would be no incentive. That competition between the workers for jobs is necessary to make each of us "do our bit." That if it was not for the free competition in industry that permits those with the greatest ability to rise to the top,—in other words, if it was not for the possibility that a few will have the opportunity to swindle others out of the fruits of their labor and in time become parasites, those few supposed intellectuals would refuse to contribute their ability to the management of industry, thereby leaving the great mass of the people in the position of a ship without a rudder. And consequently there would be nothing for us all to do but sit down and starve to death. We are used to this kind of talk from capitalists and their apologists, and even from ignorant wage slaves, but it is only recently that some self-styled Socialists have commenced to advance the same argument.

Among other defenders of this theory there is one in particular who is worthy of notice, inasmuch as he is a writer of some note, and also claims to be a Socialist, none other than Mr. Frank Harris, editor of "Pearson's Magazine."

Mr. Harris bases his claim to the title of Socialist, not on his knowledge of Socialism, but on the length of time since he first made the claim. And by the number of notable Socialists, who have, from time to time, in times past had the honor to speak with him on the same platform. All this, and much more we have gathered from a perusal of "Pearson's" in the last year or two.

In a recent issue of the magazine, a correspondent writes to inquire if Mr. Harris is "directly opposed to the first principle of Socialism." He says, "As I understand it, and as Mr. Westfall correctly states it, if the worker would not receive the full social value of his labor in the industrial world as I understand the true Socialist contends, then I would discard the whole scheme as only a make shift to take the place of or change materially the present industrial scheme."

Mr. Harris replies by accusing the correspondent of failure to face the "problem," which is, "who is to determine the full social value of the labor of the workman?"

Now it is well known to Socialists that the value of the commodity, labor, (more correctly labor-power), is determined, like all other commodities by the amount of socially necessary labor-time required to reproduce it. And that the worker at the present time when he has a job, receives in wages on the average, the value of his commodity labor-power, wages being the monetary expression of value. This fact, however, seems to escape both Mr. Harris and his correspondent.

Let us assume then that Mr. Harris means who is