

Western Clarion

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Philosophy and Current Events

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THURSDAY.....JANUARY 15, 1920

THE year 1919 will be historic for the catalogue of misfortunes and failures of the statesmen of the capitalist order, but also, in later years viewed in retrospect, it will be seen to have been the year when the anarchy of capitalist tyranny first stamped into the hearts and minds of multitudes an abiding sense of fierce resentment and an understanding that the late catastrophic war was not fought that a new and better order of life should be established. The bitter lesson of the war is coming home now that we see those who were most clamorously insistent on it being prosecuted and waged to "the last man and the last dollar," are those who are now using all their influence and power, not alone to maintain the old evil pre-war condition of things, but in order to do so, they are superimposing upon society a world wide militaristic tyranny worse even than that which existed in Prussia itself.

The beast of militarism is now everywhere, there is no land of refuge from it. And governmental policies are growing more insane and arbitrary, the nearer the capitalist system draws to its inevitable economic bankruptcy. Already, long since, it was without moral justification.

The statesmen of the bourgeois class had promised to fulfil in the year 1919. A new order, a new democracy there was to be for the toiling multitudes as the price of Armageddon. Where is it? Where is that democracy of the glowing phrases? Instead, the people's hopes are blasted. The organizations and movements of the working class are being stamped to earth under the armed heel of jackboot administrations. Everywhere we see hunger and misery and violent repression, prohibitions, mock sedition trials, deportations without trial, and paid spies and procurers thrusting themselves in amongst us in every phase of social activity.

On the North American continent, the organized labor movement is with its back to the wall, facing a concerted move to smash it to impotence. In Canada, by a decision of the courts, its one means of making its strength felt has been declared unconstitutional, and those who have been most bold in voicing its needs and aspirations, are in gaol, or awaiting trial. A secret census has been ordered to be taken of all those holding unorthodox economic and political views, and the military police forces and the soldiery are being re-enforced preparatory to we know not what.

In the United States a reign of terrorism holds sway which would disgrace a Russian Czar. Thousands of foreigners are being deported, and under cover of that, native sons of radical views are thrown into prison.

Duly and constitutionally elected members to State assemblies and to Congress are refused their seats, and so their constituents are disfranchised for their political views. This calls to mind an editorial in a capitalist paper in Eastern Canada, which frankly said, "if the working class think they are going to vote themselves into power they are badly mistaken, because the bourgeoisie are a more military class than they and will fight and probably beat them."

On a par with the United States in France. There, the electoral machinery was thimble-rigged to defeat the radical forces at the last elections when the number of deputies returned to the house bore no relation to the increased number of votes cast against the government. And Ireland, India, Egypt, Korea, Siberia, their peoples are held in subjection to alien rule by the most ruthless exercise of military might.

There are two countries however, where the outlook is brighter. These are Russia and Great Britain. In neither of these countries are the workers waiting for manna to fall from heaven. In great Britain intense educational and organization programs are being carried out. The organization of the working masses and amalgamation of the various groups has proceeded at such a pace and reached such magnitude, that the capitalist class hesitate to use the drastic methods in vogue in Canada and the United States. It is to be regretfully admitted that the workers of Britain, as a whole, have but small knowledge of socialist principles, but their organizations provide a bulwark against the intolerance and tyranny of the ruling class, from behind which working class education may be carried on.

In Russia the Soviet forces continue to win signal victories on every front, and the prospects are that complete victory will soon be won, and the work of regenerating the economic and cultural life of that country be proceeded with at greater speed, when their energies, instead of being used up in the waste of war, will be devoted to the progressive transformation of the remains of the capitalist structure into the body of their Communist organization.

And so, the workers of the world may see, in some countries, their class marching to power and freedom, and in others, writhing under ruthless tyranny. With that best of all lessons provided them, an objective one, is there any doubt that they will profit thereby? In the latter case, it should spur them to resistance; in the former, it should hasten their march.

C. M. O'BRIEN ARRESTED

Among those arrested in the recent arrests of Reds in the land of democracy to the south of us, was Charles M. O'Brien, at one time member of the Alberta Provincial Legislature. Charley was arrested at Rochester, N. Y.

Comrade O'Brien will be remembered in Canada as an organizer and lecturer for the Socialist Party of Canada. For the last several years, he has been active in the movement in the Eastern States. All his old friends in the West will be anxious for Charley's quick release.

PARTY NEWS

AT a special meeting of the Dominion Executive Committee of the Party held Monday, Jan. 5, Comrade Ewen MacLeod was appointed secretary of the committee and editor of the Western Clarion, in place of C. Stephenson and W. Bennett, resigned.

Both Stephenson and Bennett desire to thank all those who have so kindly assisted them during their term of office, in their endeavor to maintain the Party publications at a high standard as mediums of working class education.

Comrade MacLeod is a member of many years standing of Vancouver Local No. 1. Now that he holds those offices we beg that he be given every support. Given that support and a fair field, we are sure that both the Party and its organ, the Western Clarion, will benefit through his incumbency and enter into a new phase of development.

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Old readers of the Western Clarion will be pleased to see the familiar name at the head of the Party organ. Fourteen months ago it was suppressed by order of the government, but under the recent order lifting the censorship on banned publications, we are allowed to publish it again with the mailing privileges as a fortnightly restored.

When the Clarion was banned, and after several attempts to get the ban lifted had failed, the Red Flag was issued. This name was, under pressure, later changed to the Indicator, which we have continued to publish as a weekly to this date. Because it was not permissible to use the Clarion mailing list for the other publications, we were unable to fulfil the obligations to the subscribers of the Clarion, but now that we have resumed publication of it, we shall attempt to the best of our ability to do so. Many of the subscribers will have left their old addresses, and, should they become aware that the Clarion is being issued again, we request them to forward their new addresses so that they may receive it. Our chief difficulty, however, is a financial one. The fulfilling of this obligation means that we must send out many thousand copies each issue without any present funds coming in, the funds for the unfulfilled subscriptions to the Clarion having been eaten up in carrying the "Red Flag" and the "Indicator," which were comparatively expensive publications, laboring as they did under the disadvantage of limited circulation and high mailing and express rates, and the increasing prices of production. The strain to carry out our obligations threatens to break us financially, or at any rate, to very seriously curtail our activities for working class education in the principles of scientific socialism. To assist us to carry on, unimpeded by this burden, we request all those Clarion subscribers who can, to cancel our obligation and renew their subscriptions. In addition, in order that we may even carry on with renewed vigor, we also ask them to obtain new subscriptions for us.

The Clarion has a clear field in Canada as an exponent of Scientific Socialism. In view of this, we are convinced that if a united and persistent effort is made by our readers, that the Clarion circulation will increase by

thousands in a short time. We think it needless to dwell on the necessity for intense educational activity among the workers, our readers will realize it as much as we do. Therefore, all hands to the ropes.

The Clarion Maintenance Fund will be reopened, and contributions to it, no matter how small, will be welcomed and acknowledged each issue in the initials of the contributors.

As the Clarion is registered as a fortnightly we must for the present, issue it as such. Should, however, our hopes of an increased circulation be realised, it may be decided to issue it weekly, or if not that then its size may be increased. The "Indicator" is now discontinued.

RAILWAYMEN'S PROBLEMS IN GREAT BRITAIN

According to latest press reports it appears certain the government proposals for settlement of the employees claims will be rejected by the delegates. Whether this will result in a strike is not certain. It may be decided to waive this and instead cooperate with the miners later to enforce nationalization of mines and means of transportation.

SOVIET ARMIES MAKING GAINS

LONDON, Jan. 8.—The situation in Russia is about as bad as could be from an anti-Bolsheviki point of view, according to British war office reports, and there are few signs indicating any likely improvement. There are two especially menacing developments. In the first place, General Denikine's army has been cut in two through the Bolsheviki push to the Sea of Azov at Tanganrod and its flanks have been thrust back, leaving a large gap. In addition there comes a claim from the Bolsheviki of the capture further east of the town of Krasnovodsk, on the Caspian Sea, and while this is not confirmed, it is generally accepted as true.

Baku Endangered

Baku with its important oil supplies on the western coast of the Caspian seems likely also to fall into Bolshevik hands and its occupation would provide a base for further operations against the rear of Denikine's hard-pressed right wing.

—Vancouver Province.

OUR LITERATURE

The Communist Manifesto, at the rate of \$8 per 100. Single copies, 10 cents.

Wage, Labor and Capital, \$8 per 100. Single copies, 10 cents.

The Present Economic System, by Professor W. A. Bongor, \$6 per 100. Single copies, 10 cents.

Evolution of the "Idea of God," by Grant Allen, 45 cents by post.

Capitalist Production, being the first nine chapters of Vol. I., Marx's Capital. Single copies, paper cover, 50 cents; cloth bound, \$1.00.

Socialism, Utopian and Scientific, \$13 per 100. Single copies, 15 cents.

Postage Paid.

Make all Money Orders payable to C. Stephenson, 401 Pender Street