

Western Clarion

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VANCOUVER, B. C., FEBRUARY 1, 1921

UNREST

REPORTS from all sections of the capitalized world today demonstrate unsettled conditions in towns, provinces and individual countries. Unemployment, as an item of news from all parts is, if not actually a headliner, at least a persistent worrying news item, too prevalent universally to hide from the public eye, and too threatening a fact of present everyday life to direct attention to.

From Great Britain we have reports of the seizure of public buildings by armies of self-disciplined unemployed men. Here and there in the press reports we can discern a gleam of understanding as to their position as wage-workers shown by the unemployed workers themselves. Not so very many years have passed, not more than ten, since the unemployed workers of the Clyde area—now heralded as the cradle of revolt in Britain—marched in procession demanding the "right to work."

The change in the unemployed worker's attitude on the matter of employment as an essential means to his livelihood, his apparent determination to eat and shelter himself "somehow," his indifference to the ethics of authority (irrespective of his respect for its repressive capacity), engender in the appointed rulers of society, in the governmental offices municipal, provincial and federal something akin to panic. It is true that the great mass of the people, employed and unemployed, do not understand the causes underlying the circumstances that test their forbearance and that provoke their miseries, yet they show a tendency everywhere to align themselves together in the hour of need. It is true too that temporarily alleviating circumstances in times of industrial crisis, while tending to relieve distress show also the shallow depth of the general understanding, or even of the general desire to understand. At the same time, workers banded together, wherever they may be and to whatever extent their understanding may reach, if they are determined that they shall have food and shelter whether they work or not, constitute a menace to the State that its officials cannot ignore. They do not ignore it either, but they try, of course, to shift responsibility from one department to another in the machinery of government, civic, provincial and federal. Generally they agree upon a plan of divided responsibility in the matter of expenditures for relief and relief work.

The capitalist era has so conclusively demonstrated time and again, the capacity of the machinery of wealth production in operation to produce more than the avenues and channels of the world's market can consume in the same time, that the proposals put forth to "cure" unemployment, which is the essential outcome of the increased productivity of labor, serve to demonstrate the mental bankruptcy of the politicians, press agents and industrial commissioners.

Stated briefly, the cure-all is more work, according to the official pronouncements. Productive labor has given rise to present circumstances; more work can do no more than intensify the problem. The problem must exist as long as the causes that produce it exist. That should be obvious to the man who is looking for the solution. Many men there are, of course, whose interests lie with those who are the owners of the wealth of society today, who understand the contradictions. It is to their interest to hide the facts and to offset as far as possible all efforts made towards the enlightenment of the workers. In this respect the press hirelings

play the star part. The Socialist, wherever his needs and interests may direct him, and whatever form his activities may take, devotes himself to demonstrating the facts of life to his fellows and to furnishing the groundwork for an understanding of events and the causes that give rise to them. In a world of unrest, in the final culmination of all its problems, that leaven of understanding will make easier the solution.

SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA

Dominion Executive Committee—To S. P. of C. Locals.

This is a report of D. E. C. activities covering the period for six months ending 31st December, 1920. Having a membership of seven, the committee held eleven regular meetings and one special meeting, with an average attendance of 5.9.

During this period the circulation of the "Western Clarion" reached 6,500 at its highest, gradually falling to 4,500. This is caused through the closing down of camps in the mining and lumbering industries mainly, and through the falling off in bundle orders. Individual orders, and single subscriptions, have shown a tendency to increase.

During this period there have been published 5,000 S. P. of C. "Manifesto," and 5,000 "Economic Causes of War."

Affiliated locals of the Party total fourteen. B. C., 4; Alberta, 6; Manitoba, 2; Ontario, 2. The total party membership is still unknown, owing to the fact that no local, with the exception of Local (Victoria) No. 2 has complied with sec 5, art. 2, of the Party constitution. This was mentioned in our report for the period ending 30th June, 1920. We have not yet had any response.

An organizer has been maintained in the field for three months between Vancouver and Edmonton during this period, and one for a period of one month in B. C.

In the B. C. Elections, held on the 1st December, we had six candidates in Vancouver, and one in Prince Rupert. The highest vote polled in Vancouver by the highest candidate of any party was 17,156 votes. The highest vote polled by our candidates was 3,134, and the lowest 1,446. The result of the Prince Rupert poll was 676 for the Socialist candidate, the highest vote polled being 1,501, for the government candidate.

In response to a call for a referendum of the Party membership from Local (Winnipeg) No. 3, on the matter of affiliation with the Third International, the committee enquired from various locals as to whether or not they desired that a referendum should be taken. As a result of the information received, the committee decided to take a referendum vote of the Party membership, and to first print the terms of affiliation as laid down in the second congress of the Third International, and to call for discussion, for and against, so that the Party membership may become acquainted with all details in the matter. Locals also, it is hoped, will arrange for discussion among their members.

The following cash statement has been examined and found correct by Comrades Earp and Kavanagh, appointed by Local No. 1 as auditors:—

INCOME	
Main Fund	\$ 204.79
Literature	1129.78
Manitoba Propaganda	38.70
C. M. O'Brien Defence	85.85
Clarion Subs	822.21
Clarion Maintenance Fund	255.80
Clarion Accounts	804.38
Dues Stamps and Supplies	113.25
	\$3504.76
Balance from June	877.45
	\$4382.21
EXPENDITURE.	
Supplies, postage, express, mailing etc.	\$ 262.44
Literature	240.66
Printing, Technical Press, Ltd.	1712.28
Wages	814.00
Manitoba Propaganda	74.22
Bank Account re-charged	30.88
Organizing	468.90
Bird, MacDonald and Co.	5.00
Soviet Medical Relief	17.50
O'Brien Defence	69.85
Socialist Information and Research Bureau ..	35.00
Whitehead Estate	350.00
	\$4982.63
Balance at Bank 31st December	287.33
Cash on hand 31st December	12.25
	\$4382.21

This report is issued under the authority of the D. E. C., Vancouver, B. C., 24th January, 1921.
EWEN MacLeod, Secretary.

FARMER'S LETTER.

That ruminating creature well known to Socialists as the "Prairie Land Slave," is getting quite excited over the future prospects of his kind. The fast declining prices of cereals—owing to over-production—is fairly getting his goat. To add insult to injury, the banks refuse to extend any further credit, only to a favored few who happen to be in better circumstances. Not only is this the case, but the generous loans given to hard working, thrifty and fruitful hayseeds, during the last few years of the so-called prosperity, are being collected with an iron hand.

The financial barons, whose vision of world chaos may not be very penetrating, know very well that there is something wrong, or going to happen. The result of this is inevitable; bankruptcy to many, and general discontent and the advocacy of new stunts and schemes among the rank and file of the farming element.

The W. F. A. W. G. G. combine, are in the midst of a new drive, to the tune of \$6.00 per new member, which sum will entitle him to political and wheat pooling privileges, calculated to free him from all the ills and troubles his bovine flesh is heir to in the "future." No doubt thousands of land slaves will part with their dollars. The stress of economic conditions at this time, makes them easy victims for place hunters, political heelers, and other riff-raff misfits of the bourgeois political creeds.

That slovenly, creeping, compromising, literature known as "Farmers Journals," all over this continent, whose prating over free trade and co-operation, helps to confuse the already hazy outlook of the Lrawny son of toil, their God-fearing, law abiding sentiments, together with the glorious "dogma of toil" has long kept him bound fast with the shackles of slavery. Yes, slavery, for him and his female partner and their offspring. The more of them the merrier for the loan and mortgage companies, and their ilk.

The rural schools with their six months in the year, miseducation of the rising generation of land slaves, with a young slip of girl teacher, who first of all instills plenty of patriotic hum-bug into their plastic young brains, along with meagre doses of perverted history, are paving the way for the continued misery, and dense ignorance of those who toil, that a favored scheming few may live in ease and luxury.

Isolated from all social intercourse, cut adrift from the beautiful things that make life worth living, we cannot expect him to be anything else than what his environment has made him. Old traditions and customs die hard, and the hayseed's ideology belongs to the distant past. It cannot be reconciled with the ramifications of modern capitalism, which is rapidly changing.

The farmers are moving, but they know not the forces that make them move for self-preservation. They won't accept proletariat class knowledge just yet, they are bent on renovating the present system, which is physically impossible. A few years without war to stimulate markets will bring them to a knowledge of their true position in society.

DONALD MACPHERSON.

C. M. O'BRIEN DEFENCE FND

Wait for Precedent in Case of O'Brien

Rochester, N. Y.—It is unlikely, according to District Attorney William F. Love, that Charles M. O'Brien, arrested at the Labor Lyceum on December 8, 1919, on a charge of criminal anarchy, will go to trial until a New York case, similar to that of the Rochester man's is decided in the courts. Mr. Love declared yesterday afternoon that the New York case had a direct bearing on O'Brien's. O'Brien was charged with distributing pamphlets entitled "Pamphlet No. 1, Manifesto and Program Constitution—Report of the Communist Internationale, Communist Party of America, Chicago, Ill.," but it is the contention of the defendant that, although he may have sold the books, he does not necessarily have to believe in the contents of the pamphlet itself. If the New York case is decided in favor of the defendant, it is likely that the Rochester authorities will ask for a dismissal of the indictment against O'Brien, as there would be no use in trying the case in the lower courts, only to have a conviction, if a jury found such, reversed in the higher courts.

Previously acknowledged, \$99.85; P. T. Locdie, \$1.50; T. Carr, \$1; S. Lowery, \$1; total to and inclusive 26th January, \$93.35.