

## Western Clarion

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and Current Events.

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Editor.....Ewen MacLeod

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VANCOUVER, B. C., MAY 16, 1923.

### WASTING SPACE

W<sup>h</sup> made reference in last issue to some attention (and inattention) the "B. C. Federationist" has given to Com. Harrington's first article of the present series—Revolutions, Political and Social. "Clarion" readers who do not read the "Federationist" will wonder what it is all about, and those who do will wonder what we have further to say.

The "Federationist" of March 23rd contained an article supposedly criticising Harrington's first article above referred to. The point of criticism hinged upon the supposition that Harrington described the Russian revolution as merely a humorous incident in history. A few words from the article are quoted. The full sentence is carefully avoided by stating that Harrington said of the Russian revolution that it "marks one of the most humorous episodes in history." The words we have printed in black type comprise what our critic would slough off as a quotation. Thereupon follows something of a bilious attack stretching over three columns.

This is what Harrington did say (see "Clarion, 1st February) of the Russian revolution in the sentence from which those nine black type words are set up by our critic as a "quotation":—

**"Aside from its historical significance, which cannot be overestimated, and the unbearable suffering endured by the Russians themselves, it marks one of the most humorous episodes in history."**

Thereupon the article finds humor in just such practices among queer minded communists as our critic resorts to, and proceeds to outline the course of Revolutions, Political and Social. From which it will be seen that up-to-date criticism from the pseudo communist school simply means misrepresentation. If we know him aright, the critic, Comrade Bennett, is very well aware of that himself. Even then the labor of his misrepresentation covered the period from February 1st to March 23rd.

In a subsequent issue of the "Federationist" there appeared a letter to the editor over Harrington's signature pointing attention to the critics shortcomings, and apparently that letter was misunderstood, for in the issue following, one Billsack asked "What in hell it was all about," whereupon the "Federationist" editor in a footnote condoned the original misrepresentation by a sneer, preferring, as he put it, to let time determine whether the Russian revolution was a farce or not. How soon is forgotten the villany of Metcalf, Andrews & Co., in manipulating documents to their own purposes!

At this point we introduce the following:—

22/4/23.

Editor, Western Clarion:

The enclosed letter, which is self explanatory, was sent to the B. C. Federationist on March 17th, but has not been published. I am hoping that you may grant me the space to publish same.

JACK KAVANAGH.

\* \* \*

16/4/23.

Editor, B. C. Federationist:

Fully realizing that butting into a discussion in which I have previously had no part is to court disaster, I am led into undertaking this risk as a result of reading—in the last issue of the Federationist—the profession of density on the part of E. Billsack, together with the avowed inability, of the Editor, to solve the obvious, E. Billsack

is apparently? perturbed over the meaning of a half column article over the signature of Jack Harrington.

Now I do not profess the ability to unravel everything Harrington may say or write, but possessing some little knowledge of the subject under discussion I will attempt to enlighten Mr. Billsack as to the meaning of at least one paragraph in the article in question.

If Billsack will take the trouble to read—if he has not already done so—the Hysterical article—Pardon me!—the article on Hysterical Materialism, which appeared in the issue of March 22nd, he will discover one of the factors contributory to what Harrington, describes as a humorous episode. Humor being akin to tragedy.

Mayhap it is the allusion, in the last paragraph, to the Pope's soldiers and the use of the "Dialectic" which confuses Mr. Billsack.

I will attempt to explain the obvious. If the Pope's soldiers had possessed the "Dialectic" displayed by some members of the "Workers Party," it could not be said that they ever ran away. They were simply running around the earth in order to attack the enemy in the rear. In exactly the same manner that some members of the Workers' Party gave the control of the Federationist into the hands of the reactionaries under the guise of tactics, and have camouflaged the morass of opportunism into which they have sunk with the cloak of an United Front.

Yours for Revolutionary honesty,  
JACK KAVANAGH.

\* \* \*

We suppose the reason the "Federationist" did not print that was because they were not yet ready for a second chapter of "The Parting of the Ways." This, of course, is just another sample of that irritating humor which consumes most seriously minded people, and we know we really should not digress so or we'll have Billsack in still more perplexity.

Next we have a second letter sent by Com. Harrington to the "Federationist." This is the one we had reference to in the "Clarion" of last issue. In it Harrington says that what appeared above his name in the letter Billsack was worried about was not what he wrote. The business of dragging Russia into every backyard wrangle hereabouts lent a farcical character to Russian advocates, it stated.

The letter was published in the "Federationist" of May 4th, and in a footnote the editor explained that any errors in the printed letter complained of were but printer's errors. In the same footnote the statement is made that "the 'Clarion' wishes the 'Federationist' to explain why Comrade Harrington's letter was not published." That has reference to our brief note in last issue. The "Federationist" people are apparently unable to understand what they read. They show it in what they write. What we said was this: "As it so happens a letter was sent to the 'Federationist' by J. Harrington on the 23rd April, no indication of which appears in the 'Federationist' of the 27th." In our own editorial innocence we had supposed that an editor, challenged on documentary reproduction in the time of controversy, would have a footnote to spare indicating that an investigation was under way.

So all this space is used up and all these explanations are called forth through the "Federationist" starting something it could not decently finish. **Moral:** See that your quotations and comment are sound and fair, and thus save our good space. And **Question:** How else is a labor paper supposed to function anyway?

### HERE AND NOW

It is customary with the ordinary ruck of journals that with springtime on hand the subscription list drops away out of sight. There is comfort for us in that, in a way. Being in the forefront in all things, we are ahead of the commonalty of journals in that our sub. list dropped some time ago. If our readers were as perverse as they should be they might, if only to be opposite, send the Clarion sub. list away up again, spring or no spring.

We hear that there is a threat of more work coming among us again. Already the air rivetter disturbs the ear at our back door, and, as the corner really man has it—every stroke means a dollar to Slabtown. Even the slaves are smiling. Such a time is the time to dig for subs.

You read the Clarion because you find in it something worth while. Good! Now go and share

the pleasure with the fellow next door; but be sure to get his dollar. That will list him as a Clarion subscriber. Here are the faithful:

Following \$1 each: Parry and Sim; A. P. McCabe, F. W. Moore, W. J. Penhale, A. J. Beeny, H. Oppikoper, C. Crook, F. Aitken, J. Dennis, A. McKenzie, S. Lowery, E. Burke, R. Gooding, K. MacLeod, A. Larsen, Geo. Rossiter, A. R. Pearson, "Geordie."

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Above, Clarion subscriptions from 27th April to 10th May, inclusive, total \$39.50.

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Above, Clarion Maintenance Fund receipts from 27th April to 10 May, inclusive, total \$25.76.

Editor Clarion:  
Comrade:

A Secularist Society has been recently organised in this city.

As elsewhere the special object of this is, to study religion in the light of Science and materialistic philosophy.

The readers of the Clarion are invited to attend, and assist in this work.

Next meeting on Thursday May 17th, at 8 p.m.  
363 Pender St. West, Vancouver, B. C.

W. J. CURRY.

### TRADE AND THE FUTURE OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

(Continued from page 1)

ping is continually in conflict with the shipping capitalists of Great Britain, while in Canada repeated attempts have been made to obtain a preferential tariff in favor of U. S. A.

It would appear, therefore, that both the premises we postulated at the commencement of this article as necessary for the theory of the self-sufficiency of the British Empire as an economic unit, are daily becoming more impossible of fulfilment. None of the figures we have given show that the possessions of Great Britain are approaching the day when they can supply Britain with her raw materials or absorb her finished products.

The outlook therefore of those leaders who in the past have supported the imperialist policy will become increasingly difficult to reconcile with the class interests of the workers. They will be faced with the necessity of supporting a policy which obviously can only mean more unemployment, lower wages and increasing misery for the workers, or of making a clean break with the past, otherwise they perish.

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