THE WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT

Socialism, Internationalism, Votes for All.

Vol. IV.—No. 48. SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd, 1918 Price One Penny

THE WAR AND THE INTERNATIONAL

MR. HENDERSON'S VIEW

Mr. Henderson has written to Mr. W. H. Andrews, who represents the South African Socialist Party, as follows :—

"With regard to your query re the European situation, I am not convinced that the position is such as to justify the calling of an International Conference. My Committee has already made one attempt, which turned out to be a miserable fiasco."

It seems to us that Mr. Henderson was as far responsible for the fiasco as one man can be in having calmly accepted the Government's refusal of passports, and in having urged that in spite of it Labour representatives should remain in the Government. We regret to see a disposition amongst certain Socialist Pacifists to engage in a campaign to make Mr. Henderson Prime Minister of a Labour Cabinet. Mr. Henderson was in the Cabinet, and not merely supported the War, but Conscription, the Munitions Act, and the Defence of the Realm Act. He sat in the Cabinet unprotesting whilst the profiteers despoiled the people. Those of the workers who follow him will be led down a blind alley, from which they will have to retrace their steps. Work for a Socialist Government.

RUSSIA v. GERMANY

The altruistic and heroic policy of the Bolshevik Government makes a striking appeal to the democracies of the world, which, as yet, has met with but poor response. Their refusal to conclude an unjust peace, coupled with the declaration that war between Germany and Russia was at an end, and that the Russian Army was demobilising, was designed to make plain to the German workers that they had nothing to fear from Russia, and that if their Government should renew the War, plunder could be its only motive. Now that the German Government has invaded Russia, in the north marching towards Petrograd, in the south going to the aid of the capitalistic forces which are endeavouring to overcome the Workers' Revolution and to re-establish the Rada, the Russians have stated that they must perforce accept the peace conditions offered by Germany. The question now is, will the Germans withdraw or will they proceed in the effort to conquer territories which are apparently defenceless? The Russian Commander-in-Chief appeals to his soldiers to meet the German troops with fraternal greetings, and only resist them if they attack. If the invitation to fraternise be accepted, peace between Germany and Russia is secured.

A LITTLE COMMON SENSE.

Mrs. Crosland Taylor writes on the Bolshevik cessation of War with Germany :—

"The dramatic peace, with no silly signing of treaties, pleases me well. It is simply : "All go home," in the nick of time. Spring waits for no man, and we have only one spring each year. An agricultural nation has the sense to see that this point of view is imperative if we are to be fed; but one of shopkeepers and lawyers—no !

"Frankly, I am sick of the stupidity of most people; the blind seem so very blind ! I begin to think meat, drink, tobacco are causing this shocking state of affairs. As my daughter says : 'When everyone has had enough, the War will stop !' But some poor things have had too much from the first !"

I send you a lovely poem."

"EGO RUS IBO."

I weary of the houses without end,
I sicken of the crass commercial way.
Ah! fieldward, fieldward, let my footsteps bend,
That I may breathe once more the living day,
And listen to the passing of the breeze
Touching to sound the silver poplar trees.

Thrice balm to me the fragrant stubble's breath,
Thrice music is the creaking of the wain.
The years roll back, the myriad waves of death
Ebb into silence of the distant main.
Far in the heart of Suffolk re-arise
The grave, the orchard, and the starry skies.

The sixty-winter'd elm across the way
The well-thatcht barns of timber old and stout,
Stackyard and neat-house, and the August day
O'er distant water-meadows ebbing out,
Whereover steals the snow-white mist and cold,
Yet takes not on the rising tilthland hold.

And far o'erhead athwart the apple-boughs,
Above the tower'd elms, the kindling lights
Of God's supernal palace bid me rouse
My homeward longing whither God invites,
And scan far off, from that deep well of shade,
The many mansions for His children made.

H. E. G. Rope.

THE INTER-ALLIED SOCIALISTS

Meanwhile the Inter-Allied Socialist Conference is meeting to discuss its War aims. We wish we could rely on it for genuinely Socialist action animated by the courageous and clear thinking of the Bolsheviks, but we fear that the narrow nationalistic and capitalistically influenced standpoint of some of its delegates, including men who have held office in the capitalist War Cabinets, will render its discussions abortive. It is strange that any Socialist or worker can continue to regard the peoples of the world merely as Allied or enemy subjects, when Germany is aiding the capitalists of the Ukraine to fight Russian and Ukrainian Socialist revolutionaries, Roumanian capitalists are fighting Roumanian and Russian Socialist revolutionaries and Finnish capitalists are fighting Finnish and Russian revolutionaries. The Roumanian Government also is offering to make peace with the Central Powers and to cede the Dobrudja to Bulgaria, if Bessarabia is given to Roumania. The Bessarabians have, however, formed a Republic of their own and the Russians are fighting to protect the Bessarabian right to self-determination.

* * * *

The Socialist Committee for a Just Peace has just drawn up a motion demanding as a primary condition the victory of the Allies, and calling upon the International Socialists who went to the Kienthal and Zimmerwald Conferences to quit the Party. We also think there is much to be said for the view that the International Socialists should definitely part company with the National Socialists. The latter are merely a hindrance in the struggle for progress, and it is certain that they would pass into merited obscurity if the backing provided by the vigour and enthusiasm contributed by the internationalists were withdrawn from them.

* * * *

Sir John Dickinson at Bow Street, is dealing out stiff sentences to those who dare to say that which the Government desires shall be left unsaid : £100 fine for the editor of the "World" for publishing a notice from the Press Bureau ; six months' imprisonment for Mr. Arnold Lupton for having published Christian sentiments in pamphlet form last August.

* * * *

The Capetown House of Assembly, on February 18th, rejected a votes for women amendment to the Electoral Bill by 54 votes to 39.

* * * *

We wish success to the women members of the N.U.R., who are demanding that their War bonus shall be raised to that of the men.

ELECTRIC MACHINE BAKERY
91 BURDETT ROAD, MILE END
W. WOODS & SONS,
Family Bakers.

THE NATIONAL LABOUR PRESS & "TRIBUNAL" OFFICES RAIDED

On Friday afternoon, February 15th, detectives visited the publishing office of the "Tribunal" at 5 York Buildings, Adelphi, W.C., and took away all the copies of the current issue of the "Tribunal." On being asked for their warrant they said that they had no warrant, but were acting upon instructions from the Home Secretary. A visit was also paid the same evening to the London offices of the National Labour Press, the printers of the "Tribunal." After seizing all copies of the "Tribunal," the detectives proceeded to dismantle the machines. On being asked on what authority they did this, they said they had no warrant, and subsequently admitted that they had no written instructions, but were acting upon a telephone message from Sir George Cave. News has arrived that several of those who distribute copies of the "Tribunal" have received visits from the police this morning and had their stocks seized. This is a very grave outrage upon the freedom of the Press. Every workers' organisation should protest against it.

"SATIRE"

Dear Editor,—You will be already aware of the recent persecutions of "Satire," and I have something further to communicate to you on the matter, which I consider should be given the utmost publicity.

The prosecution under the obsolete Lotteries (1823) Act against ourselves for holding and publishing "an elementary form of lottery," to wit, "A Grand Prize Draw in aid of the Satire Press," resulted in our being fined twenty pounds sterling and five guineas costs. The magistrate simply ignored the parallel cases of the War Bond draws held by Messrs. Selfridge and Harrod.

* * * *

A Russian decree transfers private share capital from private banks to the Republic on the basis of absolute confiscation. This is one step in the conscription of wealth.

* * * *

Lord Northcliffe has been made Director of Propaganda in Enemy Countries. How is such propaganda carried on : is it by bribery?

THE SPRING OFFENSIVE.

Tell me, human leaves, green human leaves,
Why you came out divine and fragrant
To greet a Spring to youth so fatal?
My last year's leaves with gore were moistened
And tokened youth no joyous promise.
Would I could thrust you back again
Or else forget to come and bloom—
I, Spring, have ushered in your doom!

Clara Gilbert Cole.

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THE SCHOOLING OF THE FUTURE

With Special Reference to the Education Bill.

The time approaches in which we shall pass from the capitalist epoch into the epoch of Socialism. The Russian Revolution, the first working-class revolution in history, is not an isolated event; it is a part of the world-wide movement in which the toiling masses are pressing onward to their emancipation. As the realisation of the long-desired Socialist ideal draws nearer, its manifestations will be seen in every phase of life.

The effort to realise Socialism in the field of industry and politics is reinforced by similar effort in the educational sphere. The rising generation must be fitted, not merely to desire and work for Socialism, but to live in the Socialist community. The Socialist Sunday School is not new, and the systematic teaching of history, economics, biology, and other branches of learning from the Marxian standpoint, by means of evening and Sunday classes attended by the workers in industry, which originated with the Central Labour College and the classes in South Wales and Glasgow, is rapidly spreading to other districts. The Burston Strike School is the first elementary day school of the Socialist Movement, the Montessori infant class at the W.S.F. Mothers' Arms, Bow, though its tiny pupils are too young to be indoctrinated by academic Socialist teaching, has the Socialist atmosphere. We may soon see an extensive system of Socialist day and boarding schools and continuation classes and colleges for infant, elementary, secondary, technical and university training.

But the appearance of Socialism in education is not alone to be found in the fact that Socialists and Socialist organisations are beginning to set up educational institutions of their own; the coming of the new era is still more clearly marked by the fact that all the educational idealists of to-day aim, consciously or unconsciously, at creating individuals whose characteristics will fit them to be members of the Socialist community. The dull routine of memorising uncorrelated facts, and the iron, unexplained discipline, which were for long the outstanding and all-embracing features of the school, provided a suitable preparation for the joyless life-toil of the factory system, and formed the best agency for producing the submissive wage-slave. Their example was ever before the child who was one day to be a master over working men and women as his present teacher was over children. But the day of these things is passing. Educationalists no longer aim at compelling pupils to strenuous efforts of memory and discipline. The acquisition of facts is recognised to be of an importance entirely secondary to the preparation of the mind for self-directed study and discovery, and to the formation of the capacity to apply knowledge. Educationalists now seek to replace obedience by self-control and self-reliance. Discipline by the teaching staff, gives way to co-operative management by the pupils, who are beginning to exercise a growing freedom in choosing and arranging their studies. Future systems of education will seek to lay bare, ever more clearly, the anatomy of knowledge. They will teach, not merely the names and localisation of the planets and their seas and continents, but the relation of these to the universe and its laws. They will teach, not merely the exports and imports of any given town or country, but their part in the world organisation of commerce. More and more the teaching of all branches of knowledge will be correlated. The alert, analytical, self-reliant intelligence which will be developed by the coming educational methods, would chafe and rebel under the repressive system of competitive production for profit which, more than we realise, modifies the lives of us all. The new educational methods are at once creating, and being created, by the new race which is arising to dwell in the Socialist era.

But, just as in the economic field, capitalism consolidates its forces and perfects its organisation, and seems to attain the very apex of its achievement as Socialism approaches; so in the educational field a struggle is being made to turn back the spirit of Socialism by rendering education yet more repressive, by fashioning it still more completely to the capitalistic need. Capitalism has lately desired larger and larger armies for its protection; it desires that the workers shall man its armies. To assure itself of willing soldiers capitalism discovers the necessity of introducing the propaganda and practices of militarism into the schools. Even before the War this tendency began to manifest itself: it is now swiftly overleaping all defences.

Mr. Fisher's Education Bill, if carried into law in its present form, will lay the foundation on which may be erected a complete militarisation of our national education. Yet the Bill was at first warmly received by many genuine educationalists, because it promises, in certain directions, some slight amplification of the teaching which hitherto has been so grudgingly doled out to the children of the masses. The ameliorative features of the Bill have been, in our view, greatly overrated. They include the abolition of fees in public elementary schools, the further limitation of child employment, the raising of the school age, and the provision of compulsory continuation classes.

The gainful employment of children under 12 years of age is prohibited, and children of 12 years and upwards may not be employed on school days during school hours, or before 6 a.m. or after 8 p.m. These provisions are by no means advanced. If this Bill is passed it will still be possible to make 12-year-old children work from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., including school work and a 14-hour day is grossly too long, even for an adult!

The age of compulsory attendance at school is to be raised to 14 years, and local authorities are empowered to make bye-laws raising it to 15 years.

We should have thought that a Government in which are several Labour Members, a Government of which it is the mission to induce the British people to believe that they can obtain social justice without following Russia's revolutionary example, would, at the very least, have assured to every child a school life and complete freedom from the possibility of any kind of gainful employment till 16 years of age.

But how are widowed mothers and invalid or sweated fathers of large families to keep all their children at school and earning nothing till they are 16 years of age without allowing their brains and bodies to be stunted for lack of food? Neither the Education Bill nor any other of the many measures, mostly coercive, which the Government has induced Parliament to accept, have made provision for securing adequate feeding and clothing of the school children. The provision of a dinner per day, for which the school cookery centres are allowed 3½d. per head, 1½lbs. of fat being allowed to 25 children, and the caterers are paid 4½d. per head in War-time, cannot be considered adequate, though it is obtained for the child only on the parents' humble application to a committee, and is probably charged up to the parents afterwards. The Government is appealing for £25,000,000 weekly —more than 10s. a head for every man, woman, and child in the population—to be subscribed in War Bonds. No Government has ever been prepared to pay out that sum in wages to the school children, yet we are spending more than double that sum upon the War.

The Bill contains no provision granting more scholarships even to specially promising children, for smaller classes, or for better conditions for either children or teachers. Maintenance grants, higher wages, and better conditions for teachers are urgently needed, or the shortage of teachers is likely to produce the necessity for still larger classes in the immediate future, or even for the shutting down of schools, for there is now a most serious falling off in the number of students in training to become teachers later on. This falling off is not confined to boys. It is not surprising, for parents are feeling that in these days of high prices they cannot afford to maintain their children during a prolonged educational training.

Clause 2 contains a loophole for making provision to ensure that the children who are kept at school till they are 14 will be given instruction suitable to their capabilities, instead of being kept, as a large proportion of the brighter children are to-day, idling about for a year or two, because they have passed the highest standard in the school and no one is charged with the duty of assisting them to progress a stage further. This is an old standing grievance, which needy parents, anxious for the welfare of their children, find well-nigh intolerable.

Sir George Newman, the Chief Medical Inspector to the Board of Education, still finds it necessary to urge that the education and schools provided by the authorities

"shall be such as can in no case exert unfavourable or injurious influences upon the health, growth and development of the child."

He admits that this condition is not fulfilled, explaining that defective lighting of the schools and the character of the work given "seriously diminish" the number of children possessed of normal vision, though the "great majority" have it on entering school. Masses of children leave the elementary schools without having acquired the habit of reading, and able only with stumbling difficulty to decipher the simpler words. Yet the Board of Education is seeking to secure larger power to dictate precisely the education which parents shall give to their children. From time to time an occasional case has occurred in which some prying vicar or squire has declared that the village Socialist was allowing his children to grow up in ignorance because he was not sending them to the local parson-ridden or squire-ridden school. In due course the children of the Socialist have been brought before a magistrate, and they have then invariably demonstrated their acquaintance with the three R's and their general knowledge to be far in advance of the average child of like age. If Mr. Fisher's Bill becomes law, such Socialist parents will find that the way of exemption has become harder. And now that military drill with uniform, bayonet and rifle is being introduced into some schools, and Cabinet Ministers have taken to giving militarist lectures to the pupils, a growing number of Socialists and pacifists will desire to have their children educated anywhere rather than in the public elementary schools.

Under Mr. Fisher's Bill, the question as to whether a child, who is not attending a school recognised by the Board of Education as efficient, is "under efficient instruction" shall be determined by the local education authority or by the Board of Education. "Any such determination shall be final and conclusive." There is no appeal.

Those responsible for schools or educational institutions not receiving grants from the Board of Education must, nevertheless, furnish the Board with a short description of the institution and "with such further particulars" as may be prescribed by the Board. The result may, of course, be an order that the children attending the school shall leave it for one which the Board prefers.

Clause 25 (Section 1), page 16, gives the local educational authority power to compel the managers of any public elementary schools not provided by them to "make arrangements for admission" to these schools of teachers of secular and practical subjects, student teachers and pupil teachers appointed by the local authority. The word "admission" is somewhat ambiguous; it appears that if the staff or curriculum of a school not run by the local authority is not pleasing to the local authority, the authority will have power to insist upon the appointment of certain teachers of other subjects. How will the foregoing provisions affect the Socialist or pioneer school?

This Bill adopts the dangerous principle of differentiating between the education of boys and girls and also that of differentiating between various classes of boys and girls. Clause 8 (Section 2) provides that local bye-laws requiring the attendance at school between the ages of fourteen and fifteen may be applied to all such children, "or to children of a particular sex or to children other than those employed in any specified occupation."

Again, Clause 8 (Section 5) gives power to local authorities

"to direct that any child attending a public elementary school shall attend during such hours as may be directed by the authority at any class, whether conducted on the school premises or not, for the purpose of practical or special instruction or demonstration."

"Practical instruction," according to Clause 42, means "instruction in cookery, laundry work, housewifery, dairy work, handicrafts, and gardening." We protest that it is not fair to force our little girls to do cooking, washing, and housework during their school hours, whether they will or no, if their school life is to end at fourteen years. Household tasks are usually thrust upon them out of school hours, and their time for studying other branches is all too short. Moreover, these hard and fast rules are at variance with the modern educational development.

The term "special instruction" is not defined; is it intended to cover the military teaching of the boys, which is already going on apace in the schools, in order that, even against the wish of their parents, they may be sent outside the schools—perhaps to the local barracks—to be drilled?

The compulsory teaching of drill and any other doctrines which may seem important to the dominant political party is rendered easy by Clause 17, which provides that:

"For the purpose of supplementing and reinforcing the instruction and social and physical training provided by the public system of education, **and without prejudice to any other powers,**"

a local education authority may supply, maintain, or aid holiday or school camps, centres, and equipment for physical culture and "*other* facilities for social or physical training" for children and per-

(Continued on back page.)

QUESTIONS OF THE DAY

FREE MILK

Rather late in the day the Food Controller and Local Government Board have seen the truth of our old maxim that a bottle of milk is often better than a bottle of medicine, and that it is no use ordering milk for mothers and babies unless you see to it that they get it. But mothers object to having to beg for milk on the plea that they are necessitous. Why not give free milk all round and let it be paid for in the rates, or, better still, in the income tax?

LORD LEVERHULME & HIS ISLAND

Whilst Russia has nationalised the land and freed it to the land workers, we learn that Lord Leverhulme has just bought the Island of Lewis, on which is the town of Stornoway, the greatest Scotch fishing centre, with a population of 34,319. It would seem that Lord Leverhulme considers that he not only bought the island but the population also, for, in an interview with the "Daily Chronicle," he says: "I was very favourably impressed with the people and their surroundings. Indeed, I do not think I ever met more charming people anywhere." Asked why he had bought the island, Lord Leverhulme replied: "For many years I have been trying to find some place away from my business where I should be able to take life a little easier. . . . I begin to feel the need of a little rest sometimes." Evidently Lord Leverhulme suffers so badly from the capitalist fever to acquire that he cannot rest except where he owns everything that he can see!

Lord Leverhulme says that the conscription of wealth would be "an assassin blow at the very heart of the Empire." What a frank confession!

LIGHT IN DARK PLACES

The revelations which have been made concerning the brothel in a certain French town arranged for the use of British convalescent soldiers, and the secret diplomacy carried out by General Smuts with the object of making a separate peace with Austria, show that the British Government still refuses to trust to upright and straightforward dealing. The present system appears to care neither for the souls nor for the bodies of men and women. We should welcome a peace with any of the belligerent nations, but dislike underhand methods.

NEUTRALITY!

Dear Editor,—Your space is, I know, limited, but the following in its candour may be interesting to your readers. The extracts are translated from the Spanish Edition of the September 1917 number of the "British and Latin American Trade Gazette," the official organ of the Latin American Chamber of Commerce in Great Britain:

"The Republic of Brazil has occupied a prominent position in the financial affairs of Latin America during the past month, and there is no doubt that the decision of that country to take part in the War in favour of the Allies is destined to benefit it considerably. One of the effects already felt is the revocation of the order prohibiting the importation of coffee into Great Britain, without which Brazil would not have been able to fulfil its promise to resume payment in cash on August 1st in accordance with the funding scheme adopted in 1914."

"In the first stages of the War the neutral nations made every effort to remain outside the conflict. At the present time they realise that neutrality is very difficulty to maintain (apart from other reasons) from the financial point of view. The Argentine Republic is an example in this respect, for the Finance Minister, having had no success in his endeavours to raise a loan in the U.S.A., is about to introduce a Bill into Congress in order to proceed to the issue of an Internal Loan of 450,000,000 dols. Probably the North American bankers would have advanced the money if Argentina had made up its mind to take part in the War in favour of the Allies—which perhaps it may do in the future."

All comment is needless. And we shall never know all the villainies that have been perpetrated in dark places in the names of liberty and justice.—Faithfully yours,

E. P. LOVELL.

THE A.S.E. AND THE COMB-OUT

The A.S.E. ballot has resulted in an enormous majority against the "comb-out," but what will be the outcome?

* * * *

Some people have been allowed to start new monthly papers since the Newspaper Restrictions Order was issued. "The West London Metal Workers' Record" has been stopped.

PARLIAMENT AS WE SEE IT

February 12th.—The new Session was opened by the King.

SOLDIERS IN QUEUES.

February 13th.—Captain Carr Gomm (L.) protested against non-commissioned officers and men of the Royal Defence being without Army rations. He stated that in order to provide themselves with food for guard duty they were obliged to stand in queues when off duty. Not wishing to deprive these men of any facility to lighten their arduous work we must point out that civilians both war-workers and others are exposed to the same hardships. What is wanted is equal treatment for all, be they rich or poor, soldier or civilian.

PRESS CENSORSHIP.

Mr. Bonar Law stated that proceedings were being taken against Colonel Repington and the Editor of the "Morning Post." Mr. Rendall (L.) and Mr. P. A. Harris (L.) pointed out that Colonel Repington had written articles in the "Times" for three and a half years of an equally damaging character. Mr. Bonar Law, not wishing to admit that the "Times" can do no wrong, said: "I do not see the relevance of that. Assuming that this is a criminal, many a criminal lives a long time before he is convicted"!!

THE CASE OF APPRENTICES.

With reference to the treatment of the parents of soldiers who enlisted during apprenticeship, Mr. Hodge stated: "The parents of soldiers enlisted during apprenticeship can now be granted a special separation allowance, under the Amended Regulations (Part II.) of the Special Grants Committee, in cases where the allowances can be regarded as necessary for the due upkeep of the home."

LORD MILNER'S MISSION.

February 14th.—Mr. Ponsonby (L.) stated that the "Daily Mail Year Book" records that Lord Milner was present on February 17th in Petrograd at a Conference of Allied representatives, at which the ex-Czar and the Russian Government pledged themselves to support the return of Alsace-Lorraine to France. Also the country to suffer State on the left bank of the Rhine. Lord R. Cecil denied that there was any truth in this report. In that case we think the edition of the "Daily Mail Year Book" containing this statement ought to be scrapped!!

IRISH UNIONISTS SNUBBED.

Even Mr. Duke is beginning to realise the calibre of men like Major Newman (U.), who is as persistent in exposing "crimes" in Ireland as the anti-Germans here in "smelling" pro-Germans. On the question of the various raids on arms and ammunition by the Republicans, Mr. Duke accused Major Newman "of never losing an opportunity of putting embarrassments in the way of the Administration in Ireland." Mr. Duke further recommended him to get a dictionary to ascertain the difference between a raid and a burglary! On the question of butter, Major McCalmont (U.) said that the Province of Ulster was not represented on the Irish Butter Export Committee. To that Mr. Duke replied: "If that is so, it is capable of easy remedy. The people of Ulster never have any difficulty in getting their needs attended to." Well done, Mr. Duke. You are the first Chief Secretary who openly avowed the favouritism shown to Ulster. That favouritism is now being repaid as the Government deserves.

* * * *

Colonel Faber (U.) would like to see Mr. Morel interned, whilst Mr. Joynson-Hicks (U.) calls for his de-naturalisation!

THE BOLSHEVIKS.

Colonel Faber (U.) and Mr. Billing (Ind.) urged that M. Kamenoff, who is on his way from Stockholm, should "not be allowed at large" in this country, and that M. Litvinoff should be "deported as an undesirable alien." Sir G. Cave admitted that these matters were receiving attention. We trust that the decision arrived at will not be what these hounders-down of ideals and idealists demand!

THE LATE HARRY FIRTH.

Sir G. Cave urged that the death of Harry Firth at Dartmoor was the first in ten months. That is not the objection put forward. Protests are made because of the inhuman treatment meted out to an ill man.

A STRAIGHT ANSWER.

As to whether Russia is an Ally, a neutral, or an enemy country, Lord R. Cecil said: "The position is so obscure that it is impossible to make any statement at present."

DIED FOR WANT OF PENSION.

The case of a discharged soldier suffering from valvular disease of the heart who died twenty months after his discharge was told by Mr. Anderson (Lab.). The man's pension was not enough and he was obliged to work, though the St. Marylebone Sub-Committee warned the Ministry of Pensions that the man would die if he were not given an adequate pension. Yet fifteen months elapsed from the date of that warning and no increase was given the man, with the result that he died. Now, the Pensions Ministry announces that the arrears due to the man will be paid to his widow in addition to a pension. Sir A. Griffith Boscawen admitted that there had been "unjustifiable delay." But we should like to point out that there are many similar cases which will probably receive attention when it is too late!

DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS.

February 12th, 13th and 14th were devoted to debates on the Address, which we may better describe as discussions about the conduct and continuance of the War. Mr. Asquith (L.) referred to the Government of this country as a "succession of administrative experiments," and in tone his speech was a direct attack on those in power. The Versailles Conference, he remarked, was said to have enlarged its "executive power," though it was supposed to have no executive power! Quite noteworthy was his remark that the German Emperor's views on the question of Peace were not necessarily those of the German people. Just as we might point out to Mr. Asquith that the people of this country cannot be held responsible for the imperialistic utterances of members of the present Government. The effort to clear up the re-sumption of the "Knock-out Blow" theory at Versailles made by Mr. Lloyd George was not very successful. He could give no information as to what was decided on; to do that would imperil the safety of millions of lives. The Prime Minister felt he was being magnanimous in the extreme, by his offer to make way for a better Government to conduct the War, if such could be found! The challenge was poorly met when later on the division showed only 28 opponents to the militarists of the War Cabinet. Mr. Ramsay Macdonald (Lab.) exposed the errors of the Government in dealing with the Russian situation. The opportunity which Brest-Litovsk gave for coming to an understanding, he said, had been lost by the incompetence of the Government to understand the situation. He referred to the millions of pounds which the French Government gave to the Ukraine Rada, a middle-class Government, to help them to withstand the Bolsheviks, with the result that the Ukraine has made a separate peace with Germany; whereas Trotsky, the man who stands out for a universal peace, receives neither support nor recognition. The British representative, Lord Milner, had failed to realise the meaning of any of the movements in Russia, he was now even said to have been present when the agreement about Alsace-Lorraine and the left bank of the Rhine was entered into between France and Russia! Mr. Pringle (L.) denounced the policy of the Prime Minister and Lord Northcliffe's press working hand in hand, and expressed the hope that the present Government might fall before it brought the country into further trouble. Mr. Outhwaite (L.) made the grave accusation that for the past eighteen months a million and a half lives had been thrown away, and the military situation was, if anything, worse than before. The Secret Treaties, he went on, show now that this is not a war of ideals, not a war for the rights of small nationalities, but one for the "extension of large nationalities." These territorial claims are barring the way to peace. Mr. Outhwaite averred that Mr. Lloyd George is always ready to give something away which is not his to give. The Government he was at the head of was anti-democratic and had brought about the suppression of liberty in every direction. Mr. Billing (L.) added to the debate by conveying in plain language that Lord Beaverbrook, the new Minister for Propaganda, was the British financier who met representatives of both allied and enemy banking concerns in Switzerland! Mr. Herbert Samuel (L.), in a lengthy speech, told the Government many home truths. He rubbed in the boasts of Mr. Lloyd George when he took the reins of Government, and pointed to the "results." It was apparent from his words that he feared that the House of Commons would have to use all its energy to set matters straight or "the people would be driven to act for themselves." We think Mr. Samuel is somewhat late in coming to this conclusion, and feel that the "people's" faith has been shaken in its representatives to such a degree that an entirely new policy must be entered on before that faith can be restored! Mr. Bonar Law's defence of his Government did not make matters any better, it was the usual quibble over details, leaving the big issues untouched.

ALLIES WAR AIMS.

An amendment was moved by Mr. Holt (L.) taking objection to the decision of the Versailles Council that the "only" immediate task was the prosecution of the War. The meaning of such a policy was the "outpouring of blood and treasure on a tremendous scale." "You can never bring the reign of force to an end by the use of force alone." Colonel Lord Cavendish Bentinck (U.) was refreshing in his declaration that "a new spirit has been born into the world . . . . which sees a vision of a new and better international order and a world set free from Kaisers, Crown Princes, Ludendorffs and Hindenburgs: . . . . a world set free from Beaverbrooks and Northcliffes. The Government should be representative of the people, and not a small gang of people who happen to own Sunday newspapers." Further, he said that if a poll were taken of the people ninety per cent. would be in favour of the status quo, and leave other settlements to the international peace conference. Another Unionist, Colonel Aubrey Herbert, followed the line usually taken by "pacifists," and advocated the "referendum" as means of ascertaining what Government the people want in the countries whose ownership is disputed. He denounced the action of the Government in banning the Stockholm Conference, saying: "Who are fighting for freedom, we or the Germans? If we are fighting for freedom what have we got to fear from Stockholm?" Mr. Whyte (L.) dwelt on the visit of General Smuts to Switzerland and his efforts whilst there of making a separate peace with Austria, and attributed the failure of any general agreement to that kind of secret jugglery. Mr. Runciman (L.) was astonishing in his utterance: "I would give almost anything to get the statesmen of the various belligerent countries talking—no harm could be done by it." Mr. Balfour, in his defence of the actions of the Government, proved, as Mr. Snowden (Lab.) said, that he does not read the papers. He seemingly was quite ignorant of what the German Chancellor said. But is it to be wondered at that Mr. Balfour takes no interest in foreign affairs when he is left completely out of all discussions, such as the Versailles Conference? We think, since this vital work is of so little importance to him, he ought not to continue in office. He declared that the agreement about Alsace-Lorraine did not "bind" the British Government, yet Lord R. Cecil and the Prime Minister scorn any attempt to shake off the obligations imposed by the Secret Treaties! Mr. Snowden showed by the treatment of Albania by these treaties that small interest was taken in little States by the Allies. He denounced the Government as being incapable of making either war or peace. Colonel Godfrey Collins (L.) put a question which must occur to many: "If we are so anxious to ruin Germany, are we willing to jeopardise Great Britain and our Allies?" Many references were made to Lord Lansdowne, and Mr. Trevelyan (L.) even suggested him as leader of the Government, because he is a believer in the need for peace. Are there not many others, less illustrious perhaps, who would also put peace before all things; but on a more democratic basis than his Lordship?

FOOD.

The interference of the Food Controller with ordinary business by his many orders and proclamations was greatly condemned by Mr. Lough (L.) Many other members followed this attack showing up the endless contradictory orders issued from time to time by the incompetent Food Control Department.

POPE'S PEACE NOTE.

Mr. McKean (L.N.) moved an amendment condemning the plot to ignore the Pope which was laid bare in the Secret Treaties. This action, he said, was characteristic of the British Government, a Government which displays "weakness, cowardice, lack of individuality, lack of power of thinking for themselves—a certain official slavishness." The Press, he argued, frightened the Government.

LORD BEAVERBROOK.

February 18th.—Mr. Bonar Law stated that Lord Beaverbrook had resigned from the board of the "Daily Express."

LITVINOFF.

Mr. Billing (L.) tried to have M. Litvinoff's lecture at the Central Hall cancelled, but without success. He also advocated muzzling M. Kameneff should he arrive here!

"TRIBUNAL."

Mr. Snowden (Lab.) protested against the machines of the National Labour Press being dismantled by the Authorities, so as to prevent them printing the "Tribunal." Mr. Outhwaite drew a parallel between these measures and the lenient treatment of the "Morning Post."

CIVIL SERVICE SUPPLY.

The debate on the Supplementary Estimates afforded opportunities for criticising the various Government departments which are being set up and enlarged with such rapidity and with such disregard to cost. Mr. Lough (L.) drew attention to the action of the Food Ministry in commandeering of the new Science and Art Museum at South Kensington. He argued, as many did, the absolute folly of trying to deal with food from that quarter; accommodation in the City or further east was essential if any success were to come of Food Control.

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FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION

A MEETING for TEACHERS and all interested in EDUCATION

will be held on Saturday, 23rd February, 1918, at 3 p.m., at the Hall of the King's Weigh House Church, Duke Street, W. (Entrance to the Hall in Thomas Street, near Bond Street Tube Station.)

Address by C. A. PEASE on "MILITARISM in EDUCATION."

WHATS' ON?
W.S.F. FIXTURES
OUT DOOR

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd.
Great Push for Peace, Socialism and Votes for All in Hammersmith. Meet at 2.45 p.m. at 10 South Street, King Street, Hammersmith (near both railway stations). Speakers: Miss Birch, Mrs. Walker, and others.
Pretoria Road, Walthamstow, 3 p.m., Miss Price, and others.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24th.
Osborn Street, Whitechapel, 11.45 a.m., Mrs. Walker.
"Salmon and Ball," Bethnal Green, 11.45 a.m., Miss Price.
Finsbury Park, 3 p.m., Mrs. Cressall, and others.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28th.
St. Stephen's Road, Bow, 11.30 a.m., Miss Price.

SATURDAY, MARCH 22nd.
Great Push in St. Pancras.

INDOOR

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22nd.
400 Old Ford Road, 3 p.m., W.S.F. Committee meeting.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27th.
Bow Women's Hall, 8 p.m., Speakers' Class. Instructor, Mr. L. Hogben.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28th.
29b Lincoln's Inn Fields, 7.30 p.m., Rev. Humphrey Chalmers: "Peace by Elections"; Mrs. Bouvier: "The Present Outlook."

OTHER ORGANISATIONS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26th.
Walthamstow League of Rights.—William Morris Hall, 2.30 p.m., Mrs. Cressall, Mrs. Sizer.

Kingsley Hall. Educational week-end. February 23rd and 24th, lectures by Currie Martin, M.A., 7 p.m. Saturday, Sir Rabindranath Tagore; Sunday afternoon, Henry Drummond, and Sunday evening, 8.15 p.m.

OUR FUNDS

Donations to be sent to the Hon. Financial Secretary, Miss N. L. Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.3.
All parcels to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.3.

Gratefully Acknowledged.

GENERAL FUND.—W. J. Woods, Esq. (£2 monthly), £24; Dennis Bradley, Esq., £5; Robt. Gaul, Esq., £1; balance of profit, Bow and Poplar Social, 10s.; Miss M. D. Kemp (4s. monthly), 8s.; Miss L. Cutten (monthly), 5s.; Mrs. Zitnik, 1s.; Mrs. Allen, 1s.; Anon, 6d. COLLECTIONS: Mrs. Bouvier, 8s. 11½d.

FOOD DEMONSTRATION.—Miss M. Joachim, £1; Mrs. Chandler, 10s.; Mrs. Hopwood, 10s.; Mrs. Thurgood, 5s.; Mr. Plant, 5s.; Mrs. Pointer, 5s.; Mrs. Jas. Morton and Friend, 4s.; Three Friends, 4s.; Miss A. B. Howlett, 3s. 6d.; Mrs. Wheaton, 2s. 6d.; Rev. C. A. Wills, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. McCracken, 2s. 6d.

"DREADNOUGHT" FUND.—Anon, £20; Miss V. Causton, £2; Robt. Gaul, Esq., £1; Miss Grace Chappelow (card), £1; Miss E. Osman, 6d. COLLECTION: Miss E. Smith, 6s. 6d.

"DREADNOUGHT" GUARANTEE FUND.—Previously acknowledged (weekly), £2 19s. 6d.

CLINICS AND SOCIAL WORK.—Misses Muriel and Margaret Warren, £4 4s.; Mr. and Mrs. Sadd Brown (monthly), £4; Misses Gulland (monthly), £1 15s.; Nurse Hebbes (10s. weekly), £1; Anon per Miss Lynch, £1; Miss J. T. Drewry (monthly), 5s.; Miss L. Glanfield, 3s. 6d.; Miss Ada E. Farmer, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Drake, 2s. COLLECTIONS: L.S.A. Tool-room, £1 9s. 7d.; Miss Durrant, £1; Misses E. Lagsding and J. Watts (Green's Yard), 10s. 2d.; Miss C. Cottrell, 10s.; Miss K. Lagsding and Mrs. Bertram (Cubitt Town), 5s. 6½d.; Ethel Lawrence, 4s.

ROCKING HORSE.—Mrs. McKinley.
PADLOCKS.—Mr. Sadd Brown.
FLOWERS.—Miss Sinclair.
FRUIT.—Mrs. Napier.
GROCERIES.—Anon, Anon.
CHILDREN'S CLOTHES.—Miss Fryer.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

FAMILY LIMITATION DOCTRINE. Post free, 1½d. —Malthusian League, Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster.

WOMEN WORKERS should spend their holidays at "Sea View," Victoria Road, Brighton.—Hostess, Miss Turner.

TYPEWRITING REQUIRED at home; MSS. and Plays; Duplicating accurately done. Terms on application.—Apply Miss A. O. Beamish, 85 Hoxton Street.

WANTED now, Domestic Worker. Good salary; cook and gardener kept.—Apply, Woodthorpe, Stonebridge Park, N.W.10.

BEDROOM TO LET.—Every convenience; breakfasts if required; easy access Docks; 1d. fare City.—326 Old Ford Road, E.3.

WANTED, NURSE for East End Clinic.—Apply Workers' Suffrage Federation, 400 Old Ford Road, London, E.

WANTED, AGENTS for the "Workers' Dreadnought." Apply to the Manager, 400 Old Ford Road, London, E.
The Workers' Suffrage Federation appeals for more members and for voluntary helpers for "Dreadnought" and pamphlet selling, clerical work, organisation of propaganda work, and work in the nursery.

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THE SCHOOLING OF THE FUTURE

(Continued from page 952).

sons under or over eighteen years. "Social training" may be interpreted to mean anything, and "physical training," in these days may be anticipated to mean military training.

The scheme for providing continuation classes for boys and girls between 14 and 18 years of age during 320 hours a year is one which we should like to welcome without reservation, except to say that it does not go so far as we should wish; but, unfortunately, we cannot give a whole-hearted welcome to the scheme because we are aware of the desire of capitalists to indoctrinate both boys and girls with what every Socialist must hold to be false ideals.

Local education authorities are required by the Bill "to establish and maintain, or to secure the establishment and maintenance, under their control and direction" of schools for providing free "suitable courses of instruction and physical training." All young persons between 14 and 18 years are to be compelled to attend these classes, except those who are exempt from attendance, by reason of having passed a university matriculation examination, of having remained at school till 16 years of age, or of being under other full or part-time instruction which the Board of Education considers to "suitable and efficient." If the Board desires that all lads between 14 and 18 shall do military drill, it will refuse to recognise as suitable and efficient any curriculum in which military drill is not included. In South Wales, Glasgow, and other districts where the Socialist education classes are largely attended, numbers of the boys and girls between 14 and 18 will probably desire to attend such classes in the time set apart for continuation instruction if the Bill becomes law. Would the Board of Education, would Mr. Fisher, its President, recognise such classes? If a boy or girl fails or refuses to attend the course to which he or she is sent by the educational authority, he or she is liable to a fine of 5s. on the first occasion and £1 subsequently; the parent is liable, on a first conviction, to a fine of £2, and £5 for each further offence.

After five years the number of hours to be spent at the continuation classes may be increased by order of the Board of Education "in respect of any area or part of an area, or any young persons or classes of young persons," the draft order to lie for 30 days on the table of each House of Parliament. The object of this provision, which occurs in Clause 10, is obscure; but it could obviously be used most unfairly if the country would tolerate its use as an instrument of coercion. For instance, it might be applied to the younger brothers of conscientious objectors, or to the employees of co-operative associations, so that they might be obliged to spend the greater part of their time in military exercises.

Clause 10 (Section 5) makes a two-edged provision that a young person's employment may be suspended on any day for two hours beyond the time of attendance at school in order to "secure that he may be in a fit mental and bodily condition to receive full benefit from attendance at the school." This might, and probably would, be used to insure to the pupil a needed break for food or rest; but it might also be used to extend the time devoted to military exercises.

It is important to note that the proportion of the 320 hours to be devoted to "physical instruction" is in no way limited; also that, alike in the provision of continuation schools and camps and of facilities for social and physical training, it is stated that the local authorities may either provide, or use the facilities provided by others. There is nothing to prevent the local education authorities from turning the whole business over to the military authorities.

Advocates of Mr. Fisher's Bill will declare that we are unreasonably suspicious in regarding this Bill as an attempt to militarise the schools and to prevent the growth of Socialism in education. Those who dispute our view may perhaps be surprised to learn that there is a French parallel to Mr. Fisher's Bill, which was described in "The Times" Educational Supplement of April 16th, 1917. M. Viviani has said that the aim of the French Bill for compulsory continuation schools is to produce "good soldiers, good workers, good citizens by providing physical education, professional education, and technical education respectively." The French Bill provides that only persons who have complied with its provisions and with those of the Law of 1882 shall be appointed to State, departmental, or communal office, or shall receive civil titles or distinctions. Are such restrictions to be added also in this country?

But who can fail to realise the determination to militarise the national education when the thing is already taking place? Numerous local authorities have demanded compulsory scout corps for the boys at school and compulsory cadet corps for those who are leaving. The Director of Education for Leicester has actually issued a handbook urging that the teacher shall "learn to teach like a soldier," and that military instruction shall accompany the teaching of geography, English, mechanics, chemistry, hygiene, history, mathematics and handicrafts, and that "applied science must invariably provide a sure foundation for practical training upon the machine-gun, the bomb, the grenade, or whatever weapon of war inhuman ingenuity may yet contrive." He urges also that bayonet practice shall be "carried out as a physical drill," and thus describes the method:

"In the second trench the sack is lying on the far side, as if a man were crawling out. Leap the trench and make a point. (e) Sack lying on ground (wounded man ready to jab upwards). Quick point. (f) Into final trench. Drop butt to ground and seize bayonet to stick into the throat at close quarters. . . . ."

Parents, is this the education you desire for your children? Truly, the need for the Internationalist-Socialist school has risen most acutely at the time when a Bill is put forward which would give power to suppress it.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

FEDERATION NOTES

BOW BRANCH.—Secretary, Miss P. Lynch, 400 Old Ford Road. Members are asked to return all money and unsold tickets for the February Bow and Poplar Concert, and also for the meeting at 400 Old Ford Road on February 10th. We wish to thank the members who helped to make the concert a success. We appreciate the help of the Red Scouts, who acted as stewards at the meeting, and we hope they will be able to help us at all our socials. The £4 Social profit acknowledged in the "Dreadnought" of February 16th should have been credited to Bow and Poplar, not Bow and Bromley.

DOVER BRANCH.—Secretary, James H. Matson, 3 Primrose Road, Dover.—All Socialists in Dover and district are invited to join this new branch of the W.S.F. Although small, it is already doing good work.

MANCHESTER BRANCH.—Secretary, Miss Nagley, 271 Moss Lane East, Moss Side, Manchester.—The branch has had, and is arranging, some very interesting meetings. On February 14th, Mrs. Aldridge, who has recently returned from Serbia, gave an address at the Milton Hall on her experiences, and on March 7th Miss Muriel Matters is speaking on Dr. Montessori's contribution to child psychology and education. The chairman will be Mr. Ward, H.M.I.. Tickets, 6d. and 1s. each. Members' meetings are held every Thursday, 7.30 p.m., at 9 Albert Square, City. All members are asked to attend regularly.

MID-RHONDDA BRANCH.—Secretary, Miss Gwen Ray, 40 Blanche Terrace, Williamstown, Glam.—This branch has been exceedingly active during its brief existence, and has received considerable notice in the Press. On Wednesday, January 16th, a deputation from the branch waited on the local Food Control Committee, the members being Nurse Davies (Penygraig), Mrs. Knight (Trealaw), Mrs. T. R. Davies (Tonypandy), Miss Julia Golding (Penshiwfer), and Miss Ray (Williamstown). Nurse Davies gave instances from her own experience how expectant mothers had suffered from standing in the food queues and how lying-in mothers were unable to get palatable food. She related how in one case premature delivery took place, the baby dying after a few hours. Mrs. Knight, who followed, said she had been the mother of eleven children, one of whom was killed in a colliery accident and another had died after an operation. Of the remaining nine the one who caused her more trouble than any of the others was a boy who when born in the eight months of the Cambrian strike was suffering from double rupture. She attributed the boy's delicate condition to the lack of sufficient food during the pre-natal period. Miss Ray said the Mid-Rhondda Branch of the W.S.F. had considered the question of the feeding of mothers in the Rhondda during wartime and had discussed the merits of the communal kitchens. In actual practice it had been found that the communal kitchens were not made use of by mothers at the period they would be most beneficial. She urged that an expectant mother should be asked to call in the midwife who would probably attend her professionally later on. The nurse, from a consultation, would be able to find out what particular foodstuffs she would require, and would then report directly to the Food Control Committee, who would devise a scheme for providing the mother with the necessary commodities. The Branch suggested that a mother should receive the special supplies from six months before birth until ten months afterwards. The Chairman said they were waiting Lord Rhondda's permission to put their rationing scheme into operation. Mr. Davies, the deputy Executive Officer, stated that Lord Rhondda had definitely said in the case of sugar that the ration was not to be exceeded under any condition, and possibly this same regulation would be enforced in the future when nationally rationing any other commodity. In reply, Miss Ray suggested that if the Food Controller would not allow extra supplies for mothers that, from all parts of the country, strong pressure be brought to bear.

SHEFFIELD W.S.F.—Secretary, Mr. Newman.—On Sunday afternoon, February 17th, this branch held a very successful meeting in the B.S.P. Room, West Street, which was addressed by Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Mr. Manion taking the chair. In the evening Miss Pankhurst addressed a joint meeting of W.S.F. and United Socialist Council in the Engineers' Institute, Stanley Street. The hall was crowded, numbers of people were turned away, and the audience was enthusiastic for Peace and the Social Revolution. On Saturday evening Miss Pankhurst had spoken to a W.E.A. meeting at Mexborough, and at these three meetings orders were taken for 193 copies of the "Dreadnought" weekly, besides a number of single copies. Three hundred "Dreadnoughts" were sold at the Engineers' Institute, and there were good sales of literature at the other meetings also. Sheffield Branch meets fortnightly at the B.S.P. Rooms, West Street. Next meeting, Thursday evening, March 7th.

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