

Socialist Party of B. C.

From Executive Headquarters

PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE MEETING.

May 31st, 1904.—Present, E. T. Kingsley, A. R. Stebbings, L. R. Eng...

On motion the chair was taken by Com. Kingsley and the following business transacted:

Minutes of previous meeting read, corrected and passed.

Correspondence from Winnipeg, Northfield, Enderby and Revelstoke was read by the secretary, but gave rise to no special discussion.

Under reports of committees, E. Burns reported for himself and Organizer Kingsley, who at the previous meeting were appointed a committee to prepare a circular letter of suggestion and instruction to locals re the calling of conventions for the purpose of nominating candidates to political office.

The committee on design for Party button reported progress and asked for an extension of time in which to complete the work.

The treasurer reported \$100 receipts and \$4 expenditure since last meeting.

(Signed) B. M. BURNS, Prov. Sec.

EXECUTIVE MEETING.

June 14th, 1904.—Present, R. P. Pettipiece, E. T. Kingsley, A. R. Stebbings, E. Burns and the secretary, Organizer Kingsley in the chair.

Minutes of previous meeting were read and approved.

Correspondence was received from Local Nanaimo, asking of the services of Mrs. Irene Smith could not be again secured as a lecturer for the district.

From Hedley Local, from J. S. Johnson, Enderby, and A. S. Embree, Greenwood. The latter sent a copy of resolutions concerning the holding of a convention for the nomination of a Socialist candidate in the constituency of Yale-Cariboo, asking the endorsement of the executive committee.

Moved by R. P. Pettipiece, seconded by A. R. Stebbings, that the committee endorse the action of the committee appointed to arrange the convention and proceed to issue calls to those locals in the constituency in good standing in the Party. Carried.

Monthly reports from Nanaimo and Hedley were received and filed. A bill for \$2.50 for printing was authorized to be paid.

The treasurer reported \$3.25 receipts, and expenditures of \$2.50 for printing, and \$100 for secretary's salary for two months, since last meeting.

The secretary reported application for membership forms all used, and 500 new forms were authorized. Adjourned.

B. M. BURNS, Prov. Sec.

NOTES FROM PROV. SEC'S DESK.

Yale-Cariboo.

The comrades in Yale-Cariboo have taken action along the right line in calling convention for nominating a candidate for the Dominion election.

The following is the report of this committee. Take note how it is done: Report of Meeting of Joint Committee appointed by Grand Forks, Phoenix and Greenwood Locals, to determine date for and place of Socialist Convention for Constituency of Yale-Cariboo.

Members of Committee.—W. H. Greitz, J. H. Harris, Grand Forks; W. H. Bambury, O. Grambach, Phoenix; J. J. Caulfield, A. S. Embree, Greenwood.

Meeting called to order by Com. Caulfield. Com. Embree appointed secretary. Com. R. B. Kerr, of Phoenix, reported that as Com. Bambury was unavoidably absent, he had been asked to represent Phoenix Local.

A letter was read from Com. Greitz, of Grand Forks, to the effect that neither Com. Harris nor himself would be able to attend the meeting of committee, and that they would concur in any action taken by balance of committee.

Regularly moved, seconded and resolved that the secretary be instructed to communicate with the Provincial executive committee, at Vancouver, and inform them that a convention will be held at Greenwood on Thursday, July 14th, 1904, for the purpose of nominating a candidate on the Socialist ticket, to contest the constituency of Yale-Cariboo for the forthcoming Dominion elections.

Regularly moved, seconded, and resolved that the basis of representation at the convention be one delegate at large from each local, and one additional delegate for every ten members or major fraction thereof, in good standing.

Regularly moved, seconded and resolved that the following form of credential be adopted and forwarded to the provincial executive committee for approval:

Form of Credential.

This certifies that Com. _____ has been elected as delegate from _____ Local No. _____ of B. C. to represent said local at convention of Socialist Party of Yale-Cariboo, to be held at Greenwood on Thursday, July 14th, 1904. (Sgd.) _____ Secretary.

Regularly moved, seconded and resolved that each credential must be signed by secretary of local issuing same in order to be valid.

Regularly moved, seconded and resolved that secretary of each local be required to forward to the convention a certified statement of number of members in good standing in such local.

Resolved that we adjourn.

Com. Geo. Winkler, of Hedley, B. C., defeated two defenders of the capitalist class in a debate on Socialism at that place last month. Mr. W. McGaw, the liberal candidate for the riding last year, and Mr. Rogers, of the Nickel Plate mine, attempted to defeat the politics of their class, but Com. Winkler knew his gospel of industrial evolution too well for the pair of them, and the decision was given in his favor.

As the secretary of Hedley Local says: "There are no arguments to it when you come down to facts." That's true; there is no place an old party politician has less illuminating power than in a Socialist debate.

"Of course the boys all pledge their vote to a Socialist candidate if we have one in the field, and I think it would be a mistake not to have one if things can be so arranged financially. I do not see why they could not capture this seat in the Dominion house for Yale-Cariboo. There are a lot of Socialist votes lying dormant, and all that is needed is a little fire put into the movement."

I want no fool dinner 'pal' movements. Socialism or nothing, that is as I understand it as Karl Marx expounds Socialism. I want freedom to the earth and to life. "The earth and the fulness thereof is the watchword."—J. F. Johnson, Enderby, in a long encouraging letter to the secretary.

Nanaimo comrades want Debs to visit this coast when he reaches Washington in his campaign tour. We all want him, but it would be hardly fair to ask him to leave the United States until after the presidential election is over. He will have his work cut out for him during the next few months.

By the disastrous shaft fire in Nanaimo, many of our comrades have

been thrown out of work. Who cares? Do you? If so vote ahead of the possession of the means of wealth production so that human life need not depend upon the perpetuity of one poor little job.

"The arrest of Mortimer would not have caused a ripple on the surface of public opinion, and, in fact, did not, but to interfere with the Salvation Army—that was a heinous crime on the part of the police and caused quite a stir," writes H. R. Simon, of Winnipeg. And that was how "our Jack" got some sort of left-hand justice. He's at it yet. Failed don't in anything to him but make his Celtic blood riot more fiercely in his veins and excite him to more vehement protest against the system which prohibits the speech of Truth and pays a premium to Liars.

There is good material for a Socialist Local at P. Prairie, B. C. Com. McKenzie, one of the "old boys" of the Vancouver movement, is doing good work there in keeping a persistent agitation afloat, while Mr. A. Bamford and his excellent wife, whom the Clarion may proudly claim as two of its best "converts," are ready to actively participate in political movement for the emancipation of the workers.

The secretary and treasurer of the Party paid a visit to the district recently and spoke to a small gathering of interested farmers who displayed an intelligent comprehension of the industrial problem and their own relation thereto.

On Sunday they went over to Blaine, Wash., and met a number of G. A. R. veterans, who are holding the "torch" aloft in a very persistent and praiseworthy manner. Com. Burns held a street meeting in the afternoon, which, being an unusual proceeding, attracted considerable attention, and in the evening at the meeting in the G. A. R. hall the women turned out in unusual numbers to hear Socialism discussed from a woman's standpoint.

Blaine organization needs an infusion of new blood and a few hard knocks from Capitalism to imbue it with a fighting spirit.

Funny that the man who pays a dollar to watch a prize fight should be the one to "holler" because the Socialists scrap a little at their meetings. Their blows are quite scientific, too.

C. W. Mitchell is the newly appointed secretary of Revelstoke Local, vice J. W. Bennett, resigned.

Have you appointed that press correspondent yet, Oh, Locals of B. C.?

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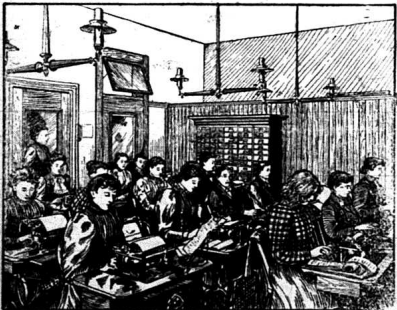
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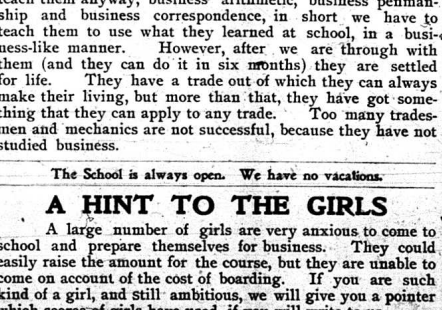
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The School is always open. We have no vacations. A HINT TO THE GIRLS A large number of girls are very anxious to come to school and prepare themselves for business. They could easily raise the amount for the course, but they are unable to come on account 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 BOOK-KEEPING. 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 brisk month, June is better in that respect. The following firms engaged graduates of ours: B. C. Fruit Canning Co., Shallock, Macdonald & Co., bartenders; Taylor, Bradburn & Co., Cascade Laundry, The Fairbanks Co., F. Bucanabe & Co., Drysdale-Stevenson, Ltd., Federal Life Insurance Co., Canning Co., Houtze, New England Fish Co., Waterfall, Besley & Co., C. F. R. Freight Office, Pacific Transfer Co., Yoho Heater Co., A. MacDonald & Co., Cuperley, Rounsell & Co. The lately appointed permanent court stenographer is also a graduate of the Vogel College.

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IN THE PROVINCIAL FIELD

Fayette Baker was the speaker last Sunday evening. The Waste of Competition...

Mention is made elsewhere in this issue of the efforts of Folk Warren, Colonel, to induce some of the kind-hearted employers of Vancouver to give employment to some of the Sikhs who are in the city...

The delay in regard to the Clarion reaching subscribers results from the fact that the first copy sent to Ottawa along with request for mailing privileges, was lost, apparently in transmission...

The Victoria Trades and Labor Council has received a communication from the secretary of the Dominion Labor Congress asking all unions to contribute to a fund for the purpose of electing a delegate to the Parliament...

Crystal Theatre, Victoria, was well filled on Sunday evening, June 19th, when Dr. H. P. P. spoke at the Crystal Theatre, delivered a stirring lecture on "How the Rich Get Rich"...

The audience of working people stayed until it is dark asking questions to which the doctor replied. The true selfishness of the mine owners at Cripple Creek and the paid detectives, was fully dealt with...

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The wise M. P. P. carefully read the Clarion, not only that he may retain the wisdom he hath, but he greatly into it. He is a thorough writer, member for Nanaimo, securing a "lead pipe cinch" upon a two years' supply of wisdom and sending into this office the trifling, but just tribute of two dollars. We be

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into the liberal and conservative M. P. P. who still holdably persists in going forth to battle armed only with the "lawbone of an ass."

The first dollar to reach this office in payment of one year's subscription, was the assumption of public opinion, came from Comrade Harold Burnett of Victoria, with these words: "Here is the money for the international revolutionary working class. Go at 'em."

The disquieting news has reached this office that John E. Dabberly, a member of the Provincial Executive Committee of the S. P. of B. C. has committed matrimony. This makes the third member of the present committee, since its inception, guilty of this particular offence, the committee originally containing among its members, but who has since married. The only assurance that the party has that its committee may live out its span of life with any of its members in a position to give it undivided allegiance rests in the fact that the remaining two are members of the same party, looking bunch that no woman of discriminating taste would have one of them.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

A correspondent of the Victoria Colonist who signs himself Defence, not defence, makes a complaint because some employers of labor have dispensed with the services of employees because the latter are unrepresented by themselves from their employment one day in the year in order to comply with the laws of the province, by attending the annual mobilization as required by law. As this "huge country" depends for defence on its "citizens" it is deemed incredible that "any employer can be found so mean and short-sighted to throw the burden of his defence on the worker. Employers of labor can be found mean enough to do anything else, but this is not the case. Their short-sightedness usually results in long profits. This "huge country" belongs to employers of labor. If it would it do to the members of the "defence" to them? At any rate an "employee" who has no better sense than to be sent to defend his country which belongs to another, and which that other is too cowardly to defend, has no right to complain of the man. He should be in a home for the feeble-minded.

After a strike lasting about six weeks the members of the Pilot Association on the Great Lakes has been forced to give it up as a bad job and return to work. In announcing the end of the strike the Pilot Association states it does so "owing to existing conditions over which we have no control." It is to be noted that whether the members of the Association know it or not, those "existing conditions" are that the members of the Lake Carriers' Association own the boats upon which these masters and pilots must work. These "existing conditions" are quite in the hands of the owners, but slightly uncomfortable for even the aristocrats of labor, and it is to be noted that the labor market becomes overstocked with the commodity labor-power of the quality of which aristocratic masters and pilots are made. Presumably these masters and pilots will now proceed to do something to ameliorate these "existing conditions." If they do not it will not be long before they are liable to be cast upon the same shore as their "high horse" another pig or two.

In commenting upon the statement made in a recent lecture, by Archbishop Ireland that "a country without capital is impoverished," the Los Angeles Socialist gets off the following gem: "Certainly a country without capital is impoverished. And likewise a country with a capitalist class to control the capital and absorb the product of labor is impoverished. Capital is wealth used to produce more wealth, and is an evident necessity."

Though at the risk of seeming presumptuous, we do not refer the editor to an authority of whom he has evidently never heard, or at least never read. Marx, in his analysis of capital defines it, briefly stated, as wealth used for the purpose of exploiting labor. He applies the term to wealth under no other circumstances. The term exploiting labor, signifies the taking of surplus value. This is the function of capital. When wealth does not so function it is no longer capital. It then follows that a country without capital need not necessarily be impoverished, but the working class of a country, in which the means of wealth production are capital, must of necessity become an impoverished class, no matter how rich a country it may be. Capital without a capitalist class is an unthinkable proposition. A country without capital could only become impoverished if it had no natural resources, fire, flood, crop failure or other public calamity. With capital its working class would be exploited (robbed) into a condition of poverty which is quite calamity enough for them.

Would the scribe in question borrow title of ownership in, or even borrow the title of authorship, of "Wages, Labor and Capital," and carefully read and digest its contents, he would be better equipped to criticize the utterances of church dignitaries and other stipends, on matters economic. Should he fail to thus equip himself, it might be said with some justice that the Archbishop and himself could exchange jobs without the Socialist movement standing to lose anything.

One Folk Warren, Colonel, whoever he may be, writing to the News-Ad, makes a plea to the employers of labor to favorably consider the application put forward by five Sikhs who have come here in the hope of finding employment beneficial to the

mentation as to fitness the colonel points out that they belong to a "race which has stood by Britain in the many wars which have taken place since we conquered them and annexed their country." Those traits of docility which could survive the successful assault of the conqueror and robber, and still blossom into a meek servility that would impel the very possessor of them to stand by the perpetrator of such ruffianly acts, are of no mean order and should secure their possessor a high wage-slaves job at the drop of the hat.

As a further recommendation the colonel points out that "they are no less amenable to orders than the Mongolian, and possess to a great degree the economic virtues of that people. Docile, servile, obedient and cheap. What more could even a Vancouver employer wish."

Perhaps the good colonel took this modest way of giving to the slave of white skin a tip of the three virtues, the acquirement of which would tend to smooth the rugged pathway of his existence by qualifying him so as to more readily obtain, and securely hang on to a job. The colonel, however, is a born humorist. He gives it away by stating that "the employment of Sikhs and others of the martial races of India would be necessary for the close union of the Great British Empire. And yet, lurking behind this wealth of humor, what biting sarcasm. As the greatness of Britain has been attained by the most ruthless exploitation and robbery of her working people at home, and the most brutal and ruffianly forcing of the goods so stolen upon weaker nations, and upon terms to suit the robbers, the sarcasm lurking behind the colonel's humor may be easily understood. We would recommend the colonel is A. As a humorist and satirist he is fully twice as much.

CORRESPONDENCE

Editor Clarion: Criticism which is fair and unprejudiced is both useful and necessary, but the policy of continually throwing bouquets at ourselves and other people of the other fellow is one of more than doubtful value. That peculiar form of mental infirmity which magnifies the follies of others and obscures our own shortcomings is well exemplified in a leading article in last week's Clarion, in which the platform adopted by the Socialist Party at Chicago is characterized as "a most grotesque political document ever adopted by any political party on earth."

Admitting that this platform has its weak points, the principal of which in my eyes are its wearisome length and its scholastic rhetoric, yet to compensate for these defects, it states old truths in an original way. The effect of any such absolute sweeping condemnation of the Chicago platform is that quoted above on the average mind, is simply to raise a doubt as to the ability or capacity of the critic to judge the merits of a platform not his own.

The document is, I understand, to be handed to a referendum of the U. S. Socialist Party, and if the delegates at Chicago took hasty or illadvised action in committing the platform to the party membership will probably correct the mistake. The utterances of this convention are entitled to a certain amount of respect, as it has been generally conceded to have been the largest and most representative Socialist gathering of the character ever held in the United States. Men like Morris Hillquit, A. M. Simmons, Ben Hanford and others are quite equal to any B. C. Socialist in knowledge of Socialism and ability to expound its revolutionary message.

In discussing our own platform, modesty should leave to others the task of stating its superlative merits. Its brevity and directness of statement are certainly good points, but other of its so-called merits are to my mind serious defects. Take for instance its absence of a working program, or statement of legislation which Socialist representatives would try to enact right here and now.

For some years to come Socialists will be a minority in our city councils, provincial legislatures and national parliaments. Are we, during this period, to abstain from any constructive legislation for the benefit of the working class? We never expect to elect the desired majority, for the mass of the voters will never support a party of negotiation, one which lacks the desire or ability to execute any improvement until absolute power is in its hands. We do propose to do something to better the present, then the voter has a right to know exactly what it is that we propose to accomplish.

Every Socialist Party in the world with the exceptions of the S. L. P. of the United States and our own, has some program in the program or platform in regard to measures for immediate improvements of social or industrial conditions. They are fully in line with the philosophy of Socialism, or progress by industrial evolution, for the sake as stepping stones to our ultimate aim. No Socialist convention, outside of this continent has ever seriously demonstrated the elimination of the palliatives. Every writer on Socialism of international fame from Karl Marx downwards admits of their use and necessity.

So long as we in B. C. had elected Socialist representatives were a mere propaganda club, this question was one of minor importance. To us it is a political party with two duly elected members at Victoria, and it is certainly up to us to state especially that legislation we consider in the interest of the workers.

Is the quantity of public franchises to be divided, including the apportioning over the control of a public hospital to a coterie of irresponsible busy-bodies legislation beneficial to the

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workers? Do we favor or oppose the extension of the sphere of public activities within the domain of the present Capitalist state?

I do not think it wise to allow our elected members to be the sole judges of what measures to support and what to oppose. Their ideas may be far from a true reflex of the party mind. Who is to decide if the members disagree as to questions of policy? Oh! refer that to the executive committee. I hear some one exclaim and go on to say that the executive committee has no means of deciding what the party wants, without they take a party vote on the question.

The declarations adopted become our working program, and whether such program is attached to the main platform or issued as a separate document is but a mere matter of detail. Already our elected members have been blamed in some quarters, and entirely without justice, for the things they have done and all things that find our comrade's expected them to do one thing, and others something else, but our members not being paid and going to the same committee has no means of deciding what the party wants, without they take a party vote on the question.

Without we specify just what legislation we consider in the best interest of the working class, any co-operation of the political grater could get elected as a Socialist candidate and support any legislation he saw fit, no matter how pernicious, claiming that in his opinion the measure was in the best interests of the workers.

If we are to grow as a party we must substitute ambiguous phrases by clear cut declarations, and thus make ourselves intelligible to the electorate. In a short article such as this it is impossible to give even the main arguments in support of this proposition. Should, however, the editor allow me to use a further issue, I will give further reasons why the time has come that the Socialist Party of B. C. should place itself in line with the international Socialist movement by the adoption of a program of immediate legislative activity.

ERNEST BURNS. Vancouver, B. C., June 23, 1904. The idler gets the oyster. The worker gets the shell. The former can go to Europe. The latter can go to some other place to look for a boss when he loses his present job.

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