

Bloody Friday In Glasgow

In 1905 the streets of Petrograd ran red with blood of the Russian working class.

A mass demonstration had been called and thousands of workers lined up for an orderly procession as a protest against their terrible conditions, and with the intention of presenting to "the Little Father"—the Czar—a petition asking him to act on his behalf.

An orderly procession was quickly turned into a bloody massacre; men women and children being killed when the armed guards fired into the crowd. Thus the demands of the workers were answered with shot and shell; and as the same snow changed from white to scarlet—being dyed with the life-blood of the Russian people—autocracy smiled and was victorious.

Thirteen years have elapsed since Russia's "bloody Sunday" and the perpetrators of same have passed from view being hidden under the debris of their crimes. Gone, aye, and forgotten too, in the joy of the birth of the Soviet Republic.

The scene is changed. Autocracy is looked for in vain in Russia now, we must seek it elsewhere, and lo, in Bonnie Scotland it leers forth in all its hideousness.

(Reprint from the Glasgow Forward.)
"GLASGOW'S BLOODY FRIDAY."

Brutal Attack on Defenseless Strikers.

Henceforth 31st January, 1919, will be known in Glasgow as Bloody Friday, and, for the crime of attacking defenseless workers, the citizens will hold the authorities responsible. The police have once more been used as hirelings to bludgeon the workers.

The workers will not forget.

The outrage looks like a prearranged affair by the master class. As arranged on Wednesday, a deputation from the Joint Committee, composed of Shinwell, Kirkwood, Neil Maclean, Hopkins, and other delegates waited on the Lord Provost in the City Chambers to receive the reply from the Prime Minister and the Minister of Labor, in response to his Lordship's own appeal for Government intervention. While the deputation were kept waiting for twenty minutes, and, while there, the police were ordered to draw their batons and forcibly disperse the crowd of strikers who were standing in George Square until the deputation returned.

On hearing the sound of conflict, Shinwell and Kirkwood rushed out to help in restoring order; but instead of listening, the police made an attack on them too, and Kirkwood was felled to the ground. The strikers covered Shinwell successfully, and got him clear away without injury.

Those who appealed for order were also clubbed, as were other strikers who were quietly inclined, as was shown by their defenceless condition.

The bludgeon attack on the strikers in front of the City Chambers was deliberately ordered by the officers, and was unprovoked.

The meeting in front of the City Chambers was quiet and orderly, and was being addressed by members of the Strike Committee until the deputation returned from the interview with the Lord Provost. Shinwell, before the deputation entered the City Chambers appealed to the crowd to be of good behavior, and this appeal was endorsed by other speakers. The audience, which was turned towards the Gladstone statue, on which the speakers were perched,

overflowed into the street fronting the Chambers, and in this avenue the police allowed two motors to run into the crowd, with the result that two men were knocked down and injured. This annoyed the strikers, who appealed to the police to turn the vehicle traffic by another street—a not unreasonable request.

The reply was—a police attack on the strikers, who stood their ground, and the police withdrew after an appeal from the speakers. The mounted police then arrived, and in a display of trick riding, two of them allowed their horses to fall, which caused the crowd to chaff the bulky Tod Sloans. This chaff was an awful violation of the sacred dignity of the police, who apparently lost their reason, and made a mad rush with drawn batons on the defenseless crowd. The infuriated men in uniform struck wherever they saw a head.

Appeals from the speakers for peace fell on the deaf ears of the mounted and foot police, who struck out right and left. The strikers put up the best defense possible with bare fists, but, being unarmed, they were gradually forced back, retreating in order and without panic."

Shinwell spends the afternoon at the Strike Committee rooms organizing; at night he, too, is arrested. Trainload after trainload of troops is rushed into the city; machine guns are placed on the vantage points; signalling from rooftops; soldiers everywhere with bayonets fixed. The week-end passes quietly.

The Daily News special correspondent, an eye-witness writes:—"The rioting and sporadic outbreaks of hooliganism in Glasgow on Friday were followed by swift Government action to restore order in the city. This has been achieved by a display of overwhelming military force. Some thousands of Scottish and English troops were brought into the city during Friday night, and yesterday morning they were distributed in detachments. The City Chambers, railway stations, and various other places are now strongly guarded by soldiers, with field equipment and wearing steel helmets. Machine guns, coils of barb wire, and other material are located at convenient points. In the course of a long experience of strikes and outbreaks of disorder in industrial disputes I have never seen such extensive preparations for repression and it is obviously the intention of the Government to crush with the least possible delay both the strike and the small movement of revolt which lies behind it."

Autocracy smiles again. The workers subdued by the mailed fist of Capitalism will not forget. Lloyd George stated that Prussianism at home would be treated in the same way as on the Continent and his threat was not long before being in action. Is it Prussianism for the workers to ask for a forty-hour working week and thus enable the men returning from France to get employment? Is it Prussianism to ask for a living wage, while the Master Class are rotting in wealth produced by the workers? These are questions which we would like Lloyd George to answer, although machine guns, barbed wire and steel helmets are surely answer enough. And the enemy?.....German Junkers, no; Kaiser Bill! no;—the unarmed wage-slaves with no Red Guard, only a strike committee.

Capitalism is lurking behind its last defence. Thirteen years in Russia brought the armed forces to join hands with the members of their own class—In these days months will accomplish what it took years to do before 1914. The die is cast. The future belongs to the proletariat.

EXTRACTS FROM FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE

I have talked with one General who says that to know what brought on this war, one needs only to remember that all concerned had weapons in their hands.

Disarmament is the most important thing to be achieved. Therefore one hears less about that than about anything else.

The most unpopular thing in the world today is the carrying of arms—about which I could tell some interesting things if the Censor permitted.

The only safety for France, as for the world, is to do away with weapons for human slaughter.—Oswald Garrison Villiard.

SHALL WE PERMIT THIS?

The Romanoffs have gone. The Hapsburgs have gone. The Hohenzollerns have gone. Dynastic wars have gone forever—no sane man doubts it. But the jingoes urge that there still may be wars of commercial aggression, for which they want to harness up our youth to a huge militaristic machine. Shall we permit it? Or are we done with wars for good?

LABOR AND CAPITAL

Labor combines into its unions; capital into partnerships, associations corporations, and trusts. A group-struggle is the result, in which the individuals as individuals play no part.

REVOLUTIONARY IDEAS

When people speak of ideas that revolutionize society, they do but express the fact, that within the old society, the elements of a new one have been created, and that the dissolution of the old ideas keeps even pace with the dissolution of the old conditions of existence.—MARX.

FORD RAISES WAGES.

Detroit, Mich.—A new minimum wage scale of \$6 a day, a flat increase of \$1 a day, for approximately 28,000 employees throughout the country, has been given by the Ford Motor company. It is stated that 23,000 other employees of the Ford interests already receive \$6 or more a day.

Following this statement comes the announcement that a 200 per cent dividend has been declared by the company.