

## WARTIME METHODS IN GERMANY

(Continued from Last Issue)

The case of Editor Oerter of Brunswick is similar. On August 22 he was arrested and thrown into preventive prison; he has been there more than two months, and with him Genzer, a syndicate functionary. He has not been told why he was arrested. In the beginning he was accused of having taken part in the publication of a manifesto; of that there was not the slightest proof; absolutely nothing has been proved that could incriminate him in any way. No preliminary hearing has been given him, though the prisoner has asked for one, and though he has demanded, ceaselessly but vainly, to be brought before the common court.

These men have been imprisoned on the strength of a miserable, lying denunciation; it is evidently the intention to punish them—as it is in all the cases I have cited—because of their political convictions, which are those of the opposition.

### The Prison or the Trenches.

It is true that the Minister of War published, on the 22nd of this month, a decree calling for a more liberal policy; but I cite in opposition a decree of the Military Government at Dantzic issued Sept. 12, which recommends the preventive prison as an effective means for getting rid of the Social Democratic orators who speak against the food monopoly. In this decree, which my colleague Wurn cited during the discussion of the potato question, there is the following characteristic phrase: "The principal chiefs and leaders will be put in preventive prison or called under arms. Good results have been obtained in two regions with this ruling, and we recommend that it be imitated in others."

I am going to show you a striking example of the fact that the authorities are working on the recipe of "preventive prison or the trenches." The case is that of a syndicate secretary, Sauerbrey of Elberfeld-Barmen, who is represented by our colleague Ebert. On June 20 manifestos were pasted up on the public bulletin boards of that place, and on the same day three persons were accused of having helped to spread these notices. On June 27 the syndicate secretary Sauerbrey was arrested. In the police headquarters at Elberfeld he was at once cross-examined in the most detailed fashion, but it was established beyond possible doubt that he had not taken the least part in the distribution of the manifestos; in spite of this fact, however, because he belonged to the opposition which has sprung up in the heart of the Social Democratic party, he was thrown into "preventive" prison. They let him write letters to his family, but the letters were not mailed. After three weeks he demanded to be heard, protested against a situation contrary to right and law, and threatened to let himself die of hunger if he were not brought before the ordinary judge.

For two whole days he refused food. This produced the first effect. He was taken to the Court House and accused of treason and incitement to revolt, but this accusation soon evaporated. Sauerbrey made an appeal which was admitted by the superior court of the empire with the approval of the Attorney-General.

Great care was taken after that not to set him at liberty; on the contrary, he was again taken to the police station. The next day he had to go before a council of revision, and was assigned to the army. Before that he had been declared unfit, because he had lost several finger joints of his right hand. It is a typical example of the Dantzic recipe, "preventive prison or

army service." He was called to the service immediately, with only one hour's grace, and with a soldier accompanying him during that hour; when he visited his home he had not even time to see his children again after his long imprisonment. Now he is under instruction at the barracks preparatory to being sent to the front.

This affair provoked measureless indignation in the labor world of Elberfeld-Barmen. Sauerbrey had filled the place of a syndicate secretary for a year past, and had given free aid to innumerable persons who had come to consult him, especially of families of soldiers at the front. After his call to service it was necessary to withdraw the benefits of these consultations from all those who did not belong to a labor organization. The blow aimed at him therefore strikes most severely many poor people who need aid. Yet the military government of Munster is astonished that in all the valley of the Wupper the people are more and more discontented, and is hatching new measures to make itself master of the unrest. One might imagine the whole thing to be a madhouse drama, but it is in reality a "state of siege."

### Other Typical Instances.

This is no isolated case. I could cite many more. Let me recall that of Weinberg. Weinberg was present when an orderly came to announce to the physician who was to examine him that the recruiting bureau was well aware that Weinberg was unfit for service, and that, nevertheless, he ought not to be liberated.

Ever since the beginning of the war there has been in preventive prison at Elberfeld a workman named Albrecht, who can be reproached for nothing unless it be for holding opinions that are frowned upon by the military. Four men arrested with him have already been sent to the army. In general, in the Seventh District, political undesirables are very frequently sent into the army. Army headquarters receive notice from the general government of Munster that a certain man has been called and assigned to the corps, and his private record follows; this record naturally contains all sorts of secret entries from police spies. In the region of the Rhine a great number of these cases are known and have created an immense animosity.

Many interdictions were also issued more than a year ago forbidding members of our party to speak on pain of imprisonment, because they had signed an address to the committee of the Social Democratic party demanding a change of policy during the war. At Dusseldorf a workman was forbidden to speak because at a public meeting he had uttered a very justifiable criticism of the food furnished by the war kitchen. Such are the rigorous measures which the authorities are using to render impossible all criticism of our internal situation. The arbitrary power of our rulers under the "state of siege" no longer recognizes any limits.

For all these persecutions of inoffensive citizens it has been necessary to create an army of police spies and functionaries of all sorts, which is daily growing larger. All these gentry would no longer need to be paid out of the public treasury if the persecutions were stopped. A great proportion of these agents and functionaries would immediately become available for useful work in the army. Their present positions are, for the most part, hiding places where they seek to escape military service, and they cling to these with all their strength, seeking to prove daily that they are indispensable through their discoveries of all sorts of misdeeds; because they themselves do not wish to go into the trenches, they send others to prison. Thus it is that they keep up the appearance of work and assume to wear the halo of saviors of the state. It is the duty of the people's representatives to clean out these Augean stables and

to remove the basis of such a military reign of terror. Vote, then, for our motion demanding the suppression of siege measures, and thus help us to put an end to a situation that is a shame and disgrace to the German name.

### THE FIRST CANADIAN COLLECTIVIST.

By J. McArthur Conner.

When the Liberals and Tories at Confederation joined hands together, thus making a national government of that day, George Brown found his views more advanced than that of the government, with the result that he again became the political opponent of Sir John A. Macdonald, whilst many of his influential supporters accepted portfolios in the new coalition cabinet and called themselves Liberal-Conservatives. In the election of 1867 George Brown was defeated and Alexander Mackenzie who I will describe as the first Canadian Socialist, became leader of an active group of radicals in the Dominion House of Commons.

Alexander Mackenzie, as his name indicates, was Scotch. A quarter of a century before he had left his native country, crossed the Atlantic, and as a young emigrant had worked as a stonemason on the fortifications then being erected at the head of the St. Lawrence River. Natural ability, force of character, strict integrity and love for the common people, soon pushed him into prominence in this young country, and finally his election to the Parliament of Upper and Lower Canada a few years before Confederation became an accomplished fact. Mackenzie was an ardent advocate of nationalisation in his day, and while we in our day see a great mass of public opinion favorably disposed to nationalization of railways, etc., we must remember to give credit to the men who risked their all in their advocacy of collectivism and went down to a smashing political defeat rather than bow to the wishes of a privileged class.

When Sir Hugh Allan entered into secret negotiations with Sir John A. Macdonald for an arrangement to construct the Canadian Pacific Railway, Sir John, who was about to appeal to the electorate, was promised by Sir Hugh that if a bill was passed in the House of Commons, giving Sir Hugh and his friends the charter for the construction of the line a subscription of \$100,000 would be given to the party funds. Later on, Mackenzie's group brought to light this agreement, with the result that on appealing to the country, the Mackenzieites defeated the coalition by an overwhelming majority in 1873.

When Mackenzie took office, Donald A. Smith (Lord Strathcona) made known his views to the First Minister that he thought it desirable that the railway should be constructed by a private company, to which Mackenzie replied in his fine Gaelic accent: "I will leave the Pacific Railway as a hostage to my adopted country," and in his address to the Commons when he intimated to the full attendance of members and the crowded public galleries that "the policy of the government was to construct and maintain the Pacific Railway as a government enterprise and to proceed with the completion of the work as quickly as the resources of the country would allow." Then Donald A. Smith realized that nothing could turn this ardent collectivist (who was fired with an enthusiasm for the common people) from the purpose he had in view. But he set about in another way to get rid of this great advocate of nationalism. By intrigue Mackenzie was finally driven from power, and the coalition party (a combination of Liberals and Conservatives) which was favorable towards a private company owning the Pacific Railway was put in power. We Social Democrats who advocate the collective

ownership of the means of life, honor this pioneer of collectivism in Canada.

### CLASS-CONSCIOUS COMMENTS.

By Phillips Thompson, Oakville.

Many a man who fancies himself a Socialist is merely a sentimentalist or a sorehead.

"Public opinion" is simply the ignorance, prejudice, and intolerance of the average damned fool, exploited by the intellectual heeblers of capitalism and multiplied by several million.

It makes me tired to hear twaddle about the "rights" of labor. Labor has no rights. Nobody has any rights other than those they can take and hold by the strong arm or the cunning brain. But labor has something a great deal better than rights if it knew enough to exercise its power.

That the course of Police Magistrate Denison in the Ness case should have aroused much indignation is only natural, but it need not occasion any surprise. Denison is absolutely incapable of doing justice even if he wanted to, which he doesn't. Why should he? Like the rest of the judges and magistrates, he was not appointed to do justice but to promote the interests of the predatory class. And he fills the bill admirably.

If the age limit for military service were raised to 65 years, and the physical standard of fitness considerably lowered, there would be mighty few advocates of conscription. It's the stiff-jointed, pot-bellied stay-at-homes that are doing the talking.

N. W. Rowell is being praised for his "patriotism" in being the first man to suggest that Canada should send 500,000 men overseas. Why isn't Rowell in khaki himself? There are many older men in the trenches. Oh, these heroes-by-proxy!

Orangeism is nothing but a machine for boosting mighty small men into big positions. Examples—Hon. Dr. Pyne, Hocken, and Tommy Church, the joke mayor.

What will happen after the war is a good deal like the much-discussed question of what will happen after death—one man's guess is as good as another's.

What a consoling thought it must be to the soldier who falls by a German bullet that owing to his sacrifice it will be the profit-mongers of Birmingham and Manchester, instead of those of Germany, who will supply the natives of Africa with rotten cotton goods, poisonous gin and cheap firearms.

### DIFFERENT WAYS OF PUTTING IT.

Editor Citizen:  
Socialist Lecturer—"King George is a puppet" (sentenced to two months in jail).

Imperialist Orator—"King George is a thoroughly constitutional monarch. He invariably acts in strict accordance with the advice of his ministers." (Sentenced to the Senate for life).

PHILLIPS THOMPSON, Oakville,  
Ottawa Citizen.

### A TRAVESTY OF LAW.

A conscientious objector recently found himself incarcerated in a prison cell next door to a man who was "doing time" for attempting to kill a man with whom he had had a quarrel.

The conscientious objector was "doing time" because he refused to attempt to kill a man with whom he had no quarrel.

What foolery passes under the name of law!

The crest and crowning of all good, Life's final star, is Brotherhood.