

# Western Clarion

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VANCOUVER, B. C., FEBRUARY 15, 1921

## RUMORS OF WAR

WHILE the worried wise men of the entente countries are adding up the columns of Germany's war reparations indebtedness, and generously and quite safely extending the time of full payment of 55 billion dollars over a period of 40 years, with an additional charge imposed upon German exports in the meantime amounting to 12 1/2 per cent, the economic undercurrent in the affairs of nations is carrying them on one and all to a swift settlement whether they will it or not.

So constantly has the Socialist educator laid down the economic factor as the basic foundation by which the actions of men are regulated, so persistent has been his "materialistic" propaganda in his explanations of world events that, following upon the recent world war there has been produced such a collection of writings, essays, books and pamphlets showing the economic causes of war that people are now beginning to see the true guiding principle of their own actions past and present.

It is not disputed nowadays that economic rivalry between Britain and Germany was the undercurrent of the great war. Economic rivalry is the forerunner of military rivalry and already, after the great conflict has been fought which had been heralded as the last possible war, there is widely advertised an international competition for naval supremacy among the nations. If other signs were wanting, this is a sure indication that the economic supremacy or expansion of one nation or group is threatened by another.

While these war clouds threaten the peace of the capitalist nations, and while they are reckoning their mutual worries in terms of cash, the workers of the several capitalist countries are in a state of starvation. Already since the armistice they have produced a superabundance of commodities, and while their masters haggle over their accounting (the workers hungrily await their pleasure.

Already the workers of Russia have thrown down the challenge to the world of capitalism. The attention of the world's workers is riveted upon that country. It has resisted the combined might of capital to crush its existence as a workers' republic. The confidence of the workers in capitalism has gone. Their present circumstances, brought on so soon after "the war to end war," and their experiences during the past several years, should help them to realize that if war is the only way-out of present trouble, which is their masters', their interests lie with one another against the interests of their masters; their interests are class interests. The dividing line showing the economic antagonism that separates them from their enemy is that between themselves as producers and the capitalist class as owners.

Their war is the class war.

## SECRETARIAL NOTES

On January 3rd, Calgary Local came to life again. Before its resuscitation, educational classes had been in progress and the result is reorganization and redoubled efforts. Calgary comrades will do well to note the dates of classes and business meetings as shown in another column in this issue. Join in and help to develop interest in the spread of education among your fellows. So too with Fort William, Ontario. That district is in need of help from comrades who are able and willing to help in educational work. Classes there have not long since been

formed, and the helpers are few. Go to the meeting place and lend your support. It is needed.

Some astonishment has been expressed by "Liberator" subscribers. The January issue of that journal contained advertisements of three books: "The State and Revolution" (Lenin), "The Proletarian Revolution" (Lenin), and "Memoirs of an Anarchist" (Alexander Berkman). The advertisements were stamped out under an inky black smudge. The U. S. censor is still a busy man. We are able to state that the United States authorities will not allow these books to be advertised for sale.

Alberta and Saskatchewan comrades should take note that the secretary of the P. E. C. is Comrade A. B. Shaaf, 10016-93 St., Edmonton, Alberta. All communications relating to the formation of locals should be addressed there.

Comrade Frank Cassidy is somewhere in Alberta. Communications for him should be addressed to A. B. Shaaf, address as above.

Writing from Sheffield, England, Comrade Chas. Lestor reports his intention to return to Canada in the spring. No date is certain, but it is hoped that he will be able to address meetings on his way from coast to coast. Already, arrangements are under way to this end, commencing at New Brunswick, where he will address a series of meetings covering Maritime points.

Reports are to the effect that the discussion concerning Third International affiliation is proceeding and arousing considerable interest and serious attention in the various locals. We publish three articles in this issue, two for affiliation and one against. Indications are that other manuscripts are in course of preparation or consideration. We hope to receive as many articles as possible on this question, and each issue of the paper need not be confined to the publication of but one article. The discussion of the question goes to show the possibilities of this matter as a means to the outlining of Party purposes, principles and tactics, and has already demonstrated the wisdom shown in the policy pursued in calling for discussion previous to referendum.

We publish in this issue correspondence between the Soviet Russia Medical Relief Committee and L. C. A. Martens, representative of the Soviet Republic in the U. S. A., recently deported. The correspondence summarizes the amounts received in New York up to January 22nd, 1921, which total in cash approximately \$58,000. Total shipments of medical supplies already consigned to Soviet Russia approximate \$74,000, leaving a balance still to be collected of \$22,000. This explains the statement made by Isaac McBride here to the effect that supplies to the value of the amount collected during his tour in Canada had already been despatched, paid for by the moneys collected in Canada through his tour. Evidently the supplies had already been sent.

We have lent our consistent support to efforts of the Soviet Russia Medical Relief Committee since they first communicated with us, and in our own quiet way we have sent through the S. P. of C. some four or five hundred dollars, collected at various times, for medical relief supplies to be sent to Russia. In our efforts at helping the committee we have from time to time offered suggestions, and also criticism to the betterment of their organization. Some time ago we made some comment upon the appointment of Chas. L. Drake in charge of the Chicago office of the committee. We learn now that Mr. Drake is no longer an official of the committee, but that he is acting, under an organization of his own construction, presumably for purposes of contributing and gathering funds for Soviet medical relief, but without official recognition from the committee and against its wishes.

Our particular desire is to see earnest effort in this worthy cause fostered and encouraged. The support given to it up to date has been almost entirely working-class support. We know that there is always present a danger that a worthy cause, provided it shows the possibility of exploiting the warm sympathies of the workers, will be used as something in the nature of an industry for private purposes, to the ultimate harm and discredit of the cause itself. We are sure the workers of Canada will continue their support of this worthy cause. They have always demonstrated their willingness to help their fellows when called upon. Already they have contributed one-fifth of the total moneys received by the committee, from a population of a relative proportion to the U. S. A. of one-twelfth. We shall be glad to forward moneys that may be sent to us.

It is noteworthy that in Vancouver, while the soldiers' organizations manifested indignation against the measures of proposed relief for the people of China in view of their own impoverished circumstances, not a word of protest has been heard

from them against medical relief for Soviet Russia. We are of the opinion that they took advantage of the circumstances concerning proposed relief for China, not to manifest hostility against the Chinese workers, but to bring their own circumstances strikingly to bear on the public mind. In this they were quite successful. The only hostility manifested against measures of medical relief for Soviet Russia have been manifested by the local press in its silence concerning recent meetings held here for this purpose.

A Local of the S. P. of C. has just been formed at Prince Rupert, B. C., secretary, W. Ridout, Box 833. Comrades in and around Prince Rupert should communicate and help to make cohesive the educational efforts in the northern district.

The number of this issue is 837. If the number on your address label is 838, your subscription expires with next issue. We carry no advertisements and depend upon subs. for continuance. See to it that subs. are renewed and new subs. listed.

## NOTICE TO ORGANIZATIONS

New York,

January 27, 1921.

By action of the Central Soviet Russia Medical Relief Committee in New York City, the Western District office of this committee at 59 E. Van Buren St., Chicago, Ill., with Mr. Charles L. Drake as director, was closed on January 15th, 1921. Mr. Charles L. Drake is no longer connected in any capacity whatever with the Soviet Russia Medical Relief Committee.

The Central Russia Medical Relief Committee desires to establish closer contact with all its local committees in the Western States, to avoid the expense of the now abolished intermediary Western District office, and to put the Soviet Russia Medical Relief work on a more efficient basis through the co-operation of the local committees.

The committee desires all its supporters and sympathizers to understand that it has no connection whatever with the so-called "American Red Star League," organized by Charles L. Drake and others. It emphasizes this because the headquarters of this League will probably be located at the same address where the Western District office of the Soviet Russia Medical Relief Committee was previously housed.

The name of the "Red Star League" may mislead some of our supporters to the advantage of the League's enterprise which is entirely foreign to us and to the Soviet Russia Medical Relief work.

The attention of our committee has been called to the fact that rumors are being spread in the Western States and Canada, about the discontinuation of the Soviet Russia Medical Relief Committee's work, and about the substitution of our work by that of some other organization. We are informed that Charles L. Drake is boosting his League, presumably as an organization authorized or recommended by the recently deported representative of Soviet Russia, L. Martens.

This is a plain misrepresentation. The Soviet Russia Medical Relief Committee is the only organization which has the endorsement of the Soviet Russia official representative, Mr. L. Martens, who renewed this endorsement in the most emphatic terms on the eve of his departure from this country.

We urge all the local committees and other organizations interested in the Medical Relief of Soviet Russia to continue their work, and to communicate with, and send all contributions direct to the Soviet Russia Medical Relief Committee, Room 506, 110 West 40th Street, New York City.

Soviet Russia Medical Relief Committee.

## CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE SOVIET RUSSIA MEDICAL RELIEF COMMITTEE AND L. C. A. K. MARTENS, RUSSIAN SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE IN THE U. S.

Soviet Russia Medical Relief Committee  
New York.

January 22, 1921.

L. C. A. K. Martens, Representative of the Russian Soviet Republic in the United States, New York City.

Dear Comrade,—Before your forced departure

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