

Labor Produces
All Wealth
Unto Labor It
Should Belong.

THE CANADIAN FORWARD

"WORKERS OF
WORLD UNITE"
YOU HAVE NOTHING
TO LOSE BUT
CHAINS, AND A
WORLD TO GAIN.

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British Socialist and Labor War Aim.

Complete Verbatim Report of War Aims Adopted on December 28, 1917.

Our comrade Ex-Controller James Simpson has recently returned from England where he spent two months on a lecture tour; he was also present at the Labor Party conference, discussing the war aims, and since coming home has handed to the editor a complete report which we hereby reproduce. Mr. Simpson will make his first pronouncement since returning home from the Social Democratic platform next Sunday at Hamilton, on the British War Aims.

The Memorandum.

The Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress and the Executive Committee of the Labor Party, taking into consideration the desirability of formulating a definite statement of War Aims and Peace Policy which shall express the general sense of the Labor Movement as a whole, submit the following draft, which they jointly recommend for general endorsement by all sections of the British Labor Movement:

1.—The War.

The British Labor Movement declares that whatever has been the causes of the outbreak of war, it is clear that the peoples of Europe, who are necessarily the chief sufferers from its horrors, had themselves no hand in it. Their common interest is now so to conduct the terrible struggle in which they find themselves engaged as to bring it, as soon as may be possible, to an issue in a secure and lasting peace for the world.

The British Labor Movement sees no reason to depart from the declaration unanimously agreed to at the conference of the Socialist and Labor Parties of the Allied nations on February 14th, 1915, which is printed as an appendix hereto.

2.—Making the World Safe for Democracy.

Whatever may have been the objects for which the war was begun, the fundamental purpose of the British Labor Movement in supporting the continuance of the struggle is that the world may henceforth be made safe for Democracy.

Of all the War Aims, none is so important to the peoples of the world as that there should be henceforth on earth no more war. Whoever triumphs, the peoples will have lost, unless some effective method of preventing war can be found. As means to this end the British Labor Movement relies very largely upon the complete democratization of all countries; on the frank abandonment of every form of "Imperialism"; on the suppression of secret diplomacy, and on the placing of foreign policy, just as much as home policy, under the control of popularly elected Legislatures; on the absolute responsibility of the Foreign Minister of each country to its Legislature; on such concerted action as

may be possible for the universal abolition of compulsory military service in all countries, the common limitation of the costly armaments by which all the peoples are burdened, and the entire abolition of profit-making armament firms, whose pecuniary interest lies always in war scares and rivalry in preparation for war. But it demands, in addition, that it should be an essential part of the Treaty of Peace itself that there should be forthwith established a Super-National Authority, or League of Nations, which should not only be adhered to by all the present belligerents, but which every other independent sovereign state in the world should be pressed to join; the immediate establishment of such League of Nations not only of an International High Court for the settlement of all disputes between states that are of justiciable nature, but also of appropriate machinery for prompt and effective mediation between states in issues that are not justiciable; the formation of an International Legislature in which the representatives of every civilized state would have their allotted share; the gradual development, as far as may prove to be possible, of International Legislation agreed to by and definitely binding upon the several states; and for a solemn agreement and pledge by all states that every issue between any two or more of them shall be submitted for settlement as aforesaid, and that wherever necessary common cause will be made against any state or states by the use of any and every means at their disposal to enforce adherence to the terms of the agreement and pledge.

3.—Territorial Adjustments.

The British Labor Movement has no sympathy with the attempts made, now in this quarter and now in that, to convert this war into a War of Conquest, whether what is sought to be acquired by force is territory or wealth; nor should the struggle be prolonged for a single day, once the conditions of a permanent peace can be secured, merely for the sake of extending the boundaries of any state. But it is impossible to ignore the fact that, not only restitution and reparation, but also certain territorial readjustments are required, if a renewal of armaments and war is to be avoided. These readjustments must be such as can be arrived at by common agreement on the general principle of allowing all peoples to settle their own destinies, and for the purpose of removing any obvious cause of future international conflict.

(a)—Belgium.

The British Labor Movement emphatically insists that a foremost condition of peace must be the reparation by the German Government, under the direction of an International Commis-

sion, for the wrong admittedly done to Belgium; payment by that Government for all the damage that has resulted from this wrong; and the restoration of Belgium to complete and untrammelled independent sovereignty, leaving to the decision of the Belgian people the determination of their own future policy in all respects.

(b)—Alsace and Lorraine.

The British Labor Movement reaffirms its reprobation of the crime against the peace of the world by which Alsace and Lorraine were forcibly torn from France in 1871, a political blunder the effects of which have contributed in no small degree to the continuance of unrest and the growth of militarism in Europe; and, profoundly sympathizing with the unfortunate inhabitants of Alsace and Lorraine who have been subjected to so much repression, asks, in accordance with the declarations of the French Socialists, that they shall be allowed, under the protection of the Super-National Authority or League of Nations, freely to decide what shall be their future political position.

(c)—The Balkans.

The British Labor Movement suggests that the whole problem of the reorganization of the administration of the peoples of the Balkan Peninsula might be dealt with by a Special Conference of their representatives, or by an authoritative International Commission, on the basis of (a) the complete freedom of these people to settle their own destinies, irrespective of Austrian, Turkish, or other foreign dominion; (b) the independent sovereignties of the several nationalities in those districts in which these are largely predominant; (c) the universal adoption of religious tolerance, the equal citizenship of all races, and local autonomy; (d) a Customs Union embracing the whole of the Balkan States; and (e) the entry of the Balkan National States into a Federation for the concerted arrangement by mutual agreement among themselves of all matters of common concern.

(d)—Italy.

The British Labor Movement declares its warmest sympathy with the people of Italian blood and speech who have been left outside the inconvenient and indefensible boundaries that have, as a result of the diplomatic agreements of the past, been assigned to the kingdom of Italy, and supports their claim to be united with those of their own race and tongue. It realizes that arrangements may be necessary for securing the legitimate interests of the people of Italy in the adjacent seas, but it has no sympathy with the far-reaching aims of conquest of Italian Imperialism, and believes that all legitimate needs can be safeguarded, without precluding a like recognition of the needs of others or annexation of other people's territories.

(e)—Poland, etc.

With regard to the other cases in dispute, from Luxembourg, on the one hand, of which the independence has been temporarily destroyed, to the lands now under foreign domination inhabited by other races—the outstanding example being that of the Poles—the British Labor Movement

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SOUTH WALES COAL OWNER WILL PLAY SOCIALIST FOR DURATION OF WAR.

In an interview with Harold Begbie, Lord Rhondda (better known to Canadians as D. A. Thomas) says:

"Powers of organization are going to beat the Germans if the country will back me up. I am certain they have got to be beaten and can be beaten—beaten by the longer lasting powers of the British—and I will play Socialist to that end.

"But it is not going to be a pleasant experience for the British people. They must not think rationing is a cure or a limit to what is coming. For some time they will be hungry.

"People with property may find themselves without property. The State may have to turn farmer and butcher a few months later on, but there will be a testing time, and the test will be applied to the stomach of the Englishman, applied sharply."

"Some un sick at yo' house, Mis' Carter?" inquired Lila. "Ah seed de dactah's khar aroun' dar yestiddy."

"It was for my brother, Lila."

"Sho! What's he done got de matter of'm?"

"Nobody seems to know what the disease is. He can eat and sleep as well as ever; he stays out all day long on the verandah in the sun, and seems as well as any one; but he can't do any work at all."

"Law, Mis' Carter, dat ain't no disease what you brothe' got! Dat's a gif'!"—Everybody's.

BROUGHT FROM NEW ZEALAND IN IRONS.

Further particulars are at hand respecting the New Zealand Conscientious Objectors to whom reference was made recently in these columns. Of the fourteen that were embarked for England with the 28th New Zealand Reinforcements, to which they were deemed to be attached, three of them, Saunderson, of North Wairon, and two Baxter brothers, of Otago, were put off the ship at Cape Town as they were too ill to be taken further. The rest were taken to Sling Camp, Salisbury, where they remained in irons in the guard-room for several weeks. Eight of them have now been sent over to France. Most of them went over handcuffed, and therefore still resisting. Their names are: Ballantyne, Patton, Little, Baxter, Briggs, Harland, Maguire and Kirwan. Of the other three, one is in Codford Military Hospital suffering from dysentery (Adin, of Foxton), and two are still at Sling Camp (Gray, of Canterbury, and Penwright, of Tasmania).

The New Zealand authorities state their intention to brook no interference, but a death sentence would have to be confirmed by our War Office. The guarantee given in the House that this would not be inflicted on British Conscientious Objectors should be extended to include New Zealanders. Unfortunately, means could be found in France for disposing of these men without a court-martial and death sentence. The only hope of saving their lives is by widespread and continued public protest.—The Call.