

**MAY ABANDON TRUCE.**

The Labor Party executive committee has decided to recommend the abandonment of the political truce when they met on July 25. If the recommendation is adopted, it will mean either the resignation of the labor members from cabinet posts or from the party.

UNIQUE DOCUMENT.

That the German soldier is heartily sick of the carnage and slaughter is clearly evinced by the following, which is an extract from the diary of a German soldier. Copies of it, it appears, are being dropped broadcast over the German lines by British aeroplanes. It is probable that the original was taken from the pockets of a German killed on the field of battle:

No More Soldiers!

(1) I was a soldier, yet I did not become one willingly. I was not asked whether I wished to be one or not; they simply hustled me off to the barracks, and I was made a prisoner just as much as any wild beast. Yes, I had to desert my home, my sweetheart, and the company of my friends and when I think of them I experience a poignant yearning and the hot fires of anger rage in my heart.

(2) I was a soldier, but much against my will; I do not like my motley uniform, I do not like the bloody life of arms; to defend myself a stick serves me well enough. And when in the field I am forced to kill my brothers, though none has done me harm; and all I reap from it is to be made a cripple and be laden with care, and be made to cry out in hunger—for I am a soldier.

(3) I was a soldier, and had to march day and night, instead of going at my work; I had to stand at my post, instead of being free I had to salute, and witness the arrogance of many a dolt.

Oh, do but tell me, what need is there for soldiers? Every people loves quiet and peace, yet merely through the lust of power and to the injury of the people, we allow ourselves to be trodden underfoot. Ah! those golden fields!

(4) Therefore, brothers, up! Whether German, French, Hungarian, Danish, Dutch; whether your trousers are white or black or red, or blue, repent! Instead of steel, give greeting and a brotherly hand. Up! let us away to the camp of peace! let us march off to deliver our people from the oppressor. For that end they would welcome the chance to take up arms. Most willingly would I serve as a soldier of Freedom!

SCOTLAND.

Eight cottars appeared at Oban Sheriff Court recently to answer a charge of breach of interdict granted against them for taking illegal possession of 13 acres of land on the farm of Balephetish, Tiree, on the estate of the Duke of Argyll, and tenanted by Thomas Barr.

The case has been twice adjourned to give the men an opportunity of considering their position, but their agent stated that on account of the shortage of food, and the fact that

they had already sown their crops, they could not promise to remove from the land in question.

Each of the men was sentenced to ten days' imprisonment and found liable in expenses, these being modified to £3 (\$15).

The Judge stated that, should the defenders subsequently give the required undertaking they would be set at liberty, but the reply was that no such undertaking would be given.

Many instances could be given of land being taken possession of by crofters and landless for food production and grazing stocks. Twenty-men in Skye took possession of an old camping ground at Tryleakin and planted potatoes and corn last summer. They asked for production of title on demand for rent. The Duke of Sutherland had a notice from 15 crofters that they intend taking more land by a certain date. Stern necessity and want of the necessities of life are the reasons advanced for this drastic action.

ENGLAND.

Under the heading, "Drastic Land Policy," the London Times (April 24, 1918) quotes Lord Selborne as saying at a meeting of farmers at York, the following:

"There would have to be no wastage of the land, and the evil of the over-preservation of game would have to be done away with. Bad farming would have to cease, and the State would have to see that the national policy whether of tariffs or anything else, was not allowed to cripple any branch of agriculture. He appealed to landowners and farmers to do all they could to help demobilized soldiers after the war to settle on the land. Socialists would draw the moral if they did not show themselves sympathetic in this matter."

Lord Selborne, when he was president of the Board of Agriculture, did not grapple with the evil, but now when Socialism is making such headway he gives the above advice in hopes of counteracting "Socialist" propaganda.

SOUTH AFRICA.**Rhodesian Land Claims.****Disclosure of Secret Document.**

Evidence of a very remarkable character was laid before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council yesterday when the hearing of the Rhodesian Land case was resumed.

Mr. Leslie Scott, who appears for the natives, stated that when Sir Starr Jameson (then Dr. Jameson) crossed the Mashonaland border into Matabeleland and began dividing between his followers the lands of the Matabili, he did so in pursuance of an agreement with his fellow-invasaders, and not upon the basis of concession. Mr. Scott read the material portions of this agreement, the most important of which were:

That each member (of the invading force) will be entitled to mark out a farm of 3,000 morgen in any part of Matabeleland. No occupation is required, but a quit rent will be charged on each farm of 10s. per annum.

That members be allowed four clear months wherein to mark out and register their farms, and that no such marking out or registration will be valid after that time with the exception of the rights belonging to members of the force killed, invalided, or dying on service.

The Government retain the right at any time to purchase farms from the members at the rate of £3 per morgen and compensation for all improvements. This does not include the purchase of claims already pegged out on farms.

That any member of the Victoria force is entitled to 15 claims on reef and 5 alluvial claims.

The "loot" shall be divided one-half to the B.S.A. Company and the remainder to officers and men in equal shares.—London Daily News, April 26th.

FRANCE.

The trial of Helene Brion for "defeatist" propaganda, followed the usual lines of such trials in every country. The evidence against her was very indefinite; and unsubstantiated charges that she conducted anti-capitalist and Malthusian propaganda was made by the government witnesses, in order to prejudice opinion against her. The sentence was three years' imprisonment, but the execution of the sentence was deferred during her good behavior! This is an indication of the strength of her supporters; she has been warmly defended by Humanite and Socialist parties and trade unions throughout France have passed resolutions sympathizing with her and condemning the government's persecution of pacifists.

GERMANY.

Twelve Dresden members of the Independent Socialist Party of Germany have been convicted of high treason by the Imperial Court at Leipzig, a despatch from that city to the Vorwaerts of Berlin reports. They distributed pamphlets last year advocating the overthrow of the German Empire, and helped to bring about the strikes of last summer, advocating them as a means of obtaining peace. They were sentenced to penal servitude for terms varying from eighteen months to eight years.

At a meeting of the Socialist party committee in Berlin on Friday, according to Vorwaerts, Friederich Ebert, Vice-President of the Social Democrats, announced that the party leaders had indirectly received a copy of the Entente Socialist memorandum on war aims.

Philipp Scheidemann declared that the aims of the Entente Socialists were to a great extent in complete accord with the annexationist aims of the Entente Governments.

The committee adopted a resolution pledging continued adherence to the Reichstag peace resolution of July, 1917, which declared for no annexations and no indemnities.

DENMARK.

The Socialists in the election last April made considerable gains, and increased its representation in the Folksething (Lower House) from 32 to 39. Together with the Radicals, who will have 32 seats, they will have a majority over the Liberals, who were in favor of Denmark's entrance into the war.

BELGIUM.

Legras and Calleaux, two Belgian Socialist Senators, have been sentenced by a German Court martial to death. The Dutch leader, Peter Tro-

elstra, has appealed to Philip Scheidemann to use his influence to prevent the carrying out of the verdict.

NORWAY.

A demonstration of over 5,000 men and women, held under the auspices of the Christiania Socialists, appeared in front of the Storting and adopted the following resolution:

"That many homes are already suffering from the scarcity of bread; moreover, the housing, as well as working conditions are very unsatisfactory. Under these circumstances, we consider it a criminal offence for Parliament to continue military training this year, with the subsequent taking away from industry of men and women so necessary in the production of food."

ITALY.

For remarking to a passenger on a train from Turin to Rome "that war would have been over had Italy followed the example of Russia, Socialist Deputy De Giovanni has been sentenced to three months' imprisonment.

SERBIA.

A memorandum sent to the International Socialist Bureau, signed by the Secretary Papovitch, of the Serbian Social Democratic Party and Socialist Deputy Katzlerovitch, describes the brutal treatment of the Serbian people by Bulgarian and Austrian authorities. The Socialists of Serbia being especially persecuted. The memorandum also declares that the Bulgarian and Austro-Hungarian Social Democratic Parties and party newspapers are doing all they can to protect the Serbian population from the barbarities of the Bulgarian and Austrian officials.

I do not know anything more ludicrous among the self-deceptions of well-meaning people than their notion of patriotism, as requiring them to limit their efforts to the good of their own country; the notion that charity is a geographical virtue, and that what is holy and righteous to do for people on one bank of a river, it is quite improper and unnatural to do for people on the other.—John Ruskin.

Many Socialists would become more eager in their efforts to make new converts if they kept in mind the important fact that the new Socialist is not merely a matter of a single additional unit to the movement, but he is a new force set at work to influence others.

BAINBRIDGE DEFENCE FUND.

The following donations have been received up to the time of going to press:

Jewish Local No. 4, Montreal S.D.P.	\$21.00
Joint Board Cloakmakers' Union	5.00
A Socialist, Toronto	1.00
Arthur Rice, Leamington	1.00
United Brotherhood Carpenters and Joiners, Montreal	10.75
Cloak and Suit Cutters Union, Montreal	5.00
Joint Board Amalgamated Clothing Workers, Montreal	5.00
Pressers Union, A.C.W., Montreal	5.00
Mercantile Printing, per Gus Francq	5.00
S.D.P. Local No. 4, Jewish, Montreal	2.00
J. Allan, Hamilton	2.00
H. Bouring, Brantford	2.00
J. Dickson, New Toronto	1.00
George Edwards, Toronto	1.00
Total	\$66.75