

Letters To The Editor

301 Dom. Bldg., Vancouver, B.C.
August 10th, 1917.

Canadian Forward,
Spadina Ave., Toronto.

Dear Comrade Bainbridge,—I enclose letter from Sterling. I think he would fill the bill as editor. He did not get enough financial encouragement to take the job as organizer and distances here are very great and expensive while the population is small and scattered.

If Liberals endorse conscription and we put up the right men and a correct platform we should win some seats, and would certainly do great educational work.

We should concentrate on anti-conscription and make this the leading idea: While we stand for peace and plenty yet we are in the fight. A soldier should be paid as much for serving his country as a man in civil life. If he was assured of say \$100 a month there would be tens of thousands of volunteers. Men could afford to enlist, and there would be absolutely no need of conscription, and free and willing men are better than conscripts for fighting. Profits and big incomes should provide for soldiers' pay. Socialism is growing fast, it is the only hope and people are fast realizing that fact.

The general election should be a great day for us. But labor and socialism and anti-conscription must unite. Let us concentrate on this one issue. Our mark has been so big and remote and so abstract that the average person can't see it. And that is one fault of Socialism parties everywhere. We are going to win, not by Marxian economists and hair-splitters, but by people reaching for immediate issues that are on the road to the co-operative commonwealth. And if our party does not now go after practical issues another party will win the prize we have been striving for.

We should have a convention at, say Winnipeg, at once to organize our forces and formulate our campaign. If we do not grasp this opportunity we are not fit to represent the great cause of International Socialism.

Yours for the revolution,
N. J. Curry.

SASK. COMRADES, ATTENTION!

Vanguard, Aug. 9, 1917.

Editor Forward:

Dear Comrade,—Got here Tuesday and had a meeting last night. A good crowd and very attentive; stayed to a late hour and we had a good time. "The field is ripe and ready for the harvest," as far as Socialism is concerned. We have a meeting this afternoon of the Local, and another one to-night in a neighboring schoolhouse.

To-morrow I go thirty miles south to hold about five meetings, from there to Regina, from Regina north for several more in the north of the province.

Everywhere the people are keen on the conscription issue and the majority against it, but the jingoes make a lot of noise. They have the instruments to make the noise with—The Press.

Am rushed for time just now, but will write longer letter within a few days.

Yours in the fight,
F. G. Tipping.

Vanguard, Aug. 10, 1917.

To the Editor:

Dear Comrade,—Comrade Tipping left for locals in the southern part of province to-day. We held two meetings north of Vanguard and they were well attended. I enjoyed comrade Tipping's visit very much and feel that his trip so far is successful. He handles the Socialist subject in good style, and it is too bad we can't keep an organizer in Sask. all the time.

There were requests to speak here which we had to turn down on account of limited time.

Yours in the work,
F. G. Wetzel.

Kitchener, July 20, 1917.

The Editor, Forward:

Dear Comrade,—I am undecided how to vote on the Convention Referendum. The fact that no convention has been held for some years, and questions which have arisen, argue for a convention. On the other hand there are a number of objections, and for the present satisfactory results might be reached by other means than a convention.

Attention should be called to the fact that the English membership of the Party is not as large as it should be. If delegates are selected from districts of 100, the English-speaking representation will not be 10, unless foreign-speaking Comrades choose English representatives. The difficulty comes because of the need of maintaining a just representation for the language organizations and of assuring at the same time a sufficient attendance of English-speaking Comrades to make the convention profitable to the future movement in Canada. Certainly, the Party cannot always remain composed of a majority of foreign-speaking Comrades, and the fact that now it is so composed reflects little credit upon the English-speaking Comrades. How much good can be accomplished at a convention composed of English, Finnish and Ukrainian delegates, many of whom cannot understand each other?

The revision of the Constitution can be done just as democratically by a committee whose work would be subject to a Party vote, as by a committee appointed at a convention.

The assessment of 50 cents seems rather high. A 25 cent assessment might have brought in just as much money.

While there are many important matters to be discussed, they are not necessarily material for a convention. Real important issues seem to be lacking in the Party, and while they are looming up, they have not yet assumed a shape so definite as to become concrete questions for a convention.

My personal opinion is that a Dominion Convention should be preceded by Provincial Conventions, by the interchange of views amongst Executives and by discussion in the Party press. Without this, a convention would be meeting in the dark, and would lose much of its value. If the membership votes in favor, I believe it should not be held until after the war. That seems the best time for adopting measures dealing with problems of the coming period. In the meantime the crying need is for a greater propaganda and organization. And in this we would be aided by the Executives and our press; but the real work must be done by the membership itself. We should not wait to be inspired by a convention.

I hope a further discussion of this convention matter takes place through The Forward. The opinion of the Comrades would aid us all in coming to the best decision in the Party's interest.

Mervyn Smith.

INFORMATION WANTED

Will A. E. Medley, of Harris, Sask., please communicate with the Dominion Secretary, as we have lost track of him, and communications sent to Harris, and Saskatoon have been returned.

All Locals are advised to take advantage of the clubbing offer for Forwards. You can help us, and your Local at the same time. Get the Sub-card with your ordinary supplies and thus circulate the word. Provincial Secretaries are requested to stock Sub-cards for supply.

Notice to Locals.

We shall be pleased to hear from you with reference to the approaching elections. As your Executive are contemplating throwing all our resources into the campaign.

In the Michigan copper field, the copper barons have decreed that the red flag shall not wave. Isn't this an offense to Russia, who is one of our allies?

What happened to the virtues of voluntary enlistment? Placed in the Capitalist junk-basket, we presume.

SECRETARIAL NOTES

The Ukrainian Comrades Convention is booked for August 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, to take place in Winnipeg. Congratulations have been wired, the movement hopes that success may attend their deliberations and that much good to the great cause may result from their gathering together.

John Queen of Winnipeg and Michael Buhay of Montreal will contest seats in their respective localities in the forthcoming federal election.

Rebecca Buhay, of Montreal Local No. 4, will represent them at the forthcoming convention of the Antis to be held in Port Arthur on Sept 12th. She is also taking her vacation in that locality in order to trim up for the great fight that lies ahead.

It is very significant that the anti-conscription convention is billed to take place on the anniversary of Kier Hardie's death.

F. G. Tipping of Winnipeg is receiving a good reception on his organizing tour in Saskatchewan.

The Dominion Executive Committee are preparing a general campaign manifesto for the guidance of candidates in the forthcoming election, and have decided to make every effort to secure the services of George Stirling of Salmon Arms, B.C., as organizer for the Dominion. The B.C. Executive Committee are unable to render any financial assistance in the present disorganized state of the province.

Timmins Local No. 32, re-organized, has now 28 members. Good work.

An informal convention has been held in Vanguard, Sask., 10 delegates attending. The Secretary, F. G. Wetzel, is not on the group picture inserted elsewhere. He is the man behind—the camera.

The Alberta Secretary reports that the organization tour of Comrade N. G. Bergen, which lasted one month, cost \$50 and expenses. The sales of literature and the collections paid all expenses and \$42 towards his wages. Well done!

WANTED VOLUNTEERS.

Men and women who are prepared to assess themselves at sums not exceeding \$10,000, in order to have the message conveyed to the great toiling masses, who are now awaiting the call to arms. Tipping says the western field is white unto the harvest—will you hear the call and assist. The D. E. C. are financially impotent to shoulder the whole burden at the present time. A special appeal for funds will be made in the next issue, but don't wait—send in your dimes now.

THE EDITOR'S RELEASE

We have received several enquiries with reference to the outcome of the Editor's trial on a charge of "seditious libel".

In reply we beg to state that the intimation in the Forward of May 10, 1917, that the judgment was "Guilty" but in view of the fact that he was not a criminal he was allowed out on suspended sentence. This means that no penalty will be inflicted. We desire to express our thanks to all those who assisted financially in his defence. The necessary funds were over-subscribed by \$120, the balance being paid to D. E.C. for the purpose of organization. The trial proceedings will be published as soon as the Military Service Bill is disposed of.

I. Bainbridge, Secretary.

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