

THE WORKINGMAN'S POSITION

What the State is to Do to Prevent Slavery.

There is no man who has not seen and heard... Capital is not a human being... The world of today is ruled by capital... Capital is not a human being... The world of today is ruled by capital...

Seize Control of the Powers of Government

It is no longer pretends to observe constitutions, declarations of independence, bills of rights or other written instruments...

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CLEARING DECKS FOR ACTION

The Issue Will Soon Be Made Clear in British Columbia.

As far as labor and the labor market is concerned everything appears to be quiet throughout the province. The echoes of the little trouble between the Vancouver Engineering Works and its employees have apparently died out...

Some of the Montreal unions have discovered that the department of labor at Ottawa, with its Labor Gazette, is run in the interest of the employers of Canada...

The burning of the housing works of the Western Lumber Co. and the Haslam saw mill at Nanaimo, resulted in throwing a considerable number of men into idleness...

The advent of fish-traps into the fishing industry promises to make more precarious the living of those who depend upon the fishing season for existence...

As there is no railway building of any consequence going on in the province this season there will be no opportunity for workers in that line...

Tom matters up, the conditions for labor do not appear to be appreciably better or worse in B. C. than elsewhere...

The British government has discovered that terrible atrocities are being committed in the Congo...

In view of the fact that this same British government has just thrown its support behind the proposed expelling of Chinese coolies in South Africa...

At the convention of the Socialist Party of Canada, held at Chicago, Eugene V. Debs, of Indiana, was nominated for president...

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TRUTH WRITTEN ON OLD GLORY

No. 1041 a Reservation From Job-Overs' Standpoint.

In referring to the Colorado situation, many of our esteemed contemporaries lament that such occurrences happen under the "stars and stripes," the "emblem of liberty," as they term it.

The only liberty it ever stood for was the "liberty of the American manufacturing and commercial class, to plunder the American working class and the stolon goods without interference upon the part of its English prototype.

So-called national flags are the respective "trade marks of the industrial and mercantile empires and pirates of the various countries." They are "emblems of the liberty" to plunder the "stars and stripes" is typical.

NOT A "NUISANCE."

"We learn from the Winnipeg 'Constable' that John T. Mortimer, who was recently elected to the street speaking at a Socialist street meeting, was when brought into court, 'charged with the common law of England with obstructing the street and being a nuisance.'"

Any one loaded with the brand of ammunition carried by John T. Mortimer, with the courage to use it, must of necessity be considered a "nuisance" by the likes of that conscientious, profit-hungry bunch of cockroaches which rules Winnipeg.

The experience of the machinists of Vancouver in attempting to protect themselves against the employers by invoking the aid of the Alien Labor and Conspiracy laws, ought to teach them that so-called labor laws are made for capitalists.

Readers of the Clarion will have to overlook many shortcomings in this issue. Correspondents are urged to send in "copy" in time for next week.

Chas. Gantny, secretary of the Kaslo local has "moved on." Who is the new editor? Provincial secretary would like to know.

A POINTER FOR THE JUDGE.

Judge Swayne, of Florida, is under impeachment. He is accused of acting from a railroad company's lawyer in California.

Death to Unionism in the Cripple Creek District is the decree of the Citizens Alliance. Every person belonging to a union must sever his connection with it or leave the district.

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The Western Clarion

Published every Saturday morning in the interests of the Working Class alone by The Western Socialist Publishing Co. Limited, 21 the office, The Universal Printing Trust, Final Block basement, 165 Hastings Street, Vancouver, B. C.

R. P. Pettipiece, E. T. Kingsley, Editor, Manager

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VANCOUVER, B. C., JUNE 18, 1924.

GREETING.

WITH this issue the WESTERN CLARION resumes publication. It is the intention of the people who are directly responsible for its reappearance to leave no stone unturned to secure its regular and uninterrupted appearance in the future.

For the past four months there has not been a paper in British Columbia that under any consideration would publish a single line beneficial, in any permanent sense, to the working class.

During the past few weeks events have been occurring in Vancouver arising out of differences existing between the employers' association and their employees of startling significance to every workingman. Next to no reference has been made to these happenings in the public press. No "moral" has been pointed to adorn the tale." The reason is not difficult to discern. Every sheet published in the Province during this time has been an ally of the employers, as against the employees, and each daily paper of Vancouver is a member of the employers' association and therefore directly interested in preventing the workers from understanding what has been going on.

While it is true that the principal means of transmitting and disseminating news are at present controlled by the employers of labor and their henchmen, it is none the less true that with little effort the working people could break these bonds by setting up and supporting their own papers. One dollar for each member of the Socialist Party of B. C. would long since have put the WESTERN CLARION safely on its feet. No suspension of publication need have occurred. That a greater interest, is manifested in the war between Japan and Russia than between master class and slave class at home, however deplorable, is a fact that cannot well be denied.

The power now lying dormant in the working class once aroused must prove irresistible. To quicken it into action devolves upon the few who by their tireless and persistent efforts keep the leaven working. In the forward labor movement do not see fit to assist in carrying its propaganda the Vancouver comrades will still press on undaunted.

This paper will ask for no more assistance. It must come voluntarily and as a duty owed to oneself or not at all. The very least that could be done by anyone conscious of any real interest in the movement and its propaganda would be to increase its subscription list by the addition of new subscribers. If comrades and locals will take this matter up and systematically push it the paper will soon be made secure. As such assistance does not bear the faint of charity, it will be the most acceptable to all concerned.

The WESTERN CLARION will endeavor to faithfully chronicle the weekly happenings in the field of

labor, the modern battle field. The events there occurring are becoming more intensely interesting each day. The four of battle draws nearer: the clash of interests more pronounced; the combatants are coming to close quarters, and in this the final struggle in the "long-drawn-out battle for human rights," victory will perch where she always does—upon the side which makes for human progress.

In the struggle now on and which must reach its climax within the next few years, the cause of human freedom demands that every MAN do his duty.

GULP THE PILL.

ANOTHER of those gigantic swindles in the concoction of which the capitalist brain is so prolific, and which are skillfully engineered through parliaments by legislative highbinders, has been skillfully perpetrated upon the people of Canada under the synonym Grand Trunk Pacific. Millions of acres of public lands, and millions of dollars from the public treasury have been granted to an unscrupulous and conscienceless band of brigands of British American, Canadian and other doubtful lineage, and for which nothing is to be given in return other than that which is evil. Resources of the earth which have been hitherto untouched, and which it is entirely unnecessary to draw upon at the present time are to be opened up for exploitation at the hands of these and kindred brigands. Thousands of cheap laborers will now be drawn into the Dominion to be used upon this great enterprise which stands at the head of the market as an incentive to the workers already there to lead the "strenuous life." It is unnecessary to remark that the road will be left to the brigands as a reward for the incentive which prompted them to concoct the swindle. Whether the legislative highbinders will be left penniless or otherwise deponent sayeth not.

During the building of the road there will be high carnival of small traders in "booze" and other essentials; gamblers, prostitutes, contractors, boarding-house keepers, and other vermin bred of capitalism. As is an unclean thing, being based upon the robbery of the working class, capitalism spells fifth. Fifth naturally breeds vermin. It is said to be an unnatural parent which will deny its offspring. Let capitalism father its own. The above mentioned is but a small portion of its long progeny. Should a legislative body proceed to vote from the public funds in the form of a bonus aid to be he wished to start a grocery store, shoeshop, peanut stand, chicken ranch or shoe black shop, a high road to old Canada gear would no doubt go up against the use of public funds for such a purpose. He who cannot see in the use of public funds and resources for the purpose of aiding the Grand Trunk Pacific or any other capitalist enterprise an even greater misuse of such funds and resources must be as blind as "British justice."

We are aware of the fact that the capitalist class is in possession of the reins of government in the Dominion of Canada and that there by the vote of the people. Whatever disposition is made of the public funds and resources is justifiable from the standpoint of that class. It is legal. The Dominion belongs to the capitalist class of Canada and of the world because of its ownership of government. The acts of the capitalists through their government are called "public acts," notwithstanding the hypocrisy of the pretence. This means that the duped and fleeced wage-workers and working farmers can be induced to gulp the pill passeth understanding. That they do so, however bitter, is proven by the fact that the great Conservative and Liberal parties and the mission of such and all political parties which support the capitalist system is to administer the pill as often as may seem necessary. As we stand, the most necessary that they support the G. T. P. scheme we are led to infer that it has been happily gulped down, and is now cosily stowed away in some convenient part of their internal anatomy. We beg, therefore, that they refrain from disturbing our serenity with their means and groans when it begins to gripe them later on.

Maybe they can ally their misery by gulping down another.

THE COLORADO CAULDRON

The Conflicting Interests of Workers and Owners Reach an Acute Stage

Some years since the legislature of the State of Colorado passed an eight hour bill which was afterwards thrown out by the supreme court of the state as unconstitutional. At the election of 1902 an amendment to the constitution was voted upon, establishing the constitutionality of such legislation, and making mandatory upon the legislature to enact an eight-hour law. This amendment was carried by a vote of over 70,000 out of a total of 100,000, or by a majority of 40,000. At this election the candidates of the Republican and Democrat parties elected to office were elected upon platforms containing among other planks a declaration for an eight-hour day in such lines of industry as smelters and underground work in mines. Every great party elected to office (local or house) was elected upon such a platform, also 35 members of the upper house. Although several bills were introduced by various members, none of them were successful in passing. The representatives who refused to obey the people's will as expressed at the polls. Tired of awaiting relief, the smeltermen in the works of the U. S. Refining and Reduction Company at Denver went on strike for the eight hours instead of the ten and twelve hours then prevailing. This step was taken only after long and patient efforts to induce the company to grant what had been demanded at the polls.

The strike broke out on July 3, 1903, and was followed on August 10, by a strike of the miners in the Cripple Creek district who belonged to the same organization as the striking smeltermen, i. e. the Western Federation of Miners. The strike is still on and stands out in bold relief as the most remarkable occurrence of the kind in the history of the western continent. It has been marked upon the side of the masters by the most brutal disregard of all the constitutional rights of citizens, every safeguard in the fundamental law of both state and nation having been ruthlessly overridden, in most cases without pretext. Parts of the state have been given over to lawless bandits whose only rule of conduct has been the whim or caprice of a reckless governor and a "tin horn" coterie of generals, colonels and captains, fit only to disgrace even the uniform of the lowest and most degraded convicts. The acts of brutality committed at the hands of these ruffians are almost beyond belief, their counterpart scarce to be found even in the annals of the most brutal and degraded mid-European feudalism or history of Russia; the treatment of political exiles on the soil of Siberia.

The conduct of the men, upon the contrary has been one of patient forbearance under the most trying circumstances. It cannot be learned even from the news allowed to leak out under the hands of a strict military censorship that they have been weak enough to commit a single unlawful act.

Though our blood may run as hot through our veins as molten lead, we are forced to take off our hats to them in acknowledgement of their forbearance and courage through these most trying circumstances. Their action throughout has been that of cool-headed men whose very forbearance during these hours of trial firmly establishes their manhood and their courage. The truly brave man never indulges in hasty and ill-adviced action. Had these men under the spur of passion given way to the alternative of assaulting the military thugs and by such open violence attempted to protect themselves in their rights, they would have called down upon their heads the power of the federal army, and owning it body administration, and owning it body consent, the same cool-headed man that owns the Peabody et al. contemplates that constitute the present government of Colorado. Had such action been taken by the hands of the federal administration with the present reckless "strenuosity" at its head can be determined to a nicety. The unbridled ferocity indulged in by the ruling classes in all history to protect their privilege to rule and rob is being typified in this Colorado affair, a ferocity along side of which that of a tressg defender her young sinks to the level of the ferocity of a bleating lamb.

What lesson is to be drawn from this Colorado affair? The answer to this question stands out in bold relief if we will but see it. Political parties are but the expression of economic class interests. They can conform to their conduct to laws already laid down upon the

statute books only insofar as by such conformity they can successfully protect those interests from which they spring. Whenever the emergency arises all regard for written law is cast aside, all constitutional provisions are trampled under foot, and all resources for the ever so high-handed, will be resorted to in order to afford the needed protection. Government is the instrument of a ruling class. It has been termed an executive committee of such class, and in the last analysis it must fall back upon the law of physical force to protect and defend the interests of that ruling class whose instrument it is. To those who understand, the ruffianly acts of the Peabody gang of Colorado thugs causes no surprise. Government is the instrument of a ruling class, and administered through the medium of the political parties of that class, the lesson to be drawn by the workingmen from the Colorado affair becomes plain.

If the interest of the working class are to be in any manner protected at the hands of the government the workers must capture control of its machinery through the medium of a political party which is in possession of the economic interests of the working class. With such a political party in control of the machinery of government, all of its powers are arrayed on the side of the workers, instead of on the side of the capitalists as today. If there is one among the thousands who voted for the eight-hour amendment to the constitution of Colorado and in the light of the last year's experience who has not yet learned this lesson, he is a fool, a simpleton, a bore. His stupid ignorance is well nigh akin to criminal folly.

Awake! ye slaves of capitalism throughout the world! Break loose from those bonds of assninity which bind you to the chariot wheels of the political parties of the class (capitalist) which waxes rich, fat and arrogant at the expense of your enslavement. Line up as the European workers are already doing, under the banner of the Socialist Party, the party of your own class, that you may conquer the powers of governments for the purpose of striking the fetters from your limbs. Under Republican or Democratic rule you are equally betrayed. The treatment accorded to Coeur d'Alene, Homestead, Hazelton, Buffalo, Telluride, etc., is punishment justly meted out to you for your assninity. The intelligent exercise of your franchise will speedily place in the hands of your own party the reins of government, the chains of slavery will then be stricken from your limbs. Freedom will thus be the reward of your intelligence. It costs more only as such a reward.

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Socialist Party of B. C.

From Executive Headquarters

Since the last issue of the CLARION many matters of importance to the Party have been dealt with by the Provincial Executive Committee. The new constitution which came into effect on January 1st, caused a little friction in some quarters, chiefly through comrades misapprehending the meaning of certain clauses, which may have been worded a trifle ambiguously. A referendum was only averted by much correspondence and many explanations, and the membership generally seems now to have settled down to harmonious work along the lines laid down by the constitution.

The imperative mandate was also made an issue for much discussion and correspondence through the pluto-critic press having made capital of the fact reported in the regular way in the columns of the CLARION, that J. H. Hawthornthwaite had declined to place his undated resignation in the hands of Local Nanaimo. It took some time and much ink to make it clear to the comrades who had taken fright at the sound of the capitalist "exhaust valve," that, so long as no statutory provision exists for the enforcement of the "recall," such a paper is absolutely non-effective and in the hands of weak or unscrupulous characters, might become an incense to the interest it is meant to protect. The fight for the imperative mandate must be made on the floor of the legislative chamber, not in local or executive headquarters. At present the constitution of the B. C. Socialist Party makes no requisition of either its candidates or its members elect concerning this measure, which is, for all that, a stray reform plank from the old ship of Populism. If, however, the members of the Party consider it important, it should be taken up at the next general convention, and the constitution amended as to cover the question conclusively.

The system of monthly reports, provided for by the constitution, has met with only a measure of success. A few locals report regularly, others not at all—ignoring the monthly report forms that are sent out each month end—until other reports occasionally. It is very essential to the solidarity of the Party that the Provincial Executive Committee be kept informed of the exact condition of the locals. For this reason it is urged

that the filling in of these report blanks be attended to with the utmost regularity. In this way only can we estimate the strength and the needs of the Party in given localities.

Owing to financial stringency various offers of speakers to tour the Province have had to be declined. The Treasurer's statement, published elsewhere, will show that the debt with which we began the year has been nearly expunged. The Secretary's salary, on motion of the interested parties, was reduced to \$5.00 a month, at the beginning of the year, thus leaving a wider margin of current receipts to apply on back debts. The necessary articles for the uniform system of bookkeeping, prescribed by the constitution, have, for the same reason as prevented the engagement of lecturers, not been provided. It is hoped to begin the new half-year with a clean slate and all necessary facilities for advancing the work of organization. Arrangements are now being made to send Organizer Kingsley on tour again. Locals desiring his services should correspond immediately with the Provincial Secretary.

Communication has been opened with the International Bureau at Brussels with a view to securing affiliation with the International Socialist movement. Pending the formation of a national organization in Canada, when two delegates will be allowed, the Secretary has been appointed British Columbia representative to the International Bureau.

The Executive Committee, as well as the party at large, has suffered loss by the removal of John T. Mortimer, candidate in the late Provincial elections to the legislature, from the Province. His position on the Executive Committee has been filled by the appointment of Comrade A. Stebbings, associate candidate with Comrade Mortimer in the late campaign.

A statement of the work of the two Socialist members in the legislature is now under course of preparation and will shortly be issued to the locals for use in further propaganda. Thirteen locals are active at the present time. A number of charters have lapsed owing to the breaking up of the camps in which they were situated. Others, like the church in Sardis, "have a name to live, yet are dead," insofar as any indication otherwise has reached the Committee.

Locals changing secretaries should at once notify the Provincial Secretary of the change of address; otherwise letters intended for the local go chasing over the country after an official who no longer exists as such, and who, in his hunt

for a job, has become a very uncertain quantity as to location.

Throughout the months many schemes for the reconstitution of the CLARION have been considered. One reason alone—a financial one—hindered their realization. At the last meeting of the Executive Committee Comrades English and Kingsley announced that they had at last overcome the difficulties and were in a fair way of realizing the object so ardently sought after. Upon hearing this the following resolution, moved by E. J. Burns and seconded by the Secretary, was unanimously and heartily passed:

Resolved, that this Committee endorse the effort of Comrades Kingsley and English to reconstitute the WESTERN CLARION and that we earnestly recommend the members of the Party throughout the Province to support the paper by every means in their power, more especially by helping to extend its circulation.

It is also requested that every local shall appoint a press correspondent to report regularly the condition of local affairs, the state of the labor market in his locality and other matters of interest to labor. In this way only, and by the co-operation of every working Socialist in B. C. can the only labor paper in the Province renew its activity and become a real factor in the workingman's battle for what he produces.

B. MERRILL BURNS, Provincial Secretary.

TREASURER'S REPORT
Total receipts from date of Convention to May 10, 1920..... \$390 75
Total expenditure from date of Convention to May 10, 1920..... 420 00
Outstanding indebtedness:
R. P. Pettigrew on acct. print. exp..... \$ 25 00
Overdraft on Treasurer..... 29 25
Total..... \$ 54 25
Respectfully submitted,
ERNEST BURNS, Treasurer.

AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY

Lacks a Definite Aim.

The Australian government's efforts to defeat an amendment to its compulsory arbitration bill which was brought about by the labor party, resulted in the overthrow of the Deakin Ministry during the past month. The Labor Party having been called upon to form a ministry and that party being a minority one, has

caused the Winnipeg Voice to utter this note of warning:

We are a long way from Australia and so cannot be altogether competent to offer much advice, particularly in view of the magnitude of the telegraphic dispatches that enlighten us on Australian matters pending the arrival of labor exchanges. With that duly allowed for, the writer feels inclined to question the wisdom of the Labor Party accepting the line of the majority except power and responsibility if it has got to be at the cost of a coalition. It appears that if the Labor Party, not having an actual majority in the congress, refused to accept power it would force the other two parties to form a coalition government. This would have forced them together, where they belong and then the Labor party would have a fighting chance of opposing the Government and could look forward to coming out of the next election with an actual majority and taking office in their own strength.

A political party, though it be dubbed a Labor party, that has no clear-cut line of action leading up to a certain goal may be likened to a derelict floating helplessly upon an angry sea, bound to meet its doom upon hidden reef or rocky shore, or mayhap be run down by other craft who pursue a well-defined course. As the Australian Labor Party appears to be following no well defined course, has evidently no conception of the revolutionary program of the international working class, and therefore no point in the social heavens by which to steer, it will inevitably become water-logged, founder or drift upon the rocks of opportunity.

A political party born of the revolutionary aspirations of the international working class will at all times steer true to its course—the line of class interest. It is only such a party that can safely steer its course into the teeth of the coming social storm that is even now heralding its approach by the fitful gusts and squalls being kicked up on the sea of politics. As such a political craft ploughs its way through the angry storm waterlogged and foundering craft to the leeward or windward may hoist signals of distress, but they will hoist them in vain. The crew will not be looking that way. Those who get in the road will be run down. Power will be placed in the hands of such a party, not by coalition or chance, but by a class-conscious electorate.

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That giving your girl or boy a business education is better than a life insurance, and what is more, it is cheaper. A course does not cost much. A course is based on a cash basis, but you can make arrangements with us to pay it in instalments, if it is more convenient to you. What we want is to train your girl or boy and put her or him in a business office. In another place in this advertisement you will find a list of firms whom we have supplied with stenographers during May, and May is not a good month either. All these young people are on full salaries. Our young people do not need to work for "EXPERIENCE." After we have placed your daughter or son in a business office, they would be able to shift for themselves. They have then climbed the first rung of the ladder. There is always room on top, especially in business; it rests with them, with their own ambition, how high they want to go. It is with them only a matter of will. It does not require genius to be a good business man or a good business woman, it requires application. It does not require even a university or high-school education. Those young people who leave the public school and go through a business college and enter a business office at an early age are more successful than those with a university training. If your son or daughter is now in the eighth reader, they are far enough advanced. We have to



A HINT TO THE GIRLS

A large number of girls are very anxious to come to school and prepare themselves for business. They could easily raise the amount for the course, but they are unable to come on account of the cost of boarding. If you are such kind of a girl, and still ambitious, we will give you a pointer which scores of girls have used, if you will write to us.



GREGG, SHORTHAND

We have taught the old system or over six years. A year and a half ago we changed to Gregg's and WE COULD NOT BE PAID ENOUGH MONEY TO GO BACK TO THE OLD SYSTEM. GREGG SHORTHAND IS MUCH EASIER TO LEARN, VERY MUCH EASIER TO READ. IT READS LIKE LONGHAND. IT IS DECIDEDLY FASTER TO WRITE. We had a boy 17 years old, acting as police court stenographer in Vancouver, in fact he was too young for the job. He was not a graduate, but he writes GREGG'S. No other school can teach as we do. Every other school uses text-books. We have taught eight years without them. The result is that our book-keepers are real book-keepers and office hands. Employment during May was brisk. Although not usually a brick month, June is better in that respect. The following firms engaged graduates of ours: B. C. Fruit Canning Co., Shellcross, Macaulay & Co., Barristers; Taylor, Bradburn & Co., Cascade Laundry, The Fairbanks Co., a Buscombe & Co., Drysdale-Stevenson, Ltd., Federal Life Insurance Co., Canning Co., Hurne; New England Fish Co., Waterfall, Besley & Co., C. P. R. Freight Office, Pacific Transfer Co., Yoho Heater Co., A. MacDonald & Co., Ceperley, Ronnell & Co. The lately appointed permanent court stenographer is also a graduate of the Vogel College.

VOGEL COMMERCIAL COLLEGE, Vancouver

