

THE WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT

For International Socialism.

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SELF-GOVERNMENT IN THE SOVIET ARMY.

Decree concerning the Revolutionary Military Soviet, adopted unanimously at a session of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets, on October 2nd, 1918.

1. The Revolutionary Military Soviet of the Russian Socialist Federal Soviet Republic, constitutes the organ of the supreme military power in the country.

All powers and means of the people are put at the disposal of the Revolutionary Military Soviet for the defence of the frontiers of the Soviet Republic.

All Soviet Institutions are under the obligation to consider and satisfy without delay the demands of the Revolutionary Military Soviet of the Republic.

2. The Revolutionary Military Soviet of the Republic takes over all the rights of the College of the People's Commissariat for War, the members of which are incorporated in the Soviet.

3. All military institutions are subordinate to the Revolutionary Military Soviet of the Republic and must work under its supervision.

The All-Russian General Staff, the Supply Department, the Military Legislative Soviet, the Military Inspection Department and other military institutions, are subordinate to the Revolutionary Military Soviet.

4. The People's Commissary for the Army and Navy is the president of the Revolutionary Military Soviet of the Republic. The inter-relationships between the president and the Soviet are similar to the inter-relationships between the People's Commissary and the College of the People's Commissariat for War, as laid down by the Constitution of the Soviet Republic.

5. The Commander-in-Chief has full powers in all questions of a strategic character. All other orders, for which he is responsible, must be counter-signed by one of the members of the Revolutionary Military Soviet. In all other matters the Commander-in-chief enjoys the rights of a member of the College.

6. The members of the Revolutionary Soviet of the Republic attached to each separate army, form a link with headquarters, and fulfil the functions of observation and instruction. They do not directly interfere with the orders and arrangements of the commander, or of the military soviet of the particular army; but have the right, in extreme cases, to dismiss commanders and members of the local military council. Moreover, they have the right to issue orders of a local character, subject to their immediate notification to the Revolutionary Military Soviet of the Republic.

7. In the event of a member of the Revolutionary Military Soviet of the Republic being

also a member of the Revolutionary Military Soviet of the army to which he is attached, his rights, as far as his work is concerned, are only those of a member of the said Soviet.

8. The election of the president of the Revolutionary Military Soviet must be confirmed by the All-Russian Central Executive Committee; and the election of the members of the Revolutionary Military Soviet, including the Commander-in-chief, must be confirmed by the Soviet of People's Commissaries.

AFTER THE WAR.

Charles Willingale, a returned prisoner of war, spent the last £3 he had on a horse, which he bought at an auction sale, in order that he might earn a living for himself and family by carting and hawking green groceries. When too late he discovered that he had made a bad bargain; the horse was 23 years of age and only fit for the knacker's yard. Next day he went out to ply his trade but the horse collapsed and as a result he was charged with cruelty at Westminster Police Court. The magistrate said he would take the circumstances of the case into consideration and made the ex-soldier pay the costs.

But what could the poor fellow do? Workless in the country he worked for but of which he owns not a yard.

HANDS OFF RUSSIA.

Speech by Mr. Israel Zangwill at the Albert Hall, February 8th, 1919.

To avoid obtaining applause under false pretences, let me confess at once that I speak as a bourgeois with hard-earned savings and not as a Bolshevik. Bolshevik, I understand, means one of the majority, and that is, alas! a position I have never had the comfort to occupy. I speak from your platform because you have offered me it, and I would as cheerfully hold forth in the House of Lords if they gave me facilities. I do not belong to the Red Army, unless you will spell it "Read."

Do not despise that "Read" Army—Lenin himself compares newspapers to bombs and guns, and thought it so dangerous that no Government in the world dares leave it uncensored. Even he has suppressed the opposition press, I am sorry to say. But I was relieved to find the suppression described as a temporary and extraordinary measure till the new order was firmly in the saddle. But he would have done better to leave the press free, especially as the Russian masses cannot read.

It is our press that is Lenin's real danger. A Muscovite when he reads that the gutters of Moscow run blood, knows whether the blood is really there, or only invented by the gutter-journalists. But we over here in the fog of peace, can never be absolutely sure that our journals are lying. The other day, I saw an article headed "Russian Dangers." On looking more closely I saw it was only "Russian Dancers." But so hypnotised was my brain by the popular chorus: "Hush, hush, hush, here comes the Bolshevik," that I read it even into a eulogy of the only good thing now admitted to come out of Russia—its ballet.

What a difference from the beginning of the war! Then, when I read about Archangel, I thought it was the Czar. Those were the days of Stephen Graham and "Holy Russia" and Russian Supplements of *The Times*. On the first anniversary of the war, Count Benckendorff, the Russian Ambassador, emphasised on behalf of Czar and people "the hearty and constant union of views

between Russia and Great Britain and the continued confidence and faith which each has in the other." In those days, for saying a word against Russia I was denounced as a pro-German. Now the danger is to say a word for Russia.

This is in one way a blessing; for now that Russia has taken the place of Germany as the enemy of the human race, now that Bolshevism is, in the language of Lord Denbigh, "a curse in comparison with which German militarism would have been a blessing," now that at Riga the Eighth German Army has actually co-operated with our troops against the Bolsheviks, there has been a relaxation in our iniquitous blockade against Germany. Just as the Bolsheviks, by undermining German morale, helped to save us from Prussian militarism, so they are now helping to save us from ourselves.

Moreover, they have so frightened Capital that everywhere wages are rising—even in the Army and Navy, hours of work are falling, and the Peace Conference is offering Labour an international charter. The fear of Bolshevism is the beginning of wisdom. Bolshevism may be a curse, but its evil is by no means unmixt.

But is Bolshevism a curse? Well, we must distinguish between Bolshevism in itself and the violence with which it has been established. As a conscientious objector to violence of every species, I do not believe that revolutions can be made only with blood, I believe they can be made with ink, or with electric light. But revolution with blood is not unknown even in English history and violence in Russia is not confined to the Bolsheviks. In recording the court-martialing and shooting of 117 Bolsheviks near Omsk, *The Times* remarked recently: "These prompt measures have made a good impression." But you cannot in the same breath praise violence and abuse it.

It is impossible to whitewash the Bolsheviks, but I have no doubt that the bloodiness of their régime has been as exaggerated as its bankruptcy. If the possessing classes in England were suddenly deprived by the masses of their lands and factories, and even turned out of their homes, I should not

go to them for an impartial view of the situation, nor expect them to recognise that, once things had settled down, Britain as a whole might really be better off. When Mr. Lloyd George was denounced for "robbing hen-roosts," I did not accept that as a complete account of his politics. Lord Milner prates of "the unspeakable horrors of Bolshevik rule," but I was not so ready to believe all that the Boers said about his concentration camps. Quite a number of those murdered by the Bolsheviks seem to pop up again.

But when all is said, it is unquestionable that infinite injustice and brutality have marked the Bolshevik as every other revolution, including the revolution against the Czar, which the British Government endorsed. I do not doubt that the same Russian hooligans who carried out the brutalities of the army in Galicia, or the Jewish pogroms against which the British Government refused to intervene, profited by their new and rich opportunities to carry out those horrors against which the British Government has been so anxious to intervene: horrors which for the most part, indeed, were the very result of our intervention. Had we recognised Lenin's Government as we recognised Kerensky's, instead of trying both secretly and openly to subvert it, Bolshevism would have been comparatively bloodless. But it was forced to stand with its back to the wall against the whole world. This animal, as Buffon puts it, is very spiteful: when you attack it, it defends itself.

The latest excuse for intervention is that Bolshevism has replaced Prussianism in aggressive and invasive militarism. But, as the books of strategy teach, attack is often the best form of defence. In the classic language of Barney Barnato, when you see a man about to hit you, you hit him first. But Russia must be saved from the Bolsheviks, the defeated Russian parties tell us. "For reasons of high morality," cries M. Savinkoff, the head of the Omsk military mission to Paris, "it is an international duty to put an end to the odious massacres which mark the Red Terror." Who is this M. Savinkoff, this preacher of high morality, now in such high honour in Paris? The man who, according to his own 'Confessions,' recently published in Bourzeff's

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HANDS OFF RUSSIA continued from front page.

organ Billets, was, together with the provocateur Asseff, as the head of the Terrorist branch of the Social Revolutionaries; the man who, though at one with Lenin in his land policy, would have none of Lenin's constitutional methods; the man who in 1908 took part in an attempt to assassinate the Czar, and who actually handled the bomb which killed the Grand Duke Sergius. This is indeed an example of Satan rebuking sin.

As for the Great Powers that M. Savinkoff exhorts to intervene against Bolshevism, why even the greatest and noblest of them, President Wilson, has preached: "Force, force without stint, force to the utmost limit." Though he now sits high on the fence, smiling like Sunny Jim, force is the food that raised up him. When I last stood on this platform, nearly two years ago, I last stood on this platform, nearly two years ago, it was to complain that a mass of men just about it was to be murdered and mutilated every day, and that this incredible Red Terror had been going on for nigh a thousand days. Nevertheless it went on for another five hundred days, and Lord Curzon has regretted it did not go on a little longer. Those who objected to taking a hand in it were put away and tortured like John Maclean. Therefore, pacifist though I am, I feel that when the Allies presume to lecture Trotsky and Lenin, these men are entitled to reply: "Mind your own bloody business."

The truth is we wanted more bloodshed, not less, and if the Bolsheviks instead of nobly proposing an all-round peace with "no annexations, no indemnities," had continued the war, we should have swallowed our objections to their doctrine, and even if to raise the sinews of war they had expropriated every rouble in Russia, we should have applauded the patriotic dictation of the proletariat. The Peace Conference, which arrogates to itself the leg. of nations, the Peace Conference with its President whose nickname of the Tiger preserves the law of the jungle, would have welcomed Lenin and Trotsky to its table. Now they are told to go to Krinkipo.

We must do Lloyd George the justice to admit it was not he who wanted them to wait on the mat. Perhaps he has had his lesson. "Through Terror to Triumph" was the name of a collection of his speeches. Perhaps he has come now "Through Triumph to Terror." For the Knock-out Blow he insisted on has been given—but by Russia. Whoever meddles with Russia seems to catch a Tartar. Russia baffled Napoleon by a new tactic and she may yet baffle Foch. For she has transformed the strife of nations into a conflict of classes and the war that was won horizontally may be lost perpendicularly.

The whole social order is rocking from China to Peru. But if our politicians didn't want the world's foundations to shake, why did they stake all its fortunes on the Knock-out Blow? They know how the Napoleonic wars had left all Europe rumbling with revolution. Why did they gag and blind us, stifle every gleam of reason and every impulse of humanity, set black and yellow against white, refusing to look beyond the murderous moment, abandoning the planet for five years to blood-lust, frenzy, and famine?

Victory covers a multitude of sins, but it cannot avert their consequences. You cannot sow the wind and reap the doldrums. Bolshevism followed as naturally from that saturnalia of savagery and that agony of starvation as the Black Death, camouflaged as Spanish influenza, rose from the myriads of putrefying corpses. "Comrades," cried a simple Russian soldier back from the front, "I bring you greetings from the spot where men are digging their own graves and call them trenches." The Russian soldiers wanted peace—the peasants land, the citizens bread. It was an irresistible triad.

I regret their methods. I would not have raised a finger to help them. But now that they have helped themselves I would not undo their work. That would be a waste of the blood already shed, the destruction of a precious social experiment, an experiment moreover made not upon us but on the vile body of Russia. Bolshevism must be let alone. If it is a curse let it go home to roost. If it is a blessing, let the whole world enjoy it. If Trotsky is a greater tyrant than the Czar, let him meet a similar doom; if Lenin is worse than Wilhelm, let the Russians deport him.

If, as Sazonoff tells us, all the shops of Moscow are empty and all the prisons full; if the peasants complain they are worse off under the tyranny of the committees than under the single employer of yore; if, as the Swiss pamphleteers inform us, Bolshevism has meant the blind destruction of forests, crops, raw materials, and a calamitous exodus from the cities; if under the Soviets Russia is without bread, commerce, manufactures,

or freedom, what an invaluable lesson for other would-be Bolsheviks!

Why intervene to destroy what is destroying itself? Why, like Gilbert's Mikado, make suicide a capital offence? To destroy Bolshevism from without would only destroy the value of this awful warning. For Bolshevism would then always say it died of violence, not of its own rottenness.

As it is, they say it has not had a fair chance, that the experiment was made in a country already ruined by the capitalists and their war, a furnished country, a country now isolated politically and boycotted economically. They say it was not Bolshevism that brought the bankruptcy of Russia, but the bankruptcy of Russia that brought Bolshevism. And so a matter of fact what is the object of pointing to Russia's disorganisation and travails? You cannot spend £40,000,000,000 to destroy another £40,000,000,000, and demand Europe of ten million able-bodied producers and their heirs peace and plenty.

According to Gorki, whose slow conversion to Bolshevism makes his evidence all the more valuable, Bolshevism is not the scourge it first seemed, but a sincere striving for the freedom and beauty of life. And so it is. Who can object to a Constitution, one of whose first articles declares that "He who will not work shall not eat"? True, there seems a somewhat crude interpretation of work. I have spent weeks of study to find out the truth about Bolshevism. Is not that work—and useful work?

The Bolsheviks, it appears, set artists to clean out lavatories; still we sent Epstein to the trenches. They despise professors and set up street universities in the shape of posters of information. A crazy idea I say the critics. I am inclined to think it an improvement on the posters of our picture palaces.

I am far from supposing Bolshevism was born perfect; in fact, it is still in travail, a revolution still in evolution, a birth that is half an abortion, a chaos of capitalism and socialism, of idealism and materialism, of wisdom and folly. But the same study that convinces me of its crudities and cruelties convinces me also that by its heroic attempt to make bread and education as common as air, by its aspiration for a world brotherhood and a world peace, by its repudiation of the imperialism that is based on the exploitation of coloured races, by its grand gesture of restoring to China and Persia the territories grabbed by the old Russia, it is the first attempt in history to create a model Commonwealth.

It is true that in attempting to set up by force this kingdom of peace and goodwill, Bolshevism has fallen into the paradox of all military crusades. It is true that to destroy poverty it has ruthlessly impoverished the rich. But just as after five years of world slaughter my dulled nerves can no longer be shocked by Bolshevik bloodshed, so after my income, forcibly borrowed my stocks, commandeered without compensation hotels in which I might have had a share, threatened through Bonar Law a levy on my capital, nationalised my railways and shipping, and told me through Mr. Winston Churchill that the achievements of the Ministry of Munitions constitute the greatest argument for State Socialism that has ever been produced, I cannot pump up any horror at a Government which goes a little further and demands to utilise for life and construction, the forces we have devoted so successfully to destruction and death.

The British Government is only Bolshevism in embryo, and Bolshevism is only Socialism in a hurry. So when you smile you won't wait. America, going a little better, has Bolshevised the drink trade at one blow. It is a recognition that not property but society is sacred.

Fun has been made of the unceasing flow of Bolshevik decrees, but can they compare with the innumerable progeny of D.O.R.A. who had the "Bolshevik" fertility of cod-fish, and is still spawning? My refugee Russian friends try to make my flesh creep by telling me what "the dictation of the proletariat" will be like. But I say, my dear friends, as a freelance I shall assuredly not resist it. But I am broken in. I have lived under the British War Government, subject to provisional arrest without reason given; subject, had I been a C.O., to court-martial five times over for the same offence; my correspondence censored, articles and plays of mine forbidden, my journeys impeded by pre-arranged passports, or even liable to prohibition by the Soviet of Sailors headed by Mr. Havelock Wilson.

That Soviet now presumes to threaten the Peace Conference itself, if any food is shipped to enemy countries against its views. But the Government cannot tolerate lawlessness when that happens to be on its side, and exclaim against anarchy when the forces it has unloosed turn against it. And now that a Soviet of doctors in Bristol has retorted in kind by refusing to load up munitions destined for use against Russia, perhaps the Government may perceive that two can play at that game.

But, plead the interventionists, we do not propose to undo the main work of Bolshevism. We know the peasants will never give back the land nor the back a Czar. Only the Black Hundreds still hope for that. And those do not demand Allied help, for they fear the Peace Conference would not give them the Russia they want. That is the most flattering thing I have yet heard about the Peace Conference. But if Bolshevism is thus admitted to be so largely sound and irrevocable, the case for intervention becomes still weaker.

Milner pretends we must remain in Russia to protect those who fought on our side. As if the Bolsheviks would be so foolish as to refuse them an amnesty, if we consented to clear out! The only plausible plea for intervention put forward in any respectable quarter is *The New Europe's* plea that the Peace Conference would be false to its function if it left so large an area of the world a prey to chaos and disorder. But is Paris itself so free from unrest, Paris where prices go up daily and soldiers are forbidden to enter for fear of riots, as they are equally forbidden in Lyons and Marseilles? Only one condition could the Peace Conference on one condition interfere in internal politics—if it does so all round, in Egypt, Syria, or Ireland, or in the Southern States of America where the negroes are terrorised from re-ordering their votes.

Hands off Russia therefore—until they are clean! But even those who call on the Peace Conference to do its war-duty, no longer dare ask for military expeditions. They know that the peoples, so far from being ready to send fresh forces, are clamouring for the recall of their frozen troops, that we are ashamed of the French negroes in Odessa. The plan now put forward in *The Times* is to starve out the Bolsheviks, while encircling them with well-fed populations, the sight of whose pampered paunches would seduce them from the faith. It is like that ghastly story in Poe when the walls of a stone chamber close gradually upon the victims. Truly a Christian reply to "the horrors of Bolshevism!"

But whence comes this right to blockade Russia? When did we proclaim war on her? Why are we throwing her into the arms of German "Social Patriots," who, it will be remembered, was the chosen leader of the rank and file during the Colchester rebellion, when the Fusiliers who were sent to quell the outbreak were promptly disarmed by the strikers, and the office is S.S.A.U., 4A Thiffes

determination.

NEW GERMANY.

The new German Government plainly shows that Germany is far from having accomplished the Socialist Revolution. Seven members of the new Government are Majority Socialists, "Social Patriots," as Liebknecht called them; four members belong to the Centre party and four are democrats; therefore, eight out of fifteen members—a clear majority is avowedly non-Socialist. Twenty-five thousand troops are stationed near where the new National Assembly is meeting at Weimar.

SPARTACUS AGAIN.

It is significant that, according to *The Times* "a wireless station is in working order, in case the telegraph lines should be cut or railway communications interrupted by Spartacus." This shows that Spartacus is very much alive indeed. Another Spartacist Revolution seems to be approaching. On February 6th, the Spartacist workers of Hamburg seized the Town Hall and the banks. At Kiel Spartacist workers and sailors have occupied the aeroplane station and the police headquarters. At Altona, Itzehoe, Elmshorn, Lübeck, and other places there have been similar incidents. There is serious fighting in Berlin.

AT ANY STRIKE.

They ranged in one dread line,
The order went;
Swift came the spurts of flame
And moaning wail:
Back rolled the smoke; light came
With red besprent:
They found, bathed in life's wine,
A pale-faced child.

L. A. M.

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WHOLESALE NEWSAGENTS

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JOHN MACLEAN.
We now learn on good authority that since last July John Maclean has been on hunger strike and undergoing forcible feeding. Is this country to be the last in granting reprieves. Germany has shown the way by freeing Karl Liebknecht, whose popularity has been increased enormously by the unjust treatment meted out to him. When are we going to have our political prisoners reprieved? All sections of the community should protest against

RUSSIAN NEWS.

We have received the following Russian news from The Peoples' Russian Information Bureau:—

THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT:

Its Constructive Work.

Volkrecht (January 15th, 1919) states:—
"The Soviet Republic continues its efforts to build up culture with undiminished energy. Especially is it doing everything possible to improve the schools which are still so backward in Russia. The Commissariat for Popular Enlightenment in the Northern Commune has decreed that no child is to be refused admission into a school. If there are too many applications, the Commissariat must be informed, whereupon the children are to be distributed amongst other schools, or, in case of need, new schools are to be opened."

"The health resort, Sestoretz, and the villages Alexandrovsk, Targovka, and Rasliv, have been put at the disposal of the Commissariat for Popular Enlightenment and the Health Commission. It is intended to erect there orphanages and sanatoria for tuberculous, scrofulous, and rickety children, and for Petrograd workers. Everything possible is being done to improve the food supply. In Northern Russia more than 9,000 co-operative consumers' societies are now functioning, including nearly 300 dairies, 1,000 co-operative credit societies, fisheries, agricultural societies, &c. In order to relieve the salt scarcity in Northern Russia, the Economic Commissariat has caused the working of the salt mines of Stara Russia to be again taken in hand, which in the eighteen months yielded half a million pood annually, but which have been quite exhausted for some years. The Moscow Peoples' Bank has been nationalised and united to the Peoples' Bank of the Soviet Republic. The capital is to be liquidated by dividing all the share capital among the shareholders. The management is to be transformed into a co-operative and is to be subject to the control of the Soviet power. It is stated by the Chief Commissary for military schools that a General Staff Academy is to be opened, where comrades with military talent are to be trained in strategy, the best military specialists and tacticians being engaged as lecturers at the Academy. The number of students exceeds a hundred."

POLISH MASSACRE OF RUSSIAN RED CROSS MISSION.

Volkrecht reports that the Russian Soviet Government has sent to the Central Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva the following protest against the massacre of the Red Cross Mission in Poland:—

"The Government of the Russian Soviet Republic appeared at the Central Committee of the International Red Cross and to all the Red Cross Committees, and draws their attention to the frightful crime committed by the present Polish Government against the delegates of the Russian Red Cross, staying in Poland to assist the Russian prisoners of war who were passing through. Without cause, and in defiance of the most elementary rules governing the relationship of peoples, the delegation was thrown into the Warsaw citadel. On December 30th its members were dragged by the gendarmes and soldiers of the present Polish Government to the frontier of the County of Grocino, led into a wood near the village of Menia in the Bielsk district, and there massacred. Comrades Veselovski, Dr. Klotzmann, Marie Alter, and Ayyasova were shot; the fifth member of the delegation, the son of Comrade Alter, was wounded, and Plesudski's assassins thought he was dead. But he succeeded in escaping and finding refuge at Minsk.

"The Government of Soviet Russia demands immediate and complete reparation for this shameful crime. It addresses to the International Red Cross, and the Red Cross of every country, a protest against this unparalleled deed of violence to which the Russian Red Cross delegates have fallen victims, and begs for International Red Cross support in the demand for reparation.

The People's Commissary for Foreign Affairs:

TCHICHERINE.

ROME PRINTERS' STRIKE.

Rome, February 8th.—All compositors have gone on strike, demanding an eight-hours day. As a result, only the *Popolo Romano* appeared this morning, while this evening only the *Avanti* and the *Giornale del Popolo*, both Socialist journals, were published.—*Reuter*.

A Union for Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmen.

By W. F. WATSON.

The sporadic revolts of the soldiers during the past few days clearly show that there is considerable unrest throughout the Army, due, in the main, to the slowness of demobilisation and very bad travelling facilities for leave men. I am informed that the trouble at Victoria was far more serious than the usual observer is led to believe. The Guards were not in readiness, but for some reason or other were not called upon to quell the revolt, but they did escort the rebels to their camp.

At the Kempton Park, Camberwell, Battersea, and Chelsea Garrages, the A.S.C. men have been on strike for three weeks, because they resent being used as conscript labour. Most of these men belong to their respective trade unions, and, naturally enough, they object to doing mechanics' work for bare soldiers' pay; so they are demanding complete discharge from the Army. There is also agitation for a 40-hour week and increased pay amongst the mechanical units, and the rank and file of Army, Navy, and Air Force are demanding largely increased pay. All of which is evidence of the fact that the same economic forces which make the civilian workers discontented affect men in uniform, and that generally speaking the demands are much the same.

It was inevitable that the men in the various services should start organising, and we are glad to learn that great headway is being made. For a long time past it has been made manifest that the National Federation of Discharged and Disabled Soldiers and Sailors does not adequately fill the bill; hence the formation of the Soldiers', Sailors', and Airmen's Union. It is intended that the Union shall embrace the rank and file of all three services, and although the demands put forward by the Union are by no means revolutionary, they deserve the backing of the Shop Stewards' Movement.

The happenings of the past few weeks should convince us of the possibilities of good organisation. I look forward to the very near future, when the Shop Stewards, Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmen will be linked together into Councils. I therefore urge all men of the forces to join the Union at once. The General Secretary is Ex-Sergeant R. W. Manlove, who, it will be remembered, was the chosen leader of the rank and file during the Colchester rebellion, when the Fusiliers who were sent to quell the outbreak were promptly disarmed by the strikers, and the office is S.S.A.U., 4A Thiffes

determination.

QUESTIONS OF THE DAY.

SOERMUS.

Edward Soermus, the Russian Bolshevik violinist, who has been valiantly travelling through the country in the service of the People's Revolution, was arrested in Merthyr the night before the Albert Hall meeting, and taken to prison. His young wife and baby being left behind. He has been told that he is to be speedily deported. This is the second time that the authorities have threatened our comrade with deportation, but on the last occasion they did not rest him.

Various questions arise. Why is the Government to allow Soermus to remain in this country? Is it intended to deport him, or to keep him imprisoned here? If it decides to deport him, will it also decide to make provision for his wife and child to accompany him? or will it force them to remain here destitute? Soermus is ready to endure any sacrifice for the people; but we would not rest content that our Government should treat the guests of the British workers in this way. Comrades, what are you going to do about it?

Will those anxious to help our Russian comrade and his wife and child kindly send donations to: Mr. Old Ford Road, London, E.3.

THE ALBERT HALL MEETING.

The B.S.P., which organised the "Hands Off Russia Meeting in the Albert Hall, in co-operation with a number of other societies, received more than 30,000 applications for tickets. The meeting was not quite full, because, owing to the traffic difficulties, some of those who had taken tickets did not attend, and because, though it had been arranged that seats would not be reserved for ticket holders after 7.15, the Albert Hall stewards insisted to allow non-ticket holders to occupy any part of the hall save the top gallery, which was overcrowded. The meeting was unpleasantly surprised to find that Soermus, who was to have played Russian revolutionary music was shut away in Brixton

Prison. Cathal O'Shannon had gone to Berne. His place was taken by Mrs. Sheehy Siedflington, who received a great reception. John MacLean was greeted with tremendous enthusiasm. Neil MacLean gave important news from the Clyde. He said that when the police baton charge started in George Square, David Kirkwood ran out of the City Hall in dismay, and raising his hands said: "Men!" As the press photographers showed he was then standing in the midst of police and was struck by an inspector's baton from behind. He fell unconscious to the ground.

Zangwill's speech was inimitable. We reproduce it in full. The other speakers each did their part and the meeting was in every way a success, as far as a meeting can be when the necessity of the case is for action.

SOME OF SOVIET RUSSIA'S NEW PAPERS.

- 1. *Krasnaya Gazeta* (Red Gazette).—A daily paper, with morning and evening editions, published by the Petrograd Soviet of Workers' and Red Army Delegates.
- 2. *Derevenskaya Kommuna* (Village Commune).—A daily paper, published in Petrograd by the Provincial Department of the Commissariat for Home Affairs of the Union of Northern Communes.
- 3. *Vooruzhennyi Narod* (The Armed People).—A daily military paper, published in Petrograd, organ of the Military Section of the Petrograd Soviet.
- 4. *Finansy e Narodnoe Vihosustavio* (Finance and National Economy). A daily organ of the Commissariat of Finance and of the Soviet of National Economy in the Northern District.
- 5. *Sievernaya Kommuna* (The Northern Commune), with a daily supplement *Prodovalstva Seversk* (The Provisioning of the North).—Published in Petrograd, organ of the Executive Committee of the Soviets of Peasants, Workers', and Red Army Delegates of the Northern District, and of the Petrograd Soviet of Workers' and Red Army Delegates.

WORKERS' SOCIALIST FEDERATION.

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LONDON MEETINGS.

OUT DOOR.

- FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14th. The Square, Woolwich.—11.30 A.M., Miss Price.
- SATURDAY, FEBRUARY, 15th. Tottenham.—Meet at 3 P.M. at the corner of West Green Road and High Road. Speakers: Miss Price, Mrs. Walker, and others.
- SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16th. Osborn Street, Whitechapel.—11.45 A.M., John Syme. The Grove, Hammersmith, 11.45 A.M.—Miss Price. Club Row, Bethnal Green.—11.45 A.M., Mrs. Walker.
- TUESDAY, FEBRUARY, 18th. Armagh Road, Bow.—11.30 A.M., Miss Price.
- FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21st. Outside Mansfield Hotel, Kentish Town.—5.30 P.M., Miss Price.
- SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22nd. Great Push in Holloway District.

INDOOR.

- MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17th. 44, Malden Road (St. Pancras W.S.F.).—2.30 P.M., Business Meeting.
- TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18th. Congregational Schoolrooms, Barking L.P. (Women's Section).—3 P.M., Miss Horsfall, 'The Work of the W.S.F.'
- THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20th. 20, Railway Street (Poplar W.S.F.) Study Circle.—8 P.M., Mr. Edmunds, 'Marxian Economics.'
- FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21st. 400, Old Ford Road.—8 P.M., General Meeting (London Section).
- SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd. 400, Old Ford Road.—7 P.M., Mr. Saklatvala, 'India and Western Democracies.' Chair: Miss N. Smyth. Discussion.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18th. Walthamstow League of Rights, William Morris Hall, Somers Road.—3 P.M., Edward Fuller, 'Sex and Social Liberty.'

Gratefully Acknowledged

GENERAL FUND.—Miss Agnes Hardie (Fair), £1 1s.; Irene, per Mrs. Drake (weekly), £1; Miss L. Isaacs, £1; Mr. Boris Sarna, 11s. COLLECTIONS.—Poplar W.S.F., 4s. 4d. SOCIAL WORK.—Miss Udney (monthly), £4 5s. 6d.; Mrs. Baillie-Weaver (monthly), £2; per Miss J. C. Woir (monthly), £1; Mrs. Richmond (fortnightly), 10s.; Miss Burgis (sale of clothes), 7s. 6d.; Misses Barrowman (monthly), 5s.; D. Willkie, Esq. (monthly), 2s. 6d. CHILDREN'S CLOTHES.—Miss Cape.

FEDERATION NOTES.

At the last General Members' Meeting it was decided to hold these monthly meetings on the third Friday in the month, alternately in the centre of London and at 400 Old Ford Road. Next meeting February 21st, will be held at 1 Kingly Street, Regent Street (behind Robinson & Cleavers), at 8 P.M. I shall be glad to receive subscriptions which are due and the 1s. yearly subscription to the special Headquarters' Fund from all members who have not yet sent it. We are urgently needing funds. More DREADNOUGHT and literature sellers are needed at meetings, outdoor and indoor, and clerical help will be welcomed here and at 152 Fleet Street. Members who have not had our recent literature should get it at once.—NORAH L. SMYTH, Hon. Treasurer.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

Classified advertisements one penny per word. Displayed advertisements 7s. 6d. per inch. Pre-pay and send to Manager, 'Workers' Dreadnought,' 152 Fleet Street.

FAMILY LIMITATION DOCTRINE. Post free, 1/3d.—Malthusian League, 48, Broadway, Westminster.

AGENTS WANTED FOR THE WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT.—Are you a regular reader of the paper? Do you sell it at the meetings of your organisation? Introduce it to your workshop.

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.

SOCIALISTS OF CROYDON, Your First New Year's Resolution for 1919 should be to send 2/- (4d. stamps) for 24 weeks prepaid subscription to Croydon's Own Socialist Weekly, THE EPISTLE Offices, 112 Woodville Road, Thornton Heath.

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THE GEORGE SQUARE OUTRAGE.

Our readers who have all seen many capitalist press comments on the attacks made upon the strikers in George Square, January 31st, will be glad to read the further comments of the Glasgow Strike Bulletin:—

THE GEORGE SQUARE MASSACRE.

"The authorities are alone responsible for the row in Glasgow on Friday. The strikers repudiate all responsibility for what occurred. If the police had not attacked the crowd in George Square the Demonstration would have passed off quietly, as did former Demonstrations.

"The attack by the police was carefully planned. Of this there can be no doubt, in view of what happened. The strikers went to George Square for a peaceable purpose, which was to hear the reply of the Government to the Lord Provost's own appeal for intervention. The Lord Provost was not asked to appeal: he offered to make the inquiry, and his offer was accepted by the strikers in good faith, who agreed to appear at the City Chambers at noon to learn the result.

"The deputation appointed by the strikers to meet the Lord Provost arrived in the City Chambers at the hour arranged for, but were not allowed to see him. While they were kept waiting, it is assumed the Lord Provost, the Town Clerk, the Chief Constable, and Sheriff Mackenzie were in conference, and they, it is believed, were responsible for the decision to read the Riot Act as the legal pretext for dispersing the crowd by force.

"The Magistrates were hurriedly summoned by telephone to attend a meeting in the City Chambers, at 11.30 A.M., on Friday, but it is not known that they approved of the decision to enforce the Riot Act. It is true, however, after the Act had been read and the crowd attacked, another meeting was held at which a minority of the Magistrates wanted the military called out to disperse the people—by guns and bayonets, we presume. In the evening a great number of troops were drafted into the city fully armed with machine guns and wearing steel helmets. A detachment is posted on a position commanding the Glasgow Green.

"All this brutality and display of force simply because the workers ask for a 40 hours' week!

"We knew all about the plot to smash the Demonstration, and will reveal it in due course. Meanwhile, do not forget that the large force of police on duty in George Square knew batons were to be used, and were prepared for action. One

policeman warned *them* to keep away from the Square as there was *going to be trouble*.... "The effect of the George Square massacre is to strengthen the strike. More men have left work since the outrage took place.

"Maryhill Strike Committee report that one of the victims of the police outrage in George Square was a boy of 14, who had his head smashed in by a blow from a hoodlum in uniform. A discharged and lame soldier was also laid out.

"The authorities are deluding the soldiers if they inform them that the strikers are keeping back demobilisation. The strikers are fighting for the soldiers, and have given up their work to help to make jobs for the men coming back from the war. Further, the strikers want the soldiers discharged and not demobilised....

"It is reported to us that all the policemen did not use their batons when ordered to attack the crowd, and it is alleged a number of them downed truncheons in sympathy with the strikers. All honour to these men, whose hearts proved stronger than Prussianism.

"During the George Square battle the soldier spectators, it is reported, were commanded by the police in "the name of the King," taken to the City Chambers, and there supplied with full equipment in view of further action. This was stated by one of the soldiers involved to a meeting of strikers in the Gorbals.

"A woman, who was attending to a boy who had been smashed by a policeman in George Square, states that when the boy was lying helpless he was given a second blow, although blood was flowing freely from a wound on his head."

PROTESTS AGAINST BRUTALITY.

The Scottish Trades Union Congress on February 1st resolved:—

"That this Congress protests in the strongest language against the authorities and the police in their brutal attack on the people, who had met to hear the reply from the Lord Provost; that they hold them responsible for what took place; and that the Congress demands the immediate release of Councillor Shinwell, William Gallacher, and David Kirkwood."

Glasgow No. 2 Branch of the Boilermakers' Society have resolved:—

"That we, the members of Glasgow No. 2 Branch, do hereby strongly protest against the pre-arranged action of the authorities in reading the Riot Act, and the injuries inflicted on men,

women, and children on account of the employees having broken the agreement of December 24th, 1918. We call upon our fellow-workers to stand solid for a 40-hour week without reduction in time, piece, and fixed wages."

Upwards of a thousand other organisations have sent similar resolutions. What the workers must do, however, is to take the power of Government into their own hands! Thus they will be able to prevent, instead of merely protesting against, such incidents.

BLACKLEG MEETINGS.

At a meeting of "loyal workmen (?!)" against the strike held at Whiteinch the principle speakers were a parson, a meat salesman, and a lawyer. A Govan meeting convened for "loyal workmen" against the strike passed a resolution in favour of the strike. The same thing happened at Dumbarton.

At Paisley, Johnstone, and Barrhead the managers of the Palladium, Western Picture House, and Rink grant their halls free of charge to the strikers. At Govan the Picture House which was taken from the strikers by the police has been returned.

The Dumbarton Town Band gives a daily concert to the strikers. Glasgow pawnbrokers have agreed to boycott strikers by refusing to make loans on their goods. The Strike Bulletin hails this threat as a proof that the 40-hour week would reduce poverty and unemployment and thus lessen the need for paupers.

The Employment Exchanges have been sending unemployed brass moulders to the firms where the moulders are on strike. Every one knows that an unemployed person is offered work through an Exchange and refuses it, unemployment benefits stopped. The Court of Referees decided, however, that the brass moulders must not be sent where there is a dispute, because the brass moulder organisation has recognised the strike as official.

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JOHN MACLEAN. We now learn on good authority that since last July John Maclean has been on hunger strike, and undergoing forcible feeding. Is this country to be the last in granting reprieves. Germany has shown the way by freeing Karl Liebknecht, whose popularity has been increased enormously by the unjust treatment meted out to him. When are we going to have our political prisoners released? All sections of the community should protest against

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