

The Clarion Mail Bag

BY SID EARP.

CORRESPONDENCE received since last issue though smaller than usual, is of considerable interest.

The most interesting letter from Eastern Canada comes from Com. R. Inglis, Fort William. It contains suggestions for a reorganization of the Party, and submits the slogan of "Sacrifice, Discipline, Action." Comrade Inglis is of the opinion that many class conscious workers throughout the country who are now apathetic towards the revolutionary movement, would be up and doing if a few travelling propagandists could be kept going. He considers that there are at least two hundred rebels in Canada who might be got to pledge financial support to this much needed work. The district in which he lives is rotten ripe for the propaganda of Scientific Socialism, and he pleads for a policy of action at once.

This is the letter of a true rebel and an enclosure of ten dollars evidences the good faith of the writer. We shall welcome further comment along these lines from the movement at large, for indeed, the matter is of paramount importance to the working class of Canada. Com. Charles Lestor is leaving Vancouver this week on a propaganda tour, but it will be confined to points west of Winnipeg until Christmas time. We imagine Com. Lestor would willingly take advantage of an opportunity to get acquainted with the movement in the fertile districts of Eastern Canada. How about it, Reds?

Two letters have been received from Winnipeg, one from Alex Shepherd who encloses three subs. for the Clarion and comments upon the Labor movement in that city. The other letter is from Charles Stewart who expresses irritation at our previous remarks regarding Winnipeg as a future revolutionary centre. We suggest a further reading of our statement on this matter and some reflection. Com. Stewart is enthusiastic about the movement in Winnipeg and so are we. In the clash of opinions now prevailing there, much good will emerge; of that there is no possible doubt. Com Stewart also states that the consensus of opinion among the boys in Winnipeg regarding the articles on "Ourselves and Parliament," is that they are anything but clear; particularly disappointing being, the first contribution of J. A. McDonald. In so far as clarity of expression and an incisive style, Com. Stewart refers to the "Socialist Standard," as a shining example. His letter also contains some humorous and philosophical comment upon the literary and verbal debates with which the workers of Winnipeg are being entertained. In fairness to those who have contributed to the question of "Ourselves and Parliament," we think that specific objections clearly set forth by those in disagreement, would be more in order than the vague references to lack of clarity, disappointment, etc.

Com. R. Burns of the Calgary Local sends word of their activities and the handicaps under which they labor. They hold outdoor propaganda meetings every Sunday with good results, and in which new speakers are taking part. Stay with it, Calgary! G. Elliot sends a sub for the Clarion, from Delburne, Alta.

From Demaine, Sask., comes a sub from H. Vindog who implores us to keep kicking. We will! Writing from Mildred, Sask., Nels Sorlie encloses three dollars for sub. and Maintenance Fund and hopes for the success of the movement. Two subs come from Chas. Johnson, Chase, B. C. Com. Andrews sends notice of change of address from Vernon, B. C. He is hunting for a master at present, and if he doesn't find one soon, says he will have to dig roots for soup.

Com. J. Cartwright sends in two subs from East Wellington, Vancouver Island. He says the system is getting top heavy and wants to know what is to take its place. The answer to which is enshrouded in the mists of futurity. Com. W. Raport writes

briefly from Petaluma, Calif., enclosing a sub with a promise of more to follow. From Puyallup, Washington comes a sub and an order for literature. An order for literature also comes from Magnolia Beach Washington.

A renewal of sub to Clarion comes from Cleveland, Ohio. A bright letter wishing success to the good work and enclosing a sub was received from Com. Antijuntti, Houston, Texas. W. Mitchell writes from Ithaca, New York, enclosing one dollar for the Clarion and sending regards to Frank Williams and Peter Leckie. A letter was received from Bishop Brown of Galion, Ohio, enclosing a copy of his reply to the House of Bishops of the Protestant Episcopal Church regarding his publication "Communism and Christianity."

A remarkable letter comes from W. J. McGibbon, Juneau, Alaska, commenting at considerable length upon the article "A Corporation with a Soul," which recently appeared in the Clarion. The writer of the article is urged to "get wisdom," also to "do a little more thinking before judging." The letter sets forth the opinion of the writer upon the forms of vice in ethical principle, too much sentiment and too much reason, and closes with an appeal for common sense. The writer also says that his letter would stand revising. We agree with him in this.

A long and interesting letter comes from Com. E. Staples, Davenport, Auckland, N. Z. He refers to the affairs of the New Zealand Communist Party in Auckland and expresses much disappointment at the failure of Jack McDonald in not speaking in that district where his efforts would have been greatly appreciated. Com. Staples states that Auckland has always been a good field for propaganda, and that any speaker coming that way would not consider the time spent in it as wasted. He sends best wishes to all Vancouver comrades.

The workers of today have not an atom of claim upon the wealth they produce. That is sufficiently self-evident to call for no proof. And while they may not be actually compelled to work for any given master, they must work for some master. They are therefore slaves in the proper sense of the word. And, indeed, the conditions of their servitude are in the main more severe than under previous forms of slavery. They are exploited of more wealth—that is to say, the masters obtain from their labor greater returns than did the masters under any other form of slavery.

PLATFORM

Socialist Party of Canada

We, the Socialist Party of Canada affirm our allegiance to, and support of, the principles and programme of the revolutionary working class.

Labor, applied to natural resources, produces all wealth. The present economic system is based upon capitalist ownership of the means of production, consequently, all the products of labor belong to the capitalist class. The capitalist is, therefore, master; the worker a slave.

So long as the capitalist class remains in possession of the reins of government all the powers of the State will be used to protect and defend its property rights in the means of wealth production and its control of the product of labor.

The capitalist system gives to the capitalist an ever-swelling stream of profits, and to the worker, an ever-increasing measure of misery and degradation.

The interest of the working class lies in setting itself free from capitalist exploitation by the abolition of the wage system, under which this exploitation, at the point of production, is cloaked. To accomplish this necessitates the transformation of capitalist property in the means of wealth production into socially controlled economic forces.

The irrepressible conflict of interest between the capitalist and the worker necessarily expresses itself as a struggle for political supremacy. This is the Class Struggle.

Therefore we call upon all workers to organize under the banner of the Socialist Party of Canada, with the object of conquering the political powers for the purpose of setting up and enforcing the economic programme of the working class, as follows:

- 1—The transformation, as rapidly as possible, of capitalist property in the means of wealth production (natural resources, factories, mills, railroads, etc.) into collective means of production.
- 2—The organization and management of industry by the working class.
- 3—The establishment, as speedily as possible, of production for use instead of production for profit.

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