

THE WEEKLY ONTARIO.

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THE SOVIETS

It is not very easy to get reliable information on the real nature of the Russian soviets and their administration. In Great Britain cheap editions of pamphlets and books by Lenin and others are circulated in English translations, but such things are scarce in Canada. An article in the London Times reviewing some of these pamphlets gives an idea of the true character and effect of the soviets.

To begin with, the word soviet has the meaning of council, sometimes of committee. When the Russian revolution took place in 1917, we hear of "councils of workmen's and soldiers' deputies," councils being a translation of the Russian word soviets. Local town and village soviets are councils of delegates from the different occupations of men and women, and these soviets choose each an executive council or committee also called a soviet. The town and village soviets delegate members to a district soviet, the district soviets to a regional soviet, the regional soviets to the All-Russia Soviet Congress, each of these lesser or greater soviets having its elected executive soviet as a business committee. The All-Russia Central Executive Committee appointed by the Central Soviet Congress, is limited to 200 members, and this grand committee or soviet choose in turn the Soviet of People's Commissaries, i.e., the Ministry. Any member of any soviet, great or small, in this pyramid, is liable (theoretically) to be recalled at any moment by the body which elected him.

It is readily seen that of this politico-economic structure, the basis is primarily industrial, only incidentally territorial. In the soviets the Russian population is represented according to economic interests, as workers for daily bread, not as citizens or inhabitants of a region. The idea is that the economic interests of all sorts of workers meet, clash and perforce are harmonized in bodies, which directly represent all labor. Not property nor brains or education is primarily sovereign, but immediate vital interests of the masses make themselves directly and openly effective.

Practically, however, not all labor is represented in the soviets. It does not seem to be true that professional workers are excluded from soviet suffrage, but certainly all employers and middlemen are debarré. As the Times quotes, on this point:

"Those who employ others for profits; those who live on income not arising from their own work; private businessmen, agents, middlemen, etc., monks and priests of all demonstrations; lunatics and convicted criminals may not vote." The intention evidently is to destroy private business and develop co-operative or national business.

The tendency of soviet rule must be to depress the individual and render him a mere cog in a machine, though that machine is, of course a very different sort of thing from the Junker-ridden Germany that made war on civilization. Two good features appear in sovietism, viz., enforced activity of the individual both in work and in political life, and general publicity. We shall all keep a close watch on the development of things under Lenin and his brother Commissaries. It is encouraging, perhaps, to note that terrorism is on the wane, we may pick some suggestions for ourselves. Give the devil his due and learn a thing or two from him if possible.

COLLEGE RE-ESTABLISHMENT

Most of the Canadian colleges established and maintained by the churches were financed before the war on the expectation that a certain part of the necessary expenditure would be met by students' fees. After the 4th of August, 1914, the students began to go into khaki, and for four years the theological colleges, in particular, were practically empty. It was necessary to maintain the classes to pay the staffs, and in many cases to increase salaries to match the high cost of living. At the same time, the outlays for maintenance grew rapidly. The item for coal alone was important.

Readily, it can be understood that the result was a series of deficits. In some cases, these were covered by special donations from friends of the colleges, but it is clear to all associated with these important institutions that a general enlargement of endowment funds is urgently required. The colleges of Canada have done excellent work since their establishment through the toil and sacrifice of pioneer Canadians. There is no prouder page in the annals of the churches of Canada than that which records their constant interest in higher education. The colleges have educated in the clergy who have positions of leadership in the Dominion, and the missionaries who are giving their lives in ardent toll the world over. They must be maintained as centers of inspiration for coming generations.

One of the aims of the Forward Movement, now engaging the attention of five Christian communions in Canada is to put the colleges on a solid financial foundation. It is an object that must commend itself to every patriotic citizen whether he be an active churchman or not. Education is the mainstay of democracy.

WHY COALITIONS FAIL

It was Disraeli who observed that "England does not love coalitions," and he gave as a principal reason the fact that to carry on a coalition the leaders had to make secret agreements, which usually had for their purpose the avoidance of public discussions of principles and therefore entailed the degradation of parliament. Coalitions have not been particularly successful in England even in times of national crisis when party principles sank into insignificance; though they have served their turn, just as it may be admitted Union Government has served its turn. Once the national crisis is passed and attention is focussed upon domestic problems, coalition comes to difficulties; its responsible leaders do not hold any well-defined and fruitful principles in common and their policy and action cannot be controlled by a common purpose of any importance. Union Government at the last two sessions apparently did not know its own mind from week to week or from day to day; much time was frittered away, and then ill-considered bills dealing with important matters were jammed through without giving parliament adequate time to consider them. Coalition in England was equally wobbly last session; on some questions Lloyd George described a circle, and some of the more important bills were laid over for another session.

Coalition in England and Union in Canada now present the same characteristics. Pretending to foster national unity they merely affront national intelligence and strictly national feelings. They are both seeking to organize a new kind of political party, a party without definite principles held together by the need of self-preservation. Coalition and Union both act as parties, fighting—if hopelessly—the other parties. They have an unholy fear of men of ability, honesty and distinction, getting into parliament; they want members who will consent to support the inner circle; men who are interested in principles are not wanted for the combine has no principles except compromise. Hence the combination governments repudiate the very assumption of national unity upon which they base their claims to power, because if there were real national unity the election of men of ability and honest purpose would be welcomed.

THE NEW RED MENACE

The recent successes of the Russian Bolshevik forces in Southern and Southwestern Russia and in some of the states bordering on India, may be said to have culminated in the capture of Odessa, Russia's great Black Sea port. From the borders of Rumania and the Ukraine to the Urals, the armies of Lenin appear to have made a clean sweep of all resistance. Their triumphant march, which for some weeks has held a threat against India, now becomes a distinct menace, as Odessa would furnish a strong point for the launching of military operations through Persia and Armenia towards Britain's eastern possessions. The Bolshevik could not, of course, make much use of the Black Sea as a pathway for men and supplies. British or Allied fleets would quickly form an unbreakable blockade just as they have in the Baltic. But through Trans-Caucasia there could be sent great armies long before the Allies could reach the scene in adequate numbers.

It is a question, however, if the Red chiefs just now will launch a drive on India. They have neither the organization or supplies necessary to cope with the British forces in India and the Near East which if they lack in numbers, as compared with the Red hordes, must be well-trained and perfectly equipped. Climate too, would be a powerful factor in defending India from the Bolshevik warriors.

It is much more likely that Lenin, if he does not make some sort of a peace with Europe, will start a great campaign against Western Europe. The capture of India would be a

heavy blow to Great Britain, but if Red armies could once sweep across Central Europe, the Bolshevik chiefs would come pretty close to dictating terms. Already the Allies appear to have realized this, as Polish and Lettish forces, equipped largely by Great Britain and France, are fighting desperately, and at present with a good deal of success, to stem the tide of Red invasion. One of the first acts of the League of Nations may be to take active measures to keep the soviet armies inside the borders of Russia, and it is certain that otherwise there can be no peace for the rest of the world. Such action by a peace league would seem paradoxical, but there can be little world harmony if organized anarchy and discord is permitted to run amuck where it will. The next move of the Russian Red Government, whether political or military, will be awaited with some anxiety. It may mean another stupendous struggle.

The ratification of the peace treaty was an historic event, yet it did not carry the import that goes with the first official step to put into play the covenant of the league. The peace signing ended the great war, but in Paris was launched a world-wide movement to do away with war. The council of the league is composed of representatives of Great Britain, France, Italy, Japan, Belgium and Brazil. Twelve neutral states, Argentina, Colombia, Spain, Sweden, Chile, Denmark, Norway, Paraguay, Holland, Salvador, Switzerland and Venezuela, will take part in the discussion of the assembly section, which might be described as the lower house of the league. The test of the league will, of course, come now when the opportunity will be presented to act on the program worked out during the last twelve months. The world will know very soon just how useful the league is to be in bringing about and maintaining universal peace. The placing and acceptance of mandatories, the reduction of armaments, courts to see that equity and justice shall be handed out to everybody, schemes for the improvement of conditions of labor, all these are vitally necessary to the league becoming an instrument to achieve world harmony. The league may fail, in which case the world will go back to the old dangerous methods of diplomacy, more or less secret, that contributed a lot to bring on the explosion of August, 1914. It will mean more alliances for offense and defense, a resumption of militarism with its stupendous and crippling expenditures. The masses the world over, however, are passionately determined that they will not again be subjected to the agonies of the last four years and as their representatives around the council board of the League of Nations are acutely aware of this, it may be taken for granted they will abandon any attitude that would tend to wreck the league. Providing they are sincere and have accurately gauged what the nations desire, the chances are bright for a successful inauguration of the movement towards a happier world.

Mr. Drury's plans for road improvement throughout Ontario, as announced by his minister of public works, is one of the most ambitious ever proposed in this country, and is one that should on the whole receive the support of the general public. According to Mr. Biggs it is intended that all county highways shall be looked after by the province, and that the province shall share in the expense of of eeping township roads in good shape. In county road work the province will utilize Ontario's share of the Federal Government's grants. Under this plan it is estimated that the Federal Government will contribute 40 per cent, the province 42 per cent, and the municipalities 18 per cent. This should make for better roads, as, under the present system of repairing—that by statute labor—the work is far from being as dependable as the traffic calls for. An interesting item of Mr. Biggs' announcement states that it is expected that before next winter a provincial highway connecting Ottawa with Windsor will be finished. This confounds critics of the U. F. O. who have declared that the farmers considered such a highway a race-track for city joy-riders, and would never sanction its construction.

Because of the refusal of the Fort Francis Paper Mill Company to supply paper a number of western journals have been obliged to suspend publication temporarily. The amazing part of the matter is that apparently the paper mill people have acted in defiance of Controller Pringle's order that western Canadian papers must continue to receive supplies in the past. To back up his order, Mr. Pringle threatened to commandeer shipments. If his ruling was ignored, and it appears as if in order to head off such affliction the company shipped all its paper into the United States.

This paper is produced from Canadian forests, and the Canadian Government has made the ruling that fifteen per cent of the production must be sold to Canadians. The trouble seems to be that in order to supply the heavy demands of the American publishers for newsprint, buyers from across the line offer rich inducements in order to get everything in sight and, unfortunately some of the manufacturers, keen for the business, have acted unfairly towards Canadian publishers, as well as flouted the law. The Government should act promptly in this matter, Canada owns the forests and Canadians must be the first served from what they produce.

Mr. Edmund Walker of the Bank of Commerce wants the Canadian Government to cease borrowing. Is he afraid that the Decadence at Ottawa is going to raise another Victory Loan next year, by way of pretending that what it was elected for is not over yet? Such a Victory Loan would be a defeat.

Have you noticed the mad rush amongst U. F. O. members to be the "goat" for Mr. Raney?

This is no time for slackers in production. The slacker in peace time is as false to the community as the slacker in war.

THE BIRD WITH THE BROKEN WING

I walked through the woodland meadows,
 Where sweet the thrushes sing,
 And found on a bed of mosses,
 A bird with a broken wing;
 I took it home and each morning
 I sang its old sweet strain,
 But the bird with the broken pinion
 Never soared so high again.

I found a young life broken
 By sin's seductive art,
 And touched with a Christ-like pity,
 I took it to my heart;
 He lived with a noble purpose,
 And struggled not in vain,
 But the life that sin had stricken,
 Never soared so high again.

But the bird with the broken pinion,
 Kept another from the snare,
 And the life that sin had stricken
 Saved another from despair;
 Each loss had its compensation,
 There is healing for every pain,
 But the bird with the broken pinion,
 Never soared so high again.

TWO TRADERS

Two chaps came down on the "Street" to trade,
 And woo Dame Fortune, that fickle jade,
 Who showers her favors with strange caprice,
 On those who would fail their wealth increase.

Now both were green at the Wall Street game
 As they moth-like hovered around the flame,
 Impatient at once their luck to try,
 To make a winning or else know why.

Now Adam Phool thought he knew it all,
 Considered advice as so much gall,
 He'd take his chance with the bulls and bears
 And knew just how to avoid their snares.

The other, D. Smart, had some common sense,
 Albeit his brain was somewhat dense;
 Yet to con the rules, he knew enough,
 Ere he tried to throw an expert's bluff.

Mr. Phool bought stocks with a lavish hand
 And blew in his money to beat the band;
 'Twas a lead-pipe cinch, he thought to win,
 As his ten-point margin he handed in.

But sometimes stocks go the other way,
 And so in sudden slump one day
 His margin shrunk, and they called for more,
 Which he remitted, though feeling sore.

Found his account of protection bare;
 Another drop, and a panicky scare
 They sold him out with a balance due
 Of just four dollars and sixty-two.

Frederick W. Brown

risages and deaths in Ontario are, it appears, being required to state the "racial origin" of the individuals dealt with in their returns. E. B. Yarwood, clerk of the township of Hallowell, as stated in his letter published on another page, asked the Registrar General for a definition of the term. In making this request Mr. Yarwood pointed to the fact that most of the people of Prince Edward county, in which Hallowell is situated, are members of families that

riage—English or Scotch? What, further, is to be the racial origin of the children of these children, if one of the children marries one whose parents were Dutch, if another mates with one of French origin and a third is joined to one representing the third generation born in the United States? And what of the generations after that?

The Registrar General said in his reply that there is no "Canadian race." But what can the majority of the people of Prince Edward county, representing all sorts of mixtures and with family histories going back in that county for a century, be but Canadians? What else can the latter descendants of this article be but "Canadians?"—Farmers' Sun.

PRINCE EDWARD'S RAILWAY SERVICE

Whether Hydro radial is the solution of our railway difficulties or not, there is certainly ground for dissatisfaction with the present service. A recent letter in the Toronto Globe by Mr. Norman Lambert, formerly the Globe's Western representative, draws attention to the unsatisfactory service given on the Prince Edward County road. Mr. Lambert had occasion to meet an early train at one of the stations on a cold morning, recently, and found the station closed and no one in attendance. This is a state of affairs that has existed for some time. It is bad enough in the morning when the time of train departure is fairly regular and a long wait is seldom necessary, but it is unfortunately worse at night. The train is often late and travellers are subjected to very much inconvenience, exposure and suffering through cold, owing to the stations being closed.

Only recently, a "Picton gentleman" had to meet the late train at Bloomfield. The night was bitterly cold and the only method to keep from freezing was running up and down the platform. Surely the public is entitled to more consideration than this treatment evidences. The stations should be kept open and heated for those who have to meet trains. Representations were made to the C.N.R. before the road was taken over by the Government, but with very little result. The matter should at once be taken up by the Boards of Trade or Municipal Councils and improvements in the service demanded.

The above conditions are simply an instance of the service that is being given the people of Prince Edward County. It is a well known fact that this county furnishes a large proportion of the passenger traffic on the C.N.R. between Trenton and Toronto. This is especially true of the morning trains going west and the evening train east. Recently, of ninety passengers on the 4.45 p.m. train Toronto east, only one was for east of Trenton, while many were for Picton and intermediate points on the line from Trenton. This train runs through to Yarker with almost no passengers, while a great proportion of the passengers endure indifferent service into Picton. Why should not this well equipped main line train run into Picton instead of going on down the main line.—Picton Gazette.

The Curlers Win

Y. M. C. A. Five Pin League
 On the play off of the tie between the G.T.R. Shops and the Curlers' team on Saturday night the result was two games out of three for the curlers, thereby giving them the championship of the League. The prize winners for the season are as follows:
 Team prize won by Curlers: R. J. Wray, Capt., T. Hurley, W. N. Belair, Malcolm Wright and D. Martin.
 Highest single score: W. Harvey, George Lancaster.
 A tie, with a score of 181. Both of the G.T.R. Shops team.
 Highest aggregate score in one game: C. H. Vermilyea, with a score of 452. Of the Merchants' team.
 Highest average for season: R. J. Wray with an average score of 133 of the Curlers' team. The next high average scores are as follows: W. Harvey of G.T.R. shops average 130. C. H. Vermilyea of merchants, av. 128. Chas N. Sulman of merchants, 126; D. Martin of Curlers, 125; G. Lancaster of G.T.R. shops, av. 120; Rev. A. S. Kerr, of Ministers, av. 119; Ald. Adams of G.T.R. shops, 118; A.H. Symons of Bowlers, av. 118.

A Pill That is Priced.—There have been many pills put upon the market and pressed upon public attention, but none has endured so long or met with so much favor as Parmentier's Vegetable Pills. Widespread use of them has attested their great value, and has need no further advertisement than this. Having firmly established themselves in public esteem, they now rank without a peer in the list of standard vegetable preparations.

Gerald M. Ponton to Important

Becomes Technical Ad Commission and West

Ottawa, Jan. 19.—In obtain first-hand information concerning trade conditions domestic and export, in G. M. Ponton, M.E., secretary and technical advisor Indian Trade Commission Ottawa, January 19, tour of the western provinces, insofar as possible, survey of establishments which are now operating suggestions as to increased production. He will visit industries which we but which are not and try to judge the resuscitating such. Ponton will consider the establishing new industry, the advisability depend on natural resources affecting manufacturing conditions of trade. On his way west, he stop for a few days at various points, outlining boards of trade, associations and other cases, the objects of the tour. Returning east, make more prolonged in many of the small towns. It is expected, reconnaissance survey will lead up to further made later in the year. These preliminary investigations toward a sympathetic attention of trade and industries in Canada.

Gerald M. Ponton, Lt.-Col. W. N. Ponton wide experience which admirably for his vocation. At the beginning was serving as a military one of the large of Mexico. He resigned services to the Canadian. For three years played as expert advisor in the Department, to examine, analyse and the explosives furnished. His work in this was so satisfactory now been assigned to responsible position.

B. H. Clarke on His Trial

Accused of False Procuring Money From
 The trial of B. H. Clarke a charge of securing a currency from the U. N. November with intent procuring this to be defrauded, began this morning Judge Dorchner.

Crown Attorney called, Mr. E. J. Butler, prosecutor. Col. E. D. prepared for Clarke with guilty.

E. A. Lovell, Oshawa, that Clarke was in Oshawa for a time last was employed to manage department. Clarke no supply of goods had declared he had him contract with Masco which Clarke was to Lovell's time and Clarke employers were to divide half and half. Clarke any stock of goods Lovell.

J. G. Moffatt, Belle Union Bank, Belle that Clarke opened a June. From that to September the account \$250 per month. Clarke applied for a cleared that he had a \$6,000 coming out of Oshawa, that he had in stock locally and were practically nil. Of this, witness gave months, the loan of told witness that Moffatt winding up the business in October Clarke cashed on Oshawa, required money to pay who were here. At he cashed cheques on cheques were cashed individual merits. On a check found about \$1, Clarke's going through which had been cashed Nov. 15th more were refused payment. Clarke they were not cashed had money to pay Oshawa and to cover The last cheques were cashed.

A telephone message Bank of Commerce with Mr. Moffatt after cash

OTHER EDITORS' OPINIONS

ARE THERE NO "CANADIANS" IN CANADA?
 Local registrars of births, mar-