

# THE RED FLAG

A Journal of News and Views Devoted to the Interests of the Working Class

VOL. 1 NO. 31

VANCOUVER, B. C., SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 1919

FIVE CENTS

## WHO OWNS IRELAND?

(From the "Labor Leader," By Casey.)

Increased scientific production to benefit or bolster up Capitalism leaves me quite cold.

So long as nations are privately owned, the only attitude for the working class is an attitude of revolt.

Private ownership is responsible for last Sunday's wondrous harvest of the sea at Grimsby being carted away as manure instead of being utilized to feed the starving continental workers and people who need fresh food at home.

Private enterprise dumps an army of 100,000 men into Ireland to overawe a population of 4 3-4 million people, who simply desire to be left alone. Fancy up-to-date field kitchens being driven through the street by splendidly groomed horses, Scottish regiments marching by with fixed bayonets to impress poor, half-starved folk who have never received a living wage in their lives; folk who cower in mean, wretched cabins, where three sods of turf smoulder in open fireplaces!

Rotten earthen floors, thatched roofs where the water percolates through on wet days, whilst the smoke fills the death-trap of a living room, making children sore-eyed and old women cough up their insides! Thousands of one-roomed, vermin-infested dens, which the labors of Hercules could not cleanse! Rows of houses with simply an open cavity as fireplace, and not a vestige of either oven-grate or hob! I have seen better houses at Seidis Fiord, in Iceland, than some of the miserable huts I have entered in Ireland.

If 700 years of British rule can produce such rotten results, then it is high time that the people of Ireland had a chance to see if they can do better.

The population of Mulhausen, even under Hun rule, doubled in fifty years, but the population of Ireland under English rule has decreased by over four millions. At this rate of progress, Ireland in another fifty years will be simply a pleasure resort for a few lords, captains of industry, and fox hunters, and the original inhabitants will have been wiped out.

## TAKE THEM WITH A GRAIN OF SALT!

When reading newspapers and periodicals, it should be kept in mind that they thrive by featuring the abnormal. For the truth of this compare the actual normal humdrum workaday life of any town or village, with the abnormalities featured in the press. It is because many people have taken the press reports of the Soviet administration as typical of the normal in that administration that they are so astounded that it is still in existence and capable of resisting and repelling the combined capitalistic armies for two years even when weighted down by the previous economic and political breakdown under the Tzarist regime. That the Bolshevik regime, to date, has surmounted successfully these unexampled obstacles should be sufficient to discount most of the reports in the "kept" press as mere capitalist propaganda.

## WALL STREET'S S.O.S.

Vanderlip Proposes to Write Off the Allied Debts to Save Capitalism

(By J. T. Walton Newbold, Glasgow "Forward.")

FOR some time past there has been ominous plants arising in the financial organs of London and New York concerning the ever more difficult problem of reorganizing the interchange of commodities and services between the United States and Europe. The wonderful prosperity which the American moneyed interests have been experiencing and anticipating as yet to become more memorable has shown itself as something illusory in character and more than questionable in its advantage. From "a debtor nation" such as the United States was in 1914, she has become a creditor or, rather, her banking houses have become creditors, to the whole of the Allied nations. She has become enabled to retain her gold within her borders to re-

## THE OLD ORDER AND THE NEW.

(From the "Dial.")

Out of the war to end war has come the peace to end peace. With the passing of time, sorrow for the failure of the first-named enterprise tends increasingly to lose itself in elation over a second failure—over the sheer inability of the peace-makers of Paris to put everywhere into practice their plan for the partition and the exploitation of the world. Liberals who support the Treaty and the Covenant have said that these documents do not anywhere provide means for the suppression of internal movements for industrial and social revolution. It does however appear that an alliance has been perfected between Great Britain, the United States, France, Japan and Italy. And it is likewise sufficiently plain that this alliance has as one of its chief objects the partitioning, among its members, of the more backward portions of the earth, now called mandatories. To the calloused occidental mind there is nothing very terrible about this scheme of things, familiar already under the name of colonial exploitation. Indeed it begins only now to appear that a system evolved for application to backward peoples, is already being applied, in its essence to forward nations also. It has always been an international crime for a people to have great possessions and a dark skin, but only recently has it been considered equally heinous to have advanced ideas and to act on them. Conceivably a communist revolution might have occurred somewhere in Europe in ante-bellum days; but only in a world remade by the war and ruled by the League are red Russia and black Rhodesia subjected to the same treatment. A backward country tempts capitalism to new gains, but a forward country threatens the very existence of the system that makes such gains possible. Thus the hope of the world today lies in Russia's resistance to the new Paris verdict, rather than in India's restlessness under an old sentence, and China's under a new one.

plenish her supplies by imports from or liens on London and Paris, to write off her indebtedness to these monetary centres and to establish enormous claims upon them for future payments for munitions, stores and food stuffs sent across the ocean on account.

One-third of the world's gold has made its way to America, and some £400,000,000 lies in the vaults of the 12 Federal Reserve Banks. Europe's desperate need has proved to be America's marvellous opportunity. By the end of 1915, Britain had virtually ceased to be a creditor of the United States and was becoming her debtor. From September of that year until the entrance of the United States into the war, the private financiers of America were lending billions of money to the Allies to enable them to purchase war-supplies from American contractors. American money-lenders were providing the armies of right and liberty with vouchers for vast war-stores and taking in exchange the IOU's which, for the time being, were all that Britain and France could render in payment. This process went on for another year, when, the situation becoming desperate, a highly-placed British statesman was sent over to the States to acquaint the American banking fraternity of the imperative necessity of America doing something more than merely lend private money. The American money-lenders were given to understand that the Allies' resources were almost at an end and that unless help came from America, that the war must stop. That meant not only signal defeat for the cause of Liberty and Democracy, but British and French insolvency so far as Wall Street was concerned. Indemnities would need to be paid to Germany and the American idealists would lose their principal as well as witness the defeat of their principles. The stability of the American financial and industrial system was at stake.

The American capitalists required to forego for the time their gigantic plans for the conquest of the markets of the world deserted by Britain, France and Germany, and mobilize their money, material, and man-power to secure the Cause of Freedom as well as to make safe the billions of dollars which they had lent and which they saw themselves in dire risk of, finally, losing.

The United States entered the war in a frenzy of patriotic fervor and of emotional ecstasy. The hiring newspapers and publicity agents of Wall Street trumpeted the new Jihad and fired their readers and auditors to unparalleled efforts of increased production and prodigal outlay of money. The American Government now assumed responsibility for financing the war. It raised enormous loans to equip armies and fleets as well as to afford unlimited credit to Britain, France and Italy.

By May of 1918, our indebtedness to the United States Treasury amounted to about £750,000,000, and since that time further huge sums have been

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