

# THE WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT

For International Socialism

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PRICE TWOPENCE.

## SHIPBUILDING AND INCREASED OUTPUT.

By HARRY POLLITT.

### TON FOR TON.

During the war, when passions were roused to ever heat, and the workers were promised all sorts of prizes to keep them contentedly going on with the war, it was a simple matter to launch the policy of "Ton for Ton" for all shipbuilding sunk by the Germans, and one remembers how very enthusiastic the Press that represents the shipping interests became over this policy. The more ships sunk by German submarines, the more pronounced became the ton for ton cry, until finally it was understood that as a result of the Armistice agreement, the shipping companies were to be compensated for their lost ships by the confiscation of the German merchant vessels.

It may appear that this was a perfectly fair arrangement; but when one remembers that every shipping company in England made larger profits during the war (despite the loss of their ships) than were ever known before, it is perfectly clear that, owing to the influence of command, the shipping combine was able to obtain both the toffee and the halfpenny.

However, the policy has its good points, for as a result of the German ships being taken over by the English shipping combine, the necessity for building more ships in this country has been removed. This fact has driven home to thousands of workers in the shipyard area, more clearly than all the lectures will ever do, the fallacy of "Making the Germans Pay."

He will be a brave man who goes to the shipbuilding centres of the North East Coast and the Clyde to talk about "pinching" any more German ships.

The truth is, that nearly all the workers engaged in shipbuilding had been expecting a long run of work, as a result of so many ships being ordered; now they see that it is the German shipbuilder who is going to have the long run of work. Human nature being the nature it is, this is making the shipyard worker of England very angry that the German ships were ever taken. Now, on the top of all this, the Admiralty has stopped most of its shipyard work, and so has intensified the ever growing unemployed problem. This is exactly what the Shipbuilding Combine and the Shipbuilding Federation has been playing for, and so successful has been their policy that by the end of September, a terrible unemployed problem will be confronting the shipyard workers of Britain. Every day the two federations of employers are coming closer together, and only this week the firm of Harland and Wolff, at whose head stands Lord Pirrie, has bought two of the biggest shipyards on the Clyde. This firm now practically dominates the shipbuilding industry, having its yards at Govan and other places on the Clyde, Southampton, Liverpool and Belfast.

Lord Pirrie is also one of the foremost figures in the Shipping Combine, which made over £600,000,000 profits during two years of the war, and is now in a sound financial position to contest the growing demands of the workers. There is one class of workers who ought not to be misled by the bogey of "Increased Production," it is the shipyard workers of Britain, for there is not a shipyard in Britain where the workers are not already keyed up to the last second. The pressure is especially great in

those yards where piece work and the premium bonus system are being worked.

The increased production cry is not worthy of the men's consideration, coming, as it does, at a time when men are being dismissed every week and when in every ship-building and ship-repairing centre there is unemployment. Any one who has seen the riveters at work on the hull of a new ship, and has carefully noted the speed at which they work, knows it is impossible for these men to work any harder. They are paid at so much per hundred and the price is fixed so that none but the hardest and strongest can make a decent living. The constant introduction of labour-saving machinery, such as the oxy-acetylene burner and the pneumatic rivetter, all tend to do away with labour, and to increase production at the mechanics' expense.

What increased production means is more work for less pay, and more work per man means, in hard facts, doing away with a lot of other men, a larger margin of unemployed, and that is the employers' best weapon for reducing wages. Increased production means increased profits for the capitalists and increased misery and poverty for the surplus workers.

All this talk of workers working harder, when there is a growing army of workers willing to work, but finding no work to do, is not a mere coincidence; it is just part of the policy by which engineering and shipbuilding capitalists intend to defeat the workers during the coming winter, and so temporarily crush the rising tide of the revolution.

For what are the facts? In November a conference is to take place at which will be discussed the advisability of continuing or otherwise the 12½ per cent. and the war awards. Let there be no mistake, the capitalists are determined that something has to come off the workers' present wages. The employers have already beaten the Trade Unions on the 44-hour question; they are now ready for the next round. Unless some new development takes place, it is safe to say that the workers are not ready and are going to suffer another defeat.

If the organised workers are beaten in these two highly-organised industries, then every other class of worker will automatically suffer also. The workers will be well advised to put their own house in order, and let the people who are crying for increased production do a little themselves. Men like Brownlie, who are calling for more work to be done, should also come back into the shops and do some work, instead of always prancing round the employers.

### SHIPYARD CONDITIONS.

A liner leaving the landing stage is always a wonderful sight. Those who have seen the Cunard crack liners slowly moving off down the Mersey at the close of a summer's day, know what a picture of finished workmanship such a ship presents. But how many of those who see it think of the conditions under which the men have worked in the shipyards before the liner was ready for launching.

It is everywhere admitted that a British-built ship is the last word in workmanship and finish, yet the conditions under which they are



"Thank God, Evolution missed me!"

### A POET OF THE STRUGGLE

John S. Clarke, whose writings are a constant feature of the S.L.P. organ, *The Socialist*, and well known in the movement, has just published a collection\* of his later writings. Clarke certainly has what sceptics may call the disease of writing: his flow is prolific and if the lines do not always scan his justification is:—

And if brutality stains my page,  
Bear well with me to-night,  
For I dreed my weird in brutal age,  
When earth was ruled by the hate and rage  
Of kid-gloved Troglodyte.  
Like all writers who are agitators, what he loses in polish he gains in point and topical interest. We all perceive his meaning. Take this:—

ON THE OCCASION OF A PICTURESQUE PRESENTATION.

Said Mr. — to Mr. —  
"I like your coat of fur."  
Said Mr. — to Mr. —  
"You're welcome to it, sir!"  
From back to back the coat was passed  
With mutual satisfaction:  
While people wondered why the air  
Was charged with putrefaction.

Out in the wilds of Ohio  
A stinking skunk lay dead;  
And from the paradise of skunks  
It watched the scene and said—  
"Although bereft of skin and fur,  
And left so cold and clammy,  
May God be praised! my lovely coat  
Is still kept in the family."

Or this:—

WHEN THE EYE WAS OPENED!

Sing a song of Gov'ment  
Pockets full of rules;  
Five-and-twenty tricksters,  
And forty million fools:  
"Combed out" like — vermin,  
"Rounded up" like — cattle,  
Isn't it a dainty thought  
To carry into battle?

Of James Connolly he sings:—  
For thou wert jealous in thine hour,  
The work of tyrants to withstand,  
And sang defiance to their power  
In accents of thy land.

And in the days that are to be,  
The golden days of sweet content,  
Humanity shall honour thee  
Who strove for their advent.

For when the earth is purged of strife,  
And love of fellowship is strong,  
'Twill learn the glory of thy life,  
And triumph of thy song.

One of the best things in the book is the splendid satire in the excellent drawing at the head of this column.

\*Satyres, Lyrics and Poems, by John S. Clarke, S.L.P. Press, Glasgow.

Continued on page 1462.



## SHIPBUILDING AND INCREASED OUTPUT.

Continued from front page.

made while on the stocks are positively disgraceful.

In the summer it is not so bad, but in the autumn and winter the majority of yards are flooded with mud and rainwater. The lighting is bad, there are no washing arrangements, and the sanitary conveniences are worse than those provided for the Lascars in the docks. There is no protection from rain for the men working on the hull of the ship, they are sent home in wet weather; all shipyard workers therefore experience much broken time. Moreover, the work is heavy and skilled. Yet these are the men who are being appealed to work harder.

Shipbuilding and ship repairing are dangerous trades; amongst the boiler makers there are hundreds who have lost one eye through hot scales from the rivets, or pieces flying off their drills. The other trades have their own peculiar dangers.

The Blackwall shipyard of R. H. Green and Silley Wear at Poplar is a typical shipyard; during the winter it is like a mud pond, and there is no decent ambulance accommodation in the yard. On one occasion a Lascar was knocked down the dry dock. When he was brought to the dock side he lay for twenty minutes, and no ambulance came; finally he was taken to hospital on a motor lorry. A month ago, a man received an injury to his eye; he was rendered unconscious, and taken to Poplar Hospital on a horse lorry. Yet this firm has made more money out of the war than was ever thought possible.

In 1918, of the firm's employees eight men were killed and over 2,000 received injuries of a more or less serious character in this yard; from January, 1919, up to the present, seven men have been killed and over 1,000 injured. Amongst the workers of the dock area the yard is known as "Heaven's Friend." The fact that the firm has now appointed special safety officers speaks for itself. If figures could be got from other yards a similar state of things would be disclosed.

I would suggest to the workers that a campaign in favour of *Increased Comfort and Safety* would be more sensible than *Increased Production*.

## WHAT IS THE REMEDY.

The obvious remedy is for the workers in all industries to organise for the purpose of taking over the ownership of all the means of production, but one has to face facts and recognise that the workers are not yet showing any great desire for anything of this character. At the same time the feeling is undoubtedly growing that the Trade Unions have failed, before the superior organisation of the Capitalists.

The first essential is unity and a common programme of action for all the shipyard areas. If we had these we should not again see the spectacle presented in January, 1918, where the shipyard workers in Belfast, the North-East Coast, the Clyde, Liverpool, the Bristol Channel, Southampton and London, were all out on strike, and all striking for different demands.

Such a remarkable wave of revolt has not been seen in any industry before. Had all these areas been linked up with each other; had they combined for the realisation of a common programme, it would have been impossible for the employers to resist their demands, and we should have had a demonstration of solidarity that could have been the beginning for more ambitious and lofty objects. As it was, every area was beaten; the men returned down-hearted and disgruntled. We ought now to profit by our mistakes and set about the task of re-organisation.

The shipbuilding and repairing industry is a compact one, and has no great difficulties of organisation, except the apathy of the workers. The capitalists in their industry are organised to perfection. At the head of the Employers'

Federation are some of the smartest and cleverest lawyers in the country; men like Sir Alan Smith, who knows every move on the board. By organising the employers on the basis of class, irrespective of whether they are large employers or small, they have built up a machine that is now straining every nerve to edge the workers into a fight, because they know the present weakness of the Trade Union Movement.

Workers' Committees should at once be elected in every yard. The country should be mapped out in well-defined areas, local councils should be appointed, and from these the smartest men we have should be chosen, irrespective of their craft, to form one National Shipbuilding Workers' Council. This Council, consisting of men coming direct from the shipyards, would know exactly the feeling of the workers on any important question. If any action were necessary, the Council would be in a position to call for united action and able to meet organisation by organisation. The present barrier to progress is the principle of craft unionism; it may have been necessary years ago, but to-day it is ineffective and obsolete.

Whether you are mechanics or labourers, your wives all pay the same price for food; you all work the same long hours, you all fear the spectre of unemployment, you all run the same risk of accidents, and work under the same dirty and bad conditions. Therefore your aims and interests are alike; and, organising as workers on the basis of Class and not Craft, you breed the spirit of Class Consciousness and Class Solidarity. Mere aims of higher wages and so on, lose their interest, as larger issues come into view by means of your new organisation. So you gradually build up the structures whereby you will one day take your stand with workers similarly organised in other industries. Thus you will finally be able to take over the ownership and control of all the productive forces.

Then "Increased Production" will mean increased wealth and leisure for the working class and everything for the worker that it now means for the capitalist. Until that time arrives, Increased Production under Capitalism means increased unemployment and increased misery.

Workers! which will you choose?

## W. F. WATSON.

The Committee appointed by a conference of the London Workers' Committee (with delegates from the West and East London Committees) to investigate the charges made against W. F. Watson, examined fourteen witnesses, from whom they got signed statements. The evidence clearly shows that Watson was in communication with the police, and that he received money from them. It also shows that Watson was endeavouring to mislead Scotland Yard.

Watson told the witnesses that he had been threatened by a detective for giving the police false information.

One witness said he advised Watson to place himself in the hands of a Committee. This Watson apparently did not do, with the result that now that charges have been made against his integrity the responsibility falls upon him alone.

The investigation Committee desires to make it perfectly clear that the above is a summary of the evidence given them. Watson may be able to clear up the charges made against him by the Home Secretary of having given information "found to be of value to the police."

(Signed) T. F. KNIGHT.  
J. HUNT.  
W. FORDYCE.  
T. KIME.  
DAVID RAMSAY.  
JACK TANNER.

## AGAINST THE REVOLUTION.

AMERICAN CAPITALISM TAKES PRECAUTIONS. Capitalism has secured the passage of a new and stringent law for its protection in the State of Illinois, U.S.A. The new law slipped quietly through the legislature unknown to most of the citizens. It provides:—

Sec. 255a. It shall be unlawful for any person openly to advocate, by word of mouth or writing, the reformation or overthrow, by violence or any other unlawful means, of the representative form of Government now secured to the citizens of the United States and the several States by the constitution of the United States and the constitutions of the several States.

It is further declared illegal to publish, sell, or distribute any document, book, paper, etc., which advocates as above, or to organise, aid in the organisation or become a member of any society with such object, or to be present at any meeting where such things are advocated, or to permit premises to be used for such advocacy.

The muzzling order is most comprehensively drafted:

The penalty is for anyone who advocates, publishes or distributes papers advocating or belongs to a society advocating a sabotage, may be punished by imprisonment for from one to ten years. Any one who attends such a meeting or permits such a meeting to be held on his premises is liable to from six months to a year's imprisonment and a fine of 500 to 1,000 dollars (£100 to £200). The words "or any other unlawful means" may draw into the legal net all sorts of people who have not even made up their minds whether they want a revolution.

If we lived in Illinois the members of the W.S.F. the S.L.P., the B.S.P. and the Workers' Committees might all be in prison for belonging to organisations which advocate the revolution. Even some members of the I.L.P. might find themselves in prison.

Do not live in a fool's paradise: we shall have such a law here presently! Then there will be many converts to Bolshevism!

On September 1st the police removed the red flags from the Communist Convention in Chicago with a warning that no red flags could be shown except with the American flag. That is a little beginning: the attempt to put down Communism will not stop there.

Adolph Germer, National Secretary of the American Socialist Party and a member of the right wing, has addressed a letter to European Socialists, in which he points out that over 2,000 American citizens are now in prison for political offences and are serving sentences some of 25 years each, and amounting in the aggregate to 25,000 years. These men and women receive worse treatment than ordinary criminals.

## IRELAND AS USUAL.

Irish political events for the week ending August 9th, as reported in the censored daily Press, included 21 arrests, 10 sentences, two armed assaults by the police, two suppressions and proclamations by the military, nine Courts-martial, 40 raids by the military. The sentences amounted to three years and seven months. Jack O'Sheehan, who had been sentenced to two years' hard labour for singing an Irish patriotic ballad, was released in broken health and re-arrested on an unknown charge. Many people were injured during the breaking up by armed police of a meeting in County Down. At Ballymote, County Sligo, armed police raided a number of houses late at night. P. J. Borrell, of Dundalk, was Court-martialed for having made, in May, 1918, a map of the district where he lives. The sentence has not been promulgated. Robert Anderson and J. Hoey are hunger-striking in Kerry Gaol. County Clare is proclaimed a military area, meetings, fairs, markets being prohibited; the Agricultural Show is therefore postponed.

## THE FOOL NEXT DOOR, &amp;c.

By Ex-Tram-Conductor No. 317 (N. D. Douglas). 2s. net, paper wrappers; 3s. 6d. net, cloth bound, postage 3d. The author of this unusual book was for a short time a tram-conductor, but the interest of his poems, plays, stories and essays does not depend upon that. Indeed he has also been a University student, a journalist and a dividend-drawer. Originality is the note of this book.

## THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM.

A Play in four acts by Douglas Goldring. 2s. net, cloth 3s. 6d. net, postage 3d. This is the first volume of a new series of "Plays for a People's Theatre." (Ready shortly.)

## FACTORY ECHOES and Other Sketches.

By R. M. F. 1s. 6d. net, postage 3d. These sketches took shape in the workshop amid the rattle and roar of machinery. It is life, pulsating, surging, calling for expression which is portrayed in them.

## GREAT OPPORTUNITY!

Sellers of the "Workers Dreadnought" urgently needed on Sunday, September 21st, at the Demonstration of the Co-operative Movement. Apply to the Manager, 152, Fleet Street, E.C.

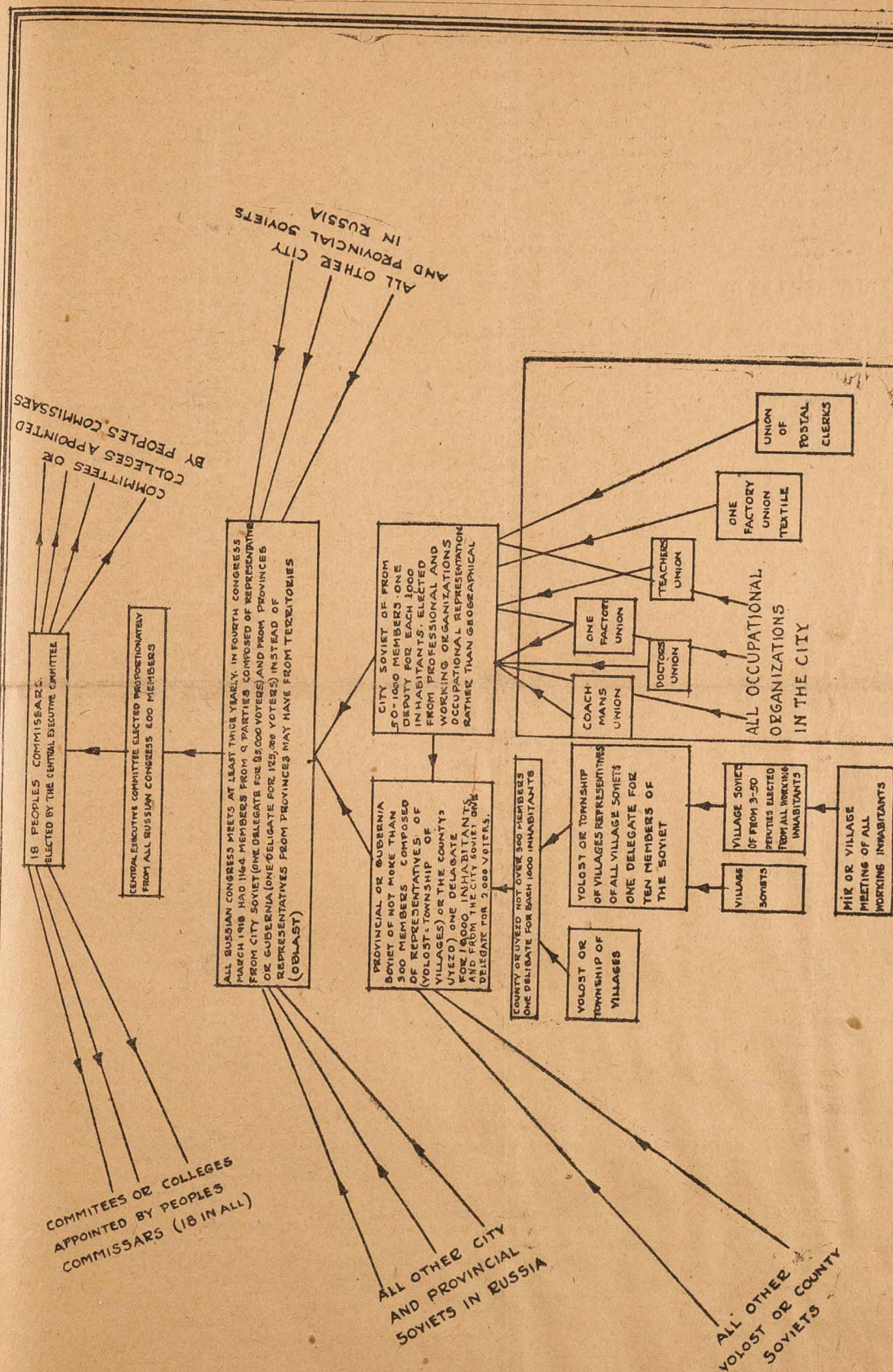


CHART OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT IN RUSSIA.  
BY  
JEROME DAVIS, MANAGER OF THE Y.M.C.A. IN RUSSIA.

From The Arbitrator.



## THE WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT

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### MARKING TIME.

As we write the Trade Union Congress is about to meet. The Chairman's address and the Parliamentary Committee's report are already issued to the public. Mr. Bunning's address contains absolutely nothing. Its futile spirit is indicated by these typical passages:—

"The great war was not all loss, and, among other things, it proved the strength and necessity of trade unions. Many of those who are now abusing trade unions were almost tearfully appealing to them for help during the war. . . . that assistance was asked by responsible Ministers. It was freely given, and it is well to remind the public.

Then there are those—some within our own ranks—who are always discovering that the Trade Union Congress is played out. The answer to them is to be found in the figures of affiliated membership for this year, a record total of 5,265,426.

It is a vast army, and leadership in it brings great responsibilities. It is therefore not always possible to act as simply and as easily as may be desired, and during the year the action of the Parliamentary Committee on the important question of direct action has been misunderstood.

The request to the Committee was to convene a special congress to consider whether a recommendation should go to the unions to ballot their members as to whether the members would strike in the event of certain demands to the Government being refused. It was suggested that our responsibility would end with the calling of the Congress and would thereafter remain with the delegates. . . . To have called the Congress would inevitably have identified the Committee with the policy of a National strike on political matters.

As to direct action, I do not believe in industrial strikes on political matters. In other words, I do not despair of constitutional methods.

What is called the Labour Charter was first drafted by a committee in Paris, of which Mr. G. N. Barnes was chairman, and four members of our committee, along with Mr. Arthur Henderson, also took part. It is a great and bold idea—to bring together representatives of the State, the employer and the worker, to consider how the world may be a better place in which to live.

There it is. We do not believe in direct action. I do not believe in direct action, therefore we get ourselves against it; we would not allow the rank and file to get together and do as it would. We would rather meet with the State and the employers to discuss the future of Labour and the world."

The band is playing Scotch airs, sweet, wild and plaintive, recalling Keir Hardie, who was of the very essence of that which created them. The fight he fought goes on to-day. These respectable, moderate men in comfortable positions are as stubborn as in the days when they refused to allow that there was any reason why the workers should not be Liberals and Tories. This is the same old fight to sandbag the class struggle.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES AND RUSSIA.

The Parliamentary Committee's report amplifies Mr. Bunning's statements. The Committee, having interviewed Mr. Bonar Law decided:—

"That the interview is satisfactory enough to justify the Parliamentary Committee in refusing to call a Special Conference to discuss whether industrial action shall be taken to enforce the abolition of the Conscription Act, the withdrawal of troops from Russia, the raising of the blockade, the release of conscientious objectors and the withdrawal of the secret military circular."

The Government's promises were obviously of no importance, but there are none so blind as those who will not see.

### THE POLICE UNION.

The Parliamentary Committee's statement on the Police Union is brief, but highly significant; it takes the part of the Government throughout, though its words are bold and guarded:

"The matter was fully and frankly discussed with the Home Secretary. . . . Mr. Shortt declined to discuss the question of recognition of the men's union, claiming that he had proved in the House of Commons that the Union's representatives had broken pledges given to his predecessor (Sir G. Cave). The Home Secretary handed to the deputation copies of agreements which had been entered into after the strike of the previous year, which were signed by the Union's chief official and initiated by Sir G. Cave. The Home Secretary laid special stress upon the following clause in the signed agreement:—

"The organisation shall be entirely within the force, and shall be entirely independent of, and unassociated with any outside body."

Then, says the Parliamentary Committee:— "Application for affiliation with the Trades Union Congress was made five months later, in February of the present year. The Committee were not informed of the existence of the above agreement."

The Parliamentary Committee overlooks all that was happening in the police force during the interim. But does the Parliamentary Committee seriously state that if it had known of the existence of the agreement, an agreement which ought not be binding upon any body of workers, it would have refused the Police Union's affiliation?

Evidently it does. But the speeches made even before the disclosure of the agreement were absolutely appalling: it is well that the Parliamentary Committee has published them. We take a few extracts from the report:—

MR. BOWERMAN: The question has arisen whether it is not possible to recognise the men's organisations in some way.

MR. GOSLING: You can appreciate that one of our difficulties is that we began by believing that the Government had recognised the organisation of the police into a Trade Union. By your own actions you proved that to us. You invited them to one or two conferences which were only attended by trade union representatives, and in that way we began to be associated with the belief that they were recognised in the ordinary way that trade unions are. Then we affiliated the police to the Trade Union Congress. . . . I do not want to take up a position of opposition in any way at all at what is being done.

I was wondering whether you would allow us, first of all, to get into touch with these people whom we cannot very well throw down, and have a chat with them, and perhaps see you again about it, whether the position you are taking up would enable you to do that with us. . . . We are getting, as you know as well as we do, into all kinds of difficulties all over the country. Sets of men are meeting and stopping work, and we have to get them back again and that kind of thing. Whilst I do not want to be a party to making any complaint against the Government in what they are doing.

MR. DAVIS: The people cannot understand why the postman can have a union and the policeman cannot. I know the difference, but the workers do not.

MR. THOMAS: Unless we are careful—and by "we" I mean the Government, the employers and ourselves—we are going headlong into disaster. The Government, I quite recognise, must be firm.

Cannot you do something towards relieving these poor mortals—call them dupes if you like, call them people who have been fools.

MR. STUART BUNNING: If it was agreed to by themselves we cannot say anything."

Can anyone wonder that these men are regarded as Government agents? If they are genuinely trying to do their best, their humble, ignominious pleading for their fellow members of the working class is indeed pitiful.

### THE COAL QUESTION.

The Miners, when first they put forward their charter, declared that they were prepared to strike for it. At their conference the other day they rejected Lloyd George's proposal to trustify the industry and demanded the Sankey scheme, in itself an unsatisfactory compromise. As to what they are prepared to do, they said:

"We do not at this stage recommend the miners to take industrial action to secure the adoption of the Coal Commission Report, but we invite the Trade Union Congress to declare that the fullest and most effective action be taken to secure that the Government shall adopt the Majority Report of the Commission as to the future governance of the industry."

The resolution is weak and indefinite; anyone could vote for it; it means just what anyone pleases. To the Parliamentary Committee it would mean one of their humbly-spoken deputations; to the Communists it means direct action, of course. The direct-actionists have been beaten in the first round, otherwise the resolution would have declared for direct action, calling on the Trade Union Congress to declare a general strike in support of the miners.

Revolutionary Socialists in the mining industry have held themselves confidently declaring that the miners, because their industry is absolutely indispensable, would presently force the Government to socialise the coal mines and hand them over to the control of the workers. Lord Fisher's statement that all the vessels in the Navy that are not driven by fuel oil, but by coal, should be scrapped forthwith should make the miners realise that a formidable rival to their industry has now taken a firm hold. Oil has now become the foremost object of Capitalist strife; it is contended for in Mexico, Baku, Mesopotamia, Galicia, even in this country prospectors are active.

The miners must hasten if they are going to bring about the revolution through their industrial pre-eminence. It seems more likely that the Revolution will arise from the deep abyss of hunger and hardship into which the workers are being hastened.

### THE UNEMPLOYMENT DOLE TO BE REDUCED.

Whilst the workers are urged to speed up production the Government is casting about to find ways and means of reducing the unemployment dole. A Committee of Inquiry, on which the Labour Party has a representative—Tom Shaw, M.P. (we are glad to note that the Trade Union Congress refused to appoint a representative)—has presented recommendations for cutting down the dole and making it more difficult to obtain. It is proposed, after 13 weeks, to reduce the payment of £1 a week to men and 15s. a week to women to 15s. for men and 12s. for women, and to cut off the children's allowances altogether! The giving of children's allowances, it is said, "is out of place and leads to undesirable results."

"Attention is called to the fact that it is possible for several members of the same household to be drawing, concurrently, the full amount of donation," and thus to draw "considerable weekly sums." Oh, dear, dear; how alarming! But the Committee cannot yet see its way to stop it.

About 45 prosecutions a week for drawing the dole unlawfully are now taking place; the Committee attaches the "greatest importance to the detection and punishment of fraud (by poor people) and thinks that more stringent methods might have been taken to prevent it and advocates "a closer co-operation with the police." The Committee thinks that some of those who are drawing the dole are, "if not actually unemployable, on the border-line, on account of ill-health, lack of skill, criminal habits, or other reasons." Willing to exclude such people the Committee desires the dole to be placed on a contributory basis. Also, the Committee recommends that an applicant may be offered work that is not their usual vocation, but somewhat similar and "does not necessarily carry his former rate of pay, and that if he does not accept such employment the payment of donation should be refused."

The position of ex-Service men the Committee desires to have closely inquired into. "Any who have never been accustomed to work or who for other reasons are not likely to remain in employment should be excluded."

What is to be done with the poor, excluded human beings? How the children whose allowances are cut off are to exist is not indicated:

## QUESTIONS OF THE DAY.

### VIENNA MOVING TO COMMUNISM.

It is said that the Soviets would now be officially controlling Austria, but for the fear that the Allies would in that event treat the country as they have treated Hungary. Nevertheless, the power of the Workers' Council is growing steadily in Vienna. Two months ago it forced the Government to allow poor people to occupy empty houses at a nominal rent, but now the Workers' Council has taken the matter into its own hands and is putting the poor into unoccupied rooms in the larger houses.

The British Ministry of Health which is cutting down the housing schemes, should note this.

### A RELIGIOUS COMMITTEE OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

According to the *Herald* a Continuation Committee to serve as a nucleus of the religious counterpart of the League of Nations is being formed at a Brounning Settlement Conference the other day. The British representatives are Bishop Gore, George Lansbury, G. N. Barnes, M.P., W. Adamson, M.P., and Frank Hodges. A Religious Department of the League of Nations is almost as funny as a Labour Department! But since the Labour Department will assist in camouflaging the war of Capitalism on Labour by cries of Bolshevism, the aggressions of Western capitalists against defenceless Eastern peoples may be camouflaged by the Religious Department declaring that the Cross is being protected from the Crescent! A number of well-meaning people will doubtless be found very useful as a screen.

### JEWISH POGROMS.

Albert Thomas, the French Social Patriot, who, at the beginning of the war joined the French Cabinet, has signed, with others, a protest against the terrible suffering inflicted upon the Jews by the Rumanian troops in Bessarabia, and by counter-revolutionaries in the Ukraine, where they say that millions of men, women and children are exposed to death and dishonour and the Jewish population is threatened with complete extermination.

Thomas is bitterly opposing the Communists of Russia as he opposed the Communists of Hungary. He and those with whom he associates know that it is to persecution by precisely the same forces that the Communists have been delivered in Hungary, and those portions of Russia where the reactionaries have regained control.

Morgani, the Italian Socialist Member of Parliament, declares that the white terror in Hungary is assuming atrocious forms and that pogroms are now succeeded by the systematic murder of imprisoned persons.

Starvation still faces the Austrian people. The Save the Children Fund officials state that out of 150,000 Viennese children requiring special care it is hoped "with the help of Switzerland and outside countries to save every third child from premature death." Yet because Petrograd is supposed to have been rendered short of food by the Allied blockade the anti-Bolsheviks insist that they must overthrow the Workers' Soviets by force of arms! The "Big Four" and the Social patriots have made a graveyard of Europe!

### UNNECESSARY MISERY.

On August 14th, Elsie Smith, a clerk in the W.R.A.F., aged 22, whilst lying in the Salvation Army Maternity Home, received a letter from her sister saying that her baby could not be brought home. She tried to smother her baby, then wept till a nurse came and restored the child to animation in two or three minutes. "I didn't think I could do it, but they won't have her at home." That was Elsie Smith's explanation. Now she is to be tried for attempted murder. Her parents, of course, desired to be thought respectable people; what the neighbours would say was more important to them than the happiness of their daughter and her child. Now the neighbours have been given very much greater occasion for talking. Their daughter has not only brought a poor little baby into the world without the sanction of the law, but now it will be said that she is a would-be murderer. But as a matter of fact it is those smug people at home who would have been the murderers of the baby if the unfortunate mite had died.

Marriage and legitimacy laws are all made for materialistic ends to keep property in the family and to secure provision for the child during its infancy and the mother during her periods of helplessness. And now we often see the amazing spectacle of a girl who has given herself unmarried to a young man, also unmarried, being persecuted by women who have married men they do not even like, in order to secure a home and material comfort, and by men who are legally married but who consort with prostitutes when they are away from home or in the army.

Only through Communism, which will assure material needs to everyone, and will provide abundantly for all children, can a reasonable working solution be found for these problems. The

economic question solved, people will come to realise that the other half of the matter is their private affair.

### RENEWAL OF COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA.

"According to the Swedish newspaper, *Allahanda*, a merchant named Almgreen has just returned after a lengthy stay in Russia. He had occasion to enter into conversations with the Communist leaders concerning the possibility of renewing commercial relations between Sweden and Soviet Russia. Both Tchicherin and Krassin said they intended to order agricultural machinery from Sweden in exchange for furs, hemp and flax. Almgreen states that during his stay in Moscow an American and a German commission were also in the town, although they had no official mission. He thinks, however, that Sweden will soon have strong competition to fight against."—*Avanti!* August 22nd

### THE GAME OF VON DER GOLTZ.

*L'Humanite*, September 3rd, 1919, in commenting on the state of affairs in the Baltic Provinces, states that General von der Goltz has not renounced Pan-Germanism, and that he intends his troops to preserve Riga for Germany in spite of the decision of the Peace Conference. The progressive German Press taxes the General with his alliance with Lettish and Russian reactionaries. During recent disorders in Mitau Russian and German officers took part in an attempt to raid a local bank. The commander of the "iron division," Bischoff, has invited his troops to remain in Courland under arms, and has declared an attack on Riga imminent and inevitable. After his address detachments of Keller's and Goltz's troops invaded Mitau and even the building occupied by the Allied Missions. The representatives of the Entente Missions, including the Japanese representative, have left Mitau, and have informed their respective Governments of what is taking place.

The Lettish State Council in Riga has protested against the presence of German troops in Lettland, as a menace to the independence of the Lettish Republic, and has urged the Government to strengthen the army.

The papers of the Independent Socialists in Germany denounce the policy pursued by Von der Goltz.

*Welt am Montag* writes: "Von der Goltz commands a German army which secures his independence. This army will perhaps at first co-operate in the downfall of Russian Bolshevism; but its ultimate aim is to suppress the revolution in Germany, using Riga as its base."

### ANOTHER SECRET CIRCULAR.

The Government is making arrangements for volunteer blacklegs "in the event of trouble at power-houses."

Well, of course! Is anyone under the impression that this is not a Capitalist Government!

### SABOTAGE?

We are puzzled by a statement in the *Times* that seamen and firemen on board the steamship *Maopie* bound for Russia with stores belonging to the British Government and intended for troops in Russia, broke into 40 cases of spirits and opened cases of bombs and scattered them about the ship so that the dropping of a lighted match would have caused an explosion that would have sunk the ship. The men were supposed to be drunk, but was it a case of deliberately sabotaging goods intended for counter-revolutionaries?

### FINLAND.

*L'Humanite*, August 15th, says:—"The recent vote of the Diet which elected Stahlberg as President, instead of Mannerheim, by 143 votes to 50, is an energetic repudiation of the unpopular policy of the latter. Mannerheim's fall was not due solely to the opposition of the Socialists. The Peasants' Party and all the Left Bourgeois parties voted against him. He was supported only by the Conservatives, who saw in him the defender of Bourgeois society."

*L'Humanite* also says that the Finnish expedition against Russia has now been stopped.

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## The Great "Greater Production" Stunt.

A Reply to J. Brownlie by DAVID RAMSAY.

Jack Brownlie, "the strongest official the A.S.E. has had since Dave Burnett ruled the society with a rule of iron," VIDE the capitalist press, has entered the limelight again. He is probably worried at the thought of not doing enough for the class that has showered honours and praise upon him for his treachery to his own class.

"The greatest strike-breaker of modern times," as one of his A.S.E. members called him at a recent mass meeting, has consistently helped the master class of this country in their efforts to stir up racial hatreds, to carry on war, to undermine class loyalty in the Trade Unions, and to compromise the workers by encouraging investment in War Loans.

Like Lloyd George and his other friends, Brownlie is staggered at the situation which has arisen from their intrigues, and, bubbling over, as he always has been, with affection for the bosses, he decides to stand or fall by the snibboleths mouthed by the oppressors of the people.

It seems that someone has been telling Brownlie and L.G. that the country (meaning the bosses) is on the verge of bankruptcy. Since 1914 the whole resources of the nation have been strained to supply the requirements of the war. The Government, ignoring the patent fact that the material and men necessary for the job were in existence, issued fake banknotes ad lib. to present to their friends for their own private use, and then borrowed the same notes back again at swollen rates of interest. Then the notes were used to pay the profiteers three or four times the value of goods required, thus leaving in their possession the means to grant fresh loans. Throughout the war the merry game went on, bogus war loans were floated again and again, and all the time the workers were actually producing and handing over all the wealth necessary to carry on. It is, therefore, a lie to say that sufficient was not provided to carry on the war. What we now are asked to pay is the blood-money demanded in the shape of interest.

True, the matter is somewhat complicated by the debts owing to the United States. But here again, when America is talked about, it is the master class that is meant. The workers of this country owe nothing to their own exploiters and nothing to the workers of the U.S.A. Even if we did, you can bet your life THEY would never get it. The bosses are out for THEIR pound of flesh, and it's up to us to see that they don't get it.

Now let us examine this greater production argument. We are told that, unless we produce more, work longer hours, AND CONSUME LESS, prices will soar higher and higher as a result of the 'shorter supply. On the other hand, if we agree to put all we know into the task of producing, abundance of wealth will be at the disposal of the people at low prices, and the adverse balance of trade existing between this country and America will be recuned. The value of the pound note will rise to "normal" (whatever that is), and full value will be obtained for 'our' money on the American market. A pretty picture—but not borne out by working-class experience. On the contrary, throughout the history of capitalist development the opposite has been proved to be true, and that by the figures supplied by the bosses themselves.

During the first half of the 19th century, when the productive capacity of the factories was not nearly as great as it is now, the workers received in the shape of wages at least one half the wealth produced annually. To-day, with all the improvements in the methods of production, it would be difficult to prove that more than one-fifth goes to the working class. Not only that, but the "improved" methods used have resulted in the marketing of the shoddiest clothing and most adulterated foodstuffs the people have ever been called upon to consume. Production has been so great that home markets have been glutted with unsaleable goods, goods rendered unsaleable because the workers have not the wherewithal to buy back the products of their labour. Foreign markets had to be sought for and explored, and all the time the same process was going on in every capitalist country. Before the war broke out every avenue for the disposal of surplus goods was exploited to the uttermost, and the consequent rivalry between national groups of capitalists was one of the greatest factors which led to the war. And increased production at this time will only result in glutted markets, closed factories, unemployment, misery and starvation. Far from abundance of wealth meaning prosperity for the workers, that very abundance is at the root of all the unemployment that exists. And do not forget, the workers of all other countries are being told the same tales; and if they all respond to the call of their masters, trade crises will arise of an even more intensified character than before and possibly lead to further capitalist wars.

What is our remedy? Simply that we have to get back to the root causes of poverty and starvation—the realisation of the fact that whilst private ownership of the means of life continues to exist, poverty and unemployment are its natural concomitants.

Organise as a class on the industrial field through your Workers' Committees, carry the propaganda into every proletarian home, and work to encourage the growth of class-consciousness to such an extent in the minds of the propertyless, that when the bosses find themselves compelled to defend their last ditch, they will also find themselves deserted by even those services which exist to protect the interests of the capitalists. That, Jack Brownlie, is the only way, and you know it as well as those who are NOT bribed to protect the master class.

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### LONDON MEETINGS—OUTDOOR.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH.  
Waterloo Road (near "Old Vic.")—3 P.M., Minnie  
Birch, Pn. Edmunds and others.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH.  
Osborn Street, Whitechapel.—11.45 A.M., Minnie  
Birch, Melvina Walker.

Dock Gates, Poplar.—7.30 P.M., Melvina Walker  
and others.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH.  
Tower Hill.—12 (noon), Henry Sara.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH.

The Square, Woolwich.—12 (noon), Henry Sara.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH.

Great Push in Hammersmith.  
INDOOR.  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH.  
20, Railway Street.—7.30 P.M., Poplar, W.S.F.  
Business Meeting. 8.30 P.M., Reading Circle.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH.

400, Old Ford Road.—8 P.M., General members'  
meeting.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH.

400, Old Ford Road.—7.10 P.M., Dancing.

### OTHER ORGANISATIONS.

East London Workers' Committee.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH.

Victoria Park.—12 (noon), Walter Ponder and  
others.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH.

Queen's Road, corner of Dalston Lane.—7.30 P.M.,  
Walter Ponder and others.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH.

400, Old Ford Road.—7.30 P.M., Business Meeting,  
Walthamstow League of Rights.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH.

William Morris Hall, Somers Road.—3 P.M., Vida  
Goldstein. "Women's Peace Campaign in  
Australia."