

THE ORGANIZED BRITISH LABOR MOVEMENT AND THE WAR

In order to show just how the British Labour heads stand with regard to the present war The Courier reproduces the following official signed statement:

The Labour Movement of Great Britain, as represented by the Labour Party and Trade Union organizations, has made its position with regard to war plain and definite both by declaration and action. Nevertheless, misconceptions concerning the attitude of the Movement towards the present war have arisen, due mainly to the reproduction in this and other countries of misleading and entirely false statements. In order to clear away these misconceptions once and for all, we place on record what the policy of the Movement has been, why the policy was adopted, and what the Movement has done to carry out its policy.

The British Labour Movement has always stood for peace. During the last decade it has made special efforts to promote friendly relations between the people of Great Britain and Germany. Delegations of labour representatives have taken messages of good will across the North Sea despite the obstacles to international working-class solidarity which exist. In turn, the people of Great Britain on similar missions have been welcomed in this country by the organized workers. A strong hope was beginning to dawn that out of this intercourse would grow a permanent peaceful understanding between the two nations.

But this hope has been destroyed, at least for a time, by the deliberate act of the ruler of the German Empire of Germany. The refusal of Germany to the proposal made by England that a conference of the European powers should deal with the dispute between Austria and Serbia, the peremptory demanding ultimatum to Russia, and the rapid preparations made to invade France, all indicate that the German military caste were determined on war if the rest of Europe could be cowed into submission by no other means. The wanton violation of the neutrality of Belgium was proof that nothing, not even national honor and good faith, were to stand between Germany and the realization of its ambition to become the dominant military power of Europe, with the Kaiser dictator over all.

The Labour Party in the House of Commons, face to face with this situation, recognized that Great Britain, having exhausted the resources of peaceful diplomacy, was bound in honor, as well as by treaty, to resist by arms the aggression of Germany. The Party realized that if England had not kept her pledges to Belgium, and stood aside, the victory of the German army would have been probable, and the victory of Germany would mean the death of democracy in Europe.

Working-class aspirations for political and economic power would be checked, thwarted and crushed, as they have been in the German Empire. Democratic ideas cannot thrive in a state where militarism is dominant; and the military state with a subservient and powerless working class is the avowed political ideal of the German ruling caste.

The Labour Party, therefore, as representing the most democratic elements in the British nation, has given its support in Parliament to the measures necessary to enable this country to carry on the struggle effectively. It has joined in the task of raising an army large enough to meet the national need by taking active part in the Recruiting Campaign organized by the various Parliamentary parties. Members of the party have addressed numerous meetings throughout the country for this purpose, and the central machinery of the party has been placed at the service of the recruiting campaign. This action has been heartily endorsed by the Parliamentary

committee of the Trades Union Congress, which represents the overwhelming majority of the trade unionists of the country, in a manifesto on the war, states—

Another factor to be remembered in this crisis of our nation's history, and most important of all so far as trade unionists and labor in general are concerned, is the fact that upon the result of the struggle in which this country is now engaged rests the preservation and maintenance of free and unfettered democratic government, which in its international relationships has in the past been recognized and must unquestionably in the future prove to be the best guarantee for the preservation of the peace of the world.

The mere contemplation of the overbearing and brutal methods to which people have to submit under government controlled by a military autocracy—living, as it were, continuously under the threat and shadow of war—should be sufficient to arouse the indignation of the British labor movement has been dictated by a fervent desire to save Great Britain and Europe from the evils that would follow the triumph of military despotism. Until the power which has pillaged and outraged Belgium and the Belgians, and plunged nearly the whole of Europe into the awful misery, suffering, and horror of war, is beaten, there can be no peace. While the conflict lasts England must be sustained both without and within; combatants and non-combatants must be supported to the utmost. The labor movement has done and is doing its part in this paramount national duty, confident that the brutal doctrine of the Executive of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain.

G. J. Wardle, M.P., Editor of the Railway Review.

A. Wilkie, M.P., Secretary of the Ship Constructors' and Shipwrights' Association.

W. T. Wilson, M.P., Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners.

John Williams, M.P., South Wales Miners' Federation.

W. S. Sanders, Sec. Fabian Society.

W. F. Purdy, Shipwrights' Society.

Thos. Greenall, J.P., President Lancashire and Cheshire Miners' Federation.

H. Twist, J.P., Lancashire and Cheshire Miners' Federation.

Tom Fox, President, Manchester Trades Council.

A. G. Walkden, Railway Clerks' Association.

Alderman W. House, J.P., President, Durham Miners.

Vernon Hartshorn, Miners' Agent. On behalf of the Parliamentary Committee, Trades Union Congress.

J. A. Seddon, Shop Assistants' Union, President of the Trades Union Congress Parliamentary Committee.

W. J. Davis, J.P., Secretary of the National Brass Workers' and Metal Mechanics' Trade Union.

C. W. Bowerman, M.P., Secretary of the Trade Union Congress Parliamentary Committee.

A. Evans, Secretary of the Printers' Warehousemen and Cutters Trade Union.

H. Gosling, member of London County Council and Secretary of the Watermen and Lightermen Trade Union.

J. Hill, Secretary of the Boiler Makers' and Iron and Steam Ship Builders' Trade Union.

J. Jenkins, Agent for the Ship Constructors' and Shipwrights' Association.

W. Matkin, General Secretary of the General Union of Carpenters and Joiners.

W. Mosses, General Secretary of the Pattern Makers' Trade Union.

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Stephen Walsh, M.P., member of the Executive of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain.

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LIQUOR LEGISLATION IN NINE PROVINCES

Following is a brief outline of liquor legislation in the nine provinces of the Dominion, in three of which important measures have been adopted this year:

Prince Edward Island—A province wide prohibitory law is in force. No liquor is sold on the island.

Nova Scotia—Prohibitory law was passed on April 21 last, applying to all of the province except the city of Halifax. The enforcement of the same law there was defeated by a casting vote of the Speaker. No liquor is sold outside Halifax. The law is administered by the Government through deputy inspectors.

New Brunswick—Only 125 licenses mainly in the cities and towns, remain. A local option law is available to small municipalities and the Canada Temperance Act is in force in some counties.

Quebec—A local option law passed before Confederation is in use. About 900 parishes, almost two thirds, are under it. There is also a license law administered by the Government.

Ontario—Local option law requiring a three-fifths vote for the abolition of the sale of liquor, and Canada Temperance Act in use. Dry municipalities numbered 535 in January, out of a total of 928, 308 being under local option, 45 under Canada Temperance Act, and 162 without license through administrative or other act. This number has increased since then. About 290 municipalities are still wet.

Legislation passed at the recent session of the Legislature provided for a Provincial License Commission, with wide powers for the direction and control of the liquor traffic. This legislation gives the Government an almost free hand, and the Commission has done much work in regulating the traffic and punishing offenders against the liquor law.

Manitoba—Local option law in use. More than 50 municipalities have adopted it. License remains in fewer than 70. Both political parties are committed to bar abolition.

Saskatchewan—Liquor trade in hands of private persons abolished by law, which went into force on July 1 last, providing for the taking over of the wholesale sale by the Government and the establishment where such existed of a dispensary system. All bar and club licenses were abolished. The existing licenses to be re-established by a referendum vote at the end of the war, and not before December, 1918.

Alberta—Prohibition law passed. British Columbia—Provincial license law is in force. There is no local option as in most of the remaining 'wet' provinces.

Northwest Territories—Sale of liquor is regulated by Dominion law.

The Kaiser though imitating Napoleon in many things, does not seem able to affect the Emperor's disregard for clothes. As everyone knows, His German Majesty's wardrobe is the most extensive in the world. Napoleon, according to his tailor, Leger, who took him in hand in 1810, had until that time been so parsimonious that his whole outfit was not worth \$400. Leger instituted reforms, obtaining a standing order for six gray overcoats in winter and six green uniforms in summer, together with a new pair of trousers and a waistcoat in winter and six green uniforms in summer, together with a new pair of trousers and a waistcoat once a fortnight. But his imperial client's taste in such matters was so poor that Leger had to tell him on one occasion that he would not cut a tunic to his suggestion for all the wealth of France.

"The famous 'Hymn of Hate' is nothing but a bold plagiarism," says a correspondent of the London, Eng. Post.

"Gerg Herwegh, the stubborn German revolutionary of seventy years ago, was the author of this 'Hymn of Hate,' and addressed it to Prussia (since he was expelled) and the Prussian tyranny of 1841 in its original form it read: 'We all have only one common foe—Prussia.'

"Ernst Lassner, who several months ago published in Jugend the 'Hymn of Hate' which has at present 500,000 copies in Germany, simply substituted England for Prussia in Herwegh's earlier lucubration.

Application was recently made to the British Patent Office of Patents by an English firm for a license to manufacture and sell a German machine patented in England. Prior to the war this firm had made arrangements for the sale of the machine in England, but when it from the German makers, but the war had prevented this. The license asked was granted, and at the suggestion of the Comptroller the licensees agreed to pay patentees a royalty of 2 to 2 1/2 per cent during the lifetime of the machine, including the period of the war. Such fair treatment can hardly be questioned by the German patentee.

The city of Ypres suffered much during the great religious wars of the Middle Ages. It was at one time occupied by the Spaniards, who, when they seized the town, burnt every Protestant at the stake.

The greatest siege of Ypres in olden times took place in 1383, when the English, enforced by the Flemish, laid siege to the city. The English found that they could not break through the shower of stones, knives and spears directed against them by the defenders of Ypres, so they built huge towers on wheels which they loaded with men and pushed against the city walls.

It is now being noted that soon after the outbreak of war, when it was still uncertain how many nations would come into the conflict, Switzerland appointed a general. The last time any such exalted title existed in Switzerland was in 1870, when the Republic asserted its neutrality by disarming and entertaining the army of Bourbaki, which was forced over the frontier. In ordinary times Switzerland has a president, whose name is almost unknown outside Bern; and its army has no general—nothing above a colonel.

A steel flat-car for whales has been built for the South African Railways at Leeds, England. The car has a capacity of 160,000 lbs., and the weight of the car itself is 74,000 lbs. The most remarkable thing about the car is that, although it is designed to run on a narrow-gauge road of 3 ft. 6 in. gauge, the width of the car body is 12 ft. 6 in. The whales are brought to port near Durban, South Africa, and are loaded on these special cars for haulage to a factory a few miles away, where they are cut up for rendering.

How Russian Hero Passed to His Death

"One night," says a Russian army doctor, "in a wood, before the roar of the guns had quite ceased, we started to bring in the wounded. At a distance we saw a soldier raise himself slightly and beckon to us. He was wrapped in his big cloak, which was drenched with blood. He could hardly speak. His face, as we looked at him by the light of the smoky torch, was already that of a corpse.

"Well, what do you want, little brother?"

"If you would be so kind, write a letter for me to my wife to tell her I am dead," he begged us as follows, according to the London Chronicle—

"My beloved wife Lukerya Petrovna—I have to tell you that my last hour is come. God has not permitted that we should see one another again. If I take care of Vasutka and Dunka, if you marry again, see that your new husband does not beat them. Sell the mare to Rene Ryzhoff, but not for less than 70 rubles. That is its price today. Have the house whitewashed, and accept three rubles from Peter Zezruhoff for the oats. Old uncle Vass will whitewash the house for 20 kopeks.

"I have been wounded in the back, and the bullet has gone clean through me and come out through the breast. It was the will of God. I think, Lukerya, that it would be better to sell the calf and buy a coat off Gavriloff. Horses will continue to go up in price. Forgive me all, for the love of Christ. 'We covered his head,' says the doctor, "and passed on, as others were crying for us. He remained alone twenty minutes later we passed by again. He was dead. His hands were crossed over his breast. He had crossed them himself, waiting for death in full consciousness, without a complaint, without a word.

"That is how our peasants die."

During the months of April, throughout central and eastern Ontario, and western Quebec, no fewer than 61 buildings were destroyed or damaged by lightning.

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heart disease the other day, is entitled to the credit of having foreseen the role now being played by the submarine. While at the head of the navy he wanted to equip France with an immense fleet of these terrible little engines of destruction (to the practical exclusion of all sorts of armored leviathans); and he was privileged to live long enough to see a partial vindication of his policy.

Camille Pelletan, French ex-Minister of Marine, who died suddenly of

Among themselves the mites" of to-day make "slangue" that, provided at any rate, was practical side the ranks. It is "Soldiers' Hindustani," a collection of a few easily plannatory words of that which are indispensable who do their allotted sp. India. It is by no means stant, though most of the think it is, and pride th. Father is it a distortion

"Tommy" picks up and pronunciation, which in of with constant use he ac. And when "Tommy" said the pronunciation of a v. does with the style of sing that goes. It's "pukka"—

Not only Hindustani, but dier at the front is keen n. English, will say, "And back to the front—yes, well paddy reply in what French, "Na-poo!"

And "Na-poo" is too British army to signify "more for me," or "I've been even" it is finished.

Probably the most un- adapted, from the Hindu use among regulars, reest army, or Territorials, "khookhi," which is alwa "cushy," to signify that of, or that a tank is "How's the front man, will ask the old hand.

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British "Tommy's" and Other Expronunciation

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