

The Clarion Mail Bag

BY SID EARP.

LETTERS received up to date give much encouragement to the task of replacing with a true understanding, the obsolete and confused opinions now held by the great mass of the people in regard to the present social order. The inevitable decline of Capitalism will intensify and aggravate the problems now facing the wage workers to an intolerable degree. In the presentation of new ideas in line with the social development of today is to be found the only policy worthy of support by progressive minded men. By that alone can the regeneration of society be accomplished.

Writing from St. John, New Brunswick, Com. M. Goudie states that "prosperity" in that city is still around the corner and seems like remaining there. He expresses wonder as to "what are we coming to," and encloses an order for literature along with \$12.00 for the "Clarion." Also asks after Frank Cassidy. If the attitude of the comrades in St. John is any criterion of working class intelligence, we are certainly coming to happier days. A good bunch!

Com. Chas. Woolings sends a nice letter from Georgetown, Ont., with notice of change in his address. From Elmira, Ont., Com. H. Schwartz sends word that unemployment is growing apace in that district and comments upon the activities of the working class movement there. Encloses two dollars for the "Clarion." Com. Geo. Schott writes from Beechy, Sask., asking for some pamphlets suitable for beginners and enclosing six dollars for "Clarion" subs. Com. H. Melba sends word from Horse Butte, Sask., that the farmers are having quite a struggle to exist at all in that area, although crops have been good. He encloses a sub. From Riverhurst, Sask., Com. W. K. Bryce sends a sub. From Regina Com. G. Alley sends two subs. and two renewals for the "Clarion."

Com. M. Dase writes from Pincher Creek, Alta., asking for Paine's "Age of Reason," and enclosing two dollars for renewal of "Clarion" subscription.

Writing from Seal, Alta., Com. H. Hanson refers to Lestor's visit there, and expresses appreciation of the good work done by the Party. Also encloses four subs. to the "Clarion."

Com. Lestor sends word from Medicine Hat regarding the good meetings he has had there, and at Calgary. He is receiving much encouragement on his tour, and is being treated well wherever he goes. Writing from Seal, Com. Lestor states that the farmers make very appreciative audiences and often keep the meetings going for three or four hours. He will send a full report of his tour when he arrives in Winnipeg.

Com. J. Albers writes from Meeting Creek, Alta., enclosing a dollar sub. and a dollar for the Maintenance Fund. Com. H. Ross sends a sub. from Wiste, and likewise G. W. Lobi from Erskine, Alta.

Writing from Stanmore, Com. G. Donaldson states that Lestor has visited there, and gave three very fine lectures. Encloses two subs. for the "Clarion" and hopes that they will be able to brighten up the movement in that district this winter.

Com. Tom Roberts sends a \$6 order for literature from Sandon, B.C., and comments upon the movement there. The spreading of sound literature among the workers is of first importance as a form of propaganda, and our best wishes go to Com. Roberts for the work he is doing.

An order for H. G. Wells' "Outline of History" comes from Com. J. Gray, Renata, B.C., also a donation to the Maintenance Fund.

From Spences Bridge, B.C., Com. E. J. Martel writes a nice letter, enclosing a sub. to the "Clarion" and referring to the loss sustained by the Party in the death of Com. Teit. A brief pithy letter comes from Com. J. E. Palmer containing \$5 for a sub., literature order and donation to the Maintenance Fund. Good work in a "hard boiled" sump.

Two "Clarion" subs. come from Lund, B.C. Com. J. Randall sends in a sub. also a dollar for the Maintenance Fund. Writing from East Wellington, Com.

J. Cartwright sends three dollars for the "Clarion" and says it is almost as hard as getting the full product of your toil under the capitalist system. He also asks that one of the "Clarion" writers deal with the idea of a natural evolutionary development towards Socialism, and the lack of activity in the revolutionary movement on this account. Com. Cartwright is of the opinion that we shall only get what we want, when we know enough to go after it. Which sounds workmanlike anyway.

Com. J. A. McDonald writes from San Francisco enclosing two subs. to the "Clarion" and giving a short sketch of the working class movement in that city. A very welcome letter also comes from Frank Cassidy, who is in Frisco at present. He sends warmest regards to all Vancouver comrades.

Two subs. come from Com. Frank Williams, Des Moines. A letter from Marius Hansome, graduate student at Columbia University, New York, has been received, favorably commenting upon Com. F. McNey's recent articles upon the I. W. W. pamphlets. The writer asks the assistance of the "Clarion" in his study of the workers' educational movement throughout the world, also desires to be put in touch with labor colleges and study groups in Canada. Com. McNey's review was especially appreciated for the keenness of point of view and insight.

Bishop Brown of Galion, Ohio, writes to inform us that another edition of his pamphlet "Communism and Christianity" (twenty-five thousand copies) is now ready for sale. He offers the Clarion Maintenance Fund, all the copies we can sell, free and carriage prepaid. He is also donating all receipts from the sale of this book towards aiding the comrades in Russia.

A letter from Francis Johnson, of the Independent Labor Party, London, England, has been received, in which comment is made regarding the success of that party in the recent British elections.

A request for one copy of the S. P. of C. Manifesto comes from A. L. Myerson, Manchester, England. He expresses appreciation of the "Clarion," and comments upon the Socialist Party of Great Britain, of which he is an expelled member on account of his attitude on the Class Struggle. He holds that it is a struggle for political supremacy. An order for "Clarions" and "Economic Causes of War" (Leckie) comes from Melbourne, Australia.

A kindly letter of appreciation and encouragement is received from Dr. W. J. Curry, Vancouver, enclosing five dollars "to assist in printing the paper I have been reading over twenty years." He refers to the weakness of the Labor movement in Vancouver, and comments favorably upon the quality and style of the articles appearing in the "Clarion" of late, particularly so, "The Moscow Trial," which he thinks should be read and studied carefully. The idea of "relativity," and the fact that the master class interests determine the social psychology seem to him the beginning of wisdom, rather than "the fear of the lord," as we have been taught.

This concludes the "Mail Bag" up to 9th December, and we now await with keen anticipation the coming of the New Year. The question in our mind is shared by every class conscious worker, "what will it bring to the working class?" To us the future is bright with promise, but whatever comes, let us be prepared to play a worthy part.

SECRETARIAL NOTES.

REPORTS of Lestor's tour of Alberta are all to the good and indicate considerable activity and interest. The letters from the various districts visited, or from some of them, are too lengthy to reproduce altogether, so we present a summary of the contents:

Comrade Donaldson, secretary Local Stanmore, Alta., reports that Com. Lestor delivered three lectures in two days in and around Stanmore, and that the farmer's position was the subject dealt with, all listeners being interested and appreciative.

Comrade Mrs. Hughes, secretary Local Youngstown, reports Lestor's "A1" lectures at Creslow, Rainbow and Social. Local Youngstown, it is hoped, will benefit by a reorganization in the new year.

Com. W. P. Roberts, secretary Local Hanna, reports Lestor's activities while in that—as he calls it—"somnolent burg." Twelve miles south of Hanna, the first meeting was held at Olive school house: fair attendance; subject—Bankrupt Europe. Many questions and a live interest throughout. Meeting at local theatre: subject—Lloyd George down—Is he out? It was suggested by a local man of the U. F. A. that he would like to have Lestor address a convention of that organization. We suppose, whatever the U. F. A. may think of it, that Lestor would be glad to do that.

Comrade H. H. Hanson, secretary Local Equity, reports four meetings: Excel, Lawndale, McConnell and Sedalia. It is an evidence of the attention the meetings attracted that the last meetings drew bigger attendance than the first. Com. Hanson's report records appreciation of Lestor's forcefulness, simplicity of language and vivid illustrations, all of which, with the excellence of the subject matter, had good effect on the audiences. This report concludes: "We feel that Com. Lestor did good work when here and hope for his early return, if his health will permit him to travel this windy, driedout, bald-headed desert, where the slaves exist on hopes that are always a year hence."

Com. MacPherson, sec. of Local Wimborne, reports fair attendance at a meeting in Trochu. Trochu, as he says, was named after a nephew of Gen. Trochu of Paris Commune renown. Com. MacPherson was arrested in Trochu in 1918. His historical prejudices are maintained in healthy condition by personal experience. Next meeting was at Collingwood. Subject, "The Great World Unrest." Meeting lasted several hours. Many questions and much discussion, which is still going on. Next meeting Aberdeen, where some of the listeners who were interested had never heard such a point of view presented before. In spite of the many calls for a longer stay Lestor had to move on to Carbon, a coal mining area. And at Swalwell, Com. Beagrie had a meeting all set up when he arrived there. In between periods while crossing and re-crossing Calgary, Lestor has had good meetings there.

Lestor Speaks at

Fiske, Sask., Dec. 15th (evening)
McGee, Sask., Dec. 16th (evening)
Fiske, Sask., Dec. 17th (afternoon)
Anglia, Sask., Dec. 18th (evening)

He is due to arrive in Saskatoon on Dec. 21st, and may be able to have meetings in Sovereign and Mildred between 18th and 21st Dec. Comrade Ronald will arrange meetings in Fiske and vicinity.

It looks as if the Winnipeg boys will have to keep on waiting until Lestor arrives. He was supposed to have been there on Dec. 1st. The foregoing briefly outlines the manner of his loitering on the way.

Local (Vancouver) No. 1.

The election of officers, Local and D.E.C., will be held on 19th Dec. All members are requested to attend.

Socialist Party of Canada PROPAGANDA MEETINGS

STAR THEATRE, 300 Block, Main Street

SUNDAY, Dec. 17th.

Speakers: W. McQuoid and C. Stephenson.

SUNDAY, Dec. 24th

Speaker: W. A. Pritchard.

All meetings at 8 p.m.

Meeting at New Westminster, B. C. in Edison Theatre.

SUNDAY, Dec. 17th, 3 p.m.

Speaker: Robt. Kirk.

MEETINGS EVERY SUNDAY.

Questions. Discussion.