THE WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT

For International Socialism.

Vol. V.—No. 39 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21st, 1918 Price Twopence.

By Hilda Jefferies.]

MAKE PEACE!

BURIED LIGHTS.

By Eva Gore Booth.

I.

Year of the great wind
Of Pity and Terror that swept
Through every gentle mind,
Whilst the world's soul wept,
Folded her wings from flight
And slowly fell,
Lay like a broken lily white
In the blackest fumes of hell.

Silver shining stars of thought,
Eternal beauty, gracious will,
Golden joy that comes unsought
When the sunset crowns the hill -
Thrust into the darkness these,
Buried, trampled underground,
When fierce banners stain the breeze,
And loud drums break the heart of sound.

All the blue sunny skies
Are dark for your sake;
Soul of the world arise,
Spirit of life awake;
Life, if thou art divine
As I know thou art,
Scare, with that truth of thine,
Hate from the world's heart.

Tired is every one -
Tired to death—
Weary of bomb and gun,
And broken limb and fading breath,
Weary of forming fours,
And swearing your will away,
Iron bars and prison doors—
To-day and yesterday.

II.

Lo! to the Council Board
Great men have come;
They hold you by the sword,
They think you blind and dumb,
All our lives to ruin hurled,
Just to give them joy;
They dream it is their world
To make or to destroy.

Great men and grave are they,
Men of Honour and Affairs
Solemnly they rob and slay,
For the world is theirs—
All our lives and toils and dreams
Lo! our blood has drenched their sod,
Theirs are hills and fields and streams,
Given them by God.

They will tell you, youd are free—
Down with tyrant kings
O'er the world Democracy
Broods with Angel's wings,
A new ordinance benign
For the race of man,
Is the golden rule divine
Capitalist-Republican!

Spirit of life arise!
Soul of the world awake!
All the blue, sunny skies
Are dark for your sake
Rise and conquer friend and foe,
Make our hate of no avail,
Where the winds of twilight blow
Great guns falter, trumpets fail.

III.

Soul of the great wind
Of Pity and Sorrow that swept
Through every gentle mind
Whilst the world's soul wept,
Lost in hell's dark deeps divine
O'er a garden not a grave
All our buried stars still shine
And new, mysterious flowers wave.

FROM A SOLDIER'S WIDOW.

A soldier's widow writes:—"We are told that we are to be allowed double meat rations at Christmas, but how are we to afford it on the pension? I only get 6*s.* 8*d.* for a child nearly 12 years old, so you can imagine how difficult it is to cope with ordinary needs, let alone Christmas extras! It will be a very sad Christmas for us war widows. When my child mentions Christmas, it brings a lump in my throat. One can't buy enough food on a pound and fivepence, with 5*s.* a week to pay for rent, and with such a price clothes are quite out of the question."

The Workers' Dreadnought for December 28th (Christmas Week) will be a

Special Russian Number.

We want you to help us to print a record issue—and to distribute it "specially" amongst the members of your Trade Union Branch; also in your workshop.

COUNT CZERNIN'S REVELATIONS.

Count Czernin's revelations are interesting, but must not be taken too literally as he is still playing a hand in the game of European politics. Regarding the origin of the war he says: "My impression is that neither the Emperor Francis Joseph, Count Berchtold, nor the German Emperor wanted it. The explanation of how the war started may be found in the fact that in the beginning there was too much diplomatic bluffing, with everyone looking for the other fellow to recede from his position."

This is probably a fairly correct estimate of the facts. Having got into the war, Czernin says that Austria made many attempts to get out of it. There were two possible methods only—one by making a separate peace with the Allies; the other by inducing Germany to join in bringing about a general peace. The first course would have meant that Germany would have made war on Austria, for says Czernin: "It would have been impossible for Germany with her armies and interests in Turkey and Bulgaria to allow us to pull out of the war." Austria dared not face this. Germany was stronger than Austria, the ten million of German people in Austria might have made civil war and the pro-German Count Tisza might have led Hungary to attack Austria. Moreover, the Allies at the Conference of London in 1916 had promised freedom to the various peoples within the Austrian Empire. The only possible course was therefore to induce Germany to make peace, and at Czernin's suggestion the Emperor Charles agreed to offer Germany the whole of Austrian Galicia and Russian Poland, if Germany would cede Alsace-Lorraine to France. Germany refused to agree, "because," Czernin says, "Germany was obliged to obey the military party." Czernin says that he then sent the Austrian Socialist M.P. Wassilko to Berlin to see Erzberger (Clerical) and Sudekum (Socialist). Wassilko "told them why the war must be brought to an end." Czernin in his statement previously explained the reason to be that the Central Powers could never win; that Revolution was coming; and that the Emperors of Austria and Germany would both lose their thrones. "Both understood and took action in the Reichstag." That action took the form of the famous Peace Resolution, but "the German victories began again and England appeared to have the intention of crushing Germany."

Czernin says that Lloyd George, Clemenceau, and Ludendorff "always maintained the same attitude."

Regarding the Brest-Litovsk Treaty Czernin says that Austria took nothing by it and that he and Kuhlmann tried to make peace without entering Russia and to apply "the Wilson plan of occupation of territories by nationalities," but that Ludendorff successfully opposed them.

GERMAN PEOPLE AGAINST MILITARISM.

Mr. H. W. Nevinson writing from Cologne says: "The ex-Kaiser appears to have no party and few adherents. All agree that even if he had been victorious the fall of militarism could not have been long delayed, so strong was the growing opposition to it throughout the whole country."—*Daily News*, December 14th.

* * *

Many German people are asking themselves now: What was it all about? Why did we bring this ruin upon ourselves? They were made to believe—I think they believed quite honestly—that they were fighting in a war of self-defence, just as the British and French believed that they were, and they were duped into the belief that by a few more months of sacrifice they were bound to win a fairly good peace. Now they have awakened from this nightmare to the cold, horrible reality of defeat, and they ask who were chiefly to blame, and answer it, not in the name of the Kaiser, but of the capitalists. — Philip Gibbs, *Daily Telegraph*, December 14th.

MODERN WAR. By Arthur Finch.

To-day we are on the verge of the Peace Conference. Unless the thinking people of this country are alive to the fact that horrors are a necessary accompaniment of warfare, and are perpetrated by every army, they cannot form a judgment that will aid in the real reparation of wrongs committed in the present war by the various belligerents. It is to this end that the writer sets forth the undermentioned facts, collated and collected from Blue Books, the writings of responsible generals and commanders, and war correspondents.

RETREATING FROM THE ENEMY.

It has been my lot during the past few weeks to be bored by the writings of well-meaning people, both war-mongers and pacificists, on the subject of the German destruction of villages, and the burning of homesteads. Yet in the British retreat in March last some of these self-same writers applauded the "heroic defence" of the villages on the line of retreat. To lovers of beauty, the knowledge that the unsurpassed mountains of the Balkans and the plains of Northern Italy and France have become the charnel houses of retreating armies; that the exquisite examples of Gothic and Renaissance architecture in Belgium and France, the heirlooms of the world's peoples, have been irreplaceably destroyed by the guns of the contending armies, saddens the heart. But, alas! field officers have no qualms of conscience in these matters, particularly when they have lost a battle and are in retreat.

In the year 1869 the late Viscount Wolseley issued a book, since revised, for the instruction of soldiers "when in presence of an enemy." For years it has been the guide of all ranks. It is known to military fame as 'The Soldier's Pocket Book.' Part iii., on p. 353, under the sub-heading of 'Retreats,' deals specifically with the action of a beaten army closely pursued. It advises that :—

"Villages through which he (the enemy) must pass should be set on fire, bridges destroyed, &c. A tree felled across a roadway may check an advance for 5 minutes, and 5 minutes under such circumstances may be worth millions of pounds to the nation concerned."

"In the defence of villages forming part of a position, on the line of retreat or otherwise, the great development of modern shell fire has altered the conditions under which their defence.... can be effected. To place a strong garrison within a village that can be well battered by the enemy's guns, would be to deliver the men over to demoralisation, if not to destruction."

The fate of the village is not mentioned; but easy to surmise. Viscount Wolseley presupposed that the Officer Commanding will have taken the necessary precautions, and have seen that "walls and houses have been carefully loop-holed." In France and Belgium the character of the narrow Gothic stained-glass windows, with their natural loopholes formed by the lovely traceries of the mason's chisel, has been of inestimable value to both sides. After the enemy's artillery has pounded the defences, and street fighting begins, it is mere child's play to destroy anything, "with hatchets, crowbars, and powder bags"; for, we learn, on p. 411, a "very strong door can be blown open by 10 lbs. of powder, even if barred and bolted."

INTERNATIONAL LAW AND THE HAGUE CONVENTIONS.

In the regulations respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land, forming Convention II. and Convention IV., signed at the Hague in 1899 and 1907 respectively, no agreement was arrived at, or discussion entertained, regarding the methods to be adopted in the case of a retreating army. In Article 27 of the Annex to the Convention, however, appears the following, agreed to by the leading belligerents in the present war :—

"In sieges and bombardments all necessary steps must be taken to spare, as far as possible, buildings dedicated to religion, art, science, or charitable purposes, historic monuments, hospitals, and places where the sick and wounded are collected, *provided they are not being used at the time for military purposes*. (My italics.)

"It is the duty of the besieged to indicate the presence of such buildings or places by distinctive and visible signs, which shall be notified to the enemy beforehand."

The preceding article 25 prohibits bombardment of undefended towns, &c., by "whatever means." But article 26 states that

"The officer in command of an attacking force must, before commencing a bombardment, except in cases of assault, do all in his power to warn the authorities."

The loopholes available for belligerents are so gross that the average reader cannot see them for himself!

HOW BLACK AND WHITE MEN FIGHT.

One does not need to go very far back into history in order to discover how the Great Powers deal with coloured, or even other white, though less powerful, peoples. Let me recall what took place in the lawless war of Afghanistan in 1879, when the country was wantonly invaded by Great Britain. In *The Daily News* of February 3rd, 1880, appeared a letter from Sherpur Cabul, with a memorial, protesting against a series of public executions of Afghans, by the orders of British officers, with no military object, but as a "measure of political vengeance." The following extracts are taken from this letter :—

"Captain Vousden charged them (the Afghans) at the head of a troop of Sowars. He killed thirty, and twenty-eight others captured soon after were shot. The past two months was a period of such quiet about Cabul that the ordinary precaution of clearing the ground for 2,000 or 3,000 yards outside the walls was neglected. We are destroying the villages about, and, grown wise by experience, we shall thoroughly raze to the ground the Bala Missar by means of the large supplies of powder left by the enemy."

In those days there was no Hague Convention enjoining the humane treatment of prisoners of war! Nevertheless, a British general, Colin Mackenzie, to his honour, protested against the crime of Cabul.

There is not space to recount the acts of France against the Kroumirs of Tunis and the Moroccan tribes, but students should secure from the British Museum reading room the Second Portfolio, by David Urquhart, containing the paper 'The French in Africa'; also the late Lord Stanley of Alderley's 'The East and the West,' where firsthand facts are to be found.

We now come to the treatment of the Zulus. The full story was told to the world in 'Vanity Fair,' by Lady Florence Dixie, who compiled it from the Blue Books. The Zulu territory was first encroached upon by the Boers, then seized; their king was captured and subjected to imprisonment; the spoils were divided between Zilebu, Cetewayo's enemy, who had the North-East, and England the South-West part of the country; kraals were wantonly burned; prisoners were flogged (it was called, in diplomatic language, "a persuasive measure") because they would not divulge the whereabouts of the Cetewayo, who, according to the Government of the day, was hated and feared by his people. These acts, as one reads of them, cause in the soul a flame of righteous indignation. Alas! soon afterwards the suppression of the revolt of Arabi Pasha against the spoliators of Egypt showed that unbending violence is not confined to any one Power. The details sicken the heart, but the inquiring reader may be referred to the Parliamentary Debates of the period and to Scawen Blunt's 'Secret History of the Egyptian Occupation.'

THE STORY OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR.

One hurries on, recalling the nemesis that fell on the Boers, when their farmhouses throughout South Africa were burned to the ground.* I will merely quote (1) from the report sent by Mr. Maxwell, *The Standard* correspondent in Pretoria, which was passed by the Censor, and published on August 10th, 1900 :—

"The Boers sniped a train at Bronkhurst, on the line from Pretoria to Middleburg. Two of its occupants were wounded. In accordance with Lord Roberts's warning, all farms were fired within a radius of ten miles."

The Standard had had occasion before to touch upon Lord Roberts's activities in Afghanistan, when he was a mere lieutenant. *Experimentum docet!* One cannot refrain from quoting (2) Mr. E. W. Smith, *The Morning Leader* correspondent, who, after referring to the Draconian orders issued by the High Command, relates a heartrending case of a woman who threw her arms round an officer's neck, begging him to spare the homestead. "It had to go," the correspondent relates :—

"When the flames burst from the doomed place the poor woman threw herself on her knees, tore open her bodice, and bared her breasts, screaming 'Shoot me, shoot me. I've nothing more to live for now that my husband is gone, and our farm is burnt, and our cattle taken!'"

An officer told the same correspondent of a similar case :—

"I am a hard hearted fellow, but I couldn't stand the women crying, and in one instance I did leave a farm standing that I *ought* to have destroyed." (Italics mine.)

THE WARS IN TRIPOLI AND THE BALKANS.

On November 29th, 1911, the writer attended the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, London, to hear Francis McCullagh, the correspondent of *The New York World*, describe the massacres he witnessed in Tripoli. He explained :—

"The Italians say that the Arabs fired upon them from the rear. If a man meddles with a bee-hive, and, being stung by the insects, calls them treacherous scoundrels, I only laugh at him."

Commenting on the statement of the Italians that the Arabs swore allegiance, he remarked :—

"Since the world began it has always been the same story. When a strong nation crushes a weaker, there is always somebody in that weaker nation ready to swear allegiance in the name of all his fellows. As a rule he is some discredited and discreet politician."

Now to the account of the massacres :—

"While some Italian reinforcements were passing this village....on the way to the front, on October 26th, several shots were fired. I do not know who fired them. It is said that one Italian soldier was wounded in the leg. I never could find that soldier. For those shots over four thousand people lost their lives. The massacre began in that village. It lasted for three days, and extended through the oasis.... When the village was surrounded and burned down the soldiers were allowed to wander about without supervision and to shoot anybody they saw. I saw them do it myself. In the village I found two old, bed-ridden women. They had never in all probability seen a rifle in their lives. It was murder to kill them. I saw a little boy lying on the ground, ill. He had evidently been taken from the house in which he lay. I also saw three other women. Assistance had been refused to them. They were left to die on the bare ground like dogs. And they did die. Gentlemen, I do not call that war."

Referring to the accusation made by the notorious General Caneva that Italian soldiers

* I refer the reader to the late William T. Stead's "The Candidates of Cain," where in Chapter V. under the graphic title, "Hell let Loose: By Order," he quotes the correspondents of the British Press as to the wholesale destruction of the invaded country.

Continued on page 1159.

QUESTIONS OF THE DAY.

WAS BRITAIN UNPREPARED?

Lord Haldane's defence of his work at the War Office before the war proves that, so far from being unprepared for war, the British Government considered war probable and took the steps it thought best to cope with it.

HOW AMERICA HAS GAINED BY THE WAR.

Mr. Thomas Lamont, a New York banker, has explained that before the war America's indebtedness abroad was approximately £800,000,000. Since the war began she has re-purchased three-fourths of this total and now she owes foreign investors about £200,000,000, or, in interest, about £10,000,000 a year. During the war private investors in America has lent to foreign Governments approximately £400,000,000, and to foreign corporations about £100,000,000, while the United States Government have lent a total which will probably soon reach £1,700,000,000. This means an indebtedness of £2,200,000,000 to the Government and people of the United States, the annual interest on which, after subtracting the amount owed by America to foreign investors, will be £100,000,000 a year. With the tremendous food supplies and the great mass of materials for reconstruction that Europe will require from America, the future trade balance in favour of the United States will amount to at least £100,000,000 annually.

The bulk of the money lent abroad by the U.S.A. Government has been lent by private citizens of the U.S.A., who are receiving record interest without risk—unless there is an American revolution, of course.

LANCASHIRE AND EMPIRE.

Lancashire cotton operatives, striking for increased wages, have been met by the retort that the competition of India makes it difficult to satisfy them. British machinery is taken to India, British capitalists with the aid of the British Government are endeavouring to promote the industrial development of India. The Indian people work long hours for starvation wages. What does it profit the workers within the Empire that the Empire is large and its industrial expansion is great?

THE S.L.P.

The S.L.P. is certainly to be congratulated on its vigorous educational propoganda work. At all times it aims at creating an informed proletariat. In Halifax, where Arthur MacManus was the S.L.P. candidate, a daily newspaper of 6,000 copies was printed and distributed free every day; 47,000 manifestoes were delivered to the electors; 47,000 leaflets contrasting Leagues of Peoples and Leagues of Governments; 25,000 war maps showing the effect of the Secret Treaties; 25,000 election addresses; 5,000 manifestoes to engineers; 20,000 leaflets opposing the Coalition and 23,000 photographs of the candidate. All this was free and an enormous amount of literature was also sold. On the eve of the poll a meeting of over 4,000 people was held in the largest hall in Halifax. MacManus stood as a Socialist without any sail-trimming.

RAILWAY NATIONALISATION.

The Manchester Guardian Stock Exchange correspondent says there is active buying in railway shares as it is believed that "nationalisation will not be disadvantageous to stockholders." Stockholders know that a capitalist Government can be trusted to look after *them*!

* * *

C. E. Davey at the London Trades Council on December 12th moved a resolution that the withdrawal of the Rents Restriction Act would lead to a rent strike.

HAVE YOU ORDERED OUR SPECIAL ALL RUSSIAN NUMBER?

CHAOTIC?

For some weeks several hundred clerks at the Ministry of Food are reported by the Committee of Inquiry to have been mainly engaged on knitting and novel reading. If it had happened in Russia!

W.A.A.C. DESERTERS.

The war is supposed to be over. Edith and Constance Jackson were charged at Goole on December 6th with being deserters from the W.A.A.C. They said they had escaped at midnight in order to call attention to their treatment. A month ago they were placed in a most filthy house that had been unlet for nine years. After that they were sent to Gateshead Workhouse with eleven others. They were given dirty beds, in which they understood girls suffering from scabies had slept.

A wealthy Government Department can have no excuse for treating its emploees in such a way. The fact that the father of these girls is an ex-Chairman of the GooleCouncil has protected these girls from victimisation. But why are not the W.A.A.C.s demobilised? Are they to be sent to Russia?

UNEMPLOYED WOMEN.
THE USUAL EXPEDIENT!

The Government's Advisory Committee on Women's Employment has been considering what to do with our women workers. As the members of the Committee all belong to the domestic-servant employing classes, and as there is a scarcity of women willing to be domestics, the thoughts of the Committee have naturally gravitated towards that most unpopular luxury trade. It has discussed the training and distribution of servants for the well-to-do. It has even discussed the training of "home helps," whom it describes as women employed as helps in the homes of working women not employing a regular servant. At the outbreak of war the Queen Mary Committees trained some "home helps," but, as working women could not afford to employ them, they gravitated to other work. The servants are as scarce as ever! It really is an abuse of the public purse to spend money in training women for trades they either do not desire to enter or which cannot support them.

WOMEN AS JUDGES.

The Times reports that a Bill has been introduced in the New South Wales Parliament empowering women to enter Parliament and municipal councils, to practise law, and to sit as magistrates in Children's Courts. The Government has accepted an amendment qualifying women to sit as judges and magistrates in all Courts.

* * *

Women's unemployment pay is to be raised from £1 to 25*s*. Keep on demonstrating!

* * *

THIS LETTER WAS REGISTERED AND SENT TO PRESIDENT WILSON BY JOHN MACLEAN ON DECEMBER 12th, 1918.

SIR,—You are here in Europe to negotiate a "Democratic Peace," as a Democrat. If so, I wish you to prove your sincerity by releasing Tom Mooney, Billings, Debs, Haywood, and all others at present in prison as a consequence of their fight for "Working Class Democracy" since the United States participated in the war.

The Working Class Democracy of Britain forced the Cabinet to release me from Peterhead Prison, where I was undergoing a five years' sentence under D.O.R.A.

I therefore write you, as an ease to my conscience and a repayment to the "World's Working Class Democracy," to release my above-mentioned friends and comrades.

The Clyde workers will send me as one of their delegates to the coming Peace Conference, and there, inside or outside the Conference Hall, I shall challenge your U.S.A. delegates if my friends are not released.

After that I shall tour America until you do justice to the real American champions of Democracy.

Yours in deadly earnest,
(signed) JOHN MACLEAN.

* * *

We understand that the Albert Hall will soon again be the scene of a monster demonstration of the workers, this time the object being to pass resolutions to be sent to President Wilson asking justice for the thousands of imprisoned workers in America—the victims of the demons of war. The immediate re-trial or release of Tom Mooney will be demanded. John MacLean has promised to speak. It is also expected that details of an alleged grave scandal concerning an American woman resident in England and her treatment by certain officials during the course of the war will be the subject of a request to the President to look into the matter. Further particulars will be announced later.

AN EYE-WITNESS ON THE ATROCITIES.

The Peoples' Russian Information Bureau sends the following :—

The one-sided and prejudiced information about Russia, which alone is permitted to reach this country, invariably speaks of the "atrocities" which the Bolsheviki commit upon members of the capitalist class. It studiously avoids even the mention of the barbarities which are perpetrated on the masses of workers and peasants by the bourgeoisie whenever, as in the case of Samara, Simbirsk, Kazan, Ufa, and the Siberian towns, it succeeds for a time in capturing, with the aid of Czecho-Slovak hirelings, the local government machinery. Numerous instances could be quoted to illustrate the methods of "restoring law and order" practised by the White Guards in such cases; but it will be sufficient to quote the latest which have come to hand. At one time the important Volga town Kazan was in the hands of the reactionaries, who had succeeded in wresting it from the local Soviet; however, they again lost it a short time afterwards. In the *Izvestiya* of October 2nd an eye-witness describes the rule of the Kazan bourgeoisie during the brief period of its power as follows :—

"One simply shivers at the recollection of the first days of the rule of the members of the so-called Constituent Assembly.....Ward and the committees became agents of the *okhrana* (secret police), and terrible was the fate of the class-conscious workers! The committees would denounce these men to the young White guardsmen, who then went about the factories and the working-class quarters.....

The report goes on to describe the shameful part played throughout by the Mensheviki (Moderate Social Democrats) and Socialist-Revolutionaries, the latter led by the notorious Boris Savinkoff, an ex-terrorist, a Minister of War under Kerensky, and an accomplice of General Korniloff. This renegade is now proclaiming publicly that "the salvation of the country lay not in the twaddle of the Bolsheviki and even Socialist-Revolutionaies, but in the reinstatement of the officers in their rights."

The report says: "The bourgeoisie has now armed itself. The ranks of the army began to be filled by volunteers from the Tchinovnik class and from students and schoolboys, sons of the well-to-do all of them, incensed at the working class, bent upon destroying the Social Revolution and restoring the good times of the old régime. The officers put on, not, indeed, the old shoulder straps, but sleeve shields with stars, and saluting was restored. An officers' casino made its appearance in the main street bearing the eloquent name of 'Old Times.' And everything went, indeed, as in the old times. Mobilised soldiers, workers, and peasants were beaten in the face as of old, and unbridled tyranny and licence became the order of the day. Workers continued to be arrested and shot, and even Members of the Labour Conference, with Mensheviki at their head, were arrested. Orders were posted up in the streets of Kazan ordering the workers to give up all arms on pain of being shot, and threatening, in case they should again revolt, to destroy the working-class quarters by artillery fire."

Such was the restored bourgeois régime in one of the largest towns in Russia, and such it was and still is in other places occupied at one time or another, with assistance of the Czecho-Slovaks and the political and financial encouragement of the diplomatic representatives of the Allies. It also shows what would happen in Russia on a national scale if Admiral Koltchak, the latest adventurer and favourite of the Allies, were to overthrow the Soviet régime.

Harry Pollitt has started an educational class at the South Poplar Labour Club, 210 East India Dock Road. The class is held each Sunday at 11 A.M., and the subject is INDUSTRIAL HISTORY. All interested workers of both sexes are cordially invited to attend.

GIVE THIS PAPER TO A FRIEND.

JOHN MACLEAN.

now learn on good authority that since last John Maclean has been on hunger strike and going forcible feeding. Is this country to e last in granting reprieves. Germany has the way by freeing Karl Liebknecht, whose arity has been increased enormously by the treatment meted out to him. When are we to have our political prisoners resolutved? ctions of the community should protest against

LEANEY'S LTD.,
WHOLESA[illegible] NEWSAGENTS
City Agent for [illegible] Workers' Dreadn[illegible]
9 and 10, ST. B[illegible]S AVENUE,
(Late City [illegible] Publishi[illegible])

WORKERS' SOCIALIST FEDERATION.

For Revolutionary International Socialism, the ending of Capitalism and Parliaments, and the substitution of a World Federation of Workers' Industrial Republics.

Membership open to all Men and Women. Subscription 4d. per month, 4s. per annum.
Write to the Secretary, 400 Old Ford Road, London, E.3.

LONDON MEETINGS.

OUT DOOR.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20th.
Queen's Crescent, Kentish Town.—5.30 P.M., Miss Price.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21st.
Hammersmith—Meet at 3 P.M. and 6.30 P.M. at the Grove (near both railway stations). Speakers: Miss Birch, Miss Price, and Mrs. Walter.

INDOOR.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20th.
400 Old Ford Road.—8 P.M., General Meeting, London Section.

We shall be pleased to insert notices of meetings in this column, giving one line free and a penny for each additional word.

Christmas Sale and Social,

SATURDAY, 21st, 3—10 p.m.,

400, OLD FORD ROAD, E.

Christmas Presents, Clothes, Books, &c.
Refreshments at Popular Prices.

Concert. Dancing. Admission 3d.

W. S. F. NOTES.

Mr. A. McConnell, 76 Doneraile Street, Fulham, S.W.6, will be glad to hear from all comrades and members willing to join a branch of the W.S.F. in that district.

Every member of the W.S.F. should sell a record number both of this week's issue and of the special Russian number of THE WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT. Send the paper to your friends. It is better than any Christmas card and a year's, half year's, or quarter's subscription makes the best Christmas present. 1918 is drawing to an end. Do not let it end without your having done something to bring the Social Revolution nearer. THE DREADNOUGHT stands for Socialism in our time. It spreads news of the Socialist Revolution in other countries and thus heartens the workers to strive for Socialism here. The W.S.F. Committee has often a very serious struggle to keep the paper and propaganda going. Do what you can to help in every way. Help us to raise funds and, above all, help to spread the good news—sell the paper, sell the pamphlets, get new members and subscribers, talk to every one you meet, talk in the workshop, in the shops, in the trains and trams; educate, agitate, organise! There is no time to be lost! Let us all be up and doing with renewed vigour.

'DREADNOUGHT' FUND (October and November, 1918).—Lady Warwick, £25; Mr. and Mrs. Ensom, £5; Miss Scott Troy, £5; Mr. and Mrs. Roden Buxton, £5; Dr. Scarlett Synge, £5; DREADNOUGHT Social Profit, £1 17s.; Mrs. and Miss Casey, £1 10s.; West Ham W.S.F. Council, £1 10s.; Mr. and Mrs. Schutze (10s. monthly), £1 10s.; Mrs. Brimley (2s. 6d. weekly), £1 5s.; Mr. Papadimitriou, £1; per Mrs. Lauritzen, £1; Mr. and Mrs. Durant (10s. monthly), £1; Mrs. Chandler, 10s. 6d.; Bermondsey N.U.R., 10s.; Mr. Johnson (per Miss Nagley), 10s.; Mrs. McCarthy, 10s.; Mrs. Dersh, 10s.; Mr. Morton (5s. monthly), 10s.; Mrs. Richmond (2s. fortnightly), 8s.; Peckham and Dulwich Women's Co-operative Guild, 5s. 2d.; Mr. J. Reed, 5s.; Miss G. D. Easterbrook, 5s.; Miss Brett, 5s.; Mr. A. Knight, 5s.; Mrs. Barfield, 5s.; Mrs. Baillie Weaver (2s. 6d. monthly), 5s.; Mr. Toop (2s. 6d. monthly), 5s.; Miss Woodruff, 4s.; Mr. J. Robertson, 2s. 6d.; Mr. Bailey, 2s.; Mrs. Console (1s. monthly), 2s.; Mr. L. Frenssen, 2s.; Miss Newsome (1s. monthly), 2s.; Anonymous, 1s.

COLLECTED FOR MISS PANKHURST'S FINE by Dreadnought Staff: £42 6s. 10½d.

WORKERS' SOCIALIST FEDERATION.

CHANDOS HALL,

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10th, 7.30 p.m.,

EDWARD SOERMUS,

THE GREAT RUSSIAN VIOLINIST.

Chair, MISS SYLVIA PANKHURST.

Tickets, 2s 3d., 1s. and 8d. including tax. Application for tickets should be sent to Mi[illegible], 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.3.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

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

FURS £10 10s. Very fashionable black Set; whole skins. Tango Stole and fashionable round Muff. New two months ago. Approval willingly. Accept £3 13s. 6d. Belmont, 3, Aubert Park, Highbury, London.

SOCIALISTS OF CROYDON, Your First New Year's Resolution for 1919 should be to send 2/- (½d. stamps) for 24 weeks prepaid subscription to Croydon's Own Socialist Weekly, THE EPISTLE. Offices, 112 Woodville Road, Thornton Heath.

FOR SCRAMBLED EGGS, ETC., USE
Greer's
Agreeable Whole Dried Eggs,
2 whole eggs 2½d.
D. W. GREER & Co., Camberwell, London, S.E.5.

THE ORPHEUM
CINEMATOGRAPH THEATRE
CROYDON.
Good Films. Good Music. Comfortably Heated. Clean. Well Ventilated.
LILLIAN SCOTT TROY, Managing Director.
(Hon. Member D.W.R. & G.L. Union).
Tel. Croydon 1827.

VOTE FOR THE CHILDREN'S BIRTHRIGHT.—15s. a week to every child in our midst as proudly welcomed citizens till they reach the age of 21 years, and £1 a week for everyone at 60.
MacKenzie-Kennedy Advert.

NOW READY.
THE TRUTH ABOUT RUSSIA.
By ARTHUR RANSOME.
Price 3d.
Published by the Workers' Socialist Federation, 400 Old Ford Road, London, E.3.

Will SOCIALISTS from Greece and Turkey COMMUNICATE with C. Christophoridis, 4[illegible] Frith Street, [illegible], W.1.?

WORKSHOP NOTES: By W. F. WATSON.

THE EAST LONDON MOVEMENT.

Things do not seem to be running very smoothly in the East End and the "fly in the ointment" appears to be a little group of A.S.E. shop stewards which is using its influence to prevent the stewards going over en bloc to the Ship-building and Ship-repairing S.S. Committee. The shop stewards of all other Unions have linked up with this committee, the A.S.E. being the only Union outside. With a view to putting this right the more advanced A.S.E. men caused a mass meeting of A.S.E.S. Stewards to be held where it was unanimously decided to link up en bloc with the unofficial committee. Now the secretary is a chap named Charlie Ball with an eye to the main chance; in any case he is up against anything which does not bear the mark of official sanction, so he explained that another meeting was necessary to give effect to the resolution. I am told that when it came to selecting speakers for this second meeting the name of Harry Pollitt, who is well known in Manchester and London as a revolutionary member of the Boilermakers, was suggested but rejected *because he was not a member of the A.S.E.!* Then someone said Brother Watson, and Comrade Ball replied "I will not put his name down." This was more than the Shop Stewards could stand, so they shouted "Ball! You'll have to put his name down," and down it went.

Finally Bradley, Spencer, Swales, Watson and Mills were selected, and, according to Ball, written to. When questioned Ball said he had received replies from Bradley and Spencer. I must say right here that I have received no communication of any sort from Ball and I did not hear of the meeting (which was to be held on December 15th at the Grand Picture Palace, Blackwall Tunnel) until Saturday afternoon, and then got the information indirectly. Nevertheless, I went along, and upon arriving at the Grand Picture Palace was informed by a group of Rebels standing outside that the hall had not been booked up.

Evidently some dirty work is going on in the Dock Area and it is up to the A.S.E. shop stewards to institute a thorough investigation, and if Ball is not acting on the square he must be rolled right out of the movement. He must be made to realise that the day of sectionalism in the S.S. movement is passed. By the way, why not an E. LONDON WORKERS' COMMITTEE?

A.S.E. BALLOT RESULTS.

CHAIRMAN OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, 1918.

Brownlie, J. T., Woolwich 3rd	24,522*
Lawrence, J. D., Woolwich 2nd	13,294

EXECUTIVE COUNCILMAN, 1918 (DIVISION No. 5).

Iredale, G., Leeds 7th	1,981
Wilson, J., Sheffield 4th	3,681*

ORGANISING DISTRICT DELEGATE, 1918.

No. 2 DIVISION.	
Hills, W. D., Leith	909*
Proctor, H., Dundee	904
No. 7 DIVISION.	
Gorman, J., Salford 4th	2,743*
Peet, G., Gorton 4th	1,249

ELECTION OF TWO ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARIES, 1918, TO BE UNDER CONTROL OF E.C.

Beechey, A., Woolwich 7th	14,545
Butts, J., Bradford 3rd	14,849*
Cunliffe, J., Manchester East	15,650*
Rose, H. A., Greenwich East	12,563

J. Butts is one of the members of the late E.C. who were thrown down stairs on January 1st, 1913. We remember Jimmy breaking his glasses, losing a tooth, and searching in vain for a "bobby." We wish him luck in his new job.

In thanking the members for re-election, J. T. Brownlie says: "I interpret the result of the election as an expression of opinion on the part of our members in favour of constitutional procedure which has been my chief aim to observe in regard to the conduct of the society's affairs." He quite forgets to mention that a number of Branches refused to participate in the ballot because of the arbitrary way in which David Kirkwood was disqualified. Anyway, we should like to know the particular system of logic applied which interprets 24,522 votes cast in his favour out of a total membership of over 295,000 "as an expression of opinion on the part of our members in favour of constitutional procedure."

* * *

There is to be a mass meeting of Engineering Workers in Trafalgar Square on Sunday, December 22nd, 3 P.M., to push forward the 44 hour week and the abolition of all payment by results systems. Roll up in your thousands!

* * *

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN, LONDON DISTRICT COMMITTEE.

The result of voting for the above position is as follows:—

Bro. G. Spencer	
Bro. J. Tanner	
Bro. W. F. Watson	
Bro. Worsnop	

Therefore Bros. Spencer and Watson take the final ballot.

* * *

W. Ibbotson of Sheffield writes: "Sheffield will be one of the worst sufferers on account of the inability to transfer from war work to commercial work quickly. At one of the large firms they are trying to coerce men to leave, also women. At the National Projectile Factory they are discharging women at the rate of 6,000 per week (official). They employed about 15,000 women when fully employed. This factory is in the Rotherham area and the majority of the women were domestic servants (or skivvies—that's what they term themselves). They say they will not go back to that kind of employment, so somebody looks like 'copping' out for it when they get on the warpath."

Printed by J. E. Francis, 11 and 13 Breams' Buildings, London, E.C.4, and Published by the Workers' Socialist Federation, at 152 Fleet Street, London, E.C.4.