

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^h made reference in last issue to some at-
tention (and inattention) the "B. C. Feder-
ationist" has given to Com. Harrington's
first article of the present series—Revolutions, Pol-
itical 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 arti-
cle above referred to. The point of criticism hing-
ed upon the supposition that Harrington described
the Russian revolution as merely a humorous incid-
ent in history. A few words from the article are
quoted. The full sentence is carefully avoided by
stating that Harrington said of the Russian revolu-
tion 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 sen-
tence from which those nine black type words are
set up by our critic as a "quotation":—

**"Aside from its historical significance, which can-
not 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 Harring-
ton's signature pointing attention to the critics
shortcomings, and apparently that letter was mis-
understood, 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 Rus-
sian revolution was a farce or not. How soon is for-
gotten 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 den-
sity 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 col-
umn 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 con-
fuses 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 ex-
actly the same manner that some members of the Work-
ers' 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 irritat-
ing 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. Har-
rington 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 drag-
ging Russia into every backyard wrangle here-
abouts 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 Harring-
ton's letter was not published." That has refer-
ence to our brief note in last issue. The "Federation-
ist" 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 edito-
rial innocence we had supposed that an editor, chal-
lenged on documentary reproduction in the time of
controversy, would have a footnote to spare indicat-
ing that an investigation was under way.

So all this space is used up and all these explan-
ations 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 jour-
nals 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 com-
ing among us again. Already the air rivetter dis-
turb the ear at our back door, and, as the corner
realty 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. Mc-
Cabe, F. W. Moore, W. J. Penhale, A. J. Beeny, H.
Oppikoper, C. Crook, F. Aitken, J. Dennis, A. Mc-
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ker.

H. W. Speed \$3; C. MacDonald \$3; G. Beagrie
\$3; O. Bjune 50 cents.

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 material-
istic 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 cap-
italists 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 pre-
mises we postulated at the commencement of this
article as necessary for the theory of the self-suffic-
iency 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 posses-
sions 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 be-
come increasingly difficult to reconcile with the
class interests of the workers. They will be faced
with the necessity of supporting a policy which ob-
viously 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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