

The Western Clarion

Published every Thursday morning, in the interests of the Working Class Alone, by the

The Western Socialist Publishing Co., Ltd. in Flack Block Basement, Hastings Street, Vancouver, B. C.

E. T. KINGSLEY, Managing Editor.

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Address all communications to

The Western Clarion,
BOX 224,
Vancouver, B. C.



291 Watch the label on your paper. If this number is on it, your subscription expires next issue.

Vancouver, B. C., Dec. 19, 1903.

TAXATION.

The "assessment bill," now before the house at Victoria, is throwing some of the business fraternity into spasms of anguish. They are making dire threats of removing their affairs to other and more congenial localities, where perchance they may pursue their vocations of profit chasing without being called upon to pay anything toward the support of the government. As government exists solely for the purpose of protecting business men in their profit skinning it would seem but reasonable that such should support it. While there is said to be "honor among thieves," the same will not altogether apply to the business world. Instead of each beneficiary of the present system of exploitation manfully bearing his share of the expense incurred in providing protection for the entire band, each one tries to throw such expense on to the shoulders of some one else. If the railways are to be heavily taxed you will hear no squeal from the business men of Vancouver or other places. But the moment some tax is to be levied upon them, slight tho' it may be, a howl goes up to heaven pitiful in the extreme. For the business world, or any part of it, to squeal is to play the baby act. Government is the expression of business, it is now and has been in the past in the hands of business men, and whatever muddle its affairs have been gotten into and whatever measures have been found necessary to straighten matters out, our business world is responsible for, and should assume such responsibility without playing the "baby act." If the increased taxation upon the C. P. R. is like to force the company into bankruptcy, and perhaps to drive its owners to apply to the Salvation Army for relief, let an advance in freight rates be made sufficient to offset it, and thus pass it over to the merchants, who in the same manner can pass it along to their customers.

In this manner it will eventually reach the workingman, who in the opinion of every sane business man, is the party who ought to pay it. In euche language they "pass" and he "takes it up." The limit of poll tax in the province is now \$3.00. As this is levied upon each man, there can be no ground for complaint. All are subject to the same exemptions in regard to household effects and income. The revenue required, above the amount accruing from the poll tax, can only be raised by taxing such property as may be found in excess of exemptions. Those found in possession of such property, under the proposed assessment act, will be forced to contribute to the provincial revenues. If unable to shift the burden on to the shoulders of others, and they should go down in bankruptcy and ruin in consequence, let them go down crying "Vive la taxation." As they believe in and support the present system of property, and as taxation is one of the instruments used by capitalist property to remove from its pathway the individual, or "cockroach" property holder, and absorb his property, in so doing they would, as it were with their dying breath, be manifesting their loyalty to it. A similar display of intelligence was shown a few years since when a German cruiser off the coast of China went down with all on board, officers and crew shouting "hoch der Kaiser."

With his household effects, and wage or salary exempt, and his direct tax limited to the \$3.00 poll tax, the question contains nothing of consequence to the workingman. It resolves itself into a squabble betwixt different factions of property owners.

The workingman may safely take the position of the old woman when her husband and the bear were fighting. She "did not care which whipped."

The duty of an Opposition is to oppose. It is by no means necessary that any valid reason for opposition be given. In regard to this assessment act of the government, the Opposition has nobly did its duty.

BALM.

Some there are who are deeply grieved whenever their preconceived notions are touched by adverse criticism. No matter how well intentioned the criticism, the critic is looked upon as a figid incarnate, a ruthless monster desirous only of inflicting deep and painful wounds from sheer delight at the contortions of his victims as they writhe in agony. Any movement based upon a foundation that is sound, built upon premises scientifically correct can stand all criticism that may be offered and remain undisturbed and unshaken. It is as a "house built upon a rock." The first evidence of the correctness of the criticism of any movement is always furnished by its supporters. The first shot that strikes home throws the whole "caboodle" into a flutter, and by their shriekings and flutterings they proclaim to the world the soundness of the criticism. The mission of the Clarion, as every one knows, is one of peace. Its duty is to nurse the mentally sick and succor the mentally wounded. It has no desire to inflict wounds, and should it do so its readers should understand it to be unintentional.

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Fearing that the feelings, of some reader of its columns, not yet seasoned to the revolutionary struggle, may have been lacerated because of criticism adverse to trade unionism, the following from the columns of the "Chicago Tribune" is offered as a balm to such wounded feelings:—

"The employer sometimes uses harsh words, and not always without cause, about labor unions. He accuses them in angry moments of getting tyrannical. He does not often stop to reflect that they are one of the forces which stand between him and something which would indeed be tyranny. What would the status of the employer be under a Socialist regime? Really, he ought to be thankful that workmen generally believe they can better their condition more effectually through unionism than in any other way. If it were in the power of the employers to obliterate the union idea from the minds of the employees they would not use the power if they stopped to reflect. If there were no unions to claim the allegiance and devotion of workers the preachers of Socialism would make a thousand converts where they now make one. It is gratifying to know that the American Federation of Labor has again repudiated Socialism, which is, as President Gompers said, economically unsound, socially wrong, and industrially an impossibility."

When the sheets of capitalism thus boldly declare the reactionary nature of trade unionism, and pronounce it to be what it in reality is, a bulwark against the socialist movement, it is high time the would-be revolutionist cleared his vision sufficient to see the point, and stiffened his back bone to proclaim it.

Long winded phrases and high sounding words are superfluous. The time to be short on "economic determinism," etc., and long on just plain horse sense, has arrived. If necessary to further save any wounds the Clarion will cheerfully furnish the ointment in quantities to suit.

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Union Directory

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THE VANCOUVER TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL meets first and third Thursday in each month, at 7.30 p.m. President, W. J. Lamrick; vice-president, George Dobbin; secretary, F. J. Russell; financial secretary, J. L. Lillie; treasurer, A. N. Harrington; sergeant-at-arms, J. C. Kerr; statistician, J. H. Perkins; trustees, Messrs. Pound, Cross and Thompson; executive committee, Messrs. George and Gothard.

PHOENIX MINERS' UNION, NO. 3. W. F. M., meets every Saturday evening at 7.30 o'clock in Miners' Hall. A. F. Berry, president; John Riordan, secretary.

VANCOUVER TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION, NO. 223, meets the 4th Monday in each month at Union Hall. President, W. J. McKay; vice-president, S. J. Gothard; secretary, W. H. Hunt, P.O. Box 66; treasurer, John Watkins; sergeant-at-arms, Jas. Webster; executive committee, Peter Kallas, Norman Cleland, Ralph Wilson, A. W. Finbow; delegates to Trades & Labor Council, Robert Todd, George Wilby, Geo. Bartley.

UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS AND JOINERS meet every second and fourth Wednesday in Union Hall, Room 1. President, Geo. Adams; vice-president, J. P. Dubberley; recording secretary, Urban Chaplin, 221 Princess Street; financial secretary, E. J. Moore; treasurer, L. C. De Wolfe; conductor, J. T. Gray; wardens, G. Tingey, delegates to T. & L. Council, Geo. Dobbin, Geo. Adams, A. E. Coffin, L. C. De Wolfe and — Murray; delegates to the Building Trades Council, McMurdo and Murray; alternates, McLean and Walker.

BROTHERHOOD OF PAINTERS AND DECORATORS, Local Union, No. 122. Meets second and fourth Thursday, in Labor Hall. President, E. Holland; vice-president, E. Foster; recording secretary, B. Crabb, 127 Blich avenue, west; financial secretary, A. Gethaus; Howes street; treasurer, H. McElroy.

GREENWOOD MINERS' UNION, No. 22. W. F. M., meets every Saturday evening in Union Hall, H. R. Parsons, President, George F. Dougherty, Sec.-Treas.

PHOENIX TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL. Meets every alternate Monday. John Riordan, President; Edward Brown, Vice-President; P. H. Lacasse, Sergeant-at-arms; W. H. Bambury, Sec.-Treas. P. O. Box 198, Phoenix, B. C.

Socialist Party of B. C.

Headquarters: VANCOUVER, B. C.

Provincial Executive Committee: R. F. Pettipiece, chairman; E. T. Kingsley, organizer; Ernest Burns, treasurer; L. T. English, literary agent; L. H. Norton, John T. Mortimer, Vancouver; E. S. Embree, Greenwood; O. Lee Charlton, Victoria. B. E. MERRILL, secretary, Box 224, Vancouver, B. C.

LOCAL VANCOUVER, S. P. of B. C., No. 1. Business meetings every Wednesday evening at 8 p.m. in Headquarters, Flack Block basement. Educational meetings every Sunday evening in Crystal Theatre. Secretary: John Dabberly, corner Seymour and Davie streets.

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"SOUNDING BRASS."

Once upon a time a celebrated Englishman said, of another equally celebrated, that he was "intoxicated with the exuberance of his own verbosity," and upon another occasion that he was "afflicted with a conglomeration of ideas and a diarrhoea of words." In many instances the full force of meaning intended to be conveyed can scarce be grasped from mere words. Not being as a rule blessed with acute discernment, it oftentimes becomes necessary that actual experience, pictorial representations, maps, diagrams, etc., be brought into requisition in order that we may clearly and completely assimilate a meaning intended to be conveyed through certain words or sentences. Among its other numerous, and more or less worthy achievements it has fallen to the lot of the Liberal party of this province to bring forth, or in other ways acquire possession of a living, breathing, and especially talking combination in the shape of W. W. B. McInnes, the especial purpose of which is evidently to set forth clearly and fully the volume of meaning intended to be conveyed by the quotations above. To listen to this "sounding brass" and "tinkling cymbal," from the floor of the house, or from the public platform, is to be confronted with a panoramic exhibition, including maps, panoramic exhibition, including maps, diagrams, etc., of all the celebrated Englishman meant to say of his adversary. So vividly it portrayed that it is overwhelming. Webster defines versatility as the quality of ready application to new tasks, or to various subjects. This quality Mr. McInnes possesses in no mean degree.

Mr. McInnes is rated as a lawyer, if rumor is to be given credence. It is related that he did once upon a time conduct a case for the city of Nanaimo, but whether such case was given him as a result of political pull, or as an act of charity the records do not show. This seems to be his only offence in that line, however, as there is nothing to show that he ever had another client. To see this briefless barrister assume upon the floor of the House the stage strut of a Stuart Robson, and demand in stentorian tones if "Mr. Hawthornthwaite were a wage-earner," is to see unfolded a wealth of humor, in comparison with which Shakespeare's "Comedy of Errors" would appear as a chapter from the "Connecticut Blue Laws," and when he unsheathes his tongue and shies his caster into the ring, thus issuing his defi to both Socialists and Conservatives, it is an exhibition of heavy work of no light order, alongside of which "Ajax defying the lightning" is made to look like thirty cents.

If even one person took Mr. McInnes as seriously as he takes himself it would be a much more serious matter.

GUARANTEE FUND.

To provide for any deficit that may occur in the publication of the Clarion, the following sums have been pledged monthly and payment for December 1903 has been made:

Local Vancouver \$10.00
Local Victoria \$ 5.00

A convention is to be held in the near future at Nanaimo for the purpose of nominating a Socialist to succeed Ralph Smith in the Dominion House. The said Smith is to be returned to that oblivion from which he should never have emerged.

Locals desiring the services of John W. Brown of Connecticut, Lecturer of the U. S. S. P., will please communicate with the Provincial secretary at once. Comrade Brown

is completing the tour arranged for Ben. Hanford, who was obliged to retire from the platform by reason of ill health, and is well spoken of by the Socialist press of the districts where he has been heard. His terms are ten dollars a lecture, and not more than three lectures can be given in one place. He is expected to enter the State of Washington during February, and thirty dates have been allotted to that state. British Columbia allotments will depend upon the Locals signifying their desire to engage him on the terms mentioned, as the Executive Committee is not in a position to undertake the expense of financing his tour.

Locals have recently been organized at Texada, Kaslo, Hedley, and Nelson.

As evidence of the holding of the Dominion election at an early date we note activity among the Liberals at various points. The nomination has already been made in this city; the notorious Ralph Smith has been busy for some time "fixing up his fences" in various parts of the district which he now misrepresents at Ottawa. That he is now endeavoring to fix the Nanaimo and Ladysmith end is in evidence. A "smoker" was recently held in his honor at Nanaimo. Smoke would be a fitting emblem to be emblazoned upon the escutcheon of Smith and his Labor-Liberals. The smoke raised by such nondescripts tends to obscure the visions of workmen, to the real issue. That is their mission in the great scheme of things. Smoke will, however, prove the undoing of Smith. If the workers do their duty at the coming election he will be smoked out for good. In strict accord with the "eternal fitness of things," it will be a proper ending to his career of humbug.

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EXECUTIVE MEETING.

Provincial Executive Committee met in the office of the Western Clarion on the evening of Dec. 14. Present, E. T. Kingsley; L. T. English, J. T. Mortimer; R. P. Pettipiece, E. Burns and the secretary.

Minutes of previous meeting read and approved.

Communications: From Nelson, with application for charter. Granted. From Victoria, re Clarion affairs. Handed over to W.S.P. Co. From Nanaimo Local and from J. H. Hawthorthwaite, M.P.P., re undated resignation papers of members of the Legislature. In this connection the following resolution was proposed by E. Burns:

Resolved that while theoretically the principle involved in the resignation paper is of a democratic character, yet the practical difficulties standing in the way of its effective application are of such an insurmountable nature that we cannot in any way endorse the proposition.

Moved by J. T. Mortimer, seconded by L. T. English that E. T. Kingsley and the secretary be appointed a committee to reply to the Nanaimo communications regarding this matter. Carried.

Moved by E. T. Kingsley, seconded by R. P. Pettipiece, that the resolution offered by E. Burns be embodied in this reply. Carried.

From Phoenix Local, re Executive authority. Nanaimo, due stamps. Texada, asking for instructions for holding propaganda meetings. J. A. Teit, Spence's Bridge, tendering shares in W.S.P. Co. to Executive. Ladysmith, ballot on constitution. Boundary Falls, enclosing \$6.25, assessment for Executive debt. E. E. Martin, secretary Washington Socialist party, re visit of John W. Brown, R. P. Pettipiece and John T. Mortimer, transferring shares in Western Socialist Publishing Co. to Provincial Executive.

The vote on new constitution was received and it was resolved that the new constitution go into effect on January 1, 1904, the general vote having endorsed the same.

Moved by E. Burns, seconded by J. T. Mortimer, that the returns of vote on constitution be typewritten and sent to Locals by the secretary.

Under the head of unfinished business the matter of affiliation with the International Socialist Party was discussed. Moved by J. T. Mortimer, seconded by L. T. English, that E. Burns and E. T. Kingsley be appointed a committee to deal with the matter and report not later than one month hence.

The treasurer reported that \$16.25 had been received since last meeting and \$9.00 paid out on Clarion account.

Referring to the vacancy on the Committee caused by the resignation of the Party of L. H. Norton, it was resolved that the secretary be instructed to communicate with Vancouver Local informing it that such vacancy has occurred and requesting its members to appoint one of their number to fill the place. Adjourned.

B. MERRILL BURNS,
Secretary.

EXECUTIVE MEETING.

Members of the Executive Committee met in the Clarion office on the evening of November 30th, 1903. Present, E. T. Kingsley, R. P. Pettipiece, L. T. English, E. Burns, J. T. Mortimer and the Secretary.

Minutes of the previous meeting read and adopted.

Correspondence: From Hedley, B.C., announcing the formation of a Local there and asking for charter. Victoria, due stamps and membership cards. Moved by E. T. Kingsley, seconded by B. E. Merrill, that a new lot of cards be ordered printed, the old ones being exhausted. Carried. From Kaslo comrades applying for charter; (moved by J. T. Mortimer, seconded by L. T. English that charter be granted); Northfield re vote on constitution; Phoenix re vote on constitution; (moved and resolved that the organizer communicate with Phoenix Local explaining certain matters relative to

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assessments and constitutions); Ben. F. Wilson re dates for meetings in B. C. Resolved that we are not at this juncture able to assume the financial obligations of such a trip); Ben. F. Bakes, enclosing correspondence between himself and the secretary of the International Socialist Bureau re affiliation with the International Party and representation at the International conference of 1904. (Resolved that same be laid over for one week, in order to discuss fully the proposition.

Bills ordered paid when sufficient funds are on hand; Postage stamps for Secretary, \$2.00; Clarion printing account, \$9.50. Adjourned.

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