



FRENCH SOC. CONVENTION.

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In Glasgow Forward

The Proposed Inter-Allied Conference.

In the "Populaire" Longuet demands that the proposed conference of inter-Allied Socialists, to be called at the desire of Gompers, should be held in Paris this time, as being more convenient for all except the English and because three out of the four conferences already held have taken place in London. He also demands as still more important that all sections of the party in the various countries should be invited. For Russia, all the parties from the Right Socialist Revolutionaries to the Bolsheviks. For America, the American Socialist Party, as well as the American Federation of Labour. For Greece, the real Greek party, not merely Drakoules, who represents no one but himself; and, finally, for Italy, the greater part of the representation should be given to the C.G.T. and to the official Italian party.

It is interesting to observe that the previous minority now being in a majority it has nine members on the "Humanite" Committee against six of the previous majority. It is to be hoped that the whole tone of the paper will now show some improvement. At the party executive meeting a discussion arose on the Malvy affair. Renaudel demanded an energetic protest. Verfeuil, supported by others, while agreeing on the need for protest, declared that they would refuse to sign any protest which would represent Malvy's policy as one conforming to working-class interests. Malvy was a bourgeois politician who merely believed in gentle as against brutal methods. The protest should, therefore, be confined to exposing the illegality and iniquity of the sentence. Thereupon Renaudel reproached the former minority with refusing all common action. However, finally, a declaration very much in sense desired by Verfeuil was adopted and published. The declaration also called on its Parliamentary representative to raise a vigorous protest against the sentence in the Chamber. The executive has adopted Longuet's suggestions regarding the inter-Allied Socialist Conference. The Midinets (dress-makers, millinery workers, etc.) of Paris are now holding huge meetings again, demanding better conditions of work and higher wages. They have also protested against the Malvy sentence.

In Italy.

According to the "Journal du Peuple," the Parliamentary group of the Italian Socialist Party, at their recent conference at Bologna, rescinded their previous resolution, and now approve the decision of the executive of the party not to allow its representative to participate in the Government Commissions for the study

of after-the-war problems. At the same conference comrade Morgari, secretary of the party, read a long communication from Maxim Litvinoff calling for the solidarity of all Socialists in opposing the attempts of the bourgeoisie to seize power, whether by making use of German bayonets in the Ukraine, in Finland, and in the Baltic provinces, or by relying on the support of the Entente Powers in Siberia or in Greater Russia. A resolution in favour of solidarity with the Russian workers is to be submitted to a future meeting.

"Avanti" publishes a communication from the President of the Council to the Executive Committee of the official Socialist Party in which he affirms that he had no intention of prohibiting the holding of a Socialist Conference, providing it was of a strictly private nature. As a consequence, the Executive Committee are calling a conference for September 1st-4th, the agenda being the same as for the proposed former conference.

In Germany.

The German National Federation of Shoemakers, one of the most important trade unions in Germany, has just held its annual national conference at Wurzburg. At the end of a somewhat stormy discussion, a resolution was proposed refusing all further subscriptions to the Central Trades Union Committee at Berlin as a protest against the policy of compromise pursued by Legien. Although Simon, president of the Federation, and himself a member of the Minority, urged that they should not push their political opposition to the last extremity, the resolution was only rejected by a majority of two votes.

A Polish Socialist Manifesto.

In June the Polish Social-Democratic Party held a conference in Moscow. They issued an appeal, from which the following is an extract:—"Workers of Russia! Workers of the whole world! We, the Polish workers, who for many long years have waged a bitter struggle against capitalism and foreign oppression; we, who have ever stood in the front ranks of the international revolutionary movement, we appeal to you! Prepare for the struggle against Imperialist supremacy. If now, free nations do not arise, if the oppressors of the proletarian movement and its development are now defeated, the victory of the revolution will be annulled for years. If the proletariat should now again bend before the onslaughts of capitalism and Imperialism, the proletariat will be paralysed for years to come. Terrible danger threatens the international proletariat. It is high time that the working class should speak the decisive word and follow it up with strong deeds. The Russian revolution is in danger. The proletariat is being forced to fight on two fronts. Only that will remain in the days to come which has taken root

in the common life of the nation. Only those of our victories will remain to us which have been built on a firm basis. In the hour of danger the creative power of the proletariat must be developed and strengthened. For neither paper decrees nor declarations will in the least avail if the proletariat will not defend its own interests. If the working class desires to solve its problems, it must defend its rights and must assume control over the whole of production and over the regulation of the whole life of the community. The attack of the German Imperialists on the Russian revolution, as those, indeed, of all other counter-revolutionary Imperialists, must be met with armed opposition. . . . The mask has fallen from the Imperialists, and they are now showing their bloody fists. The new era for the struggle of freedom has begun! We only require determination and patience; we must only hold fast to the victories already won by the Russian revolution. The flames of revolution reach over the boundaries protected by bayonets. Capitalism will not succeed in destroying our proletarian revolution. The International must be your leader. We must strive for an immediate reestablishment of the International."

The Bulgarian Socialists.

"L'Humanite" recently published an article by Reiss foully attacking the whole of the Bulgarian Socialist Party, and maintaining that they were without exception Imperialists and jingoes of the worst type. Douchan Popovitch, secretary of the Serbian Party, replies in the "Populaire" to this unworthy and unjust attack. Some of the interesting facts brought out by Popovitch will not be without interest to the readers of the "Forward." In Bulgaria there are two parties, the 'Broad' and the 'Narrow.' The "Broad," with Sakasof, Pastukof, and Djidrof at its head, has nine deputies in the Bulgarian Sobranje (Parliament), and a daily journal "Narod" ("People"). These are Revisionists, Opportunists, and Ministerialists, with nationalist tendencies regarding Macedonia. But even this party, during the first years of the war, carried on an energetic campaign against war and for the maintenance of Bulgarian neutrality, and when Bulgaria eventually joined the war it did not vote the war credits, but abstained. The "Narrow" Socialists, on the other hand, are much more considerable force. They have 11 Parliamentary deputies. They have a daily paper, "Rabotricheski Vestnik" ("The Workers' Journal"), and an extensive Marxian literature. Kirkof, Kolarof, Dimitrof, Kabakchieff, and Blajoieff are their leaders. Both before and since the war started, they have carried on an incessant, vigorous propaganda, by meetings and literature, in the Press and in Parliament, against the war and for the conclusion of peace. They have all along opposed the war credits, and have protested against the hard regime imposed on the conquered territories.

Disturbances in Spain.

The economic situation in Spain is becoming worse every day. Throughout the country strikes of different classes of workers break out continually on account of the high cost of

living, the scarcity of food, and the inadequacy of the wages. These are generally repressed brutally by the police, with the result that the populace becomes still more exasperated. If the economic situation does not improve speedily, anything may happen in the near future.

Russia's Renaissance.

According to the "Cambridge Magazine," the Stockholm correspondent of the Vienna "Arbeiter Zeitung" reports an interview with two Russian Socialists, messengers of the Soviet Government to England. One of them, comrade Meshcherikov (editor of "Pravda"), one of the oldest champions of Russian Socialism, is especially interested in the new intellectual movements in revolutionary Russia.

"The striving after an understanding of subjects of practical importance is as marked as that after elevating artistic influences. The Trades Unions . . . are establishing a comprehensive system of lectures for the education of the workers. But the masses hungrily stretch out their hands towards those cultural values which have hitherto been the monopoly of the privileged classes of society. A whole series of literary periodicals has sprung up, and their subscriptions are largely from the workers. . . . An appeal was sent by the workers to the "Izvestia," asking that a literary supplement should be published twice a week. The theatre enjoys especial popularity, and a wide-spread dramatic dilettantism has produced genuine talent which springs from the proletariat.

"Last winter the schools were much understaffed owing to the strike of the teachers which had been instigated by the bourgeoisie. In the villages conditions are better. Many teachers have now returned, and others have been replaced. The achievements of Lunacharski in the management of the Education Department are recognised even by the bourgeoisie. A non-Socialist Professor said to Meshcherikov, "If we need something we always get it. How could we do without you?"

"The greatest energy has been displayed in the establishment of libraries. In Moscow alone a million was devoted to educational purposes out of the public funds. The Secondary purposes out of the public funds. The Secondary and High Schools still leave much to be desired, and the want of teaching power is particularly felt in the Trades Schools. The publication of classics has been taken over by the State, but further publications by private firms have been prohibited. A complete edition of the works of Marks and Engels (28 vols.) is in course of preparation. The People's Government has made a grant of a million roubles for a Marx memorial. . . . The awakening of a whole people, which now makes itself felt impresses even the non-proletarians. The well-known author, Serafimovich, has now gone over to the Soviets, and has drawn upon himself the boycott of the bourgeoisie. Foreign observers also receive the same impression, e.g., a well-known American journalist told Meshcherikov just before he returned home after a visit of a year to Russia that the events of the last months were worth ten years of his life to him."

Socialism plans for mankind instead of for a few individuals.