

Western Clarion

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and Current Events.

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VANCOUVER, B. C., JUNE 16, 1923.

SECRETARIAL NOTES.

LOCAL (Vancouver) No. 1, some time ago appointed a committee to find ways and means to secure headquarters suitable to the work on hand. The committee, finding—as similar committees have found in the past—that the matter of renting headquarters for the Socialist Party is no easy task, and being somewhat resentful concerning the permanent homelessness of the Local, recommended to the Local that the committee be constituted as a Building Committee, to open a subscription list to secure funds for building or buying a place of suitable size and convenience, that could be counted on as permanent. In this connection letters and lists have been drawn up by the committee and some comrades have received copies in outlying districts already.

In accord with the request of the chairman of the committee, we promised to reproduce their letter outlining the matter, as of interest and moment to the general Clarion reader. Now, however, space forbids. These few words will serve, however, to centre attention on the letter, which will appear next issue. In the meantime, a request to P. O. Box 710 will bring information to all who may be interested.

Comrade Lester held a meeting in Edmonton, Alberta, on June 10th, at Meeting Creek, June 13th. From there he has gone to Stettler and Alix. From there he goes to Swallow, thence to Calgary. Then he leaves Calgary June 18, 6.05 p.m., arrives Hanna June 19, 12.10 a.m.; leaves Hanna June 20, 12.10 a.m., arrives Stanmore June 20, 1.06 a.m.; leaves Stanmore June 23, 1.06 a.m., arrives Youngstown June 23, 1.38 a.m.; leaves Youngstown June 25th, 1.38 a.m., arrives Excel June 25th, 2.50 a.m.; leaves Excel July 1, 2.50 a.m., arrives Fiske to remain at Fiske one week.

Arrangements for return to Calgary are delayed until further information is received.

Clarion Mail Bag is held over until next issue.

HERE AND NOW.

Being as short of space as of cash we are at the printer's mercy twice over. As a consequence his demand is for cash on hand. He brightly informs us that copy is not negotiable at the bank—not Clarion copy. Clarion cash would be as good as any other, if we had any. We have earned a reputation for impudence in handing the hungry printer this since last issue:—

Following \$1 each—W. A. Alexander, H. Williams, D. Aloise, C. A. Smith, B. Tamarkin, W. H. Jenkins, C. MacDonald, W. J. Churchill, J. Marshall, F. W. Moore, A. W. Osterberg, W. H. Cottrell, T. Hanwell, J. J. Albers, G. Duffell, J. McKinlay, A. Gardener, Mrs. Griffith.

R. O. Childers, \$2; Wm. Allen, \$2; J. McLennan, \$2; M. Milliken, 25c; A. Jordan, \$1.60; E. Simpson, \$2; N. Z. Communist Party (per G. E. W.), \$6.75; H. Noaks, \$1.50; Frisco Labor College (per J. K.), \$9.60; J. O'Brien (per T. A. L.), \$1; T. A. L., \$2. Clarion subs. from 30th May to 14 June, inclusive—total, \$48.70.

CLARION MAINTENANCE FUND

Following \$1 each—Marshall Erwin, G. D. (per Sid Earp), Mrs. A. Hollingshead, Mr. A. Hollingshead, J. Untinen, R. Burns, E. Price. Following per T. A. L., D. Gibbs, \$1; A. Tree, \$1; T. A. L., \$1—total by T. A. L., \$3; A. Jordan, 40 cents; St. John comrades per M. Goudie, \$9.

Above, C. M. F. receipts from 30th May to 14th June, inclusive—total, \$21.40.

REVOLUTIONS, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL.

BY J. HARRINGTON
Seventh Article

WE have been, so far, discussing the open season on kings and kingdoms, principalities and powers. Europe presented the appearance of an old Aunt Sally show, three balls a penny, with the most blue blooded families at the back of the lot.

Before taking up the revolutionary movement again we had better glance over the constitution and disposition of the European powers. In Central Europe we find a collection of small states, the inhabitants speaking various dialects of Slav and German. These with some parts of Italy had composed the Holy Roman Empire; Austria was by far the strongest and most aggressive and had so far dominated. And so far, religion, language and geographical location had a great influence on social affairs, owing to the feudal conditions which prevailed over much of this country. Italy was striving in a blind fashion for national unity, as were Hungary, Bohemia and Germany.

Outside of France, and to a less degree south Germany and the Rhineland, which had been Gallicised or, if you like it better, Frenchified by the Napoleonic conquests, very little was heard of proletarian demands. Outside of this territory very little machine production prevailed. The inherited traditions, the songs and heroes, were as different on each side of the Danube as either was from the Isle of Skye. Pressburg, the seat of the Magyar assembly, had nothing in common with Vienna, where the German language and traditions prevailed, though separated by but a few miles and the blue Danube. And the Magyars, who sat with such revolutionary vigor at Pressburg, could claim no common traditions and sympathy with the people immediately surrounding them—the Poles, the Croats, the Czechs, the Slavs in short. As the Gaj intimated to Kussuth, the Slav ocean in which the Magyar island was set should not be dispised. To conclude the metaphor, the island did try to subject the ocean. And neither being one or the other, both suffered disaster.

Italy had seized the opportunity offered by Austria's extremity to throw off their foreign yoke, and the Austrians were gradually being driven over the border. We will take up this briefly before going into the Slavonic disaster.

Divided into a dozen different governments, four of which might either force or guide Italy into a national unity, this country had been the classic land of the medieval city. While Mazzini, Garibaldi and Cavour, with all the courage, energy and foresight possible, fought and schemed day and night, the desires of Venice were just as far from their ideals as are those of childhood from manhood. The same might be said of several other sections. Austria ruled down to Venice and Milan; the House of Savoy ruled Sardinia and Piedmont; the Bourbons, Naples and the south; the Papal states lay immediately to the north, while between them and the Austrians were several Duchies. All were resolved on the expulsion of Austria; each had its own ultimate design, while each also had a revolutionary movement of which it was desperately afraid.

The expulsion of the Austrians lent a temporary unity to the native ruling houses and the Pope; but no sooner had the initial successes been made than the different interests set the Italians at each others throats. When the Neapolitan army left to assist against the Austrians an attempt was made to establish a republic, barricades were thrown up and Ferdinand II. (King Bomba as he was to be nicknamed a year later for the bombing of Messina, which bombing, I might add while still in parenthesis, threw Thiers into such a fit of righteous wrath) fled. The attempt was crushed, and the Neapolitan army was recalled. This on the very day, May 15th, that the workers and students of Vienna had demonstrated that reaction would not be tolerated, and the Emperor and his court had fled to the army in Italy.

The peasantry of Austria, having received ma-

terial advantages from the revolution and having so far enjoyed these unchallenged, however strenuously the assault on the towns was maintained, were quite ready to fight the good fight. And fresh Austrian armies soon put the aspiring Italians to flight and thus furnished an occasion for the return to sanity of the revolutionaries. And but a few months later the very students and workers of Vienna were enthusiastic warriors, fighting their country's battles in Venetia and Lombardy. So that when old Radetzky, in command of this army, received orders from the government at Vienna, he could well reply: "These men are not the government of Austria: that is now in my camp; I and my army, we are Austria; and when we shall have beaten the Italians we shall re-conquer the Empire for the Emperor"! The Pope also, who had declared war on Austria, withdrew, as he well might, considering that country was the mainstay of the Church. The King of Sardinia was soon forced to retire, and while Venice and Milan still held out Austria's star was in the ascendant. The Slavonic people, repulsed at Pressburg, at Berlin, at Frankfort, found that the overthrow of autocracy did not mean the supremacy of their nation, did not even mean in a pronounced way equality with the Germans and Magyars.

Meanwhile the Panslavic Congress met at Prague. And notwithstanding the cry of "Slava" while the speeches were being made in the early days of the revolution, when they met together their tongues had developed on such diverse lines that they were unable to understand each other. They could, individually, converse together and get along in a hit or miss fashion, but in a deliberative body, where gesture and grimace can be of very little service and when the flow and fire of speech will not permit constant interruption, and particularly when so many different explanations would be required it was found that some other medium would have to be used. So that, as Marx puts it, the people who were united on but one issue, hatred of Germans and the German language, had to fall back on this hated language as the only one generally understood.

In the south and east the Serbs, Croats and Ulachs demanded national recognition; and however passionately Kussuth might declaim on Freedom, when these peoples made, as an alternative to their demand, the threat to seek satisfaction elsewhere than at Pressburg, he just as passionately exclaimed, "Then the sword must decide." The victory at Vienna and Berlin had evidently released a new crop of despots, whose right to rule was immediately challenged.

Marx's well known hatred of Russia is nowhere more plainly revealed than in his summary of this muddle: "Thus in the studies of a few Slavonic dilettanti of historical science was this ludicrous, this anti-historical movement got up, a movement which intended nothing less than to subjugate the civilized West under the barbarian East, the town under the country; trade, manufacturers, intelligence, under the primitive agriculture of Slavonic Serfs. But behind this ludicrous theory stood the terrible reality of the Russian Empire; that empire which by every movement proclaims the pretention of considering all Europe as the domain of the Slavonic race." Plainly, Marx was in a temper. He has stated elsewhere (The Eastern Question) that since the 1848 revolution "there are in reality but two powers on the continent of Europe—Russia and Absolutism, the Revolution and Democracy," From which it will be seen that to err is human. All the more so that in his own account of the Revolution some of the most dastardly acts possible were recorded of those who would necessarily be included in his category of trade manufacture and intelligence.

In the First place the revolution had scarce buried its dead when German warriors marched into Poland and smothered the Polish movement in blood and fire. In the second, revolutionary, atheistic France marched into Italy and drove that mighty man of revolt, Garibaldi, out of Rome in the name of God and for the good of the Pope, two years

(Continued on page 7)