

THE INTERNATIONAL

BELGIAN SOCIALISTS FOR STOCKHOLM

"Ramsay MacDonald Is Right."

An interesting sidelight on the manifesto issued last week-end by the leaders of the pro-war sections of Belgian Socialists is to be found in *Le Socialiste Belge*, the organ of the Belgian workers temporarily domiciled in Holland.

In its issue of August 25 *Le Socialiste* deals with the two Conferences of the British Labor Party, and in a trenchant leading article, which incidentally repudiates by anticipation the Belgian signatories to the manifesto, it answers Mr. G. Barnes.

The following leading article, headed "Where is Truth?" has been specially translated for the *Labor Leader*:

At the Labor Party Conference in London, Barnes, an English Minister, declared that the Belgian Socialists wanted to have nothing whatever to do with the Stockholm Conference.

This is a legend and against it we protest with all our strength.

It may be that Vanderveelde is opposed to Stockholm, that de Brouckere is opposed to Stockholm.

It may be that some Brussels lawyers are opposed to Stockholm.

But have these lawyers the right to speak in the name of the Belgian working class? Without any hesitation we answer "No, a hundred times no."

The working class was not in a position to be consulted as a whole; for the time being no one has the right to speak in the name of the Belgian Labor Party.

We challenge the right of these lawyers to give their own opinion as the general feeling of the Belgian workers.

Against the declarations of some few attorneys on the question of Stockholm, we oppose the following well-known facts:

The working class of Eastern Flanders, at the head of which is Anseele, a member of the Executive, is in favor of Stockholm.

The paper, *Vooruit*, the only official organ of the P.O.B. (Belgian Labor Party) in occupied Belgium, on August 4 published an article from its editor under the heading "To Stockholm!"

The great majority of the Belgian workers of the province of Antwerp are supporters of the Stockholm Conference.

We have no information as to the sentiments of the Belgian workers of the other provinces. But when the Belgian workers of Eastern Flanders and of the province of Antwerp have confidence in the policy of the International, why should those of the other provinces think differently?

We are firmly convinced that the Belgian working class, in its entirety, longs for peace; it has and ought to have confidence in its own strength, in its own policy, in its own salvation from Stockholm.

With the exception of certain lawyers the Belgian Socialists in France have decided to go to Stockholm.

The Belgian Socialists and the greater part of the Belgian steel workers in England, with few exceptions, have declared: "We are going to Stockholm."

The Belgian Socialists in Holland, reunited in the U.T.B.H. (the Union of Belgian Workers in Holland, of which *Le Socialiste Belge* is the official organ), which includes more than five thousand members, decided at their Whitesunrise Congress at Rotterdam to go to Stockholm.

The Belgian Socialists in Holland

have nominated a delegate for the Stockholm Conference. This delegate is going to Stockholm, even should he go alone, and there he will speak in the name of the Belgian workers.

That is our answer to George Barnes and to all who think with him.

To the famous legend: "The Belgians do not want to have anything to do with the Stockholm Conference" we oppose the irrefutable fact: Belgian Socialists are going to Stockholm and they will speak, if not in the name of the whole Belgian working class, at least in the name of the great majority of Belgian workers.

Stockholm is the historic ground upon which the Socialists of the whole world will meet and deliberate on Peace.

At the Labor Party Conference Ramsay MacDonald said: "There will be Belgian Socialists at Stockholm."

Ramsay MacDonald is right.

RADICAL PEACE PLAN DRAWN BY SOCIALISTS

Stockholm Conference Issues Manifesto Asking Evacuation of All Occupied Territories.

Stockholm, Oct. 20.—The organizing committee of the Stockholm Conference has drawn up a manifesto declaring that from the experience of three years of war it is not rash to draw the conclusion that there will be a victory by neither side in 1917 or 1918, or even later.

It indicates as the general conditions under which it considers peace should be made the complete evacuation of all occupied territories in Europe and the colonies and the restoration of devastated territories by means of an international fund. The special conditions demanded by the manifesto are:

The complete political and economic re-establishment of Belgium, with cultural autonomy for Flanders and the restoration of all contributions raised contrary to international law, the amount of the damages to be paid by Germany to be left to the Hague arbitration court.

Plebiscite for Alsace.

Solution of the Alsace-Lorraine question to be arrived at by a plebiscite.

The restoration of Serbia, which, in common with Bulgaria and Greece, would have free access to the district and port of Salonica.

Eastern Macedonia as far as the Vardar to be given to Bulgaria.

An independent Poland, the Polish districts of Austria and Germany to enjoy as wide autonomy as possible, and the different nationalities of Russians to enjoy territorial autonomy within a federative republic.

The independence of Finland, united to Russia.

Solution of the problem of Bohemia by means of the reunion of the Czechs in a single federative state with Austria.

The Italian districts of Austria not ceded to Italy to enjoy cultural autonomy.

Freedom for Ireland.

The political independence of Ireland within the dominion of Great Britain.

The independence of Turkish Armenia.

The international solution of the Jewish problem, and personal independence for the Jews in the districts of Russia, Austria, Rumania and Poland where they are massed, together with protection for the Jewish colony in Palestine.

The manifesto declares in favor of compulsory arbitration, general dis-

armament, the suppression of any kind of economic warfare and the extension of parliamentary control over foreign policy.

France.

The July revelation that the French President, Poincare, had authorized the "left bank of the Rhine" agreement with the Czar without even consulting his Premier, Briand, caused much indignation in France. Various other rumors about Poincare were spread, and it is reported that the French Senate will appoint a commission to inquire into Poincare's acts as President. The war party's reply to the growing distrust of French policy was a violent attack on pacifists, with the suppression of several papers and the arrest of the staff of *Bonnet Rouge*. This was followed by the death in prison of the editor, Almereyda—variously attributed to murder, suicide or natural causes. The circumstances of his death prove at least grave carelessness on the part of the prison authorities and the responsible Minister, M. Malvy, after a few contradictory attempts to explain Almereyda's death, resigned. Charges against the *Bonnet Rouge* staff of German bribery have been met with counter-charges that the questionable funds came from members of the Government and other French politicians, and in the general atmosphere of suspicion M. Ribot, with his whole Cabinet, resigned last week. He attempted to form another Cabinet, but the Socialist Party refused to join it, and he has finally abandoned the idea.

It is probable that M. Painleve will attempt the task, relying on the support of M. Thomas and Benaudet; but Socialist co-operation is only likely to be permanently secured under definite conditions, which will be laid down at the Socialist Congress on October 6. M. Caillaux, with a policy of moderate war-aims and negotiation, is also suggested as a possible successor to Ribot, but it is not likely that Poincare will ask him to form a Ministry unless all bellicose nominees fail to get support.

The French Parliament meets on September 18, and the Socialist Group will at once bring in an interpellation on war aims and general policy, probably demanding an answer to Michaelis' later charge against Poincare of having been in league with the Russian Sukhomlinov, who, with Yanushkevitch, claims the distinction of having made the war by disobeying the Czar's order to cancel the Russian general mobilization. The French Socialist Party will meet in Bordeaux.

—Labor Leader.

A PEOPLE'S PEACE

How the Socialists Line Up.

The Glasgow Forward in its issue of October 6, 1917, gives a summary of views representing the European Socialist parties "On Terms of Peace." From their reckoning there is a tacit agreement upon all the fundamental problems arising out of the war, the only differences presenting themselves on the following provisions, stated as follows:

The differences between the Socialist Parties of Europe about European

problems, therefore, narrow themselves down to this:—

(1) That the German Majority wants the economic regeneration of Belgium to be contributed to internationally;

(2) The other Socialist Parties desire Germany alone to foot the bill.

And (1) The German Majority desire that Alsace-Lorraine shall be a Federal and Independent State within the German Empire;

(2) The other Socialist Parties would give the Alsations a plebiscite, and let them settle for themselves which flag they will live under.

So that the working-class movement of Western Europe is now only split over the question of the precise banking houses through which the funds will come for the restoration of Belgium, and whether Alsace-Lorraine should be a Federal State within the German Empire or whether it should take a plebiscite and decide for itself. These are the Socialist Peace Terms differences narrowed down. Belgium could be, we expect, rehabilitated economically at less than one week's cost of war; and slowly, but none the less surely, the German Minority view that Alsace-Lorraine ought to have a plebiscite, triumphs over the German Majority view that it shouldn't. It is doubtful now which is the Majority and which is the Minority Party in Germany.

So far as the financial problems of repatriation is concerned the workers need not lose any sleep. This would be effected by requisitioning war profits; it is obvious that we must get it from where it is; the workers don't own the banks.

Sub-hustling is infectious. Get the habit.

...PARTY ANNOUNCEMENTS...

ALBERTA PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meets on the First Wednesday in each month, at 8 p.m., at Mrs. A. Martin's, 10528 98th Street, Edmonton, Alta.

The Dominion executive committee meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 363 Spadina Avenue, Toronto, secretary, I. Bainbridge.

The Ontario provincial executive committee meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 363 Spadina Avenue, Toronto, secretary, I. Bainbridge.

Local No. 71, Toronto—Meets at 165 Van Horne street, every Sunday, at 2.30 p.m. A hearty invitation is extended to all friends and sympathizers. J. Cunningham, 219 Wallace avenue, Secretary.

Saskatchewan Provincial Executive Committee—Meets on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. All comrades desiring to join party or organize Locals are requested to write,

F. G. Wetzel,

Box 151, Vanguard, Sask.

Locals and Executive Bodies may have their Advs. in the Directory for the sum of \$3.00 per year.

Organizer's Maintenance Fund

The Workers of Canada await the message of emancipation. Send along your dimes and nickels. Drops of water make the ocean; let us have a tidal wave for Socialism.

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