

RUSSIA

THE outlook for Soviet Russia grows more promising. The Bullitt testimony has thrown more light on Allied intrigues against the worker's republic and brought further discredit on their intervention activities. Bullitt testified that on his return from the mission to Moscow that he brought back terms which would have been a basis for peace, practically an acceptance of the Allied proposals, but that just at that time Kolchak had a temporary success and that the Soviet Government's offer was tucked away in the files. As a result, since then, a useless war has been waged and a barbarous blockade maintained entailing lost lives on all sides concerned, and all the horrors of starvation for millions of people. At the present time, however, Major-General Sir Frederick Maurice, in a late statement says, that the Soviet army is considerably stronger than it was six weeks ago, and that "There is every probability that during the winter they will be able to organize, in the Caucasus and North of the Caspian, forces to attack Denikin in the rear next spring. The advance on Petrograd from the west remains a promise which is never fulfilled. And so it goes on. Lives, money and material have been wasted on useless enterprises, and a solution is no nearer than it has ever been. The plain fact is that under the pretence of the defeat of Germany, Great Britain entered into a number of commitments in the East which had no bearing whatever on the issue of the war." Major-general Maurice is one of Great Britain's most influential military men. His opinion, in conjunction with the testimony of Colonel Kelly, who was on the North Russian front has been a shock to the huge mass of criminally docile and uncritical people in the British Isles and elsewhere. A very conservative estimate, lately made, gives the Soviet Government the adherence of a solid block of the people in Russia of the number of eighty millions, and among all the peoples in territory outside its control there is a growing activity of elements in sympathy with the workers republic. Furthermore, the exchange of goods between Germany and Soviet Russia is increasing by leaps and bounds, while the traders of the Allied countries are shut out by their own Government's blockade, which policy is inspired by bondholders, foreign concessionaires, European Monarchist elements, and the military junker class. The famous fair just held at Nizhni-Novgorod has broken all records for attendance and business done. The New York "Sun," Sept 3, says that more than sixty million dollars worth of business was done in its six week's session. Merchants were there from all over Asia, and from Europe. Only one Britisher was there, and no Americans. As showing the estimation in which the stability of the Soviet Government was held, business was transacted on the usual credit system of payment to be made at the next fair, twelve months hence. It speaks volumes for the solvency of Soviet Russia that at this fair, which has been uninterruptedly under Soviet control from the beginning, that less than one per cent. of last year's sales remained unsettled. Russia has huge stocks of native products for exchange with the outside world. She needs in return manufactured goods, machinery, locomotives, rails, etc. In addition she has sent out a call for industrial experts to help to re-establish her people on a prosperous industrial basis, and, she is going to get all of these things even if, perforce, from Germany. And all the time our inspired press continues to foolishly whine about Germany's secret designs for the commercial conquest of Russia, while at the same time they support those Governmental policies which effectually prevents their own traders and their own commodities from entering Russia. Only just lately, the Government censor at Ottawa barred from the country the Soviet Government's official organ, issued from its Bureau of Information in New York. Every issue contained information which could be

got from no other source on affairs in Russia, both political and on industrial and trade conditions. Could bureaucratic ineptitude go further.

Nevertheless, British and American papers report that business elements in those countries are clamorously challenging the Russian policies of their respective governments. But already, the Japanese and the Germans have got the jump-off ahead of them. That comes of genuine business elements, leaving the political policies of the country to be monopolized by lawyers, speculators and political sharks.

United States

President Wilson had to bring his tour to a close before he finished his schedule because of sickness. His malady, whatever it is, is no doubt mainly induced by mortification of spirit. All things have gone a tangle. The Foreign Relations Committee enquiry into the Peace Treaty, the Bullitt testimony, and the failure of the Government's profiteering campaign to reduce the cost of living as promised, have all struck a hard blow at his former prestige, which was really established on the unstable foundation of sounding phrases. On the top of this, Samuel Gompers, that bosom friend and stout henchman of his, has been unable to side-track the steel strike at a time when industrial peace was essential. The organized labor movement in the United States shows signs of slipping from Gompers' control like a child grown too lusty for sops and wet nursing. It is giving expression to aspirations and evolving policies which are anathema to him and to the old line political parties. The United Mine Workers, at the convention in Cleveland, have proposed an alliance with the Railroad Brotherhoods and it is reported that concrete proposals may be submitted to the committee on resolutions for the nationalization of both mines and railroads. Reports from all over the country show that there is a growing impatience with old forms and policies of unionism, and that new ones are being groped for. An evidence of the general dissatisfaction with the A. F. of L., is that twenty-three thousand ships' carpenters on the Pacific Coast have refused to acknowledge the jurisdiction of the A. F. of L. It is also significant that many new men who are coming to the front are being charged with being Bolshevik and an investigation is being asked for into their former career. This charge, of course, merely means that they are of more radical stamp than the old leaders. Sammy's pet dictum that "labor-power is not a commodity" is losing its force over the minds of his constituents. It is the irrefragable fact over against his pet phrase. In growing numbers the workers are saying, "labor-power is a commodity, but shall not be so any longer than we can help."

BRITISH GOVERNMENT REFUSES TO NATIONALIZE COAL MINES

London, Oct. 10.—Premier Lloyd George, answering demands made by the British miners at today's conference, admitted that many advantages could be secured from joint control of mines by capital and labor, but declared the government was unable to frame its policy on the lines of the miners' suggestions.

The demands of British miners backed and endorsed by the general British trades unions congress for the nationalization of the coal mines, were laid before the Prime Minister by representatives of the Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress of the Miners' Federation.

Robert Smillie, head of the Miners' Federation, stated the case for nationalization. He was supported by Frank Hodges and William Brace, of the Miners' Federation, formerly secretary for home affairs in the Asquith cabinet.

THE BRITISH RAILWAY STRIKE.

The Capitalist politicians and the Capitalist press are now doing their utmost to make the results of the strike of the railwaymen in Britain appear as a defeat for the men. Their attempt to do so is highly amusing, and has other effects than they wot of. Lloyd George, one time caterer to the great unwashed, now surrounds himself by a bevy of Archbishops and Generals, and such like, as chorus to his new and revised edition of Limehouse. The Dukes as villains in chief, have been retired and in their place, hey presto appear the horny handed sons o'toil, who have just made George eat his words. The press is frankly discussing what political move may be behind his denunciation. The editors know their George too well to consider him as being actuated by any high principles. The Marconi affair and the Bullitt revelations are too recent. They were speculating on his leading a Coalition of Liberals and Labor, but now they figure him as making a bid for the leadership of the "great middle class," whatever kind of fish that may be. They say that in his speech at the Mansion House, he flouted labor. As a matter of fact, he was only making a big noise to cover up his defeat by the railwaymen. It is labor that has flouted him not alone in the strike, but before that in several bye-elections. Average labor in Great Britain is sadly lacking in political intelligence, but it is getting a line on Lloyd George and his crowd of conspirators.

On the matter of the strike, the Government had announced that there was to be a reduction in wages this year, to double the pre-war rate. The men struck against this. George said he would refuse to discuss the matter with their delegates until they went back to work, and declared their strike was unconstitutional as being against the Government, and the community at large. The men ignored him, so he was forced to climb down on that and also on other matters in dispute. The result is of course a compromise, but from the point of view of the working class movement, when George climbed down, he conceded the constitutionality of the strike. In that, mainly lies the victory of the railwaymen.

DO YOU WISH FOR AN AUDIENCE?

Articles are desired on the Socialist philosophy, or on current events interpreted in the light of its principles. Send them in.

THE BRITISH TRADES CONGRESS

Mr. Hynes, from the American Federation of Labor, spoke nervously from a typewritten manuscript. He boasted of American Labor's patriotic war effort. He echoed the political views of Gompers. The trade union movement, he was persuaded, should have no political bias or policy of its own, and its members, without loss of consistency, might belong to any capitalist party. He complained that during the year "the professional class" had attempted to form a Labor Party.

Mr. Hynes was no less vehement in his attack on the One Big Union movement, which he declared to be making little or no headway. He also attacked the sympathetic strike, which he said had failed after three days in Seattle and after six weeks in Winnipeg.

Watters, the Canadian delegate, joined issue with Hynes on the general strike and O. B. U. Had strikes in Seattle and Winnipeg succeeded, he declared, they would have been considered the right thing to do. As for the One Big Union, the Calgary Convention had decided to take a referendum on it, and by an enormous majority, all the Canadian unions, from Winnipeg westward, had decided to withdraw from the international organizations and link up with the One Big Union.

—From a British Exchange.