Karl Liebknecht's Letters.

See Page 3.

Workers' Dreadnought

FOR FREEDOM AND EQUALITY.

VOL. X. No. 12. SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 1923. WEEKLY.

LINES BY WILLIAM BLAKE.

HOLY THURSDAY.

Is this a holy thing to see
In a rich and fruitful land—
Babes reduced to misery,
Fed with cold and usurous hand?

Is that trembling cry a song?
Can it be a song of joy?
And so many children poor?
It is a land of poverty!

And their sun does never shine,
And their fields are bleak and bare,
And their ways are filled with thorns:
It is eternal winter there.

For where'er the sun does shine,
And where'er the rain does fall,
Babes should never hunger there,
Nor poverty the mind appal.

A LITTLE BOY LOST.

"Nought loves another as itself,
Nor venerates another so,
Nor is it possible to thought
A greater than itself to know.

"And, father, how can I love you
Or any of my brothers more?
I love you like the little bird
That picks up crumbs around the door."

The Priest sat by and heard the child;
In trembling zeal he seized his hair,
He led him by his little coat,
And all admired the priestly care.

And standing on the altar high,
"Lo, what a fiend is here!" said he;
"One who set reason up for judge
Of our most holy mystery."

The weeping child could not be heard,
The weeping parents wept in vain;
They stripped him to his little shirt,
And bound him in an iron chain,

And burned him in a holy place
Where many had been burned before;
The weeping parents wept in vain.
Are such things done on Albion's shore?

THE TWO SONGS.

I heard an Angel singing
When the day was springing:
"Mercy, pity and peace,
Are the world's release."

So he sang all day
Over the new-mown hay,
Till the sun went down,
And haycocks looked brown.

I heard a devil curse
Over the heath and furse:
"Mercy could be no more
If there were nobody poor,
And pity no more could be
If all were happy as ye;
And mutual fear brings peace.
Misery's increase
Are mercy, pity and peace."

At his curse the sun went down,
And the heavens gave a frown.

Russia To-day.

A comrade returned from Russia speaks sadly of the situation there. When the New Economic policy began, Communists said the concessions to Capitalism would last only for ten years, after which Communism would dawn. Now these concessions are being granted to Capitalism for ninety years, or other long terms. One asks the Communists: "What about your ten years' stunt?"

They answer: "It is the policy of the Party—no doubt it is necessary."

The average Communist Party member never thinks for himself: he only follows his leaders.

Capitalism grows like a snowball; new businesses are opening every day.

The Government does no Communist propaganda, nor does the Communist Party. The young Communists do what they can, but they are very short of money for printing, and they get no assistance from the Government. Their paper is largely concerned with anti-Church propaganda, and a special anti-Church newspaper is greatly boosted by them.

We asked the comrade about the "Living Church," which is supporting the Soviet Government against the Czarist prelates. The Living Church, he explained, is organised by supporters of the Government.

The Government is sympathetic to the Living Church, although it would deny any responsibility for the origin of this organisation. It attempts to modernise and popularise the Russian Church sermons, introducing Russian sermons and singing by the congregation.

The comrade knew little of the Workers' Opposition. Its work can only be underground, for all opposition is repressed. The only unofficial Left paper permitted for a time was an Anarchist paper. In its third issue this paper criticised the Government for imprisoning Anarchists and Left Communists. The paper was immediately suppressed.

The physical condition of the people is better than it was some time ago, but the comrade noticed that the people in the streets of Warsaw looked much better clothed than in Moscow. At the Opera in Moscow one sees people even more richly clad than in London, but children selling programmes are in rags. The country people are worse clad than those in the towns.

There are swarms of prostitutes and beggars, numbers of the latter being horribly deformed.

Nothing is being done for education except in a few centres. The best efforts are expended on some of the orphan children, of whom there are an incredible number. Going south towards Samara, children are begging at all the stations. Children travel without tickets on the trains, riding on the buffers, on the steps, or where they can. They beg from the passengers when the train stops at the stations. Occasionally an inspector turns them off. They wait for another train. Large numbers of them are travelling on foot to Moscow. When they arrive they wait about for weeks in the streets or at the railway stations [illegible]g committee sends as many of these children as possible to a home for two months, where they receive medical care, clean clothes, and so on. From thence they are drafted to Colonies where thep receive education. Children showing special talent are sent from the colonies to such institutions as the Pushkin Art School, a school of music which contains sixty children, or the Beetza School for the production of medical plant, with 150 pupils.

There is a good deal of charitable work going on, but apparently no attempt to build a Communist system. The Pushkin School itself depends on the Italian Mission for most of its food. The Government pays the teachers, but finds no equipment. There were no washing bowls. When those responsible for the management of the school applied to the Government for them, they were told that the application was absurd.

"Are not such incidents due to the corruption of minor officials?" we asked the comrade. He replied that he thought so in many cases, and cited some startling examples which had come to his notice.

An Anti-Bribery Commission is sitting to counteract this evil, which has been rife in Russia from long before the Revolution.

Those who are working to alleviate distress are everywhere confronted with a great shortage of equipment. Two of the orphan homes waited long for bedding of any kind. Two others were obliged to close their doors to new entrants for two months.

The comrade had not worked in the factories, but the conditions of factory workers seemed to him relatively good. Their clothing seemed to him better than in England, and he admired the nurseries attached to the factories for the children of workers. The children were well cared for there. It seemed to him that a relatively larger proportion of mothers worked in the factories than in England, but he had no statistical information.

We asked: "Is that because wages are so low that the wife, as well as the husband, is obliged to work in the factory, or is it from choice? Does Soviet Russia provide facilities which will free the woman from the necessity of washing, cleaning, and sewing after the factory work is done?"

The comrade replied that he feared the spur of necessity drives the Russian mother to the factory, and that there are no special facilities to lighten her load, except the factory nurseries.

The American Textile Workers' Union gave machinery and funds to the Soviet Government to set up a textile factory in Russia. The workers in that factory who came over from the States declare they were better off in America. The women especially said they could not manage on the husband's wage, that they also must work in the factory, which was too hard for them, together with their housework. The U.S. Textile Workers' Union has also a factory of its own in Russia, called the Hillman Trust, after its secretary. This factory is run at a profit, and the Union draws dividends from it.

Wages are often inandequate in Russia; but, said the comrade, th[illegible]nkness

and comradeship than in England: people care more for the next person than is the case here. The head master and mistress of the Pushkin School and their two children get £2 10s. a month to live on. They would have a very hard time, but friends and neighbours help to supply their needs. That spirit is common, except amongst the "nepmen," or profiteers.

"Is it due to the Revolution?" we asked.

Partly, said the comrade; but there was always more of it in Russia than with us.

Even in Russia one finds more brotherliness in the country than in the town.

The economic screw is being put on the townspeople more and more. The free rations, clothing, and rent and fuel of the early days after the Revolution are gone. The Government now expects everyone to be independently self-supporting; every enterprise to pay for itself. By arrangement with the Representative Plenipotentiary, certain relief works were permitted to import free of duty, and to transport free on the railways. Months of negotiation then took place between the Representative Plenipotentiary and the Customs and railway departments. Finally the Representative Plenipotentiary paid the Customs and railway dues, and afterwards recovered the money from the Ministry of Finance. Such transactions are constant, and entail much bookkeeping and huge delays.

Red tape, indeed, plays a large part in Russian affairs. A comrade had an appointment with a Government official, but was denied admittance by the porter. After a wrangle of half an hour he went to a telephone just outside the office, rang up the official and asked: "Can I see you?" He was immediately admitted.

Bureaucratic delays and truculence appear to be growing.

It is a common thing to see prisoners, often as many women as men, taken through the streets between guards who carry revolvers in their hands with the muzzles turned downward.

There is still much enthusiasm amongst the young people and the children in the orphan homes, but no one seems to have a clear idea whither things are tending or at what they are aiming.

THE OLD MAN OF THE SEA.

The International Federation of Trade Unions has proposed that war shall be the signal for an international general strike. We wish the Federation meant it.

Mr. Samuel Gompers, the "Old Man of the Sea" of American Labour, protests that American Labour is opposed to war,

"but cannot give its consent to an abdication of its national autonomy, or to support of policies which are foreign to the whole structure of the American Labour Movement. . . . Those who think that it is possible to make effective a general and all-inclusive declaration that in the event of war, no matter how defensive, there should be an immediate general strike of workers in all nations, are living in an unreal world, and, furthermore, are seeking to promote a doctrine which it is neither possible nor desirable to promote successfully."

There it is: Gompers does not want the workers to stop a war, "however defensive!"

THE NEW ARMIES.

The armies of the new "democratic" States set up by the diplomats at Versailles show the following growth, though these little nations are bankrupt:

	Pre-war.	Present.
Poland	190,000	275,000
Finland	30,000	120,000
Czecho-Slovakia	73,000	160,000

These nations used to supply armies for their overlords; now they supply them for their Allies.

I BECOME A MILLIONAIRE.

By L. A. Motler.

Of course you know Holland, Henry. It is a low-lying country. Mind that hyphen, please. Otherwise there will be another ultimatum flying about and the price of Dutch eels, fried, will go up.

When I was at school my teacher would insist on reading to me a long harangue that was double-Dutch to me. Then she would say: "Now, tell me something about Holland." So I would then rise up and give her some extracts from that famous cousin of mine, John Motley, coupled with one or two hints from Cooks about one-day excursions. Which was all very good of me, considering that I had never set foot on a dyke or cursed a dam.

Until t'otherest day, that is. If I remember, it was one of those Manchester mornings when you feel a bit all-overish and wonder whether you had not better stay in and pull the weeds out of the plant-pots you keep on your window-sill in your "bed-sitting, suit young gentleman at work all day or young couple, own meter."

I am, however, from Manchester myself, so it takes more than a bit of low visibility to make me dash for the local bomb-proof shelter. At any rate, I said to myself:

"Mebbe it's going to rain. And then again, mebbe, it's going to not. Howsumdever, strictly between you and me and this morning's whether or not forecast, one drop of rain is much the same as another. What about seeing some drops, quality guaranteed, latest style, as worn by the Prince of Wales, in—shall we say?—Holland? True, 'tis not a great country, but from Holland you can go almost anywhere. And, maybe, you might be able to gather a few Dutch cheeses straight from the trees, all a-blowing, all a-growing."

And so, of course, if you had been listening carefully on a certain May morning, you might have observed me rushing down platform No. 8 just as the boat train was getting up steam. I am a punctual man myself, but somehow the clocks and I didn't seem to agree. I notice it is usually ten past, when I could have sworn it was twenty to. How this comes to be I have never been able to find out. And yet Matilda always blames me when I get there at five past. Five past, mind you, and I could have sworn——

Generally speaking, when you travel by the night boat you do not get a very lucid description of the local scenery, so you won't get none from me. Besides, it was all sea, just dark, nasty waves bobbing up and down and trying to make believe it was the North Sea and the German Ocean at the same time.

I had breakfast somewhere round the Hook of Holland. To tell you the truth, Henry, I saw no signs of a Hook, but after taking a good look at my breakfast bill and making a lightning calculation in gulden, florins, francs and marks, I decided that if there was no Hook, there was certainly a catch somewhere.

Says I to myself: "Cheer up, old pork and beans. Didn't you learn at school that this blessed country is a low, lying place, full of dams?" So I gave the waiter another order for jellied eel. And, of course, he brought it about the time I was in the train, half-way to the German frontier.

Now I want this kept a dark secret, as dark as that horse you have got up your sleeve for the Derby. I have—yes, I admit it, even though my reputation is what it is—I have been to Germany. (I do wish the printer could put it in small type, or, maybe, call it Llanfairgyllywygoch, or something. I want it kept dark, mind.)

But, of course, I have not come to that yet. Generally speaking, if you want to get a good idea of what Holland is like, you may take a fourpenny 'bus ride, and you'll see the same grass, the same trees, the same cows. Only in Holland they make the cows comfortable. You will find them gaily chewing the cud, whatever that is. I am not keen on these chewing-gums [illegible] dressed gaily in canvas coats. I don't know if it is to keep off the sun, or the flies, or the rain. Probably all three of them. And most likely they go to bed with hot-water bottles, I don't know. I didn't stop to ask them, not knowing the cow language; and, like too many people, they are too lazy to learn Esperanto. (Turn over a few pages for your first lesson.)

Anyway, I believe I did fall asleep, but only for a few minutes, believe me. They wake you up at Oldenzaal to give you a kind of souvenir. They take a look at your ticket first, then your passport, then they insist on seeing your wardrobe. I suppose they like to know if you have really got the latest fashion in pyjamas. But, to tell the truth—ahem, I forgot this is a family paper.

Then, after carefully counting your cigarettes, they let you go. In half an hour you get wakened up again. This time it is the Germans. They like to make sure the Dutch have not overlooked anything. Or, maybe, they have a spite against the Dutch. Anyway, they yank you out, bag and baggage, and you can't even leave your old hat to keep your seat. And, even if you do, they are more likely than not to change the name-plates on the train, and you'll find too late that your Berlin half of the train has been swopped for the Hamburg half.

Here, in Bentheim (it is called Bad Bentheim in German, and everybody agrees it is so), they go through the same proceeding, only more so. They even count your change, and enter it on a nice yellow form. But this helps, because the next minute you know whether you are to be a millionaire or not.

For four bright golden quidlets, or, since we are forced to it, four strips of paper with "One Pound" printed across them, you can buy a million marks and a bit over. There is a sort of charm about it until you find you have to cough up five thousand of them for a packet of the local woodbines. In order to save you counting the marks separately, it is just as well to pick out that little bit with "Funftauzend" on it. If you can get over the shock, you will easily realise you are only forking over the modest sum of somewhere around fourpence halfpenny.

You arrive, therefore, in Berlin almost as good as a Rockefeller—in marks, of course. But, believe me, Henry, a millionaire is a millionaire. The dictionary has no "but" about it.

And now, having established your position by becoming a bloated aristocrat with the help of four Jimmy o' goblins, you will be able to cast a stern and judicial eye on the wages and buying powers of the wily Hun workman.

THE BANKRUPTCY OF CHINA.

China is said to be bankrupt; yet at the same time China is said to be economically richer than ever before. Her cotton industry is growing rapidly, and her foreign trade expanding. China's various Governments are bankrupt because they have not learnt how to finance themselves from China's industrial wealth. The International Banking Consortium is refusing to lend any more money to China's so-called Central Government until the consortium is given some financial control, and may thus introduce Western methods into Chinese government.

CONSTANCE LYTTON.

Dear Editor,—

I was deeply touched by your fine tribute to Constance Lytton, or Lady Connie, as she was affectionately called at Knebworth, where everyone loved her.

Her good work must continue. I will gladly keep up her subscription to the "Dreadnought." Kindly let me know the amount, and I will ask you to put it down in her name as if she were still alive.

Yours faithfully,

SEPDEKJAYA SUFRAGULO.

Welwyn Garden City.

LETTERS OF KARL LIEBKNECHT.

Translated from the German by G. B.

July 7th, 1915.

My Dearest William,—

I left a week ago. I had an adventurous run across country towards Cuestrin, escorted by a non-commissioned officer who was told off to see me safely out of the way. I was sent away from barracks because the men were too fond of gathering round me—quick, off you go! with victuals for four days, and 300 marks 3 pfennigs a day for ten days. The food was so abundant that I should have had to employ a porter if I had not given away seven-eighths to my comrades.

I arrived in Memel on the 30th, where I was obliged to stop and wait for money, as it is almost impossible to receive it where I am now—it takes two or three weeks. In Memel I found friends—I lived with a comrade (Wolff)—and we went together for several excursions to the isthmus of Curlandia and towards Schwartzort, where the refugees from Memel during the Russian invasion were so shamelessly robbed by the hotel-keepers. We went for sea bathes, cold but delightful. The trips we went on the Haff were as beautiful as those we took on the Havel. At Memel the only reminders of the Russian occupation are the broken windows. It must have been much worse in the outlying neighbourhood, but I was not able to see anything. A good deal of sacking took place, but chiefly of food and clothing. This kind of pillage, however, is not considered sacking according to German military rights. Many civilians seem to have been shot: I do not know in what circumstances, perhaps in street fights. The accusations of the population, naturally very frightened, and much to be pitied, are to be accepted with reserve. I heard on the way foolish and horrible stories of amputated hands, and all I heard in reply to my doubts was: "Oh, the Government contradicts all that to tranquilise the population."

During the night of the 1st, or in the morning of the 2nd, a German ship was torpedoed on her voyage from Libau to Memel by an English or Russian submarine. Consequently, no transport ship left Memel for Libau on the 2nd; one was to have left on the 3rd, under the protection of an armed escort—a small river tug, the "Puck," no larger than the small steamers that ply on the Wannsee, armed with a few small cannon. But in the end the transport was kept back, and only the "Puck" left, and I got leave to embark on it. The voyage was very uncomfortable—there were no seats, there was not even a handrail, so that we had to take care not to be pitched overboard. But there was a beautiful fresh breeze over the sea, a moonlight night, and a rosy sunrise, so I managed to pass a splendid night, notwithstanding the dirtiness and sea-sickness of some of my fellow-travellers. We had to go a long way round, for fear of the mines; the Russians have sown the sea thick with mines all round Libau. A German pilot-ship lies at the bottom of the sea near the line of the English ships. We did our voyage without a pilot, and had a good crossing. Libau, with all its towers, can be seen a long way out at sea. It is an enormous and magnificent port, of which I have never seen the equal. The entrance is still closed by sunken ships, which are, however, now being blown up. Two divers have already lost their lives during this operation. The third sailed with me on the "Puck." Libau, which is very clean, is not interesting.

I left Libau for Grobin, about 12 kilometers off, with three artillerymen who were bound for the same place; we rode in a hired carriage—a big cart—with our legs dangling over the sides. After a lot of trouble, I unearthed the headquarters of my battalion. I reported to the captain, Captain Simon, of the artillery, and to the aides-de-camp, and we went at once to put out a fire which had burst out in a wood. We set out later in a hay-cart for Aistern-Krug, where the company headquarters are. At 10 o'clock the same evening we resumed our journey in the same hay-cart, over rough, uneven roads, to Warwen, near Burben—headquarters of the 4th Division. There the rank and file were nearly all from Berlin, mostly comrades. Our quarters, a corn-loft without windows, but which we can shut up securely. Everyone has a straw mattress, which is, of course, laid on the floor, and one blanket; our cloaks serve us as pillows, and there are plenty of small vermin. Very little and very bad water, but our company is very lively. Our non.-com. is a good fellow. The sanitary arrangements are very bad. To-day I was vaccinated for cholera; but while in Loraine a freshly-sterilised syringe was used for each man, here the same syringe was used for three persons—and I was third. In this way the most horrible diseases may be spread, and in fact many of our men here are very ill.

The population here is nearly all Lettonian. Every corner is full of German soldiers, and very few civilians are to be seen. The country is very like that of Eastern Prussia. Broad rolling downs, varying from 90 feet to 300 feet in height, covered with small woods and dotted with tiny villages and hamlets, which peep out from among the trees. There is a particular kind of tree found in these woods—a knotted, twisted growth from a large trunk, light in colour, not very tall, with leaves resembling those of the willow—what can it be? Sophie, who is certainly away just now, must know it. Here and there are a few lakes; we can see one looking like a silver ribbon, about an hour's walk from this hamlet. In the evenings the valleys are all hidden in a dense white mist. There are few signs of the war here—a few fortresses at Libau blown up, the half-buried decaying body of a horse, and a few bombs. We are working on the fortifications a considerable distance from the front; we cannot even hear the roar of the cannon—now and then a German airship passes over. The weather is fine, and the food plentiful and good. There is no censoring of our correspondence, as far as I can find out. Let Bobby and Vera read this letter—Sophie first, of course, if she is still at home—the letter is for all of you. Write soon and tell me all the news. I have had no news from any of you for about ten days, and that worries me. Be good, all of you.

Heaps of kisses to you all,

Your FATHER.

Fifteen thousand Norfolk farm labourers have been refused employment as a result of the strike "settled" by the leader of the Labour Party.

(Continued from page 4.)

proceedings arising out of the Camelot outrages of June 1st, which are taking place in the French Courts, show that the authorities are not prepared to take severe steps against the French Fascists.

* * *

Fascism in Italy.

ITALIAN FASCISM continues in its path of terrorism. On May 31st Mussolini secured from the Italian Parliament the finance necessary for him to continue his dictatorship till June 30th, 1924, by 188 votes to 62, and a vote of confidence in himself by 283 votes to 83. To create the atmosphere necessary for such votes, many Members of Parliament were intimidated by threats; and Misuri, a Fascist Member, who showed signs of independence, was beaten in the streets of Rome.

* * *

The I.L.P. and Fascism.

AT THIS JUNCTURE the I.L.P. publication, the "Socialist Review," edited by Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, publishes a eulogy of Mussolini and Fascism by an Italian living in London, named Pellizzi, which is full of utterly untruthful statements and is a tissue of lies from start to finish.

A COMMUNIST READS HIS LOCAL NEWSPAPER.

I pick up my paper without any particular enthusiasm or keenness. It is a habit we have—not, perhaps, one of the best. My indifference is heightened by the fact that I know a little of what happens "behind the scenes." The ordinary local newspaper is just a commercial proposition. The one before me is no exception to the rule. That it hasn't any orthodox political colour doesn't alter the fact. It's policy is not to offend anyone, and to say—more or less—nice things about everyone. Of course, if you are too unorthodox, the paper might not consider your feelings too much, and it could not withstand, say, the demands of a militant patriotism—and war.

Before me lies another weekly local newssheet, published within a hundred mile radius of where I write. The officer in command of the troops stationed at that place is perturbed by the "large percentage of the younger civilian spectators of the parades failing to render the customary honour to the Colours of raising or removing the head-dress." He is charitable, too, and believes "the main cause of the omission lies in the ignorance, both of the significance of the Regimental Colours and of the honour in which they are held." And the newspaper, as an addendum to the officer's letter, feels sure that "the public authorities concerned will take every step that may help to remedy the defect referred to. This district prides itself on the possession of a great respect for the Army, and all the Army stands for, and the citizens will readily co-operate in any effort to ensure a proper respect being paid to the Colours."

There might, of course, be a difference of opinion as to what "proper" respect may mean, but I, for one, am willing to render respect (to be interpreted in my own deeply—and paradoxically?—individualistic fashion) to every thing and every one that seems to demand it. But in the absence of any explanation of "all that the Army stands for" I must perforce exercise my own discretion as to what this statement means.

The respect of the masses of the people would naturally go out, I take it, to any body of individuals which had treated them kindly and stood loyally by their interests. Has the British Army, under the direction of British Governments, who, of course, are responsible, stood for these interests?

Has the Government made the function of the Army to preserve to every man, woman and child the necessities and comforts of life? Has the Government used the Army to prevent profiteering and profit making and the sacrifice of human life in the interests of private profit?

These surely should be among the very first considerations of any organised force supposed to exist for the defence of the people.

But I seem to remember that the Army has been used against men whose only claim has been the very modest one of desiring a slightly better standard of living than their employers have been willing to accede. I find it harder to recollect any instance of the Army coercing representatives of big business into giving their workpeople a higher standard of living or more control over their work.

My impartial local paper supplies an answer. A speaker, addressing a crowd in the market-place, laid his indictment of present-day conditions on the heads of those he addressed, and those similar everyday people he could not address. "What have you done," he asked, "what has been done in your name?"

Yes, fellow-victims of the same society, the indictment lies at our doors. We have given all power into the hands of the representatives of big business, and allowed them to continue a system that drives into the Army, through economic pressure, the members of our class.

BEE.

Workers' Dreadnought

Founded 1914.

Editor: SYLVIA PANKHURST.

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Our View.

The Security Mongers Again.

A NEW "PREPAREDNESS" Campaign is now seriously under weigh. Lord Birkenhead and Major-General Seely, not having found employment in the Government, are now engaged in working up the propaganda necessary for increased expenditure on the fighting forces of the Government, beginning with the Air Force. To this end they have formed the Air League of the British Empire. The present demand is for a one-power standard for the Air Force. France has to-day 140 squadrons and 1,260 machines. Britain has 34 squadrons and 395 machines; that is to say, Britain is supposed to have that number, but in the House of Commons recently information regarding aircraft was refused, on the ground that it was "not in the public interest" to disclose it. To bring the stated British standard up to the stated French standard would cost £38,000,000. The people are expected to bear that additional burden, which ultimately can only fall upon the producing classes.

The Air League of the British Empire is acting, of course, with the full approval of the Government and all the great Imperialist interests. For its conference on May 30th the Mansion House was lent by the Lord Mayor of London. The Government has already decided that a great increase in the Air Force is necessary, and a committee appointed by the Government is considering what the increase shall be. The Air Force League propaganda is merely to prepare the public mind for vastly increased expenditure, although the so-called "war to end war" was won by those who pretended to be the peacemakers.

* * *

Mr. Lansbury Suggests a Poll Tax.

WILD PROPOSALS are often made by impulsive people whose economic thinking is not clear. Such was the statement of Mr. George Lansbury at a mass meeting of ex-Service trainees at Camden Town. He said:

"If I were Mussolini" (observe, by the way, pacifist Mr. Lansbury does not shrink from comparing himself with the renegade murderer), "I would put a tax on every able-bodied man in the country to keep in decent comfort the wives and dependants of disabled men."

Mr. Lansbury could hardly have been thinking what he was about when he suggested putting a tax on ill-paid labourers for the support of men disabled in the war fought in the interests of the very rich. Had he reflected, he would have proposed that the tax be paid by the super-tax payers.

There is one important point that most people are apt to overlook—that is, that the people who would maintain the disabled men under Mr. Lansbury's proposal are the same who maintain them now; the people who, by their labour, produce and transport the food, clothes, and other things used by the disabled men. No taxation adjustments can change that fact. Whether the cost of maintaining those who do not produce is raised by taxation or dividends does not affect the case.

Mr. Lansbury added:

"I would take land, just as the men at the front had taken it, and send the young men into camps. There would be no protest for anybody, but the recompense to the community would be the preservation of the bodies and the morals of the young men. Thus would the situation be somewhat cleared for the older men who had wives and families to support."

If that represents any concrete scheme, it apparently means that productive work is to be left to older men, whilst the young men are to live the rough monotonous life of camps, producing nothing, or practically nothing. The Labour Party Unemployment Bill makes similar proposals. However euphemistically such schemes may be described, they provide in practice nothing more than a penal existence for the unemployed. They are wasteful of the productive energy of the people, and amount to no more than an unsatisfactory tinkering with problems which must be attacked from the rooot.

GERMINAL
Will contain a story
by
MAXIM GORKY
every month.

The Solution.

WHAT IS THE SOLUTION for unemployment and the maintenance of the disabled? Production for use, not profit. The Capitalist system of production and distribution removed, the people in every locality should be invited to send in to statistical depots weekly or daily budgets of their desires in food, their yearly consumption of clothing, their housing requirements, their wishes in regard to books, pictures, furniture, etc. These would be tabulated and sent to the distributive and productive centres. The people would set themselves locally, nationally and internationally to produce what the people desired.

* * *

Barbarism, Blasphemy, and Capital Punishment.

A GREEDY CAPITALISM and an imperialist Government are endeavouring to stir up ignorant popular prejudice on the subject of Russia's exclusion of religious teaching in the State schools. Meanwhile, the Danish Punishment Law Commission has recommended the abolition of punishment for blasphemy, on the ground that it is unnatural to use the law to protect from mockery and derision the beliefs and worship of religius societies. In this country Lord Russell's Bill to abolish blasphemy has been thrown out by the House of Lords by a majority of 68 votes to 8. It remains technically illegal to assert that Christ is not the Son of God, or even to deny the tenets of the Church of England. The Danish Commission has also recommended the abolition of capital punishment, corporal punishment, and imprisonment on bread and water. There have been no executions in Denmark for thirty years, and only four in the previous twenty-six years. Our Scandinavian contemporaries are far ahead of us in many ways.

* * *

Derby Day.

BY THOUSANDS OF WORKERS Derby Day is looked forward to as the occasion of their annual effort to cheat fate by securing unearned money. To receive unearned money is habitual to the rich; it is a remarkable—nay, almost a magic—event to the wage-earning classes.

When the private-property system has disappeared races may continue to be run, but betting will be no more. Derby Day, to us, will always be associated with the memory of Emily Wilding Davidson, who gave her life in attempting to stop the Derby runners, in order to cause all the world to remember that British women were struggling for political enfranchisement which the Government denied. Some have called her deed a foolish sacrifice; but it is such deeds that stir the people from their apathy and make the success of causes.

* * *

Irish Free State uses Troops in Strike.

THE SPECIAL INFANTRY CORPS is being used by the Irish Free State Government to protect the farmers in the Waterford farm workers' strike. The farmers are rushing their butter and other produce out of the district by motor, because the strikers are so well organised, that if they can get to know where the produce is going, they can stop it being handled by workers in other parts of the country. This has been systematically done by Irish strikers for a long time past. When the farmers' car of produce was followed by a strike pickets' motor the other day, the soldiers intervened to stop the strike car, and arrested the pickets on the charge of refusing to give their names and addresses. This was simply done to enable the farmers to get away unobserved.

The bitter fight which the farmers are prepared to put up is evidenced by the fact that after the seizure of creameries by strikers in West Waterford last year, some of the farmers dragged labourers from their homes and burned down the houses before the eyes of these unfortunate workers.

Irish agricultural workers, once far worse paid than British, by their vigorous tactics have been able to maintain their wages at a higher standard than is the case here. The Waterford strikers have been getting 38/6 a week, and are striking against a reduction to 30/-. Norfolk labourers, getting 25/- a week, recently struck against a further reduction of that paltry wage. In Co. Dublin the rate is 43/- a week.

The movement for the soviets in Ireland is said to be theoretically weak. Be that as it may, soviets have again and again arisen in that green island across the sea. The Irish workers have given evidence that they can act. What they lack is a general comprehension that the soviets should be regarded, not as a weapon for forcing concessions from the employer, but as the permanent successor of the employer, so that the employing system may go out of existence altogether. A national move for the soviets should be inaugurated, so that, instead of jumping up here and there and subsiding before they have arisen somewhere else, soviets shall spread all over the country.

James Larkin is calling for a truce of God in Ireland. We advise him to start a big push for the Irish soviets.

* * *

Fascism Spreads to France.

FASCISM is undoubtedly spreading. It has control in Italy. In Germany due weight because of the which fails to be given its is a lively growth, a fact special circumstances of the Ruhr invasion. Now Fascism has broken forth in a violent form in France. There it has a two-fold organisation, the older political and Royalist wing, the "Camelots du Roy," and the new industrial wing, the "Union Civique," or Citizens' League. This latter organisation has published, with the approval of the Minister of Public Works, a programme of strike-breaking instruction, by which railway firemen are to be taught their duties in a week, engine drivers in five days to two weeks, signalmen and guards in eight to twelve days. Both wings are adopting the Fascist outrages on opponents by castor oil, beating, and shooting.

The outrage by the political wing of the French Fascists, the "Camelots du Roy, upon M. Marc Sagneur, M. Marius Moutet, and M. and Mme. Violette, has aroused considerable indignation, especially as owing to a mixture of ink and turpentine being poured into their eyes, as well as being assaulted by kicking and beating, M. and Mme. Violette had to be removed to hospital. The Chamber of Deputies has shown its disapproval by ordering that the speeches of protest made in the Chamber shall be printed. Nevertheless, the

(Continued on page 3, centre column.)

Parliament As We See It.

IRISH DEPORTEES.

When the Commons assembled after their Whitsun holiday, eleven petitions were presented on behalf of deportees to Ireland, that they might not be deprived of compensation for unlawful imprisonment by the Government Bill, and that they might be heard in support of their petitions at the Bar of the House.

Mr. Pringle (L.) cited as precedents the case of Smith O'Brien, whose petition against transportation was received in 1849, and a deputation from Newfoundland, which was heard at the Bar, protesting against a fisheries Bill in 1891.

The Speaker nevertheless declared that the petitions could not be heard.

RECALL OF RUSSIAN AMBASSADORS DEMANDED.

Lieutenant-Commander Kenworthy (Lib.) asked whether the British Government had demanded the recall of Russian Ambassadors in Afghanistan and Persia.

Mr. McNeill, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, replied that he was not in a position to make a statement.

Mr. Baldwin (Lab.) asked how the Press gets such information, since Parliament cannot be told.

U.S. NAVY.

The U.S. Navy Act, 1923, contains a request to the President to negotiate with the Governments of Britain, France, and Italy for the limitation of aircraft, submarines, and craft of 10,000 tons or less.

Mr. McNeil (C.) replied that such requests are not binding on the President, and he has not fulfilled this one.

SUEZ CANAL.

The British Government holds 160,101 shares in the Suez Canal out of 360,481, and 300 qualifying shares. Interest in 1922 was £1,094,303.

BONAR LAW AND BALDWIN.

Mr. Ramsay Macdonald (Lab.): "We are full of regret that the late Prime Minister has had . . . to give up the very high office of which he was possessed. . . During the last month or two the late Prime Minister won from us a strange, mysterious sympathy, because we saw in him much less of a Party leader than a strong, courageous, devoted man, doing his duty in almost impossible circumstances. . . . We hope . . . the late Prime Minister will return, and in his own special and unique way join in our councils and help us to attain to the political wisdom that we all desire. I hope that that may be conveyed to the late Prime Minister, and that it may, at any rate, be part of the balm which we all hope will restore him to a tolerable measure of good health again. . . .

". . . I congratulate the right hon. gentleman on his new office. . . . If I may, I would congratulate this House on the fact that the Leader of this House has been chosen as the Prime Minister of this country. I happen to have heard expressed some ideas of his, some academic and some bucolic ideas which, I regret, I cannot join in the conspiracy to enable him to carry out. His fate is against him. I shall do my best to frustrate his politics and confound his knavish tricks. That does not take one jot or tittle from the sincerity of the congratulations which I have to offer."

Messrs. Asquith and Lloyd George were less warm in their congratulations than Mr. Macdonald, who specialises in polish.

THE INDEMNITY BILL.

The Home Secretary said he had consulted the Attorney-General and taken his advice when he issued the orders to deport certain persons to Ireland. During the course of his speech he was several times interrupted by Members, who reminded him that the case of the deportees on trial is sub-judice, and that he might prejudice the case with the jury.

The Speaker said that he was not capable of deciding a point like that; he had not had much experience of the Courts of Law. He would leave the matter to the Home Secretary.

The Home Secretary said he had taken the course he did to save life. He made some vague and sensational statements about "the sort of thing that might happen—and that did happen, but gave no specific facts. The untruthfulness and meanness of the Home Secretary were clearly revealed in the course of the debate. He declared that he had retained control of the deportees during their incarceration in Ireland. When reminded that he had made the opposite plea in Court, he said:

"I did not myself plead that: I did not go to Court."

When asked if he had sworn an affidavit to that effect, he failed to answer. He had previously told the House that certain documents existed—now it was revealed that there were no such documents.

As to the deportees who were released, he had announced that they had given an undertaking. This they deny. He had said that one deportee had been released on account of bad health, whereas in fact a mistake had been made. Many deportees have lost their employment in consequence. The Government gave no pledge to compensate them for that. Mr. Lansbury (Lab.) told of the ill-treatment of fifteen women deportees. He asked in vain whether they would be compensated for their sufferings.

The Indemnity Bill passed the Second Reading by 297 votes to 143. It passed through committee and was read a third time without a division.

RUHR CHARGES.

Each day outcries are raised by Members on behalf of British traders sending goods to the Ruhr. Members ask whether the French, who annex the Customs duties paid on British goods, are keeping the money till British traders have paid for reparations. Complaints are made that the export duties on goods shipped from Germany are higher than on those going to France and Belgium.

TRADE UNION MEMBERS.

Mr. Remer was refused leave to introduce his Bill to free members of Trade Unions from the obligation to subscribe to levies for the payment of salaries to Members of Parliament by 158 votes to 174. The Bill was defeated because there is another with the same object, which most of the Tories prefer.

DIRECTORS OF SUEZ CANAL.

There are 32 members of the Administrative Council of the Suez Canal Company. In 1920 and 1921 the following sums were distributed amongst them:

	Francs.
1920	2,873,239.44
1921	2,985,239.44

RUSSIAN TRADE AGREEMENT.

Ten provincial Chambers of Commerce and the Russian section of the London Chamber of Commerce have written to the Government approving the policy embodied in the note to Russia. The majority state that the Trade Agreement is of no value to British trade.

Mr. Ben Turner (Lab.) asked whether the Trade Union Congress and a large number of trades councils had also sent in their opinion, and whether their opinion is not as valuable as that of Chambers of Commerce.

The Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs: "It is a matter of opinion."

BRITISH CLAIMANTS ON RUSSIA.

Thirty-five thousand persons have registered claims for compensation from Soviet Russia. Some of these persons have each a number of separate claims.

By compensating Mrs. Stan Harding and Mrs. Davidson, the Soviets will by no means have destroyed the dragon of compensation claims.

TERRITORIAL WATERS.

The British Foreign Office refuses to recognise the claim of other nations to more than three miles territorial waters, except where it suits British interests. Thus the pearl banks off the coast of Ceylon, even though situated under the high seas more than three miles from shore, are under control of the rulers of the neighbouring territories, and, by agreement, Britain, the United States, Russia, and Japan in 1911 divided up amongst them the North Pacific Ocean for sealing purposes.

A FUTILE SUGGESTION.

Mr. Ben Turner (Lab.) asked the Government to call together representatives of the Churches, Chambers of Commerce, Co-operative Movement, and Trades Union Congress, to secure united action in favour of peace.

The Prime Minister refused.

What more does Mr. Turner think would come of it than resolutions—to be broken when Big Business wants war?

LORD CAVAN IN POLAND.

Lieut.-Colonel Guinness, for the Foreign Office, said Lord Cavan visited Poland in an official capacity. "The visit was undertaken at the invitation of the Polish military authorities, and it reciprocated the recent visit of the Chief of the Polish General Staff to England."

THE SKYE RAIDERS.

Six men of Skye, six men out of 5,000 who have been promised small holdings by the Government and have waited in vain, took the law and the small holdings into their own hands. They have been sent to prison, but have been promised that they shall reap the crops they sowed on the raided land, and that they shall be provided with holdings to work next year. There have been other raids in Skye, Lewis, North and South Uist, Voteray, and so on: nine raids in all in recent years, and in every case the men who have seized the land have been allowed to keep it, because of the great explosion of public feeling that has been aroused.

The people of the Highlands of Scotland still believe in the old tribal Communism, the memory of which is not dead, in spite of the persecution used to drive them from the soil. They do not believe that land can be bought and sold. They believe it belongs to the clan, and that all members of the clan may have access to it to work it.

During the war, when the Government raised the cry of "More food production," some few men of the Highlands settled on land which had been allowed to go out of cultivation, to grow food upon it. They were imprisoned by the Government, which was giving subsidies for corn growing.

In 1913 the Board of Agriculture bought land in Skye, to be broken up into small holdings. In 1914 the men who had been promised that land went overseas to fight. Amongst these were the six men now in gaol:

Alastair Mackinnon has a wife and two children.

Alexander Robertson has a wife and three children.

Alexander McKinnon, who had a part of his face blown away in the Great War.

John Nicholson has a wife and two children.

John Grant.

Donald Mackinnon, who fought at Ypres, Passchendale, Cambrai, Arras, and lost an arm at La Basée.

All, save one, have been partially disabled by war service.

Whilst they were away the Board of Agriculture sold back the land to its former owner for sporting purposes.

Therefore, after long waiting, the six men began to cultivate the land which had been relegated to the deer. They were summoned to appear in Court in Edinburgh, but had no money to travel there. They had never left the island of Skye except to go to the war.

For non-appearance at the Court in Edinburgh they were sentenced to two months' imprisonment.

The matter having been twice raised in Parliament, and great feeling being roused, both in Skye and Edinburgh, Captain Elliot (Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Health for Scotland) said that if the men would apologise they would be released, as explained above. He added that the Government desires to proceed with the work of land settlement without delay, and he begged the Labour Party to co-operate with him in not letting it be thought that "only by raiding can small holdings be obtained."

Mr. Ramsay Macdonald responded, as ever, to the appeal. "We all deprecate raiding," he said; "it will be our pleasure, as well as our duty, to go and say to these people: 'Give the Government a chance . . . go back and return to the normal way of getting your demands.'" He added that he wanted to make it clear that this was to apply to raiding in general.

The Labour Members all proceeded to thank the Government representative for what he had said.

It was left to a member of the Capitalist Parties to point out that the Government had really promised nothing for the 5,000 men who are waiting for small holdings.

It was also left to a Tory, Sir Henry Craik, to say that the small holdings system as embodied in Acts of Parliament is not the proper solution for the land problem, and is not reverting to the old tribal land-holding which the Skye people desire. He said:

"I would far rather that the Government had taken it upon themselves to purchase estates and to set these men on free terms on those estates than to sweep more men into this network of holdings, guided by this Board of Agriculture in Edinburgh, with all its narrow bureaucratic views."

SOVIET *VERSUS* THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

The dispute between the Russian Soviet Government and the British Government continues. Lord Curzon has accepted the offer of fishing up to the three-mile limit, while affirming that territorial waters extend no further, also the offer to compensate Mrs. Stan Harding and Mrs. Davidson, whilst maintaining the thousands of other British claims. The question of propaganda remains at issue. Firstly, there is Lord Curzon's demand that the Soviet representatives be removed. Perhaps there is some conflict of opinion on this point in Soviet circles. Rumours have been circulated by the Press telegrams declaring either that the Soviet Government indignantly refuses the demand, or, on the other hand, that it submits and agrees that other representatives shall be selected in consultation with the British Government. Lord Curzon also demands that the Soviet Government reiterates its pledge neither to conduct nor support propaganda against the British Empire and its institutions.

The impossibility of maintaining both a strenuous propaganda for the overthrow of Capitalist institutions and friendly relations with Capitalist Governments is clearly evidenced by these negotiations.

ESPERANTO.

Lesson 21.

POVI, DEVI, VOLI.

Povi means **to be able**—e.g., mi **povas** paroli, I can (am able to) speak; mi **povis** vidi, I could (was able to) see; mi **povos** paroli, I shall be able to speak.

Note that **pov-i** is always followed by another verb ending in **-i** (Infinitive)—e.g., mi povas **vidi** belajn floroj n, I can (am able to) see beautiful flowers. In English the verb **can** is defective or incomplete; we can't, for example, use it in the future and say "I shall can" but in Esperanto **pov-i** can be used in all tenses and moods—e.g., mi **povos,** I shall be able, mi **povis,** I could, was able, etc.

Devi means "to have to"—e.g., mi **devas** paroli, I must (have to) speak; mi **devis,** I had to speak; mi **devos** paroli, I shall have to speak; mi **devus,** I should (ought to) speak.

From the examples given, it is clear that **dev-as, -is, -os** must have following them a verb ending in **-i** (Infinitive). In English the verb "must" is defective or incomplete; we can't say "I musted" (mi **devis**) or "I shall must" (mi **devos**); but in Esperanto **dev-i** can be used in all tenses and moods.

Voli means **to wish**—e.g., mi **volas** paroli, I wish (want) to speak; mi **volis,** I wished (wanted) to speak; mi **volos** paroli, I shall wish (want) to speak.

Deziri, meaning **to desire,** is stronger than **voli**—e.g., Ĉu vi **volas** paroli? Do you wish to speak? Jes, mi **deziras** paroli, Yes, I desire to speak.

Voli and **deziri** are usually, but not always, followed by a verb in the Infinitive—i.e., a verb ending in **-i.**

Of course, it is not always necessary to express the verb after **povi, voli, devi, deziri;** it is often understood—e.g., Ĉu vi volas (iri)? Do you want to (go)? Jes, mi volas, yes, I do.

Vocabulary.

sciis	knew
naĝi	to swim
sed	but
pro	because of
fluo	flow
ĉe	at
eble	perhaps
for	away
iri	to go
frue,	early
kun	with
veni	to come
tre	very (much)
tiu ĉi	this, the latter

Translation

Li sciis naĝi, sed li ne povis (naĝi) pro la rapideco (rapidity) de la fluo. Ĉu vi povas paroli ĉe la kunveno (meeting)? Mi volus (should wish to, like to), sed mi ne povos. Mi devus viziti lin, sed mi ne povos. Li devus viziti kuraciston (doctor), ĉar li eble estas tre malsana (ill). Li volis viziti la kuraciston, sed tiu ĉi (la kuracisto) estis for (aŭ forestis). Li devis foriri frue. Ĉu vi povas veni kun mi? Ne, mi devas labori hodiaŭ (to-day). Ĉu vi volus, ke mi parolu? Jes, mi tre deziras, ke vi parolu. Mi insistas, ke vi parolu.

UNDER THE STARS AND STRIPES.

A remarkable correspondence has passed between Harry Feinberg, of the I.W.W. General Defence News Service, and C. B. Griffith, Attorney-General of Kansas.

Griffith, referring to a circular addressed to citizens of Kansas by Feinberg, declares that the teaching of the I.W.W. is destructive of "morals, family and government." He quotes, as follows, a song which he declares to have been "identified as an I.W.W. song" in the case of Harry Breen:

"God above is calling you to rob and rape and kill.
Smash the doors of every home, pretty maidens seize;
Use your might in sacred right to treat them as you please.
Steal the farmers' savings, take their grain and meat;
Even though the children starve, the Saviour's bums must eat;
Burn the peasant's cottage, orphans leave bereft. . . .
Bayonet the babies, jab the mothers, too;
Trust in mock salvation, history will say of you . . .
. . . pack of G—— d—— fools!"

Everyone who knows the I.W.W. songs will laugh at the story that this is one of them. Nevertheless, Attorney-General Griffith adds:

"Your letter says: 'Write to Governor Davis, protesting the continued prosecution of I.W.W. members.' Be advised that wherever there comes to us evidence that anyone is teaching these doctrines of the I.W.W. in the State of Kansas, then the law enforcing department of the State, which includes all of the force of this office and 105 county attorneys, and an equal number of sheriffs, will have no hesitancy in continuing to make their drive to enforce the law against such activities. Let there be no doubt in your mind on that point."

Harry Feinberg replies that the song in question

"was written by one Kendrick, a captain in the U.S. Army, and a former newspaper reporter, who was in no way connected with the Industrial Workers of the World."

Fourteen Years' Imprisonment.

Albert Strangland and William Flanagan, both I.W.W.s, were sentenced to fourteen years' imprisonment for criminal syndicalism in Sacramento, California, on May 18th. T. F. Allen, the lawyer who defended them, was imprisoned for twenty-four hours for alleged contempt of Court, because he objected to the arbitrary tactics of the Court.

At Los Angeles, John Kolan, Herbert White, Paul Ware, and Alfred Kohn were convicted of criminal syndicalism. There were originally twenty-two defendants, but the others were acquitted on failure of evidence to show that they were members of the I.W.W. on the date when they were supposed to have entered into a conspiracy "to overthrow the Government by violence."

Upton Sinclair's Arrest.

During the San Pedro waterfront strike, the Los Angeles Chief of Police, named Oaks, issued an order to arrest every man on the streets, unless he could prove he was working. Two hundred and sixty men were arrested in the first raid, and charged with vagrancy, traffic violation, and criminal syndicalism. They are in prison without bail.

On May 15th Upton Sinclair was arrested there and charged with criminal syndicalism for reading the United States Constitution. Prince Hopkins, Hugh Hardyman, and Upton Sinclair's brother-in-law, Hunter Kimbrough, were arrested at the same time.

They are charged with "exciting discontent and disturbing the peace by discussing, arguing, creating and debating certain thoughts and theories that are contemptuous of the Constitution of the State of California and calculated to cause hatred for the law," as also with conspiring to create a riot and blockade the streets of San Pedro. The trial is set for June 15th.

The three were spirited away in an automobile immediately after arrest. After being denied access to their attorneys for eighteen hours, they were finally brought to Los Angeles and arraigned without their lawyers being present.

Protest regarding the violation of constitutional rights brought the answer from Chief of Police Oaks: "Don't talk this constitutional stuff here!"

Sinclair claims that he is in a position to show that the entire campaign to smash the harbour strike by means of the police is instigated and directed by the Merchants and Manufacturers' Association of Los Angeles.

Chief of Police Oaks says: "I shall prosecute Upton Sinclair with all the vigour at my command, and upon his conviction demand a gaol sentence at hard labour."

* * *

At Fresno, California, three I.W.W.s are on trial for criminal syndicalism; at Eureka, California, six; at Quincy, one; at San Bernardino, two; at Mobile, Alabama, eighteen I.W.W.s have been acquitted; at New Orleans, Louisiana, fifty-one I.W.W.s are in gaol charged with "having no visible means of support"; eighteen have been sentenced to thirty days, or fifteen dollars fine, the others are untried. At Pocatello, Idaho, six I.W.W.s are on trial.

* * *

At Bonner's Ferry, Idaho, twenty-five lumber workers, having been acquitted of a charge of unlawful assembly, were seized by a "citizens' committee," taken to the Montana State line, and warned not to return.

FRANCE PREPARES NEXT WAR.

"If there had been no Washington conference the proportion of our capital ships in relation to those of other Great Powers would have been one to six. Our proportion is now one to three. The Navy we need is a Navy composed principally of fast cruisers and destroyers with a wide range of action and submarines, and we have retained full liberty to construct those units on any scale we desire."—Aristide Briand, ex-Premier of France.

France is preparing the next war. Many people who cling to the present system, afraid of change, will regret that they supported the system which breeds wars, when the next great war breaks out.

IN THE RUHR.

Divided counsels, hesitancy, and lack of belief in what the workers can do without the aid of Capitalist Governments, still handicap progress in the Ruhr. Miners and metal workers, spurred on by grim starvation, are fighting the desperate fight of those to whom existence has become intolerable. The German Government officials in the Ruhr have appealed to the French Commander to allow them to bring in more German soldiers to quell the rebellious workers. They remind the French of the service done by Bismarck to the French rulers when he enabled the French Premier Thiers to suppress the Paris Commune of 1871.

This document has been seen by Philips Price, the "Daily Herald" correspondent.

The lesson of this document is not learnt: Philips Price joins the others who tell the workers to submit quietly to starvation, lest by rebellion they provide GermanCapitalism with an excuse to come to terms with the French, and arrange for the partition of the Ruhr industries amongst the French and German Capitalists.

German Capitalism fears the rising of the German workers, but those who presume to lead the German workers tell them to be calm and follow the lead of the Government and its Capitalist dictates.

The mistake of 1914 is agai

A LETTER FROM INDIA.

Miss A. Hodson sends us the following letter from India:

Servants of Rajasthan Society's Office
(Rajasthan Sevasangha),
Ajmer.
April 11th, 1923.

Dear Editor,—

I was on a tour of propaganda and organisation in Western India. During my absence two Indian States of Rajputana took repressive action against the peasants, while a third resorted to firing on a peaceful meeting. I had therefore to cut short my programme and return abruptly on April 6th.

In this age of unrighteous and loveless Capitalism, any attempts to uplift the poor are the eyesore of vested interests. That is why the officials look askance at the solid organisation of the peasants of this province under the guidance of our Society. There is nothing unconstitutional or violent in their programme; but the solidarity of the people is not to be tolerated. They have no right to live, except as slaves. Gratuitous acts of oppression are the order of the day.

The white bureaucracy has made the Indian princes mere tools in its hands. If a ruler evinces some independent spirit and resents being treated as a puppet, he is forced to abdicate on some pretext or other, and replaced by another who rules but in name and agrees to do such odd jobs for the bureaucracy as it deems too barbarous to do itself. You are perhaps aware how thousands of Alkali Sikh peasants were knocked senseless by truncheon blows at the hands of the police in the Punjab. Women in this province were beaten with heavy sticks because they are members of, and take part in, their communal panchayats (village assemblies), pledged to mutual co-operation. So heartlessly have these women been used that several have their limbs permanently incapacitated, while one died as a result of her injuries. Such happenings are not infrequent.

Nevertheless, we have unbounded faith in the victory of our principles. Such incidents only strengthen us for the final struggle. We possess the infallible weapon of Love and the unlimited might of Organisation. The time is not distant when we shall stand shoulder to shoulder and move under a single command. I am not less than forty, yet I am not prepared to admit the claim of any youth of eighteen to greater optimism or zeal for work. While the youth hopes to live long, and thus see the day of victory, I have the will to hasten that golden day so that it may come in the short space of my remaining life by dint of sheer effort, skill and self-sacrifice with the co-operation of comrades existing all over the world. Will you still prefer those eighteen years of your ambition to these forty of mine?

You are in the West, thousands of miles apart, while I am in the East equally far. Yet we are two flowers of the same plant, two birds of the same orchard. Come, let us sing in one voice:

Let us be true,
Our cause is holy and our purpose pure:
Let us be sure
The means we choose hide not our aim from view.

Fraternally yours,
B. S. PATHIK.

In fourteen nights the French Government succeeded in stealing from German factories in the Ruhr 28,000 barrels of dyes, worth £3,000,000. World Capitalism makes no protest when the robber is one of the Great Capitalist Powers.

* * *

Comrades should note that according to a statement by the Home Secretary in Parliament on May 30th, 1923 (official Report May 30th, 1451), every prisoner is entitled to write and receive a letter immediately after conviction. Most prisoners are unaware of this right, and so lose the opportunity.

FROM THE PUBLISHERS.

Eight More Harvard Poets, edited by S. Foster Damon and Robert Silliman Hillyer, Brentanos, New York. It is a constant surprise to us that so many of the young writers of to-day appear utterly untouched by the great events to-day. These eight young poets display many new mannerisms but little new thought. Norman Cabot writes on many hackneyed themes in various manners. He attempts to catch the time spirit in "Railroading":

"To-day I paid two dollars and was hurled
Along an iron road. . . ."

John Brooks Wheelwright deals with a number of modern themes, but only in "Coq D'Or" does he appear to apply a critical spirit, thus:

The fountain is frozen in the Plaza
the little Venus a-top
who has been squeezed out of a tube of toothpaste,
looks very much as though she had no clothes on.
Silly attempt
of some newspaper man to lend conscious dignity to the city
with his own notoriety as the rate of interest.
"Let us have peace," says Grant,
with the dreadnoughts smoking below him in the Hudson:
"Let there be light," says God,
and skyscrapers all about.
"War is Hell," says Sherman,
covered with old snow and sparrow-droppings.
Silly cursing,
for soon his war horse will be trampling
on the borrowed wings and drapery of the gilded angel.

Soon the city will be swathed again in bunting flopping with flags which look like pieces of awning with their corners torn out.
This is what the newspapers whisper
as they rustle on the benches,
They want war.
Soon they will be shrieking it in the voice of a million urchins.
What they say goes.
"Ha-ha-ha! Hee!
Hee!"
cries the Coq d'Or a-top the Hecksher building.
Soon this card city of the Vanderbilts
will be tumbling about us.

A National Health Policy, by Harry Roberts. (Labour Publishing Co., 3/6.)

The Ethics of Feminism, A. R. Wadia (Allen and Unwin, 10/6.)

How Socialists Would Run Industry, Malcolm Sparks. (I.L.P., 2d.)

Speaking of the Turks, by Mufty-Zade K. Zia Bey. (Stanley Paul. 8/6.)

The Hispanic-American Relations with the United States, W. Spence Robertson. (Oxford Unievrsity Press, 17/6.)

Great Britain and Prussia in the Eighteenth Century, Sir Oliver Lodge. (Oxford University Press, 17/6.)

Lords-Lieutenant in the Sixteenth Century, Gladys Scott Thompson. (Longmans, 21/-.)

The Chief Ministers of England, the Hon. Clive Bigham. (Murray, 21/-.)

National Policy and Naval Strength, XVth to XXth Century, Rear-Admrial H. W. Richmond, C. B. (Milford, 1/-.)

Shackleton's death turns out to have been largely due to the anxiety and discouragement due to the misdeeds of private enterprise. The "Quest" was comparatievly new, but her boiler was 31 years old, and her engines defective.

Millions of people would have given their mites to aid the proper equipment of the great explorer; but the great profiteers sent him out with his gallant band in an unseaworthy vessel.

What Letters Say -- Opinions from Various Quarters.

"I have existed on the dole for two years During that time I have read the "Workers' Dreadnought" in the Free Library every week.

"Now I have got work, and I send 6/6 to have the paper sent to me by post every week for a year. I want to keep a file!

"As soon as I can afford, I shall ask you to make me up a file of three months' back numbers, and then another three months, till I have made up the two years I have missed. I often refer to the earlier files of the paper, and constantly need those that are missing.

"This postal order is the best answer to the question: Which is the best paper in Britain?"

"Send me another quire of the 'Dreadnought' every week. I shan't be satisfied till I have got all the chaps at our place to read it."

Our Bookshop.

	Post free.
I.W.W. Song Book	9d.
Leakey's Esperanto	4d.
Eugene Sue:	
The Gold Sickle and Brass Bell	3/2½
The Iron Collar	3/2½
G. Myers:	
History of the Great American Fortunes (3 vols.)	30/-
Peter Kropotkin:	
Conquest of Bread	2/2
Fields, Factories and Workshops	2/2
Modern Science and Anarchism	1/1½
Mutual Aid	2/2
The Wage System	2½d.
Col. R. G. Ingersoll:	
Faith and Fact	2½d.
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Creeds and Spirituality	1½d.
The Christian Religion	3½d.
Chapman Cohen:	
Christianity and Social Ethics	1½d.
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G. W. Foote:	
Bible and Beer	1½d.
Christianity and Progress, with a chapter on Mohammedanism	2½d.
The Philosophy of Secularism	2½d.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[Copy.]

To the Editor of the "Daily Herald."

Dear Sir,—

After having read your sympathetic references to Russia in the "Daily Herald" during the past month, I should like to know the reason for the publication of the disgusting libel on Russia and Communist Sunday Schools in the shape of Max Beerbohm's cartoon, which appears in your issue of to-day.

If the artist had depicted a British day-school or Sunday-school teacher inculcating the militarism, bloodshed and British Empire jingoism still taught in our schools after the greatest war in history, and the unemployment and starvation resulting therefrom, there would have been some truth in it.

I have read in your columns accounts of unemployed men falling down dead from starvation while waiting for their doles, reports of ten to twenty people crowded into two rooms, and of hunger in the mining districts, but I have yet to learn that Communist Sunday Schools have in any way advocated bloodshed to produce starvation.

Yours for Socialism,

HERBERT COLE.

SPICE.

It will be amusing if the Amalgamated Marine Workers' Union retaliates upon Havelock Wilson by getting a member to secure an injunction for an auditorial examination of his own Union's books. Everyone in the Labour world would like to examine those remarkable documents.

* * *

Four flies, united by friendship, lived in a certain house. They awoke one morning with a good appetite. The first applied himself to a dish of milk; but, ere long, he died in convulsions, produced by the chalk that was in the milk. The second found a sausage, of which he partook heartily; but the sausage having been coloured with aniline, the little creature was presently poisoned. A like fate befell the third fly, who had eaten flour containing a quantity of alum. Filled with despair at the sight of his comrades, and sick of life, the fourth fly betook himself to a fly-paper in a plate, resolved to commit suicide. He sucked up the liquid greedily, counting on a quick release; but, wonderful to relate, instead of dying, he found himself uncommonly refreshed and vigorous. Even the fly-paper had been adulterated.

Facts on Education.

Observe these facts, fellow-worker; they are of interest to you and yours.

In 1913 5 per cent. of the revenue was spent on education.

If £97,000,000 were spent on education this year, it would form only 2½ per cent. of the revenue; but only £75,000,000 will be spent on education.

In 1913 expenditure on the child in the elementary schools was £4 16s. 4d. per head. In 1920 it was £10 11s. 4d., an increase of only 119 per cent., though prices had risen 152 per cent.

In 1922 the expenditure on education was reduced by £9,000,000; in 1923 it is further reduced by £3,250,000.

Though the Government economises at the children's expense, the parents, in spite of falling wages, are doing more for them; the number of children in the secondary schools has doubled since the war.

Nevertheless, only about 400,000 children attend secondary schools. The poverty of the parents debars the majority.

Salaries amount to 70 per cent. of the cost of education. That means very little is spent on equipment for the children's use.

There is an average of 44 children per class. Many classes number 65 and 70 children. Children cannot learn under such conditions.

The L.C.C. will be employing 280 unqualified women teachers for the infants in 1924, and 600 in 1926.

In the North Riding of Yorkshire one-fifth of the women teachers are unqualified.

Large numbers of qualified teachers are, nevertheless, unemployed.

The Board of Education forbids the appointment of a head master to schools numbering less than 250 pupils.

There are 10,000 mentally defective children in the schools, and 2,500 mentally defective children for whom there are no school places.

There are 74,000 physically defective children in the schools, and 14,000 for whom there are no places.

There are 5,000 blind children and 6,300 crippled children, for whom no provision is made.

For 8,780 children qualified and desiring to enter secondary schools, no places are available.

Do you call this your country and the country of your children, fellow-worker?

THE SEARCHLIGHT.

DENTIST, Communist, requires one or more rooms in either Hackney, Kingsland, or Hoxton.—Reply Box 10, "Workers Dreadnought."

THE WORKERS' STORES.

THE WORKERS' STORES.

Save middlemen's profits and assist the movement by buying through the Workers' Stores. Write to S. Cahill, "Workers' Dreadnought" Office, 152, Fleet Street, E.C. for anything you want. Callers can be seen by appointment, or between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Monday and Wednesday.

Some good lines in stock:
Woollen stockings, 2/- per pair.
Turkish towels, 3/6 per pair.
Spun silk stockings, 2/3 per pair.
Children's mackintosh aprons, 2/6 each.
Any article required can be obtained to order.

Dr. B. Liber:	
The Child in the Home	7/10
Frederick Soddy, M.A.:	
Cartesian Economics	6½d.
Baudelaire:	
Poems in Prose	9d.
Omar Khayyam:	
Rubaiyat	9d.
Sylvia Pankhurst:	
Writ on Cold Slate	1/-
Soviet Russia as I Saw It	1/-
Truth About the Oil War	1d.
Alexandra Kollontay:	
Workers' Opposition in Russia	6d.
Bishop W. Montgomery Brown:	
Communism and Christianism	1/-

PRINTING.

Have you written a book or a pamphlet? Do you publish a paper? Do you require handbills, note headings, membership cards, or other printing? The "Workers' Dreadnought" can undertake the work for you.

YOUR SUBSCRIPTION.

The high cost of production of the paper necessitates prompt payment.

A blue mark in this space indicates that your subscription is now due.

COMMUNIST WORKERS' MOVEMENT.

OUTDOOR MEETINGS.

Sunday, June 10th.—7 p.m., Battersea Park, Sylvia Pankhurst and others.

Thursday, June 14th.—Garnault Place, 8 p.m.

Friday, June 15th.—Garnault Place, 8 p.m.

Sunday, June 10th.—Finsbury Park, 7 p.m., W. Hall. Battersea Park, 7 p.m., Sylvia Pankhurst.

PLYMOUTH COMMUNIST WORKERS' GROUP.

This group meets Tuesday evenings at Comrade Wilson's, 2 Frankfort Lane, Plymouth.

COMMUNIST WORKERS' MOVEMENT.

Central London Group meets Thursdays, 152 Fleet Street, 8 p.m. For Group business, 9 to 10 p.m.

SUMMER SALE.

IN AID OF "WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT."

Comrades are asked to set to work to make and collect saleable goods for the "Workers' Dreadnought" Summer Sale, further particulars of which will be shortly announced.

WANTED—A GARDEN.

Wanted on loan or to rent for a day, a garden in London.

"DREADNOUGHT" £1,000 FUND.

Brought forward: £18 16s. 1½d.

Norwich Comrades (monthly), 5/-; J. Leach, 7d.; W. J. and M. Paul, 2/- (weekly 1/-); J. Thompson, 2/-; L. Grant, 2/-; Irene Smith, 1/- (weekly); Compton's Strikers, 1/-; C. Hart, 3/- (monthly); F. Brimley, 10/- (monthly); F. C. Davies, 2/6; I. A. Cahill, 10/-; G. Sargent, £1. Total for week, £3 0s. 1d. Total, £21 16s. 2½d.

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