THE WORKERS'

DREADNOUGHT

Socialism, Internationalism, Votes for All.

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THE MONTESSORI PRINCIPLES: By Muriel Matters

IV.—SENSORIAL EDUCATION.

We say that under the Montessori Method the children become independent and spontaneous observers of their environment at an early age. That this, if it became widespread, would be of inestimable value to humanity is daily apparent to us, for we witness the inability of most people to look at things through their own eyes; in a word, to stand upon their mental feet. This condition makes people easy prey to unscrupulous "pillars of society"; and the cause is mainly, we think, to be sought in the hitherto irrational method of education.

The most striking evidence we have that people —irrespective of class or circumstance—are ill-educated is their response to the banal utterances of an unscrupulous Press worked on gramophonic methods. We ask: "What chance would a Northcliffe or a Bottomley have among a people whose nature, mental and spiritual, had risen to the heights of their ultimate destiny?" It is our conviction that St. John did not deceive us when he said—"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, but it doth not yet appear what we shall be." And there are others, too, who have caught a glimpse of our true heritage, not the least of whom is Maria Montessori. This heritage is to be realised *here on earth*, not postponed to some far future state, as the charlatans have promised, with the proviso that the life of eternal bliss is to be the reward of a well-behaved, submissive life on earth! If there is "no choice save darkness or rebellion," we choose the latter state, knowing well that when the people reach their full stature, in spite, and not because, of the assistance of these "pillars of society," the Bottomley or the Northcliffe pottage will not be accepted by the people in lieu of their birthright, nor will the official Christian faith, which supports the Governments instead of overthrowing them, have power to chloroform the people's soul.

The thought that depressed Whitman depresses us: "There is something profoundly affecting to me in seeing large masses of men following blindly after some man who does not believe in men." Then we turn to our little men, and faith in the promise and dignity of humanity is born again. These, ranging from 2½ to 5 years, we are preparing for direct and independent observation by the training and refining of their senses, thus bringing order to their minds from the chaos of teeming stimuli in the world around them. This bringing of order out of chaos gives a substantial foundation in their consciousness, and they go forward making their own discoveries.

We are concerned with this question of formation above all, and Horace Mann's words are with us always: "Where there is anything growing, one former is worth a thousand re-formers!" If from infancy the child become accustomed to judge, compare, and select (and working with the Montessori material one sees this power develop), it is clear that he will more likely than his father was before him be proof against those men, who believe not in men, but in machines.

The phrase, "Government of the People," etc., is the travesty we know it to be this day because of the *absence of the people*. The people, and all that the words mean, the will, the purpose, the full expression of our teeming populace, have been swallowed up to further the aggrandisement of the few. Whither has the spirit gone? Blown like the flame before the wind out of the hearths and homes to disintegrate in the army of destruction. The women hunt in queues for food, and meanwhile we concern ourselves with the future—the race that is marching forward, despite the present gloom, on the feet of the little children.

We present to the children material, in a series of concrete objects, which serves to educate their senses, at an age at which there is naturally a rapid acquisition of the most varied sensations. Therefore this is the educable age, for there is taking place within the infant the formation of an inner organism in response to the stimuli offered by the outer world.

We shall not deal with the question of the technique employed in the sensorial education of the child—this can be studied from Dr. Montessori's books. The main idea to be grasped by those interested is—that sensory education comes by the child himself practising a sensory exercise. When the child begins to persist in repeating an exercise, then—and not till then—does he give play to the whole of his nervous system, and this leads to the fine discernment of stimuli always increasingly similar.

To reach this stage of sense refinement the child has drawn on his inner powers—attention, concentration, and reason, leading finally to selection. His mental content—the sensations taken from the environment—form, as it were, the armoury of a mental construction. By such auto-exercise he accustoms himself to reason upon, and to choose from the truths which the world, his world, offers. As he comes closer to the truth, say in the small matter of whether two shades of colour are similar or whether they vary slightly, he is bound to analyse, to compare, and finally to decide. Will this not help him later when he deals with other matters of greater import, individually and socially?

We believe this early training to be fraught with greater possibilities than we yet know. We believe that such a training will protect man from the illusions which come so easily when there is not the inner guide, and that it will enable him to withstand the snares strewn across his path by man's exploiters in their varied guise.

But as these little men become conscious of their own power, they must be helped to exercise their power, not on others, thus perpetuating the evil, but on themselves.

Of Special Interest This Week

Is Lansdowne to be our Saviour?

Starving the Girls

WORKSHOP NOTES: By W. F. WATSON

THE SHOP STEWARDS' MOVEMENT IN FRANCE.

The "Times" Engineering Supplement for March 29th contains a remarkable article from an engineering correspondent on the French Shop Stewards' movement. The Shop Stewards in France have been reporting to their T.U. branches business which crops up in the factories, and the French Minister of Munitions has issued a circular pointing out the irregularity of such conduct.

The purpose, states the circular, of appointing shop stewards in the works is "to facilitate the relations between the workmen and the managers. Their functions must therefore be exercised only within the factory and no echo of workshop business must escape outside. . ." The duty of shop stewards is to do their office with complete independence and they must report only to the workmen whom they represent.

The circular also directs Labour controllers to enforce very carefully the instructions of this circular prohibiting the formation of Shop Stewards' Committees, and expressly forbids mobilised workmen, who are shop stewards, to belong to such an association. In comment, the correspondent says: "The perspective in which this circular exhibits the institution of shop stewards is the more instructive because it is presented by such a Government. It expresses a desire for a function in industry for which as yet no equivalent has been suggested in this country." "The first business of shop stewards in Britain," says the correspondent, "is to keep the T.U. branch constantly informed of whatever is going on in the shops." The article concludes by saying: "French opinion would not lightly repudiate the symmetry by which our shop stewards are linked up to their Trade Unions, and the fact that it has done so is perhaps a hint that the representation it expects shop stewards to undertake is consistent with the real interests of the workmen and necessary to those of industry."

The object of the circular is quite clear. The French Government, recognising and fearing the growth of the shop stewards' movement as a menace to capitalism, are doing all they can to stem it by localising its activities. If they can prevent all communication between one shop and another, thereby preventing any unity of action, they can crush any manifestation of shop activity.

Of course the "Times" wishes the British employers to emulate the French Minister and the editorial comments are really illuminating. These state that in this country the shop steward is primarily a man selected from the workmen to take note of what goes on, and report to the District Council; but that "of late there has been a disposition in many shops for the stewards to claim a greater independence of action; whereby the contest between the parent bodies and those who in their original function were its officers has given rise to embittered disputes and sometimes even to strikes." This is quite true. It is the inevitable result of reactionary officialism driving the workers to transfer their industrial organisation from the branch to the workshop. Further than that, the new shop stewards' movement will and must be apart from the Unions altogether and, eliminating all barriers of craft and sex, will ultimately usurp the industrial functions of the Craft Unions, leaving those organisations as relics of mediævalism, merely administering "goose club" benefits. The "Times" then re-states the functions of the French shop stewards as outlined in the circular, and concludes by saying: "Shop stewards of this type, if British employers individually could get the habit of negotiating with them to mutual satisfaction, might do much to localise and prevent the spread of the infection of unrest which, in the view of many, is fostered and disseminated by shop stewards as known to British industry.

"The British type may be necessary if the French type is insufficient; but British employers might do well to consider whether they could not make a success of the French type." How delightfully naive! How little these scribes know of the growth of the shop stewards' movement!! That movement has come to stop in spite of all the machinations of the organised boss and State. And as for localising its activities, whilst human ingenuity can devise ways and means the workers' committees will not only prevent localisation; but will, by scientific co-ordination, prevent any form of victimisation and will finally obtain the entire control of industry.

MORE VICTIMISATION

On March 17th ten fitters, one of whom, Sid Newman, was Chief Convener of Shop Stewards, received their notices from the Hotchkiss Works, Coventry.

The position was placed before a mass meeting of the employees, whereat, after discussion, a deputation was appointed to demand from the management immediate re-instatement on the grounds that it was a clear case of victimisation.

At the interview the management stated that the men were discharged because a certain part of the gun was replaced by a more simple device, which is now being done by women. The management was asked if it were possible to find work for the men in another department. The reply was that it might be possible to place two or three in the Tool-room. Upon being

(Continued on back page).

THE WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT

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SOCIALISTS AND THE WAR

Socialists who have been able to keep their wits in spite of the all-but-universal cry, "My country right or wrong," realise that the origin of this War is the desire for capitalistic expansion. The treaties which Germany has forced on Russia, Ukrainia, Roumania, and Finland clearly reveal the German War aims. These treaties have given Germany access to corn lands, mines, and factories in Ukrainia, oilfields in Roumania, and copper, manganese, and oils in the Caucasus. They have also given to Germany control of seaports in the Black Sea, the Baltic Sea, and the North Sea, and railway communications to the East and North. German capitalists had long determined to secure, when opportunity should offer, more raw materials, and greater railway and seaport facilities. These, if they can hold them, they have now gained by conquest.

The Allied War aims have been exposed, not alone by their conquests, but also by the secret treaties which have been published by the Bolsheviks, who discovered them in the Petrograd archives. These treaties have been re-published also in the DREADNOUGHT. By their secret treaties, if and when they were able to realise them, the Allies would gain oil in Persia and Mesopotamia and ports in the Mediterranean Sea, the Black Sea, the Caspian Sea, the Persian Gulf, and the Arabian Sea; also Constantinople and the Dardanelles, and much other rich Turkish territory. In Alsace-Lorraine the Allies would get iron and steel, potash, and other mineral deposits. In Germany, west of the Rhine, they would gain coal. They would also gain a big piece of rich territory in the Balkans, snatched from Austria; another piece in the Tyrol, again at Austria's expense; ports and territory on the borders of the Mediterranean, and oil, rubber, and mineral wealth in Africa. The treaties prove that the aims of the Allies are the same as those of Germany, namely, the securing of raw material, railway communications, ports, and markets. The War is, in short, a commercial War.

We Socialists know this; we realise that world-politics are mainly matters of business to the financier, and that so long as the world is run on a capitalistic basis it will be mainly controlled by financiers. We therefore regret to find the following declaration of opinion in the "Editorial Outlook" of this quarter's "Socialist Review." The writer begins by saying that Lord Lansdowne has rendered "tolerably respectable a new and peaceful orientation; he then continues :—

> "This, however, would have to be preceded by a change of Government itself. And in changing horses we must be careful. Naturally I should prefer a Labour Government were that possible. . . . What sort of Labour Government should we get now? The Labour Party is only finding its feet in these questions, and for it to step in before the issues are prepared for it would be to commit a blunder even greater than was its decision to join a War Coalition. It would have to face with an untried team a maximum amount of difficulty on a field where its past experience has been most scanty, where it would be easiest for it to come to grief, and where its failure would be most fatal to itself and the country. Every month that passes makes its arrival more probable, and it can afford to wait and use the present governing authorities to pave its way. In face of this it is argued that we should let the present Government go on its further ruin. I do not consider that cynical view to be in accordance with our duty to our people. We have to conserve the salvage, and not stand by and see more of it merged in the general ruin. I believe that a policy with peace at its end ought now to be begun; that is why I want to see a change of Government without a day's delay. I believe that a Government can be formed which will have a grasp upon a policy of peace just as firm as any Labour Government which can be formed now, and though it will not suit me for reconstruction, I am willing to use it for the great pressing need of the moment. If such a Government were to ease the Censorship and give us facilities to speak to the Central peoples it would do a service for the time being equal to any that we could do if in office ourselves. The support we should give it would be independent support. We could defend it from Jingo attack and put at its disposal our great international influence, and when it had done its work Whitehall would be ready for Labour. None of us would be very much older when that opportunity would come."

In other words, the Editor of the "Socialist Review" is of opinion that a Labour Government could not make a satisfactory peace, and that this difficult question should be left to experienced capitalist politicians. Having left Lord Lansdowne to tackle the War problem, the Labour Party is to find an easy way to office, perhaps by criticising Lord Lansdowne's mistakes. Men who should deliberately take such an unheroic course would deserve political extinction; but what has given the Editor of the "Socialist Review" so much faith in the diplomacy and the intentions of Lord Lansdowne and the other politicians of the old school? Lord Lansdowne's record is not inspiring. He was in office either as War Minister or Foreign Secretary throughout the Boer War. He was Foreign Secretary in the year 1904, when, as Mr. E. D. Morel says, in his "Truth and the War," "the seeds of this mightiest of all Wars were being sown." Mr. Morel here refers to the betrayal of Morocco, which was begun in 1904. In that year France and Spain publicly declared themselves to be "firmly attached to the integrity of Morocco," and an Anglo-French manifesto declared France to have "no intention of altering the political status of Morocco." At the same time secret understandings were adopted by Britain, France, and Spain, under which France and Spain should divide Morocco into spheres of political and economic action for themselves. That Lord Lansdowne was aware of, and responsible for, this dishonest act, is proved by published letters which passed between him and the French Ambassador concerning the public and secret treaties between France and Spain. Mr. Morel and others who have exhaustively studied the events leading up to this War, consider the Morocco intrigue to have been one of the principal causes of the international tragedy. What faith can we have in Lord Lansdowne as the saviour of the country since he was responsible for the beginning of the intrigue, and since he and his colleagues laid the foundations on which Sir Edward Grey and the Liberal Government continued so disastrously to build?

The Editor of the "Socialist Review" speaks of the issues being "prepared" for the future Labour Government. Dear heaven help the Government which has the edifice prepared for it by the men who prepared the Morocco intrigue! During the years 1904 to 1914 when War broke out the shadow of the Morocco intrigue and its double-dealing and broken faith darkened the horizon of foreign politics. In every foreign engagement made during those years the people were deceived. During the term of office of Lord Lansdowne and his associates the more brutal and reckless type of foreign politics began to appear—South Africa and Morocco are dark blots to place to the record of any group of men. Personal blame we will not cast upon them; we will only say that, believing in the capitalist system which makes pawns of the world-peoples in the interests of finance, they have been the tools and coadjutors of the pushful modern financiers whose operations produced this War. Political memories are short; we shall be accused of mere bitterness in recrimination; but have we a right to display too much gullibility where the welfare of the people is concerned; have we a right to walk open-eyed into a snare? No, no, we must not support the return to office of any of the makers of this War! The Editor of the "Socialist Review" promises Socialist advice, influence, and support for a Lansdowne Government; we do not think that a Government of aristocratic Tory tradition would welcome such co-operation. The Socialists' strength lies not in wire-pulling politicians, for wire-pulling is but bargaining after all, a matter of give and take at bottom. And what have we to offer the Tory politician save the promise of an awakened democracy—the very thing that he does not want?

The Editor of the "Socialist Review" asks: "What sort of Labour Government should we get now?" And in the point of view which the question reveals he has our sympathy. We, too, shrink from the prospect of a Labour Government manned by the Labour leaders who have co-operated in the prosecution of the War and its iniquities and who have been but the echo of the capitalist politicians with whom they have associated.

"But what is the alternative?" you ask, O comrades. Is it not to propagate International Socialist thought and thereby secure International-Socialist leadership in the Labour movement? The Editor of the "Socialist Review," though he does not say so, obviously prefers not to allow Labour leaders of the type of Messrs. Henderson, Hodge, Barnes, Clynes, and Roberts to come into office during the War, for he knows that they would merely drift in the wake of the prevailing capitalist policy. He fears that the Labour movement is as yet too little coloured by Socialist thought to choose men of more advanced ideas and he would reserve the reign of these men for peace time, for the period of reconstruction after the War. Does he fear the destruction of the reputations of the present-day Labour leaders? To adopt his policy is to postpone the awakening of the Labour movement; let its chosen leaders, whoever they are, go forward and acquit themselves as best they may; they cannot do worse than the men who have gone before them. And meanwhile we who are International Socialists must toil with all earnestness to propagate our ideals in the Labour movement. A long way round you think, dear comrades, but it is the only way. There are no short cuts to righteousness. Christ came to teach men that, but to this day they will not heed him. "Strait is the gate and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life." Let us be like the "wise man which built his house upon a rock," for if we build upon the shifting sands it will fall once more when the rain descends and the floods come.

"Our country would gain in popular esteem," says the Editor of the "Socialist Review." We plead with him not to let his thoughts run in such channels, for in these days it is indeed true that we cannot follow the strait and steep path, and yet find that all men will speak well of us.

We commend this fact to him in his dealing with Lenin and Kerensky. It was not Lenin, but Kerensky who "trusted to the sword" when he re-started the offensive in the Eastern trenches. And here let us quote again the letter of Rosa Luxemburg to a Russian friend in July, 1917 :—

> "So you have broken the peace. The Russian Revolution was everything to us, too. Everything in Germany was tottering, falling. For months the soldiers of the two armies fraternised, and our officers were powerless to stop it. Then suddenly the Russians fired upon their German comrades. After that it was easy to convince the Germans that the Russian peace was false. Alas, my poor friends! Germany will destroy you now. And for us is black despair come again!"

We plead with our Socialist comrades to have faith in Socialism—to work for it, recognising that it alone can end all wars, as it can end, too, the sordid miseries of peace. The War has been caused by capitalism, it is our duty and our privilege to show men that Socialism alone can preserve them from such catastrophes—shall we throw the opportunity aside in order to place in power some idol with feet of clay? These are the days in which to pray for more greatness and steadfastness of purpose, for wider knowledge, stronger powers of persuasion; these are the days in which to stretch out our hands and the warm and glowing sympathy of our hearts to the living, suffering, struggling peoples—our comrades in life—in order that we may be worthy and successful in teaching Socialism. In these days let our spirits be far from the deceptions and wire-pullings of the counting-house and the committee-room.

THE MAN POWER BILL.

The Man Power Bill will bring disaster upon the country. In Ireland will be massacre and revolt, and scenes more terrible than those of the European battle-fields. Mr. Lloyd George has announced that conscription is to be enforced there as soon as the necessary machinery can be created and put into operation. The Rebellion of Easter Week arose because of the fear of conscription; conscription can only be enforced in Ireland at the cost of a massacre in every street. There will be unprecedented numbers of C.O.s. And conscription is to be thrust upon Ireland without even the definite promise of self-government or Home Rule of any kind. Mr. Lloyd George announces that the much-vaunted Irish Convention, which was never a democratically constituted body, has failed to achieve unanimity, and that the Government will draft a Bill on its own lines. But he adds: "Let there be no misapprehension, the two questions (conscription and self-government) will not hang together."

Obviously the Government Bill will not be acceptable to the Irish people, and the Government will attempt to force conscription upon Ireland by the sword. Only 85 Members of Parliament protested in the Division Lobby. The democracy will remember this.

For the rest the Man Power proposals raise the military age to 50 or 55 in certain cases, and extend conscription under what appear to be modified conditions to the clergy. The leaders of the Churches, according to Mr. Lloyd George, have agreed to this use of Christ's ministers. Ministers of Religion will now have an opportunity of suffering for their faith on equal terms with lay conscientious objectors. Exemptions are to be cancelled by Proclamation, and Tribunals to be re-constituted. Already the military authorities are sending boys of 18½ years to France.

All this, Mr. Lloyd George assures us, is necessary because of the reverses on the Western Front; yet he admits that the Allied forces are already numerically greater there than the German forces and America is pouring in more men. Mr. Arnold Bennett, in the "Daily News," elaborately seeks to prove that the Man Power Bill is unnecessary to achieve victory in the West. But in war millions of lives are recklessly sacrificed and the Government is already sending men out to Vladivostock to support the Japanese troops in the effort to crush out Socialism in Siberia.

The Government's wanton disregard of the lives of British men and the true spirit of capitalist administration have been shown in nothing more clearly than in this embarkation on a new War in the East in order to put down the Socialist Republic.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

GIVE THIS PAPER TO A FRIEND

QUESTIONS OF THE DAY

CZERNIN, CLEMENCEAU, AND ALSACE-LORRAINE

Controversy is taking place as to whether the Austrian or the French Government was responsible for initiating the negotiations between Count Revetera, a personal friend of the Austrian Emperor, and Major Armand, of the French General Staff. But the point at issue is not who started the negotiations, but what steps the negotiators took to bring about peace. The Austrians say that their representatives stated that Count Czernin

> "was prepared for a discussion with a representative of France, and regarded such a conversation as both possible and attended with some prospect of success as soon as France renounced her plans of conquest in regard to Alsace-Lorraine."

The Austrians state further that a reply was received from M. Clemenceau to the effect that he was

> "not in a position to accept the proposed renunciation by France of this annexation, so that a meeting of the representatives at that time would in the view of both parties be useless."

M. Clemenceau has not denied this, nor is he in a position to do so, because the Secret Treaties show that France has pledged the Allies to fight to conquer Alsace-Lorraine for France. But are the French, British, and Italian workers prepared to fight for this object?

RUSSIA INVADED BY THE ALLIES

The invasion of Russia by Japanese and British forces (American forces are expected to follow) is an attack by Allied capitalists on Socialism. The pretext for the invasion is the murder of three Japanese, by whom is not stated. "The Times" makes vague and lurid statements concerning outrages on Chinese, and gives reports, which it admits cannot be confirmed, of the arming of German prisoners. The Bolsheviks reply that only "insignificant incidents" have taken place, "which are such as may happen at any time," and by no means justify a hostile invasion. Very cynical is the aid which the Allies are giving to the Finnish Socialist Red Guards in their struggle against the capitalist White Guards and Germany in order to prevent the Murman Railway to the Arctic from coming under German control. When this is secured the Allies will be prepared to attack the Finnish Socialists also.

LIEUT. PLOWMAN, C.O.

Our admiration goes out to Lieutenant Mark Plowman, who has twice been wounded at the front and who in January wrote to his colonel stating that he wished to resign his commission on the ground that he had become a conscientious objector. He has been Court-martialled and will be punished for obeying his conscience.

WOMEN CANDIDATES

Miss Nina Boyle having decided to stand for Parliament the I.L.P. has followed by nominating Miss Bondfield and Mrs. Snowden as candidates. The returning officer will almost certainly declare the nominations to be illegal. Then it will be for the I.L.P. M.P.s to get a Bill passed to make women eligible for Parliament and all offices of State.

UNDERFEEDING THE GIRLS

We join the protests which are being made against the discrimination in the food orders between boys and girls. Medical men and women testify that the processes of growth make a greater drain upon the vitality of girls between 13 and 18 than upon that of boys.

* * * *

An unexpected spirit of independence has been displayed by the clerks at the War Office, who have refused to work overtime, and who go at five o'clock each day, leaving the extra work to accumulate. This action is taken because payment of 9d. per hour overtime is discontinued, and in lieu of this the women are offered 2s. a week increase on the flat rate of 35s. a week for every year of service. The offer is, of course, unsatisfactory; an offer that the Government would scarcely make to men. We welcome the independent action of the women clerks and hope that some day they may take such action when a really great principle is involved.

TEACHERS & THE LABOUR PARTY

The National Union of Teachers, by a vote of almost two to one, has refused to ally itself with the Labour Party. The Labour Party is unsatisfactory from the Socialist standpoint and its officials, in our view, have entirely failed to realise their duty to the working classes whom they represent. But the refusal of the N.U.T. to join the Labour Party is not a vote of censure on the Labour Party for its jingoism and lack of class consciousness; it is a refusal of the teachers to recognise that they also are workers and that their place is with organised labour in the struggle for the emancipation of the working class. Therefore we deplore this vote, but hope that the minority will quickly convert the majority, and next time we hope that a proposal to affiliate with the Trade Union Congress will be placed on the agenda.

MR. HENDERSON

Mr. Henderson has again shown himself unable to withstand gusts of War fever. After a shower of epithets he told the Wesleyan Mission: "We can only await the necessary change in the mentality of the German Government and people, costly though the fight may be."

THE BUDGET

The press and public are speculating on the next Budget. We recommend that the Chancellor of the Exchequer should confiscate all property which brings in an income of more than £500 a year per family, or £2 a head per week per adult member of the family and £1 a week per head for each child. We urge that all inheritances should be taxed 100 per cent., and that the land and mineral wealth, shipping, banking, and the various industries should be taken over by the community and the control handed over to the workers therein. We urge these reforms, but are aware that only a Socialist Government will enact them. Adopt a Bolshevik policy; follow Russia, and work for Socialism now—in our time!

AUSTRIA

Another general strike is expected in Austria. Speed the day!

* * * *

An article in the "Manchester Guardian" on the American proposal to stop importing lace as a non-essential during the war points out that this will mean the closing of big warehouses opened in America by enterprising Nottingham firms to handle this trade. One Nottingham firm alone maintains eight or nine travellers in America.

This is just the sort of thing that jingoes complain of the Germans doing in this country. They often say that the war is justified because the Germans have done business here, yet one-third of the entire output of Nottingham lace went to America. The workers complain that foreign imports deprive them of a livelihood, but under Socialism, when things will be made for use, not for profit, we shall welcome goods from overseas.

FREE TRADE AGAIN

In view of the Paris Conference proposals and the loud outcry for tariff walls, it is interesting to find that the Dover Chamber of Commerce is advocating the establishment of a number of "free ports" in the United Kingdom. Mr. H. R. Geddes (is he related to Sir Auckland and Sir Eric?) is the initiator of the proposal. Let us be done with the age-long controversy between Protection and Free Trade, and adopt Socialism!

"THE DREADNOUGHT"

In these hard times it is difficult to keep the DREADNOUGHT afloat owing to the high cost of paper and printing. Donations towards the DREADNOUGHT Fund are urgently required. Guarantees of regular weekly or monthly donations to the Fund are specially welcome. Help in extending our circulation by selling at meetings, in the workshops, and by canvassing friends and newsagents is also urgently required. Let us know when there is a big meeting in your locality and we will gladly supply you with extra copies of the paper for sale there.

NEWS FROM IRELAND

The Iron Heel is still pressing in Ireland. The "Mayo News" and "Clare Champion" have been suppressed and their plants seized. The censorship continues, and all news and expression of opinion must be submitted before publication. Deletions cannot be shown by blanks or otherwise; the Censor does not advertise.

The centenary edition of Fintan Lalor's works has been suspended because of the Censor's objections. Mr. Joseph MacDonagh (brother of Thomas, who was executed in 1916) has been arrested under the Cat and Mouse Act while participating in the King's County election.

Mr. Joseph Devlin, speaking in East Tyrone, and "Freeman's Journal" have outspokenly denounced the proposed extension of Conscription to Ireland. Ireland owes them no thanks, for thousands of our people in Great Britain, who looked upon the Redmondites as their representatives in Parliament, were by the Party's votes brought under the Military Service Acts.

Easter Week, 1916, kept Conscription off our shores, and the same reply may be given to any renewed attempt to force Irishmen into the service of the British Empire.

Irish capitalists have been very eager since the outbreak of War to secure contracts for munitions, but as they have been consistently refused orders, the loyal exploiters are becoming violent in their denunciation of the Anglo-Huns.

The "competent" military authority has proclaimed all meetings between March 27th and May 14th. This period covers the anniversaries of the Rebellion and of the executions of wounded prisoners, and makes the May Day (May 1st) and Marx Centenary meetings impossible unless in defiance of the military.

The daily Press publishes every day long lists of persons convicted of breaking in upon unused grass lands in order to carry out the demand of the Government—"Till More Land; Grow More Food." Invariably the prisoners refuse to recognise a foreign court, and usually sing rebel songs while the farce of trial is going on.

Mr. Ginnell has by hunger-striking obtained political prisoner's treatment, but remains very weak. The courage of this wonderful old man is magnificent. Sixteen prisoners in Belfast are also on hunger strike. It is reported to-day that they have ended the strike without securing concessions. This is not believed, as it is Mr. Duke's policy to deny that special treatment is given to any prisoner. His denials don't alter the facts.

Thomas Russell, Irish language teacher, was presiding at a Sinn Fein club meeting at Carrigaholt, Co. Clare, when the military forcibly entered the room and dispersed the meeting. As Russell was leaving the room he was bayoneted and killed. Yet we are asked to throw our bodies in the gap in France to save the Empire!

Comrades who may be spending holidays in Ireland, and are willing to assist the S.P.I. in propaganda are asked to write the Lecture Secretary, Room 3 Liberty Hall, Dublin.

A CORRESPONDENT.

THE MOTHERS' ARMS.

Volunteer helpers are urgently needed at the Mothers' Arms to help and care for and amuse the babies and to take them out in the Park. This is most useful and necessary work besides giving real joy to those who are fond of children. Volunteers should write to Nurse Clarke at the Mothers' Arms, 438 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

THE TRAIL OF THE WAR

OPPOSE THE STATE REGULATION OF VICE!

GET THE REGULATION 40d REPEALED.

No woman who is suffering from venereal disease in a communicable form shall have sexual intercourse with any member of His Majesty's forces or solicit or invite any member of His Majesty's forces to have sexual intercourse with her.

If a woman acts in contravention of this regulation she shall be guilty of a summary offence against these regulations.

A woman charged with an offence under this regulation shall if she so requires be remanded for a period (not less than a week) for the purpose of such medical examination as may be requisite for ascertaining whether she is suffering from such a disease as aforesaid.

The defendant shall be informed of her right to be remanded as aforesaid and that she may be examined by her own Doctor or by the Medical Officer of the Prison.

In this regulation the expression "venereal disease" means syphilis, gonorrhœa, or soft chancre.

Get this regulation repealed!

It lays the innocent woman open to the risk of blackmail and false imprisonment. A woman will have to suffer a week's remand in prison in order to prove her innocence. At the compulsory or voluntary examination she may be infected with the disease by the use of dirty instruments or other official carelessness. In prison, no precautions are taken to prevent contagion.

This regulation punishes the woman and leads the man to think that prostitution is right and necessary. Workers, this regulation menaces your daughters and your sons!

Pass this resolution :—

"This organisation demands the immediate repeal of D.O.R.A. regulation 40d, which establishes the State Regulation of vice."

* * * *

The Canadian Government has raided the offices of the International Bible Students' Association and arrested its Elders because they say that the War is wrong, and that "England has been as great a violater of treaties as Germany." Truth is dangerous!

PEACE WORK.

We need *your* help! Write to the Hon. Sec., W.S.F., 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

INCREASED PENSIONS.

We are glad to learn that naval and military pensions are to be increased as follows :—

	Present Scale.	New Scale.
First child	5/-	6/8
Second child	4/2	5/-
Third child	3/4	4/2
All other children	2/6	4/2
Motherless children—		
First child	7/-	10/-
Subsequent children	6/-	9/-
Illegitimate children	5/-	6/8

Widows' gratuity of £5 to be increased by £1 per child.

Man and wife "past work" who have lost two sons in War: Present scale, 15s. a week between them; new scale, 15s. a week each.

Widow of disabled soldier who dies after receiving alternative pension: Present scale, half husband's pension; new scale, two-thirds husband's pension.

Discharged soldiers called up for re-examination get 1s. an hour for their time.

Temporary pension of discharged soldier till pension fixed is to be 27s. a week, including children's allowances.

The temporary pension should certainly be at the full pension rate; a man discharged unfit is not fit to start work immediately. It would be logical also for the illegitimate child to be paid for at the motherless rate, since its mother does not get separation allowance, though if the father acknowledges the mother we cannot see why the War Office should pry into the question as to whether the parents are married. Whilst soldiers' and sailors' wives and widows greatly need these increases, and are indeed forced by the high cost of living to demand them, growing numbers of them are coming to regard the pensions and allowances as "blood money," and are praying that the War shall be stopped and the men brought home.

MAKING MUNITION WORKERS DRUNK.

Do the temperance advocates realise that the women munition workers in cordite are continually intoxicated by ether? Under the influence of the ether they shout, quarrel, and steal and lose their self-control. They cannot stand more than six months of the work. The wage is 37s. a week, the hours of labour are nine or ten per day. Instead of reducing the hours of work under the influence of ether, T.N.T. and lyddite, the authorities are dismissing thousands of munition workers. Whilst the lads are being maimed in the trenches the girls are being poisoned at home.

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 12th.
Hague Street, Bethnal Green, 11.30 a.m., Miss Price.
SATURDAY, APRIL 13th.
Great Push for Peace, Socialism and Votes for all in Poplar and Bow. Meet 2.45 p.m., at 20 Railway Street, speakers: Miss Price, Mrs. Walker, and others.
SUNDAY, APRIL 14th.
Osborn Street, Whitechapel, 11.45 a.m., Mr. A. Kings-Lynne.
"The Flagstaff," Hampstead, 3 p.m., Mrs. Walker.
Clapham Common, 3.30 p.m., joint meeting with the W.P.C., Mrs. Lancaster, Miss Price, and others.
FRIDAY, APRIL 19th.
Pretoria Road, Walthamstow, 5.30 pm., Miss Price
SATURDAY, APRIL 20th.
Great Push.

INDOOR

FRIDAY, APRIL 12th.
Billiard Saloon, High Road, Leyton, (N.U.R.), 8 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
SATURDAY, APRIL 13th.
400 Old Ford Road, 7 p.m., Recital and Dance.
SUNDAY, APRIL 14th.
Metropole, Hull, I.L.P., 3 p.m., Miss Sylvia Pankhurst.
400 Old Ford Road, 7 p.m., "Anarchism versus Parliamentary Government," Mrs. Bessie Ward will open the discussion. Chair: Miss Lynch.
MONDAY, APRIL 15th.
44 Malden Road, St. Pancras W.S.F., 2.30 p.m., Mrs. Clara Cole.
400 Old Ford Road, 8 p.m., General meeting, London Section.
8 Bonchurch Road, N. Kensington I.L.P., 8 p.m. Mrs. Bouvier.
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17th.
Leonard's Academy, near St. John's Church, Leyton, W.S.F., 7 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
THURSDAY, APRIL 18th.
29b Lincoln's Inn Fields, 7.30 p.m., Miss Regina Miriam Bloch will give a Reading from her own works. Mrs. Bouvier, "The Present Outlook."

W.S.F. FEDERAL MEMBERS' MEETING.
(London Section).

This meeting will be held at 400 Old Ford Road, E, at 8 p.m., on Monday, April 15th. Important business will be discussed and every member should make a point of being there.

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.—Collections, Bow meetings, 13s. 1d.; Leyton meeting, 3s. 6d.

"DREADNOUGHT" FUND.—Britton Ferry I.L.P., £1; Mrs. A. Green (card), £1; Miss Mary Tighe, 10s.; Mrs. Bodley, 5s.; Miss Woodruffe, 5s.; S.W. (half-yearly), 5s.; Mrs. and Miss White, 3s.; Mr. W. Readman, 2s. 6d.; Miss E. L. Osmond, 2s.

CLINICS AND SOCIAL WORK.—Charles Gulliver per Mr. G. Lansbury, £4; Mrs. Watt, £1; H. Thorpe, Esq., £1; Countessa Tomasi Isolani (monthly), £1; Nurse Clarke (card), £1; L. S. Skidelsky, Esq., 10s.; Cathleen Schurr, 5s.; Misses Barrowman (monthly), 5s.; D. Wilkie, Esq. (monthly), 2s. 6d.; Mr. Stiebel, 1s.

COLLECTIONS.—L.S.A. Tool-room, £1 2s. 2d.; G. S., 5s. 9d.

CLOTHES, &c.—Mrs. McCombie, Claire Oldham, Rathmel Wilson, Esq., Mrs. Parry.

FLOWERS.—Miss Whitehead.

INTERNATIONAL YOUNG AGE PENSIONS.

Dear Friends of Humanity,—In order to relieve the terrible poverty and suffering that is devastating Europe, let us endeavour to place the children and all those who are helpless in comparative safety by securing SEVEN SHILLINGS A WEEK each for them from the State, that we may be free to work for other reforms. At present, whilst they are exposed to cold, poverty and hunger, we can think of nothing else. 7s. a week would ENABLE FAMILIES TO MOVE AT ONCE INTO BETTER HOUSES, and to obtain better milk and food. This would stimulate local trade and reduce expenses of WORKHOUSES, HOSPITALS, PRISONS and LUNATIC ASYLUMS, and do away with all poor rates to such an extent as to be A GREAT SAVING to the taxpayers, and would enable sensible girls to marry where they would otherwise not dare to do so, and to bring up healthy happy children to become stalwart citizens and parents in their turn, besides relieving untold pain and suffering, and being an estimable benefit to the State.

The fact of a married man becoming automatically POORER at the birth of each child constitutes a cruel wrong to all children, and until each child has 7s. a week in its own individual right, as an infant citizen, suffering, war, disease, and poverty can never be abolished. Let us all demand this from our different Governments NOW, before it may be too late.

S. MACKENZIE KENNEDY.
[Advt.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

THE MOTHERS' ARMS CLINIC, DAY NURSERY, AND MONTESSORI CLASS; also CLINIC, 20 RAILWAY STREET, POPLAR, and CLINIC, 53 ST. LEONARD STREET, SOUTH BROMLEY.—Garments for Babies, Children, and Adults, Maternity Outfits, etc., Children's Toys, Pot Plants, Flowers and Branches, etc., always wanted.

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.

WANTED.—SHORTHAND-TYPIST, accurate at figures. Apply "400" this office.

WOMEN DESIRING LAND WORK AND GARDENING should apply to Miss A. Tollemache, Federation House, George Lane, South Woodford, Essex.

CITY OF LONDON I.L.P.

Tom Mann is Coming, Book the date
SATURDAY, MAY 11th.
Full particulars and 6d tickets from ARTHUR FIELD, 28 Ilminster Gdns., Battersea, S.W.11

ANTIQUES

For Genuine Old English Furniture and China
MARY CASEY,
29b Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.2

Greer's Agreeable
BAKING, CUSTARD, EGG AND BLANCMANGE POWDERS
In 1½d. Packets. Obtainable from all grocers, wholesale only from
D. W. GREER & CO.,
London, S.E.5.

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

WORKSHOP NOTES. (Continued from front page)

asked: "Supposing nine men accepted their discharge would the Chief Convener be re-instated?" The management replied with an emphatic: "No." Another mass meeting was called, and it was decided to demand re-instatement of all men by March 22nd, otherwise down tools.

The men were not re-instated, so tools were downed, since when Tom Dingley, a very active worker in the Industrial Movement, and ten others were fined. We have had no further information, so cannot say whether they are still out. But it is another object lesson of the fact that the bosses are straining every nerve to break up our movement by harassing our active workers. The remedy—for every one to become an active worker. They can't victimise the lot. Perfect the Workers' Committee Movement.

NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL.

A National Conference of Shop Stewards and Workers' Committees takes place at Manchester on April 13th and 14th, to consider a scheme of organisation, a programme for Labour, and ways and means of establishing a National Workers' Congress. A full report will be contained in next week's DREADNOUGHT.

LONDON WORKERS' COMMITTEE.

The meeting of April 7th at Chandos Hall was one of the most successful hitherto held. Delegates were appointed to the National Conference to be held at Manchester; to the Conference of Apprentices to be held at Gravesend on April 20th; and to the Conference of Workers' Committees in the Metropolitan area to be held in London on April 21st, at 7 Featherstone Buildings, W.C.1. This conference is convened by the L.W.C., for the purpose of defining areas, and formulating a common ground for co-ordination of activities. Educational classes every Wednesday evening and Sunday afternoon at the office.—T. KNIGHT.

BARROW IN FURNESS.

The Barrow Shop Stewards have rented a large room at £50 a year wherein they intend to hold all their meetings and to run whist drives. The shop stewards have created a big impression in the town. Three of their number were elected top of the poll in the election of the Co-operative Committee, and it is intended to contest several more seats at the next election. The stewards are represented on the Food Distribution and Food Control Committees. A very strong stand was taken by the Barrow workers on the J. T. Murphy case.

CLYDE WORKERS' COMMITTEE.

We regret to learn that the energetic Secretary has been ill of late. We hope to include a report in our next Notes.

PORTSMOUTH.

The following resolution was adopted at a mass meeting of the A.S.E., held at Portsmouth on March 24th:—

"In view of the meagre pittances doled out to our sailors and soldiers, this mass meeting calls upon the Government to increase at once the pay of the men of the lower deck of the Navy, the rank and file of the Army, also, the allowances of widows, orphans, wives, and all other dependants of the said men to the same level as that of the Australian fighting forces."

But why merely to the level of the Australians? Why not to the same level as the best paid workers in civil life? Again it is useless calling upon the Government for anything unless you have the power to enforce it. And the best way to secure that power is to organise the Workers' Committee movement and then build up Councils of Workmen, Soldiers and Sailors.

THE WEST LONDON ENGINEERING WORKERS' COMMITTEE.

Practically all large shops in the district are now affiliated, but we want a representative from *every* shop. Our paper, "The Record," was in a subtle manner recently suppressed, causing a set back. Had it been a horrible capitalist jingo rag it would still be running. The "Trades Hall" scheme is going well, and promises to be a huge success. Already over one thousand £1 shares have been taken up, and suitable premises are required immediately. Our district has some of the most active workers in the London area propagating our views; may the good work continue. Despite the re-action that has now set in, owing to the German offensive, it is certain that when the fever has again subsided, the workers will, and must, stop the colossal crimes now being perpetrated. A joint Conference of all Workers' Committees in this locality is to be held shortly, when it is hoped a common policy will be agreed upon.

Space does not permit of the recording of details, but possibly in future issues we shall be able to point out some of the numerous successes achieved.

In the meantime, best of luck to the DREADNOUGHT, let us hope, and further, let us make Workshop Notes a weekly feature. If the workers were one-tenth as keen on their "Press" as the bosses, what a power we should be!—E. A. C.

FORTH AREA.

Remarkable progress is being made here, over 1,600 members in three weeks! Am inundated with inquiries from shop stewards of outlying firms in the district, and I can see the industrial army assuming huge proportions. Control from the point of production has evidently caught on and the workers have learned that the craft union methods of dealing with industrial problems must be scrapped. We had Arthur McManus, of Glasgow as speaker at our meeting on March 23rd. He dealt with the history of the "Workers Committee" movement, traced it from its inception, showing the pitfalls to be avoided, and warning us to be prepared to meet attack from any quarter. We know that a movement is afoot to discredit the shop stewards locally, and steps are being taken accordingly. We have no fear of the employing class now, the Workers Committee movement is a power to be reckoned with. A note worth mentioning; our meeting was "fairly" reported by the local press!

DREADNOUGHTS sold out, but shall do better still when Workshop Notes appear as some desire is evinced to know what other "centres" are doing. At a certain dockyard frantic efforts have been made to get the workers to adopt a premium bonus or some other piece-work system, but all attempts having failed, a conference has taken place between the "heads" of departments and subordinates to consider another scheme. The precaution was taken of ensuring that no shop steward or other desperate characters were present, and little is *supposed* to be known outside the "wisdom ring."—E. A. BARTLETT, Hon. Sec., 4 Spring Gardens, Abbey Hill, Edinburgh.

AN EXPLANATION.

I have got into hot water, and I have been caned. In my article last week I referred to two publicans who had gone into the Engineering industry to avoid military service, and two men who are publicans and who happen to be working in an Engineers' shop have taken umbrage at it. These chaps both volunteered for service, but were rejected on medical grounds. Everyone admires *any* man who, believing in the war, volunteers to do his bit rather than wait until he is conscripted, and I am sorry that anything I have written should cause these two chaps any inconvenience.

* * * *

Who was the Socialist Shop Steward at Walthamstow who shook hands with Geo. Windsor and afterwards said he was a decent old cock?

* * * *

A correspondent writes commenting upon our reference to Trade Unionism as obsolete. She states she is in a millinery workroom, and although milliners and dressmakers are eligible for membership of the Shop Assistants' Union, has met no one inclined to join. Without retreating a single step from our position that Trade Unions are obsolete, we recommend all workers to join their respective Union and use their influence to change the method and machinery of that union.

We suggest that the Garment Workers is the correct Union for Milliners and Dressmakers *not* the Shop Assistants' Union. Regarding literature, a study of Webb's "History of Trade Unionism" would be helpful.

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