

THE WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT

For International Socialism

VOL. VI.—No. 35.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22nd, 1919.

PRICE TWOPENCE.

INNER HISTORY OF KOLTCHAK RULE.

A member of the Central Committee of the Russian Social Democratic Party, B. J. Golossov, read a report on Admiral Koltchak's regime on July 1st, 1919, at the Moscow Polytechnic. Mr. Golossov is a Menshevik and not a partisan of the Bolshevik Government. We reproduce this report now, almost in full, as an antidote to the eulogy expressed by Colonel Ward when he took up the question for Koltchak in the House of Commons.

The general idea is that the Romanov dynasty has been re-established in Siberia—this is not true, for Koltchakism is a thousand times worse than the Romanov monarchy. Koltchakism is a fierce, savage, mad reign of militarism, "cossackism," in short a dictatorship of the knout and the nagaika (cossack whip).

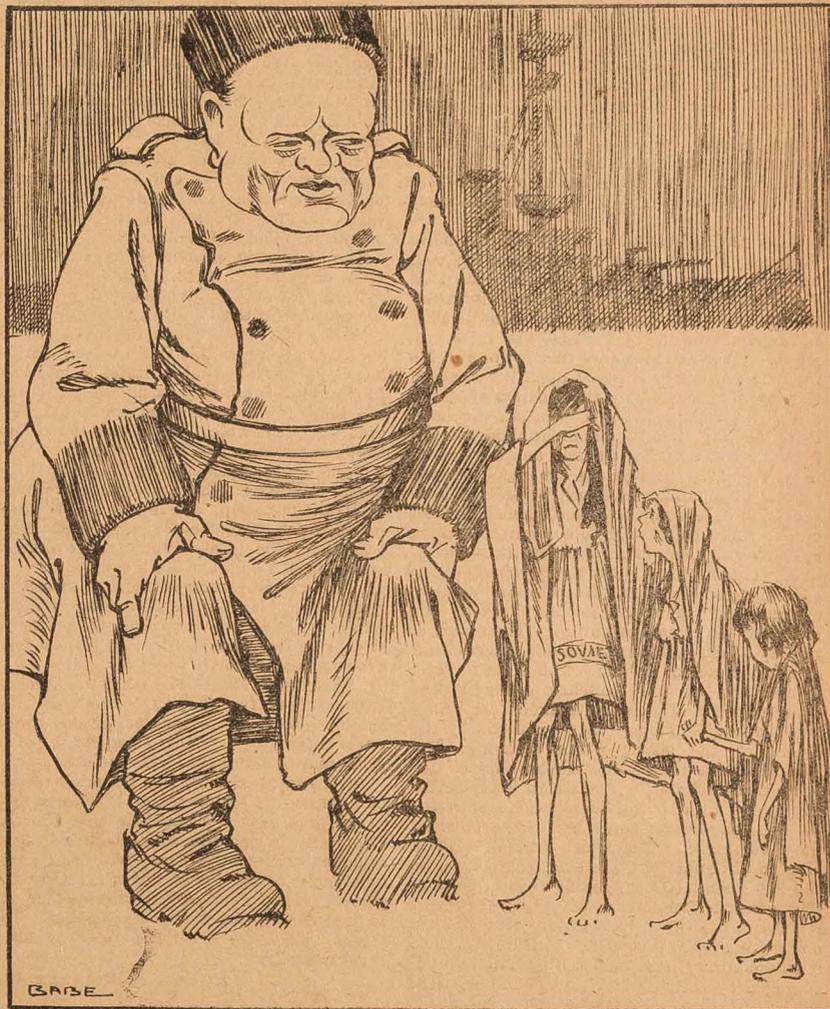
In reality Koltchak's "Government" has no power whatever. All the power is in the hands of a number of "atamans" (cossack chiefs); these atamans are not responsible to anyone, and their power is unlimited. They exercise full rights over the life and death of their "subjects." These atamans get their support from the officer class, and Koltchak's "Government," from the merchant class—the officer bloc and the merchant bloc are the forces which have effected the Koltchak *coup d'état*. But this bloc is disintegrating. The old antagonism between bourgeoisie and nobility is coming to the fore.

The Czarist gendarmes are the cream of the officer-ataman aristocracy. Siberia is overrun by gendarmes. All the most important posts are filled by gendarmes; Koltchak's *entourage* consists of gendarmes. The whole of Siberia is being terrorised by the gendarmes. The gendarmes are wreaking vengeance, and you can well imagine what that means. It begs description. Shootings have become so common and people have become so accustomed to them that no one takes much notice when 100, 200 or 300 people are shot in one day. In Omsk, at Easter, 300 people were shot without trial. They shoot bolsheviks, mensheviks, social revolutionaries, cadets, officers, in short no one is safe. Jews are shot because they are Jews, peasants are shot without any special reason—just *pour passer le temps*; workmen are shot because every workman is a potential bolshevik.

But these ruffians are not content with shooting; they hang, quarter, impale, flog, hack to pieces, and inflict all manner of refined torture on their victims. There are whole districts in Siberia where everyone has been flogged.

ALLIES ASSIST THE MURDERERS.

The shooting, flogging, hanging and quartering is not done only by Russian gendarmes and atamans; the doughty warriors of the democratic armies of the Allies—the Italians, English, Japanese and Serbs—all take a hand in it. The Serbs are the hangers. The cossacks declared themselves ready to flog, shoot and quarter, but refused to hang. The Serbs declared themselves ready to hang, and in fact to do anything that may be required. The Italians specialise in flogging and violation of women; the Japanese in pillaging, and the English in both. General Knox declared publicly "that it is no use keeping bolsheviks in prison; it is a much better plan to shoot them without trial." The Americans are the only troops who behave decently. They do not take part in punitive expeditions, and have occasionally even supported the peasantry. The sympa-



What are you crying for, my little maids?
Somebody's starving us, sir, they said.

ties of the American soldiers are for the revolutionaries.

The Czechs left long ago, and are guarding the railway so as to be able to seize the opportunity of escaping from this "hell." The communist movement is growing in the ranks of the Czechs.

JAPANESE TERROR.

Among the foreign troops the Japanese are the most brutal. It is the Japanese who by artillery fire destroy whole villages, settlements and districts. They behave like victors in a conquered country; they feel themselves the masters; and in fact they are the all-powerful masters.

No wonder that the whole of Siberia is at present in a state of revolt. The entire peasantry is armed. Siberia is one large

military camp. There is not a spot where normal conditions prevail. Cannons are booming everywhere. Travelling by train, you pass villages, settlements; two days later, on your return journey, you will see smoking ruins where those villages once stood, ruins stretching over ten versts (a verst is $\frac{2}{3}$ of a mile). Do not be surprised at this; this is the trail of the Japanese.

Risings are suppressed with unheard-of cruelty and barbarity. Whole villages have been literally wiped out. And in spite of all this the peasants are rising; they cannot do otherwise. They are not afraid of death, for life in Siberia is worse than the most terrible death.

Continued on next page, col. 3.

RUSSIAN OFFICER ON KOLTCHAK.

As I am a Russian officer who has seen long service in the Russian Army, and who served in the British Volunteer Army against Germany, my interest in the military and political fate of my country needs no explanation.

With great difficulty I have recently been able to obtain a number of Russian newspapers from Siberia. These papers include the following: Nasha Bels, of Irkutsk; Golos Primoria, of Vladivostok; Vladivostokskoe Obzrenie, of Vladivostok; Echo, of Vladivostok; Ussuriyskiy Vrai, of Nikolsk; Kazatchip vestnik, and several others.

After having studied carefully this extensive evidence, I have come to the following conclusion: No propaganda in the world can turn the opinion of any sound-minded man in favour of the Koltchak and Denikin crowd, after having read the self-accusations of their own Press.

The following extract is taken from the Echo of June 6th, 1919, Vladivostok:— Press Review. "The Japanese Press on the Recognition of the Omsk Government."

"useful" work of crushing Bolshevism. One of these Koltchak satellites, Karmandonoff, flogged and shot a number of peasants, and all efforts to arrest him were in vain—Omsk refused to interfere. As a result of his protests, Colonel Zelinsky was dismissed from his post (Order of the Day No. 145—Echo, June 19th, 1919).

The fact that Japan has been the first country to recognise the Omsk Government and has compelled the United States to join in this proposition, is not only a diplomatic success. We think it will be no exaggeration if we say that this step which Japan has taken is of world importance.

"There are at present the following Governments in Russia: The Archangel Government, Denikin, Tzeretelli, and many other Governments which have officially proclaimed their existence. The most influential Governments are those of Lenin and Koltchak.

"Lenin's Government cannot expect any sympathy, since it is pursuing principles which are hateful to the world, though personally Lenin is a man meriting all respect for his firmness and sincerity.

"The Bolshevik Government is absolutely stronger than the Omsk Government. Facts do not permit us to indulge in unwarranted under-estimation of the significance of the Bolshevik Government."

LT. COL. B. ROUSTAM BEK

W.S.F. : INTERNATIONAL : FAIR :

In the Bunhill Row Memorial Buildings,

ROSCOE STREET, E.C. (Bus 54, Trams 55, 43, 65, 11 and 5. Tube—Old St. Stn.)

Friday and Saturday, 5th and 6th December 1919,

3 p.m. to 10-30 p.m. OPENERS : Doors open 2-30 p.m.

Dec. 5th. Prof. W.T. GOODE, (Recently returned from Soviet Russia.)

Dec. 6th. TOM MANN. (Newly elected Secretary of the A.S.E.)

Special Cockney Attractions. Stalls of all sorts. Concerts, Entertainments, Sideshows, Children's Dances. Admission 2s., 1s. 3d., 8d. (incl. tax).

Tickets may be obtained from—JOAN BEAUCHAMP, 7, South Square, Gray's Inn, W. C. MISS BUSH, 400, Old Ford Road, Bow.

KOLTCHAK RULE

Continued from front page.

But, you will ask, if Siberia is aflame with revolts and insurrections, how is it that Koltchak is still in power? He is still in power, thanks to foreign bayonets. The Allies did not come to Siberia to fight bolshevism, but to establish the Koltchak régime firmly in the heart of Siberia.

The Allied Press screams: "The bolsheviks are destroying the industries and the economic life of the country."

But in Koltchak's Siberia all trade and industries are irrevocably destroyed. In the Far East, on the Amur, there are some factories working, but they all belong already to the Japanese, and the workers are not Russians, but Chinese.

Industries and honest trade are killed, but speculation is flourishing. Bread prices have increased tenfold in twelve months. The speculators buy sugar for 90 copeks (about 1/10 p.w.v. value) per lb. in Kharbin, and then sell it for 35 roubles in Omsk.

Koltchak made an attempt to put down high prices. On the advice of merchants and traders he abolished the co-operative societies which, it was alleged, were the chief cause of high prices!

In conclusion, Mr. Golossov said that the Red Army, which was advancing, would make a triumphal entry into Siberia, and that the bolsheviks would be heralded with church bells as saviours!

—V a n e r p r o s .

WOMEN IN THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL.

At the first Congress of the Third International the position of men and women was debated, and the conclusion given here was arrived at:—

The International Communist Congress recognises that the solution of all the problems which have been presented, the final victory of the world proletariat, and the complete abolition of the capitalist society, can only be attained by the close collaboration of all workers in the fight—men and women.

The dictatorship of the proletariat can only grow strong and triumph by means of the energy and active co-operation of working women.—L'Ordine Nuovo.

BETWEEN OURSELVES. By L. A. Motler.

THE KIND-HEARTED CAPITALIST.

Too long, far too long, Henry, we have been disgraced by the class-war; we have never liked our foremen, overseers, gaffers and other gentlemen in waiting, whom a kind and far-seeing capitalist has placed in authority over us.

This great discovery has been made by the Printing Trades' Alliance. In a postal packet containing about fourteen circulars of beautiful printing, it informs everybody and anyone of that same mudprint on the page of history.

The P.T.A. is, to use its own words, "A NEW Trade Union on new lines, and its sole aim in life is a modest slice of the Brotherhood of Man, beginning with the Brotherhood of the Kind-Hearted Capitalist and the Loyal and Obedient Workman."

"The Printing Trades' Alliance," so writes the hefty pupil of the Correspondence School of Advertising who indited all the heartrending appeals of the P.T.A., "is a Trade Union, but—Yes, you expected a "but" somewhere. Didn't you, Henry? but believes—

- 1. That might does not constitute right (a principle for which our boys fought).
2. That a man, to be a man, must do his best (restriction of output is bad for the man, the trade and the country).
3. That the interests of capital and labour can be advanced concurrently.

All the remarks in parentheses are the P.T.A.'s own. And the above three points constitute the plank and platform of this man-brother Trade Union.

"O Oysters, come and walk with us, The walrus did beseech; A pleasant walk a pleasant talk Beside the briny beach; We cannot do with more than four To give a hand to each."

It were sacrilegious to touch even the Beautiful Beautitudes of the Heart-Throb Union, but even a nigger may sit on the steam throttle in vain when the steam is slightly seidlitzed with truth.

In reference to the fact that "might does not constitute right" it is all very pretty on paper, but there are four spirits in Glasgow who remember seeing tanks and Lewis guns out there on a strike.

"That a man, to be a man, must do his best," is a mere piece of buffoonery which means anything or nothing. I am glad, then,

BRITISH CRUELTY TO RUSSIAN PRISONERS.

It was recently stated in the House of Commons that the Soviet leaders were to be held individually responsible for any harm that might come to British prisoners in Bolsheviki prisons. In Folkets Daublad Politiken, of October 9th, there is a protest from the Soviet Government against the shooting and ill-treatment of Bolsheviki prisoners by the British.

"The Soviet Government is indignant at the inhuman way in which the British Command at Archangel is treating its Russian prisoners. If the British Government were responsible indirectly for the innumerable cruelties and atrocities committed on Russian workers and peasants by its agents Koltchak, Denikin and the rest, cruelties in comparison with which the Spanish Inquisition was child's play, then we have proof positive now of Russian prisoners of war being similarly treated by the British Command direct.

Dr. Martiny, who is not himself a Bolsheviki, considered it quite justifiable for the Soviet Government to deal severely with old officers and other anti-Bolsheviks, who banded themselves together in gangs and committed violence and robberies which were then put at the door of the Bolsheviki. He was especially struck by the great consideration shown to all foreigners, and had nothing but praise for the way in which his expedition had been treated.

SCIENTIFICALLY TRAINED WORKERS FOR SOVIET RUSSIA.

Comrade Martens, the Russian representative in U.S.A., we learn through the columns of Folkets Daublad Politiken of October 17th, is busy negotiating with clever engineers, mechanics, chemists, doctors, agricultural botanists and other scientific workers, and inducing them to accept positions under the Russian Soviet Government.

Soviet Government declares that no threatening letters can influence its politics. Every renunciation of such threats directed to individual members of the Soviet Government adds to the possibility that the Soviet Government may be forced to consider if it can continue to negotiate with the British Government even with regard to the exchange of prisoners.

THE TRUTH ABOUT SOVIET RUSSIA.

At a crowded meeting at Copenhagen according to the Folkets Daublad Politiken, October 11th, Dr. Martiny, leader of the Danish Red Cross Expedition to Moscow, spoke on Russia under Bolshevism.

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for the remarks between beautifully curved lines, to wit, "restriction of output is bad for the man, the trade and the country."

Of course we all know that what is wrong with the country at present is not any of the things we thought of after talking away the first number, but solely and merely restriction of output.

Ah, Henry, if you only produced more! There would be such a lot of things, and they would be so cheap, that when the market was over-stocked and you got put on short time, or even given the bit, you would puff out your chest to think you had done one for the man, the trade and the country.

"O Oysters, said the Carpenter, We've had a pleasant run; Shall we be trotting home again? But answer came there none And this was scarily odd because They'd eaten every one!"

training, what languages they know, what organisation they belong to, and if they are in need of economic help for further language training before their departure for Russia, what are their family responsibilities, and if they want a free passage, L. Martens is at the same time busy with a scheme for giving Russians an opportunity to study in America, and adequate scholarships and other help is given to assist Russians while studying abroad.

Sixpenny Sermons at Chandos Hall

21a, Maiden Lane, Strand, W.C. Tuesday, Nov. 25th, at 8 p.m.

"Why the Catholic Crusade supports the Revolution in Russia." Preacher: Conrad Noel. Opener of discussion: George Chambers. (Priests of the Catholic Crusade.)

Tuesday, Dec. 2nd at 8 p.m. "Why the Catholic Crusade welcomes the Irish Republic." Preacher: Conrad Noel. Opener of discussion: Godfrey Bell. (Priests of the Catholic Crusade.)

Tuesday, Dec. 16th at 8 p.m. "Why the Catholic Crusade demands an English Revolution." Preacher: Conrad Noel. Opener of discussion: Jac. Burcknell. (Priests of the Catholic Crusade.)

Admission Sixpence. Free Discussion.

Kingsley Hall, Bow.

Sunday, Nov. 23rd, at 8.15 p.m. STANLEY JAMES

"Labour's Re-interpretation of Christianity."

DISCUSSION AND OPEN BAR 9.30.

INDUSTRIAL WORKERS of the WORLD

are holding a GRAND DANCE in the WORKERS' SOCIALIST CLUB,

28, East Road, City Road, on Sat. Nov. 29th Dancing 7.30 till 12 TICKETS 1/3

American Jazz Band Good Music, Come and Dance and Enjoy Yourself.

THE WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT

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CELEBRATING THE SOVIETS' BIRTHDAY.

The Italian workers knew the meaning of November 7th, the second anniversary of Soviet Russia. Throughout Italy meetings were held to celebrate the event, and at these meetings the word of the day was not Reform, but Revolution.

The Italian bourgeoisie had its day of celebration on November 4th, the anniversary of the Austrian armistice. There were flags, free band concerts, parades, and electric lights. Shops were closed and factories gave their workers a vacation.

But in Turin, and other places, the workers did not want a vacation to celebrate victory. They turned up at work as usual. They ignored the day. The only recognition given to it in *Avanti!* was the following, printed in large letters on the first page:—

May 24th, 1915—November 4th, 1918.

Dead, 507,193.

Wounded, 984,000.

Blind in one eye, 21,290.

Blind in both eyes, 19,400.

Chronic tuberculosis, 25,716.

Neuropathics, 19,600.

Lame, 74,620.

Insane, 4,060.

Mutilated (facial apparatus), 3,446.

Limbs amputated, 12,120.

Darf, 6,740.

Dumb, 3,260.

The General Federation of Labour, comprising 1,400,000 members, celebrated the Soviets' birthday by addressing to the organised working class the following appeal:—

"We ask the attention of all the Federated organisations to the end that the factory workers should refuse to produce arms and munitions destined to serve against the Russian Revolution. We remind them also that no Federated worker, no class conscious worker, should assist in transporting such material."

"The Confederation of Labour has proposed to the Allied foreign organisations that they should adopt the same attitude, but it is necessary that Italy should furnish not only the proposal but also the example of action."

"All the Federated organisations will know how to fulfil their duty."

(Signed) Secretary of the Confederation.

Soviet Day made the Italian bourgeoisie extremely nervous—more nervous than it has been since the days before the general strike of July 21st. In Rome, which is no Socialist stronghold, but the centre of the tame Italian bureaucracy, there were thousands of soldiers and police drawn up to prevent a revolution. Now, the Socialist party had not the slightest intention of making a revolution. It never intends to make a revolution. It knows that revolutions cannot be made—that they merely happen when the bourgeois machinery has become unworkable and unbearable. It intends merely to seize and guide the revolution when it comes. But it does not expect the revolution to come this winter. And it had issued orders against petty demonstrations which could only cause bloodshed and discouragement.

Nevertheless, the bourgeoisie was extremely nervous. I counted at least two soldiers for every one of the peaceful demonstrators who gathered in the Piazza di Pilotta in Rome. The police and the soldiers were everywhere. They

"RIGHT AND FREEDOM" in IRELAND.

On Friday last Lord French issued a request to the local authorities in Ireland to give effect to the King of England's message that all activities should be suspended for two minutes at 11 a.m. on the anniversary of the Armistice, so that all might reverently meditate on "Right and Freedom."

At 11.20, a.m. on the morning of the anniversary of the Armistice, Lord French ordered his military and police to burst in the door of the premises occupied by the elected representatives of Ireland and to "arrest all on the premises."

Those arrested include Mr. Frank Lawless, elected Member for North Dublin at the last Election by a majority of 4,510; Mr. John O'Mahony, elected Member for South Fermanagh by a majority of 2,149, and Mr. John Hayes who was returned unopposed for the constituency of South Cork.

These gentlemen together with the members of the office staff were placed in a military motor lorry surrounded by soldiers with fixed bayonets, and driven to prison to meditate on England's conception of "Right and Freedom."

LECTURES ON TECHNICAL EDUCATION SUPPRESSED.

The English Military Government in Ireland has now decreed it a crime to lecture on technical Education. This is not strange in a

country where the policeman is paid more than the teacher. The following is from the *Freeman's Journal* of Monday, 10th November 1919:—

"A lecture which Mrs. Sheehy-Skeffington was announced to deliver at Clonmel Technical Institute on Sunday on 'The Place of Technical Education in the National Life' was prohibited by the police. Notice was served on the Principal of the Institute that Mrs. Sheehy-Skeffington would not be allowed to speak. This was the first public meeting Mrs. Sheehy-Skeffington arranged to address in Ireland since she received concussion in a police charge at Kibbegaun last July. Mrs. Sheehy-Skeffington is a teacher in the City of Dublin Technical Schools."

INSTRUCTED TO SHOOT PRISONER.

(FROM THE GALWAY EXPRESS 8TH NOV. 1919.)

At a "Crimes" Court in Galway, presided over by two stipendiary magistrates, Mr. Sean Milroy, Sinn Fein Director of Organisation was sentenced to two months' imprisonment for illegal assembly in default of finding bail. A District Inspector of Police admitted that he had threatened to shoot the prisoner on the way to Portumna Jail if the escort was interfered with, and said that his instructions were to shoot the prisoner if a rescue were attempted.

were hidden in narrow streets, crammed into the court-yards of private houses. Half a mile from the meeting a company of cavalry, with steel helmets and rifles slung over their shoulders, stood waiting for trouble. However, one thing was noticeable, the police were in the front rank. Even in these selected soldiers, apparently, the Government did not put too much trust when it came to the shooting of working-men.

In Rome, all these counter-revolutionary preparations came to nothing. A little informal parade was broken up by a few squads of federal police, headed by civilian commissioners, I suppose, who wore silly red, white and green sashes, and belted commands under the illusion that they were heroes. The demonstrators dispersed at the word of command, not even showing a red flag, and the various armies of soldiers and police went back to barracks without trophies.

Elsewhere in Italy, however, things were not so peaceful. In Milan, after a meeting in the People's House, a handful of young Socialists marched through the Piazza del Duomo singing revolutionary songs and displaying banners with the legend:—

"Viva Lenin."

Thereupon some of the officers of the "Arditi" (Italy's White Guard) who are always to be found drinking in the cafés and bars of the Victor Emmanuel Galleries, advanced to the attack. Revolver shots were exchanged. The bourgeois papers all assert that the Socialists fired first, though I have heard officers of the Arditi boast of being always the first to shoot. Anyway, wounds, and serious ones, were received on both sides, before the two parties were dispersed.

Arrests were later made by the police—impartially, of course, on both sides; seventy or so on the side of the Socialists, and some half-a-dozen among the Arditi. Included among these latter were Captain Vecchi, who leads the White Guard from his café in the Galleries, and Signor Marmetti, candidate for Parliament on the "Combattents" list, the same Marinetti who unveiled futurist music to the world, and invented his new orchestra of "wind machines," "rain machines," "howlers," "growlers," and "whizzers." The arrested officers were impartially released after half an hour. The Socialists are still in jail.

In Turin a general strike was called by the local chamber of labour. The workers, who re-

fused to take a holiday to celebrate victory, insisted on taking one to celebrate Revolution. The word reached Milan later in the day, and the workers began to drift out of their factories in the course of the afternoon, until, by closing hour, it is reported, there were scarcely any left. The general strike at Spezia, called quite independently and spontaneously, was complete.

In other cities, especially in Florence, there was "informal fighting" (as they say of Allied expeditions into Russia) between Socialists and officers. The casualty list has not been completed, but it is extensive.

The demonstrations in favour of Soviet Russia were in reality extended to the following Sunday, which was the last holiday before the election. The Socialists like to make things lively for their opponents. They exercise freely their right of attending public meetings and of expressing their approval or disapproval by appropriate utterances—a right which is reckoned one of the most precious among modern democracies. Especially do they express appropriate sentiments when an orator demands a policy of national imperialism by way of benefiting the working-class. These demonstrations sometimes render it difficult or impossible for the orator to speak, and not infrequently lead to vigorous debates between those of contrary persuasions. And it must be added, regrettable as the fact is, that such debates are often conducted, in Italy, with revolvers.

Yes, Italian Socialists sometimes carry revolvers. Demobilised officers boast that they have arms with them for such occasions, but for Socialists to do likewise is certainly very wrong. At all events, revolver shots have been distressingly common in this electoral campaign. At Albano, on Sunday, two demonstrators were fatally wounded. At Bergeggi, near Genoa, the candidate of the pseudo-Socialist "Party of Labour," one Pietro Bernier, received light wounds from a revolver. Similar events occurred at San Remo, at Spezia, at Resina. The list is a long one. It is always represented in the newspapers as an example of Socialist bestiality. Yet, I notice that in an altercation with Socialists during a Republican meeting at Baginacavallo, (I quote from a bourgeois journal) "the Republicans produced revolvers and knives, and wounded four Socialists, two of whom are in a serious condition." Up to the present there has been no outcry against Republican bestiality.

H. K. MODERWELL.

QUESTIONS OF THE DAY.

BOLSHEVIKS VICTORIOUS.

The Red Armies have put all their opponents to flight. Yudenitch has been forced back to Esthonia, where we hear he has resigned his command! Omsk, the Koltchak stronghold, has been taken and Denikin has lost Kieff. In the end all Russia will be cleared of these disturbing anti-Bolshevik forces, which could never have resisted without Allied assistance.

Does anyone wonder that such a clean sweep of the tools of the Allies should have given us another Lloyd George speech, and an anti-intervention one, to boot?

He declared in the House of Commons on Monday, November 18th, that the policy of refraining from sending armies to conquer the Bolsheviks was "a good policy."

"It is perfectly certain that this country, with enormous burdens cast upon it by the war, cannot undertake the responsibility of financing civil war in Russia indefinitely. (Cheers.) Our first concern must be for our own country. There is no surer road to Bolshevism than financial bankruptcy."

From which sentiments one can see that the Prime Minister fears the immediate future at home; despite the glowing speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer!

The remark he made about the anti-Bolshevik armies being obliged to stand by themselves now, and that they ought to be able to hold their own if the population "is opposed to Bolshevism," is very subtle. Does Lloyd George begin to realise that the *Russians are Bolsheviks*, with the exception of these few figure heads?

In conclusion he said, but the DREADNOUGHT puts little faith in his words:—

"I have warned my hon. friends whose detestation of Bolshevism is no deeper than mine, that Bolshevism would lead to black reaction and always has, and therefore I hate it. But that is not the way to fight it. I am not afraid of Bolshevism in any land which is well governed. It has to be fought by sympathetic justice in all countries, by planting confidence in all classes, the rich and the poor; yes, and the vast multitude that are neither rich nor poor, but whose path is just near enough to the mosses to see their friends drop in. It from time to time, we must plant confidence in all of them that their complaints will be heard, and determine with justice after they have been heard with sympathy. If we do that I have no fear of revolution, but I dread wild adventures in lands whose conditions are unknown, and where nothing but catastrophe has awaited every Empire and every Army that has invaded them."

We should like to know if "sympathetic justice" is to be shown to the Bolsheviks by the Allied blockade? Or will this cease now? Mr. Lloyd George is a movable figure-head, therefore his non-intervention attitude is mere clap-net without Cabinet co-operation; further, having given Denikin and Co. supplies enough to go on with till the spring, such a speech is not worth the paper it is written on.

The only value of these speeches of the Prime Minister lies in the handle given to the workers to force the immediate conclusion of peace with the Bolsheviks. A Prime Minister who has not the Government behind him and with him should resign.

PETROGRAD.

Through the *Avanti!* of October 29th we learn that after a week of active propaganda among the workers, the members of the Communist Party have been enormously increased.

NEW RAILWAY SCHEME.

The Government offer to the railway unions is to give the workers "co-equal power, and co-equal authority with the railway management of this country," Mr. Thomas stated.

The scheme is outlined thus:—

"Two members of the N.U.R. and one of the Associated Society join the Railway Executive Committee with equal powers to the General Managers who sit on it."

"For the settlement of future disputes about hours and wages there is proposed:—

"A Joint Railway Board, consisting of:—

"Five General Managers, three representatives of the N.U.R., two from the Enginemen's and Firemen's Society.

"A Committee of Appeal, consisting of four from the companies, four from the men, four from the public."

"Local committees to deal with local disputes."

We are anxious to be quite clear as to the method by which the N.U.R. representatives will be elected; will they be chosen by the Executive or elected by the rank and file?

Does Mr. Thomas realise that "co-equal" partnership with capital recognises once and for all the system of dividends and shareholders? How can workers be a party to such an arrangement! The offer to meet the N.U.R. on these lines must surely be one of Mr. Lloyd George's ways of meeting Bolshevism in a "sympathetic way." These apparent concessions have for their object the breaking of the trade union spirit, and thereby undermining the power of the strike weapon.

N.U.R. comrades should persist in their demands for real nationalisation, and reject all such schemes of scheming politicians without thorough examination.

CONTINENTAL ELECTIONS.

In France the Republican Party seems to have scored victories to the exclusion of the Socialists of the Left. This has been worked by the anti-Bolshevik campaign which has been carried on for some time past. Chief amongst those of the Left defeated is Comrade Louquet. He will now have a free hand to work for the Soviets!

Belgium has returned twenty-five Socialists, and Italy expects to see a large number of Socialists elected.

FRENCH NEWSPAPERS.

The French capital has still to be content with two newspapers. We are glad that the workers succeeded in issuing *La Feuille Commune*, which represents *La Bataille*, *Bousoir*, *La France Libre*, *Le Journal du Peuple*, *L'Heure*, *L'Humanité*, *L'Oeuvre*, *Le Pays*, *Le Populaire*, *La Verité*. In its issue of November 12th *La Feuille Commune* gives the cause of the strike of all the branches of the printing trade thus:—Six months ago the workers asked the proprietors of the Press for a rise in wages commensurate with the rise in the cost of living. They consented to modify their demands on the definite understanding that the di-

rectorates of the newspapers should conduct a vigorous Press campaign to bring down prices of the necessities of life. However, hardly anything was done in that direction, a feeble attempt was made to start the campaign. This, however, came to a sudden standstill, and the prices are higher than six months ago. Tired of waiting the workers demanded an increase in wages of five francs per day. This demand was met with a point-blank refusal from the employers. Hence the strike.

Le Pays, while identifying itself with the organs of the workers, disapproves of the strike as a breach of contract on the part of the printers, and would have favoured a policy of conciliation. It had advocated in its columns, (1) The organisation of a Co-operative Society of the Press, which would have brought about a 30 per cent. fall in the cost of living; and (2) a provisional suppression of the Sunday morning issue, which would have enabled the newspaper administrations to grant a provisional high cost of living bonus (*indemnité de vie chère*) to their employees. And yet *Le Pays* is one of the combine that *La Feuille Commune* represents, thus proving that it stands by the strikers!

AMERICAN MINERS' STRIKE.

"In obedience to the mandate of the United States Court the order of October 15th directing the cessation of operations in the bituminous coalfields is withdrawn and cancelled."

This notice officially ended the coal strike in the United States which broke out on November 1st. As a result a most peculiar situation has arisen. The strike, however, we are glad to hear, has not been broken by this diplomatic move; merely negotiations between the owners and coal miners which ceased on the outbreak of the strike have been resumed. We wish the U.S. coal miners the maximum of success in their fight against so many enemies, and under such difficult conditions.

THE CAPITALIST HEEL.

The N.U.R. and the Co-operative Society at Birkenhead are engaged in a fight which the recent successes of Labour in the local elections have made of vital interest to every trade unionist. A N.U.R. member having been elected as Labour and Co-operative representative of the Birkenhead Town Council the management of the North-Western and Great Western Railway Companies refused to allow him time to attend meetings, and offered him the alternative of resigning from the Council or from the railway service. If employers generally followed the lead of the railway companies a vast number of the newly-elected Councilors would have to give up either their seats or their livelihood. It is a clear case of tyranny which should be opposed by every Labour organisation throughout the country.

IN MEMORY OF THE GLORIOUS DEAD.

"But we won the Battle of the Somme with rum, and rum alone." Words of wisdom uttered by some students at Essex Hall on November 13th when "Pussyfoot" was ragged.

PEASANTS' STRIKE AT PIACENZA.

Seventy thousand peasants came out on strike in Piacenza (Italy) on October 13th, and they remained solid until they won it on November 4th. The day after the strike started the leaders of many organisations offered to start a local general strike in support of the peasants, but in view of the number of strikers, this was not considered necessary. The chief demands of the strikers were as follows:—An eight hour day, which the peasants wish to share with nearly the whole Italian working-class. This would do much to reduce the unemployment, which is very great in the Piacentino. Higher wages, to meet the increased cost of living, sick pay where suffering from complaints recognised by the doctors, no work on public holidays. Negotiations have taken place at intervals between the employers and the strikers. Troops and armed police have been stationed all over the district, supported by machine guns, armoured cars and munition wagons. A strong force was posted near the cemetery, where five peasant victims of the strike were to be buried.

The Chamber of Labour (Camera del Lavoro) has supported the strikers throughout, and issued the following appeal a few days after the commencement of the strike:—

"The peasants' strike continues solid, firm, proud and invincible. It is not true that it has ended. That is a device of the owners to throw dissension amongst us. Nothing has been settled by negotiation. Resist! In solid resistance to the end lies the secret of victory. The end of the strike will be notified

by the Chamber of Labour, when we have won. All news which does not emanate from the Chamber of Labour is false. The strike continues and will continue till victory is attained. Long live the strike."

Many comrades were imprisoned, including Angelo Faggi, Federal Secretary of the Chamber of Labour, and many Socialist organisers who supported the strike have been brutally assaulted.

The following agreement has been arrived at for agricultural labourers for 1919 and 1920. From March 1st to September 30th, 8 hours a day; from October 1st to February 28th, six hours, apart from the herdsmen, who will be paid overtime. No labourer shall work on more than 500 acres. Their wages shall be from 3,700 to 3,250 lire a year (a lire used to be about 9d.). Special male workers shall receive from 2,200 to 1,500 lire an hour, female from 1,500 lire to 75 cts. Overtime shall be paid 25 per cent. above usual pay.

British workers, both agricultural and otherwise, could learn much from the solidity and spirit shown by the Piacenza strikers.

The *Avanti!* of November 10th reports that arrests still continue in connection with the peasants' strike; these now amount to 300, and the Chamber of Labour is holding a conference of all the branches in the town and province to consider the situation.

READERS ARE REQUESTED TO SEND IN THEIR ORDERS EARLY FOR OUR COMMUNIST NUMBER.

HUNGARIAN SOVIET REPUBLIC

A member of the Hungarian Soviet Republic, appalled at the slanderous and distorted reports of the reason of the break up of the Hungarian Soviets on August 1st, 1919, has written the graphic account here reproduced.

When, in the last days of November, 1918, we formed the Hungarian Communist Party, under the leadership of Bela Kun, none of us thought, not even the greatest optimists, that after barely five months, on the memorable 21st March, 1919, the Dictatorship of the Proletariat would be established.

On March 21st, 1919, when Comrade Kun, with all the other imprisoned Communists were released, the first result was that a united Party of the Social-Democrats and Communists was formed under the name of the "Hungarian Socialist Party."

This sentence may possibly fall as a warning on the ears of German and other comrades, although it may appear to some of them as very extraordinary.

On the setting up of the Government, no opposition was shown and no difficulties were made by the Social-Democrats and the former Social-Democratic Comrades who entered the Government took pains, at first, to work with us according to our ideas.

But Budapest was not Hungary! Many of those who were in the organisation of the former Social-Democratic Party, and the active leaders, secretaries and officials of the trade unions suddenly began to oppose us secretly, because to a certain extent they felt that they were deprived of the power they formerly possessed.

How the scum of the earth worked, we saw in the Whitesun counter-revolution of the White scoundrels in the Eisenburg Province, where in conjunction with the clergy, they carried on persecution in regard to the imprisonment of the unarmed masses of the people, and drove the blinded peasants with their anti-Bolshevik weapons (threshing flails and pitch-forks) by the hundred into the devastating fire of our machine guns.

When, in the memorable sitting of the Council of 500, Comrade Bela Kun, in a voice choked with tears, explained the resignation of the Soviet Government, the Socialist Ministry of Peidel came into being.

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day. The quarrels of these People's comrades reached alarming dimensions.

With regard to the second error, I must make something clear which perhaps will not be to the liking of the German comrades.

From my earliest youth, I have been a radical Socialist and have never been an anti-semitic. I state this before what follows in order not to bring grist to the mill of the opposition or to give them a handle for their stupid race-hatred.

Because in Hungary, the most prominent Communist leaders were of Jewish extraction, an enormous number of quite politically indifferent Jews claimed the right to push themselves into all sorts of offices (albeit, only in those where they thought there was something to be gained).

This Jewish mercenary spirit (I purposely do not say "Jews" because a very great number of my friends are Jews, and from an ethical and humane standpoint they tower above a number of so-called good "Christians"), this inherent commercial spirit was the cause of the corruption which in certain districts and offices assumed an aspect which my pen refuses to describe.

This, added to the dilettante and criminal financial policy, was our deathblow. Instead of from the first producing our own bank-notes with the name mentioned in full (as was done towards the end) the Commissioners of Finance took it upon themselves to reprint Austro-Hungarian bank notes for 25 and 200 kronen and 1 and 2 kronen.

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Woe to the Government which has the peasantry against it; it exists only in appearance.

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came with his White Bandits. By the decrees of the Peidel Ministry all local soviets and political commissaries were ordered to stay in office until further notice.

These ten facts were the cause of the break-up.

1. Taking over the Government unprepared. 2. Too few politically reliable comrades. 3. Union with the former Social Democrats. 4. Sabotage on the part of the former Social Democrats.

5. Plunder on the part of the People's Commissary for the Interior by nominating non-elected former Russian prisoners of war for office. 6. Corruption.

7. Antagonism of the peasants. 8. Dilettante financial policy. 9. Appointment of previous officers. 10. The military ascendancy of imperialistic mercenaries.

Comrades! Soviet Hungary is dead! Long live Soviet Hungary! Remain firm on the basis of the Third International! Replace the century-old Dictatorship of Capital with the Dictatorship of the Proletariat! Long live the World Revolution!

INCREASE OF PRODUCTION IN SOVIET RUSSIA.

Le Populaire of October 11th states that according to advices from Zurich, a remarkable increase of production in all industrial undertakings has been observed in Soviet Russia.

England lent the former Imperial Russian Government during the war £568,000,000. In addition the "provisional government" of Archangel was lent £1,350,000 after the armistice!

The Prime Minister has decided to grace the House on Thursdays in order to answer questions. How very kind. The House must feel highly honoured!

Further debates took place on November 10th and 12th on the Industrial Courts Bill.

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ATROCITIES COMMITTED AGAINST I.W.W.

Without giving any credence to the news so freely circulated in the daily Press that armistice day was marked in Washington by excesses on the part of the Industrial Workers of the World, we are glad to give publicity at this moment to the violence used by the Government against the I.W.W. on other occasions.

William D. Haywood, Secretary of the I.W.W., has sent a long list showing the abominable methods used towards anyone even suspected of belonging to the I.W.W. To give our readers an idea of these atrocities, so inhuman that were they not vouched for, and proof given, one could not credit them, we take the following extracts from Comrade Haywood's list:-

Many thousands of members of the Industrial Workers of the World have been imprisoned, on most occasions arrested without warrant and held without charge.

Our members have been cruelly and inhumanly beaten. Hundreds of them can show scars upon their lacerated bodies that were inflicted upon them when they were compelled to run the gauntlet.

Throughout the north-west these kinds of outrages have been continually perpetrated against members of the I.W.W. County jails and city prisons in nearly every state in the Union have held or are holding members of this organisation.

PARLIAMENT AS WE SEE IT.

NOVEMBER 10TH.—Only one fine has been imposed as a result of the Profiteering Act, though 400 complaints have been heard.

Lloyd George has displeased the never-endians by his Guildhall speech. Mr. Bottomley (Ind.) asked whether the Prime Minister's speech meant that negotiations would be opened with Lenin and Trotsky?

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Members of the I.W.W. have been tarred and feathered. Others have been deported, as, for instance, the cases of Bisbee, Arizona, where 1,164 miners, many of them members of the I.W.W., and their friends, were dragged out of their homes, loaded upon box cars, and sent out of the camp.

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"I TRUST IN MY COMRADES."

An attempt has been made to secure the release of Gene Debs. The Ohio comrades sent down a committee to interview Debs, and he told them to return for his answer in thirty days.

On September 20th the committee returned, and received the following answer from Gene: "I have studied this matter for thirty days. Every instinct in me is against making an individual fight for liberty while my comrades rot in jail! Woodrow Wilson and his political crowd sent me here from Moundsville to kill or break me, I shall stay until I die or he is forced to release us all. My faith is in the rank and file of my comrades."

Continuing, Gene stated, "They have put me amongst murderers and rape fiends. But this experience has been absolutely priceless to me in enabling me to appreciate the magnificent qualities that sparkle in these men who are supposed to be the hopeless dregs of humanity."

Gene told stories of how prisoners had risked 130 days in the "Hole," in order that they might pass a piece of pie to him or wave their hands in greeting. They all come to Gene with their troubles, in Atlanta penitentiary. It does not matter what their colour might be, there is that big human soul, Gene Debs, ever ready to brighten up the lives of the poor outcasts that must end their lives in the penitentiary.

"I have lost a few ounces of gristle," Debs remarked, as he touched his fleshless arms, "But I have gained tons of spirit. And while Woodrow Wilson could put me here, he can't make me look at the steel bars or the stone roof. I can see beyond the bars the flowers; and above

the roof I can see the stars, and beyond all this prison poison I can see my comrades, bravely battling for the release of all workers from bondage. We are waging a winning fight, and that makes me bear up and gives me new life."

The above message has reached us from Ohio. The rank and file there are joining the Communist Labour Party, so that better organised they may fight for the release of all class-war prisoners, about which George Hardy recently gave some lurid details in our columns. Not only in America should efforts be made to free the workers in prison, but here in this country much can be done to help.

THE IRONMOULDERS' STRIKE.

The moulders came out on strike for a 15/- increase on September 20th, and so far negotiations with the employers have been abortive. Seven thousand Scottish moulders have tendered strike notices which will expire on November 25th. The National Union of Railwaymen is to withdraw members who are making castings in the railway shops. The strikers are absolutely solid, and intend to win. We appeal for donations for the strikers' families, which should be sent to W. Ratty, Secretary, Central Committee, 5, Lyndon-road, Belvedere, Kent.

The Bermondsey Branch (Tool Makers) on the 14th, passed the following resolution:—

"That a sub-committee be elected to put into operation the necessary machinery for the purposes of obtaining a pure rank and file mass meeting to discuss and decide upon their position and attitude re the 15/- advance." The sub-committee has already met, and openly declared its rank and file intention, and sent out invitations for co-operation.

May the Rank and File of all concerns rise to the occasion.

THE WORKERS' SOCIALIST FEDERATION.

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

Membership open to all Men and Women. Subscription 4d. per month, 4s. per annum. Write to the Secretary, 400, Old Ford Road, London, E.3. Telephone—East 1787.

LONDON MEETINGS—OUTDOOR.

Friday, Nov. 21st 7.30 p.m.—The Square Woolwich. Melvina Walker.

Saturday, Nov. 22nd Great Push for Communism and against Conscription and Intervention in Russia in Greenwich. Meetings at Blackheath Hill at 3 p.m. and at Stockwell St. at 7 p.m. Speakers: Minnie Birch, Melvina Walker, P. A. Edmunds and others.

Sunday, Nov. 23rd 11.45 a.m.—Osborn Street, Melvina Walker.

Friday, Nov. 25th—Sidney St. Mile End 7.30 p.m. Melvina Walker.

Saturday, Nov. 29th Great Push in Hackney.

INDOOR.

Sunday, Nov. 23rd—400, Old Ford Rd. 7 p.m. Miss McCarthy, Chair: W. H. Cousins (see advert).

Monday, Nov. 24th 7.30 p.m.—20, Railway Street Poplar. W.S.F. Business Meeting.

8.30 p.m. W.S.F. Reading Circle.

Thursday, Nov. 27th 8 p.m.—20, Railway Street, Mr. K. Starr. Fourth Lecture on Industrial History, (early Development in Britain).

Friday, Nov. 28th 7—10 p.m.—400, Old Ford Road E.3. Dancing.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS.

EAST LONDON WORKERS' COMMITTEE.

Sunday, Nov. 23rd 12 noon—Victoria Park, Walter Pomeroy and others.

Tuesday, Nov. 25th 7.30 p.m.—Queen's Rd. Dalston Lane. Walter Pomeroy and others.

Thursday, Nov. 27th 7.30 p.m.—400, Old Ford Road, Business Meeting.

Walthamstow League of Rights.

Tuesday, Nov. 25th 3 p.m.—William Morris Hall Somers Road.

Willesden Freedom League.

Sunday, Nov. 23rd 7.30 p.m.—Hamilton Hall, High Road, Willesden, near Pound Lane. Melvina Walker, W. S. F., on "A Woman's View of Present Day Issues." Admission free. Questions invited.

SOUTHWARK HERALD LEAGUE

Sunday, Nov. 23rd 7.30 p.m.—Newington Public Hall, Manor Place, Walthamstow Rd., S.E. Great Demonstration. Speakers: J. T. Murphy, David Ramsay, etc. Chair: Jack Tanner

COLONEL WARD UNMASKED.

At a banquet given at Irkutsk on the occasion of the arrival of the English division, Colonel John Ward made an imperialist speech which was reproduced in *Novosty Zhizni* (News of Life) of Harbin, Manchuria. In the extracts which we here give, Colonel Ward confesses the power of the Bolsheviks, and discloses the British Government's attitude towards Czarism. We also get a fairly clear insight into the sort of mentality of this man, whose reports on Russia receive credence in the Capitalist Press:—

"Passing over the Siberian railroad I have noticed at several stations the Bolshevik red flag while nowhere have I seen the Russian national flag. To my demands of some of the station masters that the flag of Russian shame be taken off, and to my inquiries why the national flags are not floating—the station masters have given but vague answers. One gained the impression that the Russians were ashamed of their national flag and that this feeling of shame was the result of the revolution. I have told these station masters that if the Russian citizens feel ashamed of being Russians, and, perhaps, do not want to have their own empire, their own Russian Government, and their own Russian flag—the vacant place may be occupied, and on their official institutions there may float the flag of that empire, the citizens of which have not forgotten their national integrity."

"For the first time in my stay in Russia I find myself in the company of a Russian body of men where one feels that there is a desire among them to rehabilitate their fatherland and to create such an order that Russia may again take its place among the great empires of Europe, and on equal rights with them. We English cannot but greet this with rejoicing. Our *sojourn here has one aim only—to prevent Russia from deteriorating and to help the Russians re-establish their empire.* We are indifferent as to what form the Russian Government will be moulded in: Whether it be a republic or a monarchy, but if the leaders of Russian public opinion were to adopt as a model the old English Parliament, existing as it has since the eleventh century, and succeeding as it has done, during the long period of its existence, in working out its constitution in the best form, from our point of view, we can only hail it, and we surely will not deny them our help according to our strength. One should bear in mind that a Government, no matter what its form—arerepublican or monarchistic—must rule the country with a strong hand, and must prevent morbid elements from unsettling the life of the State. Our English democratic Government is at times more rigorous than any autocratic Government and knows how to force into submission the elements that make for disorder. An should it come to pass that the police, the hangmen, and the gallows were insufficient, the army loyal to the Government, would always come to the help of its country, at the moment of need."

CHEAP MILK.

The Press department of the Famine Information Bureau draws our attention to the following:—In the current *National Food Journal*, dated 13th October, 1919, and published by the Ministry of Food, the Food Controller, with the concurrence of the Minister of Health, desires to draw attention to the power vested in local authorities to provide milk for expectant and nursing mothers and for children under five years of age, through Maternity and Child Welfare Centres and otherwise, at a reduced price or free of cost in cases in which the local authorities are satisfied that circumstances justify the provision. The Ministry of Health makes a grant of half the expenditure incurred by local authorities and by voluntary societies in supplying milk at less than cost in such cases where the arrangements are approved by them. The Minister of Health has communicated with local authorities on this subject.

The working of this arrangement should not be accompanied by the usual official inquisitiveness. Thus, from February 1st till April 1st there was an increase in output of 14,766 poods.

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, E.C. 4.

LADY Teacher, returned from Central Europe health grounds, owing to famine, seeks employment at once. Any position of trust acceptable. Apply Box 50, Dreadnought, 152 Fleet Street, E.C. 4.

READ

"THE RED DAWN," a Monthly Magazine for Young Workers, Monthly, TWO PENCE.

FAMILY LIMITATION DOCTRINE. Post free, 13d. Malthusian League, 48, Broadway, Westminster.

Printed by The Cosmo Printing Co., 14, Little Howland Street, for the responsible Editor, and published by the W.S.F., 152, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4.

WORKERS' SOCIALIST FEDERATION. PUBLIC MEETING

400, Old Ford Road, E. 3.

Sunday, Nov. 23rd, at 7 p.m.

Miss McCARTHY: "Life in New Zealand."

Discussion invited.

Silver Collection.