

THE WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT

Socialism, Internationalism, Votes for All.

Vol. V.—No. 13

SATURDAY, JUNE 22nd, 1918

Price Twopence.

WOMEN'S CO-OPERATIVE GUILD CONGRESS.

Some 800 delegates representing 28,000 members opened their Annual Guild Congress at the Central Hall, Bradford, on Tuesday, June 11th. Among the resolutions on the agenda, one seeking to establish a solid co-operative connection with the Russian people was carried enthusiastically and unanimously. The C.W.S. was instructed to send a deputation to Russia to establish immediately direct business arrangements, and so lay the foundations of an International Co-operative Commonwealth. Mr. Bubnoff, Manager of the London branch of the Russian Co-operative Bank, and a woman Doctor of Philosophy, Dr. Polontsev, a well-known figure in Russian political circles and member of Kerensky's Government, spoke to the resolution. Intense sympathy was shown by the co-operators for the sufferings and heroism of the Russian people as described by their champions here present.

Questions affecting the internal policy of the Guild and its relation to the Co-operative Union were ably discussed, and the democratic note was repeatedly struck. "Independence," "self-respect," and "principles" were the cries when the working women were discussing the question of accepting a money grant from the Union on condition of childlike docility on the part of the Guild to a paternal arbitrary dictation from the Union.

At Tuesday's demonstration the speech of the

Co-operative candidate, Mr. Hirst, who opened up with "I am a peace man," met with warm response. Mrs. Barton and Councillor Margaret Ashton ably discussed 'The Use of the Vote by Women.' From the feeling shown, the "Citizen Leagues," the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, and The Woman's Party found no favour among the rank and file, as was evident from their remarks during a discussion on boycotting societies with a non-co-operative and reactionary record.

People's Peace Resolution.

"That in view of securing Permanent Peace in the future, of stopping the terrible suffering and waste of young life, and of checking the inroads on freedom now apparent in our country, this Congress declares itself in favour of an International Conference of the organised workers of all nations, in order to obtain immediately a People's Peace by negotiations, the terms of which should include no annexations of territory by conquest and universal disarmament, and further calls on all peoples to substitute Co-operation for Capitalism, and to place a People's Government in power, thereby removing the chief causes of war and creating those world-wide economic and ethical foundations on which alone peace and freedom can rest."

The above resolution in a Conference of over 800 delegates received 336 favourable votes. Very good speeches were made on both sides of the question. The ideals of the International were

well upheld by the brave supporters of the resolution, and it is gratifying to know that only some sixty guilds in all remain yet to be converted. All Co-operative Guild members should follow the lead given by the powerful minority which supported the resolution, and should work in their societies to give the final push to secure an overwhelming majority in favour of a peace by negotiations. Well done all the mothers who voted to bring our boys back! There was reason for congratulation in the fact that a resolution asking for the support of a League of Nations, urging the abolition of secret diplomacy, and demanding control of foreign policy by Parliament and the people was carried with only twenty dissentients. This after a very full and ample discussion.

Other resolutions were also passed advocating a national milk supply, national midwifery service, a flat rate allowance for soldiers' mothers, independent of what their sons earned before the war, mothers' pensions, the endowment of motherhood, and against militarism in the schools.

The tone of the discussions and the clearness of vision of the idealists in the Congress will always be remembered. The delegates, having gleaned much information from numerous examples of good work accomplished by the Bradford Corporation, are returning home to urge their own districts to "carry on." MIRIAM PRICE.

QUESTIONS OF THE DAY

THE CRIMES ACT RESURRECTED.

The Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act of 1887, which provides for the trial of prisoners by special juries and for changes of the place of trials, is to be applied by proclamation in fourteen Irish counties, comprising more than half Nationalist Ireland and in two county boroughs, Cork and Limerick. This Act gives the Irish Executive the power to ensure a conviction by its choice of those who are to try the case. The rating qualification of £50 a year for special jurors effectively excludes the workers. The Crimes Act will supplement D.O.R.A., which does not cover all offences. Coercion will not produce tranquility in Ireland. Meanwhile Sinn Fein is winning all the local elections.

THE NEW WAR DISEASE.

The new fever which first broke out in Spain, then Scandinavia, and has now found its way to Belfast and to Germany, is no doubt a hunger disease. It was natural that it should first appear

in neutral countries, because the neutral nations have suffered most from war privations, owing to the fact that the greedy and powerful belligerents have limited their supplies. That it should appear next in Belfast where poverty and sweating are notorious further bears out our theory.

SWEDISH SHIPPING.

The Times publishes the following extract from a manifesto which is being circulated in Sweden:—

"Swedish seamen will have to die for the sake of England, as the latter, not having sufficient tonnage for her own import purposes, has, with the consent of her Allies, requisitioned 400,000 gross tons, half of which will have to sail in the danger zone. This demand has been submitted to our Government, who will compel shipowners to comply, as otherwise Sweden will not be allowed by England and America to import any cereals or other foodstuffs. Yet we shall be short of imports and shall have to starve, though risking our lives. Our Government ought not to allow encroachments like these, committed by the official defenders of the liberty of small nations."

The Times says the manifesto is "obviously printed outside Sweden," intending, of course, to suggest that it was printed in Germany. But are the statements contained in the manifesto true?

WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT.

The Law Officers of the Crown are debating as to whether women may become Members of Parliament without further legislation. Judge-made law clearly says "No." But the judges who came to that decision were obviously prejudiced reactionaries. If the Government wishes women to stand it will find a loop-hole.

THE WIDOW'S SON.

The central tribunal has declared that the promise to spare the widow's last surviving son does not mean her last surviving adult son though the son snatched away from her may be the sole breadwinner for a family of younger children. The tribunal further declares that the last son at home may not be left if his brothers in the Army and Navy are not yet killed. These decisions render still more imperative the provision of an adequate flat rate allowance for soldiers' mothers. They should come with an added spur to those who are working to end the war.

THE INTERNATIONAL.

CANADA.

Phillips Thompson in *The Canadian Forward* says: "It is time for Socialists to raise the old slogan! No fusion, no compromise, no political trading... If Socialists are going to abandon the all important work of propaganda to engage in office hunting and vote catching in combination with a heterogeneous crowd with only one idea in common, that of success at the polls, they might just as well dissolve their organisations and join one of the old parties. There they might at least have a fair chance at the loaves and fishes." These comments arise from the formation of a new Canadian Labour Party. At the convention called to form the Ontario section of the party 420 delegates were present. Of these 56 were from Socialist bodies, the remainder from trade unions and Labour Parties, Co-operatives, Single Tax Organisation, Social Reconstruction Group of Theosophic Society and the United Farmers of Ontario. The policy of the Party was discussed in connection with a clause partially drawn from the new constitution of the British Labour Party: "To secure for the producers by hand or by brain the full fruits of their industry and the most equitable distribution thereof."

An amendment was moved by Mrs. Custance to add the words which appear in the British Labour Party constitution: "that may be possible on the basis of the common ownership of the means of production and the best obtainable system of popular administration and control of each industry or service."

A further amendment was moved by Delegate Bell that only a working class political party with its immediate aim the abolition of the capitalist system and the establishment of the Socialist commonwealth could permanently benefit the working class.

Mr. Good of the United Farmers declared that neither amendment would be in harmony with the farmers' organisations, which were numerically strong. Bell's Socialist amendment only secured 36 votes. The British Labour Party Clause got

60 votes and the resolution was carried by a large majority.

The Canadian Social Democratic Party at its convention in Manitoba decided to affiliate to the Zimmerwald Conference which it regards as the nucleus of the Third International. It was decided to leave in abeyance the question of affiliation to the newly constituted Labour Party, and that in the meantime no member of the S.D.P. should join the Labour Party or accept office under it. A resolution was adopted in support of the Bolsheviks.

The Canadian Great War Veterans Association is demanding the conscription of wealth, it says: "This is a war that was ordered by rich men and old men and has been fought in the main by young men and poor men... In the ultimate it is the love of power and greed of money that has brought the world to this pass... It is all very well to be comforted with assurances that Germany is piling up of even greater load of indebtedness than any of the allied democracies, but it is a poor consolation and will not lighten our own future burdens, especially as indemnities are probably now out of the question... The loans... give the richer individuals of the community the opportunity of being the receivers of other people's taxes."

Nevertheless, the British Demobilised "Comrades of the Great War," and Discharged Soldiers and Sailors Federation would be better employed in studying the opinions of their Canadian compatriots than in smashing up Socialist and trade union meetings!

At an election in Montreal Buhay, who ran as a Socialist, not a mere Labour candidate, polled 1,400 votes against Jacobs, the Liberal, who won with 2,000 votes. Great crowds afterwards paraded the streets demanding a new election and accusing the Liberals of corrupt practices. Buhay was carried shoulder high. Two years ago the Socialist candidate only polled 185 votes. When will Canada be ready for the Soviets?

FRANCE.

Charles Rappoport, the well-known French Socialist, during the second bombardment of Paris went into a cellar where people were sheltering to console and reassure them. Two men called Blin and Weill complained to the police that he had said that the French Generals were incapable, that Paris was in danger, and that peace ought to be made. Rappoport, who is of Russian birth and became a French citizen in 1899, denied these statements, saying that when some one had called the Russians cowards he had protested that five million Russians had been killed in the war, seven million wounded, and three million taken prisoners, and that the Russians had made it possible for the French to win the battle of the Marne. He also said that all war ends in peace and that the belligerents would have to negotiate. Rappoport was fined £8 and sentenced to six months' imprisonment *avec sursis*, which means that he will not have to serve it.

NORWAY.

The leader of the Minority Socialists in Norway, Traemel, has been sentenced to 60 days imprisonment at Drontheim for provocative speeches. He was also accused of inciting the workers to follow the example of the Bolsheviks, and set up Workers' and Soldiers' Councils. This sentence has roused great feeling throughout Norway and the authorities fear trouble.

NEW ZEALAND.

The *Australian Socialist* reports that Mr. Patrick Webb, who represents the miners of Grey in the New Zealand Parliament, was called up for military service, refused to go, resigned his seat and challenged the Prime Minister to put up a candidate against him. The challenge was not accepted and Mr. Webb returned to Parliament. He was afterwards arrested, taken to camp, and sentenced to two years' hard labour for refusing to obey military orders. He will probably lose his seat, as under the Legislature Act no one convicted of an offence punishable by two years' hard labour is eligible for military service.

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Published by the Workers' Socialist Federation,
400 OLD FORD ROAD, LONDON, E.3
Telephone: EAST 1787.

Annual Subscription - Post Free, 10s. 10d.
Back Numbers, 4d. post free.

All business communications should be sent to the
MANAGER, 400 Old Ford Road, London, E.3

Vol. V, No. 13.

Sat., June 22nd, 1918.

THE REVOLUTIONARY ARMY.

We give below extracts from the second chapter of 'Red Russia', by John Reed, the Russian correspondent of 'The American Liberator'. In this article Reed describes the condition of the Russian Army shortly after the establishment of the Bolshevik Government.

The Jewish lieutenant who went with us told how the Jews had always been forced to serve in the ranks, but that since the Revolution thousands had become officers... although many preferred to stay in the ranks because shoulder-straps are distrusted by the soldiers. Before the Revolution the soldiers only received 65 kopeks (now about thirteen cents), per month—but now they got seven and a half roubles (a dollar and a half), every thirty days; and out of that they often had to buy food... Then there was the question of decorations, the various degrees of the Orders of St. Ann, St. Vladimir, and St. George, the last of which carry with them certain small money payments. Before the Revolution these crosses were bestowed by a council of superior officers, as emanating from the Emperor; now they were given by acclamation by an assembly of the soldiers.

He also spoke of the retreat from Riga. "In the rout," he said, "the army hadn't the least idea what to do. The staff completely lost its head... It was the Iskolski who decided to defend our main positions, and we set up headquarters here in Venden and organised the military resistance on our own responsibility... since Riga the soldiers refuse to obey any general staff orders unless counter-signed by us... But it works not badly." "Between ourselves," he said, "we all think that there was treason in the fall of Riga... You remember at the Moscow Conference when General Kornilov said: 'Must we lose Riga to awaken the country to a sense of its peril?' Well, the retreat from Riga began at the same time as the Kornilov attempt."

Back in Venden... A squadron of Cossacks, rifles on backs, rode up the street with their peaked caps over one ear, and their "love-locks" very prominent. The leader was playing an accordion; every few minutes all the voices crashed together in a chorus. Then a Lettish regiment came marching along down, swinging their arms and singing the slow Lettish Death March, so solemn and courageous. As they went along comrades ran out from the sidewalk to kiss them farewell. They were bound for the line of fire.

In the Town Hall sat the Refugee Committee, almost swamped by the thousands of people who had fled before the advance of the Germans or the retreat of the Russians—homeless, helpless. The committee had originally been created by the Imperial Government, but since the Revolution all members are elected by the refugees themselves. The secretary took us down into the foul, flooded cellar where every day were fed seven hundred women, children, and old men.

The soldiers' committee of the 2nd Lettish Brigade had sent in a complaint about the inefficiency of sixteen officers; a delegate of the Iskolski and the Iskolski were going down to the lines to see about it; did we want to come along?

This time it was an ambulance which carried us, together with Dr. Nahumson, the delegate army surgeon, holder of several German University degrees, veteran revolutionist and prominent member of the Bolshevik faction...

We asked about the death penalty in the army, over which such a bitter controversy was raging between the radicals and reactionaries.

"Consider," he replied, "what the death penalty in this army signified. To day I will show you regiments, entirely Bolshevik, who have been reduced from four thousand men to seven—in this last month's fighting. In all the 12th Army there have only been sixty men officially proclaimed deserters since the fall of Riga. No, my friend, Mr. Kerensky's death penalty has not been applied to cowards, deserters and mutineers. The death penalty in the Russian army is for Bolsheviks, for agitators, who can be shot down without trial by the revolver of an officer."

Brigade staff headquarters were in a brick farmhouse, on a little hill amid wooded meadows. In the living room the officers sat at a long table, a *podpolkovnik*, his lieutenant-colonel, and a group of smart youths wearing the cords of staff duty, eating *schts*, mountains of meat, and drinking interminable tea in a cloud of cigarette smoke. They

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welcomed us with great cordiality and a torrent of Moscow-French—which is very like that of Stratford.

The Colonel was a frank reactionary—out to crush Germany, still loyal to Nicholas II., convinced that the country was ruined by the Revolution, and utterly opposed to the soldiers' committees.

"The trouble with the army," he said, "is that it is concerned about politics. Soldiers have no business to think."

All the rest followed their superior's lead. The *podpolkovnik*, a round, merry person with twinkling eyes, informed me confidentially that "no officer of any character or dignity would have any dealings with the soldiers' committees."

"Are there no officers who work with the committees?" I asked.

He shrugged disdainfully. "A few. But we call them the 'demagogue' officers, and naturally don't associate with them."

The others volunteered further interesting information. In the first place, according to them, there were no Bolsheviks in the army—except the committees. The Lettish troops are ignorant and illiterate. The committees interfere seriously with military operations. And the masses of soldiers are bitterly jealous of the workmen in the towns, who get phenomenal wages and only work eight hours, while "we are on duty here twenty-four hours a day."

By this time we had sat at the table two long hours, drinking tea and smoking, during which time the entire staff did absolutely nothing but talk. One tall boy, with a smell of brilliantine floating around his shining hair, went over to the piano and began idly fingering waltzes. Occasionally two bent and aged peasants, man and woman, she with bare feet, crept through the room to the tiny closet they had been allowed to keep for themselves... An hour later, when we left to go to the soldiers' committee, the staff of the 2nd Lettish Brigade was still "working twenty-four hours a day." A gaunt, silent youth on horseback led the way, and as we got further and further away from the staff he began to smile, and offered his horse to ride. And he talked, telling of the May days when the Russian troops fraternised with the Germans all along this front.

"The Germans sent spies," he said, "but, then, so did our officers. There is always somebody around to betray the people, no matter what nation you belong to. Many times they tried to make us attack our German comrades, but we refused. And they also refused; I know of one regiment, where I had many friends, which was condemned for mutiny, reorganised, and twelve men were shot. And still they would not fight the Russians. So they were sent to the Western front. As it was, they finally had to tell us lies to make us advance."

It was about half a mile to where the low, wide, thatched-covered farmhouse and its great barn stood biddly on a little rise of ground. Artillery limbers stood parked there, horses were being led to water, there were little cook-fires, and many soldiers. A huge brick stove divided the interior of the house. On one side lived the peasant and his wife and children, all their belongings heaped in the corners; the other half was bare except for two home-made benches and a rough table, heaped high with papers, reports, pamphlets—among which I noticed Lenin's 'Imperialism As a New Stage in Capitalism.' Around this sat six men, one of them a non-commissioned officer, the rest privates—the president of the Soviet of the 2nd Lettish Brigade. Without any place to sleep except the hay-loft, without winter clothes or enough to eat, the committee sat permanently, and had been sitting for a month, doing the work the staff should have done.

This is no unsupported assertion on my part. One had only to ask any soldier where he got his food, his clothing, what he did get, who found and assigned his quarters, represented him politically, defended his interests; he would always say, "The Committee."

"The Committee," if the Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Armies gave an order for the 2nd Lettish Brigade to attack, or to retreat, not a single man would move without the endorsement of the committee. This resulted from two fears; one that they would be sent to Petrograd to suppress the Revolution, the other that they would be tricked into an offensive as they were tricked in June...

A youth with a bright, happy face and towelled hair was the chairman. He told us how the Lettish regiments had been in the front ranks for six months without rest, and they had sent word to the Ministry of War in Petrograd that if they were not relieved by October 1st, they would simply leave the trenches. One regiment had been reduced from four thousand men to seven, and all were without adequate food or clothing.

"How can the men stand it?" I asked.

"The officers say it is good training," he answered, and everybody laughed. A soldier near the door cried, "You don't see many officers going barefoot!" And again they laughed.

The committee seemed highly amused at the officers' accusations.

"They say we are jealous of the workmen in the cities. But we are ourselves workmen, and we will share the short hours and high wages they have won for us, when we return to the cities after the war. Most of us are union men... There are no

Bolsheviks in the army? Well, this committee was only elected last month, and every member of every committee in this brigade is Bolshevik... We are not illiterate; on the contrary, less than 2 per cent cannot read and write. The Lettish go to school. As for interfering with military matters, we have nothing to do with them whatever, except in the case of mass movement of troops, which are always arranged beforehand."

There had been no killing of reactionary officers in this brigade, even in the Kornilov days—although Colonel Kruskin went around at that time openly praying for the success of the counter-Revolution. Several brutal officers had, however, been forced to retire, and one was brought before a revolutionary tribunal for beating a soldier; but he died in battle before the judgment.

Courts-martial in the 12th Army had been replaced by revolutionary military courts. Each company had a petty court of 6 elected members—soldiers or officers; above that was the full regimental court, composed of 28 soldiers and 14 officers, elected by the full regiment; and a presidium of 6 chosen by this assembly sat permanently for the trial of minor offences—such as stealing. If the soldiers were dissatisfied with their officers, they appealed first to the Commissar of the Army, and if he did nothing, to the Central Executive Army Committee.

"We know," said the chairman, "which officers are for us and which are against us. We know that Riga was betrayed. On the first of August we had aeroplanes, heavy artillery; but when the Germans attacked, all those things had been sent away." He shrugged. "But what can we do? We must defend the Revolution, and Petrograd. We must watch them, and make them fight."

They showed us copies of all orders of the staff, kept carefully on file here; the chart of location of all troops of the brigade, which had been quartered by the committee; requisitions and purchases of food, clothing, shells, guns; and the record of the political transactions of the soldier party-groups with the Soviets and with the Government...

Sunday in Venden. A gusty heaven overhead, thin clouds opening in a washed blue sky, with a watery sun riding there. Underfoot, black mud, trampled by thousands of boots, townspeople and peasants, who had driven in for miles around, thronging the Lutheran church, with mingled Russian soldiers, very curious but respectful...

Along about midday tables appeared in two corners of the square. Then the banners—the revolutionary banners, in every shade of red, with gold, silver, and white letters on them, moving bright and splendid through the great crowd. Speakers mounted the tables. It was a double mass meeting, Russian in one corner, Lettish in another, forbidden by the Commandant and frowned upon by the Iskolski. All the town had turned out for it, and most of the fifteen thousand troops. And there was no doubt of the sentiments of that audience—from the great flags behind the tables, one inscribed, "Power to the People! Long live Peace!" and the other, "Bread, Peace, and Freedom!" to the thunderous roars that met the hot words of the speakers, denouncing the government for not forcing the peace conference, daring it to suppress the Soviets, and dwelling much upon the Imperialistic designs of the Allies in the war.

PEACE.

A Joint Demonstration in which Branches of the B.S.P., I.L.P., N.C.F., W.S.F., Trade Unions, Labour Party, and Christian Peace Crusade are co-operating, will be held on

TOWER HILL.
Sunday June 30th, at 7 p.m.

Speakers—

CHARLOTTE DRACH (W.S.F.) ROSA BOROHOUSE
SYLVIA PANKHURST (W.S.F.) H. G. RUSSELL (I.L.P.)
MIRIAM PRICE (W.S.F.) MIRIAM PRICE (W.S.F.)
W. F. WATSON (A.S.E.) COUNCILLOR B. GARDNER
C. S. GANLEY (B.S.P.) (I.L.P.)
LANCELOT HOGGEN (Stepney) S. HIGGINTHAM (I.L.P.)
L. L. BUSH WARD, and others. THOMAS WILSON WILSON (C.P.O.)

Secretary—
KITTY E. READ, 88, Centre Park Rd., East Ham, E.4.

BIRMINGHAM LABOUR PARTIES AND THE SECRET TREATIES.

The following resolution indicates that Labour is beginning to learn the truth at last:—

"The Birmingham Labour Party has learnt of the contents of the Secret Treaties entered into by the Allied Governments with the utmost dismay and indignation. It recalls the fact that it almost unanimously consented, jointly with the Birmingham Trades Council, to participate in the Recruiting Campaign earlier in the war because it was led to believe that the war was being fought for the freedom of small nations and the sanctity of International law. The Labour Party now discovers that it has been utterly deceived and that even whilst the above-mentioned Recruiting Campaign was proceeding the Allied Governments commenced the series of Secret Conferences at which the Secret Treaties were formulated. In the opinion of the Party these Treaties flagrantly violate every reason put forward by British statesmen in justification of the war and embody precisely those obnoxious and immoral principles of Junker-Imperialism which they had led the people to believe we were in the war to destroy. We believe the absolute repudiation of these Treaties to be essential to the peace, and hereby instruct the E.C. to convene a large and widely representative Midland Conference at as early date as possible, for the purpose of considering these important documents."

WORKSHOP NOTES: By W. F. WATSON.

WHAT EMPLOYERS DEMAND.

In 1916 the Board of Trade appointed committees to consider the position of British trade after the war. The reports of the Textile, the Iron and Steel, the Electrical and the Engineering Committees are now published. The reports have three outstanding features in common. They recommend more co-operation between manufacturers, more aid from the Government, more preferential treatment for British manufacturers and merchants, and the shutting out of the foreigner.

The ideals of co-operation and national aid for industry would appeal to us very strongly were it not that the recommendations, if adopted under this capitalist system, would mainly benefit the employing classes. The committees only appear to have contemplated the workers in so far as they affect the prosperity of the industrial concerns by which they are employed. The Textile Committee says that the workers should rid their minds of the fatal and paralysing idea of restriction of output. The Engineering Committee protests that no trade union regulations should hamper the employment of women where they can be suitably employed. The Textile Committee recommends that manufacturers and merchants co-operate with the schools and Universities in order to bring into commerce and industry highly educated young men and to secure that they shall be trained to organise and administer. The committees urge the formation of Central Associations to deal with all matters of common interest to the industry, amalgamations, and working agreements to avoid duplicating, to lay down large plant and to import and distribute foreign goods in Great Britain, to acquire interests in ore properties abroad. They also advocate co-operative selling and increased banking facilities. All this is to be done with Government financial aid if necessary. At the same time, the Engineering Committee insists that "Government control of industries shall be lifted, however, as soon as possible after the war."

Though they wish Government control to disappear all the committees call on the Government to help them still further by arranging that for a period after the war, enemy goods shall not be imported except on licence. This is not merely a question of race hatred: it is the cool, calculating determination to keep out competitors. The Textile Committee desires the Government to make every effort to increase the growth of cotton within the Empire, and calls for an export duty to

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By W. F. WATSON.

be placed on Indian jute, with a total rebate in favour of the British Empire and a graduated rebate for its Allies and the neutrals which offer reciprocal concessions. Similar arrangements are demanded for all textile raw materials. The Iron and Steel Committee demands that mining concessions within the Empire shall be reserved to British firms; it also demands customs duties to protect the trade of British firms. The Electrical and Engineering Committees desire protection of British enterprises "by prohibition, tariff, or subsidy." Subsidies come out of the pockets of the taxpayers, tariffs are paid for by the consumers. What claim have the employing classes to lay these burdens upon the rank and file people? These committees also demand the prohibition of enemy trading within the Empire, except under licence. They call for legislation providing that not more than 25 per cent of the capital of Allied firms shall be held by enemy subscribers or their agents, and the exclusive buying of British goods by National and Local Government Departments. All this protection for the employers, the workers, will have to share the hardships of the international conflict which this desired trade war will perpetuate if it is established.

How is the much talked of League of Nations possible if the recommendations of these committees are to be carried out?—S.

STUPID MEDICAL MEN.

The night-shifts workers suffered fewer accidents than the day-shift. This was due to the small output but to the calmer mental state of the night-workers. These workers have for the most part forgotten the pleasures and excitements indulged in shortly before coming into night-shift, and they have nothing but an unshakable breakfast and bed to look forward to. Such a mental state is impossible of achievement by the day-shift workers, but something in the way of mental calm and equilibrium can be attained by stopping all conversation except that relating to the work in hand. If the workers could, it would be a good plan to induce temporary deafness by plugging the ears, and so shut out the noise of the machinery, which is in itself an important cause of distraction and fatigue. Again, if it were practicable, it would be of value to shut out the sight of surrounding objects by separating the lathes or other machines from one another by partitions. ... Even moderately defective lighting produced considerable increase of eye accidents... The use of goggles is suggested as a preventive measure... Temperature is another important factor.

PARLIAMENT AS WE SEE IT.

EMIGRATION EXPENSES.

It was decided to limit the amount of the annual expenses incurred by the Emigration Bill to £50,000!!

EDUCATION.

On the continuation of the discussion of Clause 10, Mr. Snowden (Lab.) moved that maintenance allowances be paid by the Local Education Authorities for "young persons who are in compulsory attendance in such continuation schools." Mr. Adamson (Lab.) pointed out that if this motion were not passed it would mean that the employer should pay a full wage for half a week's work. If this alternative would only have that result it would not be dangerous; but it would surely discourage child labour—a thing greatly to be desired—but where would the parents get the necessary means to support their children? Sir C. Bathurst very aptly pointed out that "malnutrition is the chief source of retardation of educational progress." And there is going to be more of that evil under the new Bill if the economic condition of the parents is not bettered, or if the provision of food is not regarded as much part of the duty of Education Authorities as the provision of teachers. Mr. Fisher argued that if you maintain children at continuation schools you encourage employers to pay less, and added that hard cases would be dealt with as at present. Who wants charity? Mr. Snowden's motion was defeated. The whole discussion of Clause 10 proves that it is a compromise, and as such cannot be made perfect. The only solution possible is to raise the school age once and for all to 16—then there would be no fear of sweating by unscrupulous employers. Mr. Raynson was delightfully naive in his remark that: "It is practically admitted that, owing to lack of enthusiasm of young persons of that age [between 14 and 18], it is necessary to compel them to attend school." Picture the boy or girl who years to rush into a factory to avoid going to school!!! Clause 11 imposes a fine of 5s. for non-compliance with Clause 10. Colonel Wedgwood tried to put the responsibility on the parent and not on the "young person" without success. Will this punitive clause add to the criminals? We fear it may. Mr. Fisher took up a strange attitude on Clause 13, which deals with the employment of children. He gave the House the impression that although certain safeguards against exploiting children were in the Bill, the question of labour, hours, &c., was for the Home Office and social reformers. Lord Cavendish Bentinck, on the other hand, convinced his audience that child working long hours on Saturdays and Sundays could not profit by the best education. Mr. Fisher put the House off until the Report stage. We cannot understand why the Home Office should not help Mr. Fisher and bring in restrictive employment laws, which would make it possible for children to be able to take full advantage of the education offered. Mr. Fisher should see that labour and maintenance were dealt with just as the question of teachers and attendance.

WAR OFFICE WASTE.

The incident of the War Office commandeering a site in Bucks, 1½ square miles, to construct a "large central workshop and store of spare parts" caused Capt. Carr-Gomm to move the adjournment. Not

it was found that accidents increased rapidly at the higher temperatures. As regards external conditions, it was established that accidents increased considerably as the weather grew colder and diminished as it grew warmer... The women's accidents were nearly 24 times more numerous when temperature was at or below freezing than when it was above 47 degrees, whilst the men's accidents were twice as numerous.

DEAR EDITOR,—The unsuspecting if asked to give the source of the above quotation would probably surmise that it came from a treatise describing the conditions under which the slaves of some ancient barbaric empire worked. Alas for their gullibility! It is a cutting from an article in *The Daily Telegraph* of May 13th, 1918, consisting of a digest of a Memorandum published by the Ministry of Munitions as the result of investigations conducted on its behalf by Dr. H. M. Vernon.

One has long since become accustomed to the callous stupidity of the modern scientific mind. Dr. Vernon, like the rest of his caste, reckons as usual without the spirit. Far be it from me to suggest that a munition factory is a paradise, but at least while sight, ears and tongue are free there is a modicum of human feeling about the atmosphere.

Has Dr. Vernon no suspicion of what is likely to happen to one who with ears plugged, eyes goggled and tongue tied stands alone with a machine behind an impenetrable barrier? Has he no inkling of what self-hypnotism means, or of how probable it is that in such a state the lonely worker may become irresponsible for his actions and get into a condition when he cannot distinguish between his own finger and the head of a nail? Has he no conception that the alertness induced by free intercourse with one's fellows has as its necessary correlative a general alertness of mind and body of which the work in hand has its share, and that solitary confinement by destroying the stimulus to the former would fail to produce the latter? Further, has he not for a moment wondered whether much of the deftness shown by men and women in connection with modern machinery is not due to the bodily virtue handed down to them from a healthier past, and drawn the conclusion that the descendants of the modern industrial workers with nothing behind them but the inhuman drudgery of the nineteenth and twentieth century factory are not likely to have the bodily health by which alone good and efficient work of any kind is carried out?

One can find no hint of any such thoughts having passed through Dr. Vernon's mind. His remedies are, in addition to those stated above, seats for the standing workers to rest on occasionally when they are not actually working, and the most suitable for the purpose possible for the sedentary workers; less alcohol in order to diminish "the careless habit of mind"; the choosing of suitable hours of labour; the installation of thermometers and heating apparatus on the floor or a few feet above it so as to warm the feet rather than the head. Apparently these improvements combined with the prospect of an exhilarating breakfast and bread and solitary confinement during working hours are to result in the modern slave being as little as possible incapacitated from continuing his all important toil.

One wonders whether the galley slave would have cared to change places with the modern "free worker," with his health and welfare in the hands of the modern doctor. These stupid and materialistic medicine men cannot regard the human being as anything but a complicated bit of machinery fit only to be lubricated and tended with a view of avoiding the nuisance of a stoppage—and consequent loss to the employer. With a few honourable exceptions the members of the Medical Trades Union are in their dealings with the workers nothing better than brutal oppressors who write the laws of modern science wherever with whip out the last drop of energy from the besotted and dehumanised slaves.

ELSIE E. BUCKLEY.

withstanding the fact that wheat was growing on this land, and already three feet in height, it was decided that this ground alone possessed the necessary requirements. Mr. Macpherson in defence noted that for over two years the War Office contemplated this central workshop, as it was necessary for the economy of army expenditure! Two years already it has been necessary and a few months would have sufficed to save the crops! But these crops would only amount to 500 quarters of wheat, the equivalent of what is spent in France in one-sixth of a day, Mr. Macpherson expostulated. Yet it is food, in an island at best unproductive. We must ask with Colonel Du Pre: "Can folly go further?"

WASTE OF ENERGY.

June 12th.—Mr. King (L.) drew attention to the incident of five aeroplanes circling low down over a national meeting for singing, dancing, &c., at Cullin, co. Cork on May 26th. Mr. Macpherson said this had been done at the request of the military authorities! We seem to have heard that there is a war on "somewhere in France" but not in Cork!

P.O. AND WHITLEY REPORT.

The Postmaster-General gave an account of the Post Office and the improvements and difficulties of the past few years. Mr. Rowntree (L.) took this opportunity to advocate the creation of Councils on the lines of the Whitley Report to maintain industrial harmony. Mr. Anderson (Lab.) was also in favour of the Councils. It must be that as conditions are anything but ideal in the Post Office that even the recommendations of the Whitley Report would be an improvement. But Mr. Pease argued that these innovations were not for post offices where such varied employments existed!

FINANCE.

June 13th.—An effort was made on considering the Finance Bill to exempt soldiers' pensions from income-tax till twelve months after the conclusion of peace. Mr. Bonar Law asked the House not to press the point, urging: "If you start on the basis of what the Income-Tax Law must be, one is better able to pay than the other [meaning a man working for wages side by side with an army pensioner working for the same wages], and if you depart from it you depart from the whole principle of the law." It was decided to regard a resident female relation who cared for a widower's children in the same light as wife in regard to income-tax rebate.—M.O.C.

WORKERS' SOCIALIST FEDERATION.

Branches are asked to send to Headquarters money outstanding for membership fees, sales of literature, badges, perfume cards, &c. Special housing campaign to urge Government and local authorities to take over empty houses for those who have been rendered homeless by air raids and other causes. Particulars and leaflets from 400 Old Ford Road, E. Leaflets on 'Parents and Militarism,' 1s. per 100. Branches should take up local questions with municipal authorities, advice obtainable from Headquarters.

N. L. SMYTH.

Forthcoming.—Bow W.S.F. Social and Dance, 400, Old Ford Road, 7.30 P.M., Saturday, June 22nd, tickets, 7d. Specially attractive programme.

Gratefully acknowledged.—Mr. W. Lansbury, £1; Profit on Social, 17s. 10d.; A. W. Janssen (Peace card), 6s.; Mr. Partridge, 2s. 6d.; Mr. Heathcote (Peace card), 2s.; Mrs. Moschevitz, 8d. COLLECTIONS: Mrs. Walker, £5 5s. 3d.; Miss Pankhurst, 15s.; St. Stephen's Road, 1s. 3d.

MEETINGS,
OUT DOOR.

FRIDAY, JUNE 21st.
Armagh Road, Bow.—11.30 A.M., Miss Price.

SATURDAY, JUNE 22nd.
Great Push in the S.E. District for Socialism, Peace, and Votes for All.—Meet at 85 Camberwell Grove at 2.45 and at 5 P.M. Meetings at 3 and 6.30 P.M. Speakers: Mrs. Clara Cole, Miss Price, Mrs. Walker, and Mr. W. F. Watson.

SUNDAY, JUNE 23rd.
Osborn Street, Whitechapel.—6.30 P.M., Mrs. Walker.

The Square, Woolwich.—7 P.M., Miss Price.

MONDAY, JUNE 24th.
Hoe Street, Walthamstow.—7 P.M., Miss Price.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26th.
St. Leonard's Road, Bromley.—7 P.M., Mr. A. A. Watts and others.

FRIDAY, JUNE 28th.
Grundy Street, Poplar.—11.30 A.M., Miss Price.

SATURDAY, JUNE 29th.
Great Push in the Finsbury Park District.
Indoor

WALTHAMSTOW LEAGUE OF RIGHTS.

TUESDAY, JUNE 25th.
William Morris Hall, Somers Road.—2.30 P.M., Mrs. Clara Cole, Mrs. Sizer.

LECTURE-CONCERTS:
TRUTH ABOUT RUSSIA.

Sylvia Pankhurst and Edward Soernus invite Socialist, Labour, and other Progressive Organisations to co-operate in the organisation of Lecture-Concerts to help in elucidating the situation in Russia and to re-establish normal relations between England and Russia. For particulars write to the W.S.F. Meetings Secretary, 400 Old Ford Road, E.3.

POPLAR SOCIALIST SUNDAY SCHOOL.
(20 Railway Street, Poplar.)

The scholars of the above school spent a very enjoyable day at Woodford on Sunday, June 9th. While walking to the trains some of the children distributed peace leaflets, thereby starting the day well by giving a thought for their fathers and brothers in the trenches. Leaving the old bricks and mortar of Poplar behind, with its ruins and sad recollections, we were soon transplanted to a more healthy environment, which all the workers and their children could have, and will have, once they understand the principles of Socialism and help to institute it. We arrived at the Federation House just after noon. We then, following a short rest in the garden, walked on to the forest. There we had our lunch on the grass, in one of those pleasant glades surrounded by glorious green trees. By playing games, running races, and singing songs, we forgot for some time the war and the general unhappiness of the peoples of the world. However, even here one cannot do this for very long, for frequently through the open spaces there pass by in their well-known blue suits, wounded soldiers. Instantly we are linked up again with the current thoughts of the world. Miss Gostick, looking after our material needs, reminded us of tea. So we all returned to Federation House, ready and willing to relieve her of the buns, bread and butter, and tea that she had so kindly prepared for us. The children of the House waited on us, helped by Miss Burgis and Mrs. Harrison. After tea, we visited the schoolroom, where the children played and made friends and confidants of each other. The tired though happy faces of the children, carrying in their arms large bunches of flowers, reminded us of the ever-moving Father Time, so we reluctantly bade our newly-found friends goodbye and returned to Poplar. We all felt that it was a day well spent and if only the workers would awake from the trance, they and their children would have many happy days in the country, not one now and then.

A. A. W.

SOCIAL WORK.

Mothers' Arms.—Offers needed for sellers on Flower Day, July 13th. Particulars from Miss Clarke, 438, Old Ford Road, E.3. Thanks to Mr. Charles Gulliver who arranged a Benefit Performance for the "Mothers' Arms" under the auspices of the National Sunday League, to the artists who gave their services; also to Miss Clara Reed who gave a Dramatic Recital of 'Becket.'

Gratefully acknowledged.—Mr. and Mrs. Sadd Brown, £8; per Miss Udny, £2 4s. 6d.; Miss Burgis (Sale of clothes), £1 10s.; per Miss Weir, £1; Mrs. Richmond (fortnightly), 10s.; Miss D. Jewson, 10s.; Nurse Hebbes (weekly), 10s.; Miss M. Birch, 1s. COLLECTIONS: L.S.A. Tool-room, £1 7s. 3d.; Miss Clarke, £1 2s. 9d.; per Mrs. Watkins, 14s. 6d.; Misses E. Lagsding and M. Barker (Greens Yard), 9s. 6d.; Mrs. Richmond, 8s.; Bow collection, 4s. 9d.; Misses K. Lagsding and J. Watts (Cubitt Town), 4s. 9d.

A East End Docker's Wife and the Bacon.

In Crisp Street, Poplar, E., the shopkeepers have been selling hock of bacon at 1s. 6d. and 1s. 8d. per lb. At the same time the price for first-rate American hock of bacon at Selfridge's and other West End shops has been 1s. 2d. per lb. Mrs. Walker wrote to the Poplar local Food Control Committee, pointing out that the Poplar workers are paying more for their bacon than the West End swells. Councillor F. Thorn, the Chairman of the Committee, replied, promising to investigate, then summoned Mrs. Walker to appear before the Committee, explaining that he had been to Selfridge's and found that there was nothing in her complaint; for though Selfridge's hock of bacon was sold at 1s. 2d., it was very poor in quality, very near the bone, and not nearly so good as that which the East End people were buying. Mrs. Walker then made her way to Selfridge's, purchased a fine piece of hock of bacon, and carefully preserved the bill proving that it had cost her 1s. 2d. She took the bacon with her to the Committee and kept it in her bag whilst Councillor Thorn was giving his report and explaining to the Committee that though it is true that bacon in Crisp Street costs 1s. 6d. and 1s. 8d. Selfridge's bacon at 1s. 2d. is

much poorer in quality. When he had finished Mrs. Walker produced her bacon. The sight of it was enough. "You have done me," said Councillor Thorn. "Now," said Mrs. Walker, "I am going to-morrow (Wednesday, June 19th) to hold a meeting in Crisp Street, where I shall show this bill and this bacon to the women. Will you take the chair for me, Councillor Thorn?" Councillor Thorn refused, but said that he should be at Mrs. Walker's meeting. Mrs. Walker was as good as her word, and next week we shall publish an article from her on food prices in Poplar and what is to happen next. The women do not intend to let the matter drop!

POPLAR HOUSING CAMPAIGN.

Meetings and agitation to insist that proper housing accommodation shall be found for the 300 East End people whose homes have been wrecked by air-raids and who are now housed in the workhouse have produced good results. The Borough Council has instructed its officials to procure a return of the empty houses in the borough, and with a little more pressure we shall secure that, regardless of rent, the homeless people are put into the best houses.

IMPORTANT

No more papers on "Sale or Return" after June 24th, 1918, by order of the Board of Trade. This means that if you want a "Dreadnought" you must order it.

Those of our Readers who buy the "Dreadnought" from Newsagents, are asked to place their order now to avoid disappointment.

MONTESSORI METHOD.

MISS MURIEL MATTERS (Student of the Dottorissa Montessori's International Course, 1916) will give, by request, A COURSE OF SIX LECTURES on the MONTESSORI METHOD at FEDERATION HOUSE, GEORGE LANE, SOUTH WOODFORD. Synopsis of Lectures.—July 1st, 8 p.m. History of the Method.—Montessori's Precise Contribution to Scientific Pedagogy.—Preparation of the Environment.—Exercises of Practical Life. July 8th, 8 p.m. The Pedagogical Concept of Liberty.—The purpose and reason for limitation of the Montessori material. July 15th, 8 p.m. The Child's Consciousness.—Attention.—Concentration. July 22nd, 8 p.m. Problem of the Will.—Discipline.—Obedience.—The Line of Conduct. July 29th, 8 p.m. Sensorial Education.—The right Presentation and use of the Sensory Material. July 17th, 8 p.m. Biographical Chart.—The Presentation and use of the Intellectual Material. Fee for the course 10s. Tickets obtainable from Miss GOSTICK, FEDERATION HOUSE, GEORGE LANE, SOUTH WOODFORD. The Lecturer will demonstrate with the Montessori Material and suggest a Bibliography of further study.

DREADNOUGHT FUND.

Mrs. F. E. Rowe (monthly), £1 1s. 8d.; Miss MacMunn, 2s. 6d.; Mr. W. Toop (monthly), 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Brimley (weekly), 2s. 6d.; Mr. Thurgood, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Richmond (fortnightly), 2s.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

FAMILY LIMITATION DOCTRINE. Post free, 1½d. —Malthusian League, 48, Broadway, Westminster.

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

HALL TO LET for meetings, concerts, dances, etc.—Apply, Mrs. Hooper, 400 Old Ford Road, London, E.3.

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

SECRETARY WANTED. Must have good shorthand. Apply by letter, Box 20, Dreadnought Office.

MONTESSORI METHOD.—Day Pupils or Boarders, aged 2½ to 5 years, received; also vacancy for Student Teacher.—Apply to Miss Gostick, Federation House, George Lane, South Woodford, Essex.

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London Workers' Committee, 7, Featherstone Buildings, W.C.1.

A Concert-Lecture on "Russia."

SYLVIA PANKHURST will Lecture, and EDUARD SERMUS (the Famous Russian Violinist), will give a Recital of Russian Music.

CHANDOS HALL, MAIDEN LANE, STRAND, W.C.

Friday, June 21st, 1918, 7 p.m. sharp.

Chairman, W. F. WATSON. Tickets Sixpence.

To be had of Sec. at 7, Featherstone Buildings, or at the door.

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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 WORK-HOUSES, 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 care 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.]

WORKERS' SOCIALIST FEDERATION.

GRAND CONCERT AND SOCIAL

Under the auspices of the W.S.F. will be held in the B. S. P. ROOMS, 108, WEST ST., SHEFFIELD, ON MONDAY, JUNE 24TH, 1918, at 7.30 p.m.

Mr. SOERNUS, the celebrated Russian Violinist, will play select Bolshevik Songs during the evening.

A Speech will be given on the Russian Movement by Councillor A. Burton. Admission by Ticket only. Chair, George Fletcher.

TO WOMEN WORKERS.

The United Ladies' Tailors Trade Union of 10, Great Garden Street, E., is making a big effort to organise the women in the trade. On June 12th a very successful meeting was held in the Old Kings Hall, Commercial Road. After two or three stirring speeches, it was decided to form a women's committee, so that they may have a separate working department. It is to be hoped that in a few months quite a strong and active women's branch will result. We call for every one working in the trade to get into touch with the union at once.

GRACE LISTER.

Printed by J. E. Francis, 11 and 13 Breems' Buildings, London, E.C.4. and Published by the Workers' Socialist Federation, 400 Old Ford Road, London, E.3

RE PROCLAIMED FINSBURY PARK MAY
DEMONSTRATION.

It was originally decided to hold a Protest Demonstration in Hyde Park. Owing to the inaction of the Home Office and other causes it has now been decided to hold a mass meeting in FINSBURY PARK on Sunday next, June 23rd, at 3 o'clock. There will be six platforms and a resolution will be put from all platforms to the effect that: "This Mass Meeting of Trade Unions, Labour and Socialist organisations considers the action of the Home Office in prohibiting the North London May Day Demonstration in Finsbury Park on Sunday, May 5th, 1918, an attack upon the right of free speech and free associations of the people... It claims at all times the same right of free expression in public which the Labour and Socialist movement has won for all associations and the people, and which the police in provincial towns assist to maintain. It demands for all soldiers, sailors and civil servants, equally with other sections of the community, full freedom for the expression of their industrial, political civil and religious aspirations...."

LEONARD S. HOWARD.

GIVE THIS PAPER TO A FRIEND