

# The Death of Jim Connolly

(From Glasgow "Forward")

Moving Story By His Daughter

THE manner in which James Connolly was foully done to death by the British Government, after the Dublin Rebellion in May, 1916, was told in a very moving speech by his daughter, Miss Norah Connolly, at a concert held in the St. Andrew's Hall, on Tuesday, Oct. 7, for the purpose of raising funds for the establishment of a James Connolly Memorial Labor College in Dublin. Captain J. R. White presided over a fairly large audience, and was accompanied on the platform by Mrs. Connolly. Captain White said at one time he had not always agreed with James Connolly, but at that time his knowledge of the implacable class war was not complete. He now realized, however, that Connolly's insistence on economic determinism was the strongest part of his faith. (Applause.) The problem they had to face was neither political nor economic, but a foul moral cancer whose only cure was the knife. (Applause.) The safest way of bringing about the change in a peaceful way, and in order to avert bloodshed, was to prepare for it now. (Loud applause.)

Miss Norah Connolly, who received an enthusiastic ovation, spoke under the stress of great emotion. She said

it was in Glasgow and Edinburgh that her father had spent the early struggles of his youth. It was here he learned what capitalism meant to the workers, but it was also here he realized what Socialism meant to the workers. (Applause.) It was in Scotland that he had given his first work for the labor movement, and had helped to lay the foundation of the great labor movement that was in the country today. It was appropriate, therefore, that she should ask the workers here to do what they could to help in the establishment of the Connolly Memorial Labor College. She asked them to help, not only because James Connolly had lived and worked in Glasgow, but also because he had lived and died for the workers. (Loud applause.) After the Rebellion in 1916, when her father was lying a prisoner, the first organ to cry out for his blood was that of William Martin Murphy. (Hisses and cries of "Shame!") Her father lay in bed unable to move, for one of his legs had been shattered in two places and he had been shot through the arm, and it was while he was in this condition that an informal court-martial was held around his bed, he himself having to be propped up with pillows. (Hoots and hisses.) She saw him after the court-martial, when he

told her that he felt quite weak but that he was not suffering much. The militarists were determined, however, on getting him out of the way, and at two o'clock in the morning they came with an ambulance and took him to Kilmainham Jail, where they strapped him to a chair so that they might shoot him. (Loud groans and hisses.) They had not done that because he was James Connolly, but because Capitalism was not safe while a man of his type was alive—(applause)—and because they were foolish enough to believe that with Connolly dead his principles and teachings would die along with him. (Applause.) They now realized today, when it was too late, that the blood of James Connolly had sanctified his teachings, and that Capitalism was no longer safe. In 1916, the workers in Ireland were not organized at all, but today they were organized in every county. In 1916, the funds of the Irish Transport Workers' Union were down to £96. They were down and out, with only five branches and 5000 members, but today they had 400 branches, with 12,000 members. (Loud applause.) Today the workers all over Ireland were marching towards the Socialist Republic for which James Connolly had died. (Loud Applause.)

gaged in efforts to overthrow, forcibly or otherwise, the existing form of government in the United States. The Russian Soviet Government has scrupulously refrained from any interference whatsoever with the internal affairs of this country. As the representative of that government in the United States, I myself and my office have strictly observed every rule of propriety in this respect. While the activities of my bureau have been subject to the closest possible scrutiny by the American authorities, nothing has been disclosed which might be interpreted as "propaganda to overthrow" your government, or other interference in the affairs of the United States.

The same can not be said of the Allied Governments, including the Government of the United States, in their attitude toward the government which I have the honor to represent. For the past two years the allied and associated governments have been actively engaged in direct and indirect efforts violently to overthrow the present Russian Government. These efforts have taken the form of widely organized propaganda within Russia, many Allied Governments fomenting plots against my government, distributing funds to elements in Russia plotting against it, materially and morally supporting every group of Russian counter-revolutionary elements in their civil war against Soviet Russia, and actually organizing such groups.

Without a declaration of war against Soviet Russia, and without stating either the reasons for their attacks or terms on which such attacks would cease, the allied and associated governments have been employing armed forces against Soviet Russia, thereby compelling the Russian people to carry on a defensive war, which prevents them from concentrating their efforts on the economic rehabilitation of the country. These governments and their agents also are inciting neighbors of Soviet Russia to attacks, and actively plotting against the conclusion of peace with Soviet Russia on the part of such neighbor states who ardently desire an end to the present hostilities.

It is quite conceivable that such unprovoked attacks, coupled with a blockade of Russian ports, which causes untold suffering to the people, have created deep resentment in Soviet Russia against the aggressors—and that this resentment has often taken the form of appeals to the peoples of various countries, urging them to protest against the efforts of their governments to strangle the working people of Russia. At no time, however, has the Russian Soviet Government embarked upon a policy of interference with the internal politics of any allied country and especially in the affairs of the United States. It is an undeniable fact that Soviet Russia's attitude toward the United States, in spite of the implied hostility of the latter toward Soviet Russia—so much at variance with the promises of its good will—has been one of extreme patience and a desire of conciliation.

Respectfully yours,

L. A. MARTENS.

Representative in the United States of the Russian Socialist Federal Soviet Republic.

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## EVOLUTION

(Continued from Page One)

group of phenomena. But it no more has a moral implication, or a progressive implication, or a levelling up implication than has the law of gravitation or the law of chemical affinity. It may result in one or the other; it has resulted in one or the other; its operations make here for progress, and there for stagnation or retrogression, but it is only called the one or the other by us. Evolution knows only adaption and equilibrium. Whether that adaptation spells a levelling up or a levelling down is quite another matter.

### The Direction of Evolution.

Confining our attention to animal society, how is evolution expressed? Primarily, what we have is adaptation. If an animal is to live it must be adapted to its surroundings to the extent of being able to overcome those forces that threaten its existence. That is a commonplace; all it says is, that if an animal lives it must be able to live; but all truths are commonplaces—when one sees them. Still, if we only had adaptation to consider, and if the environment in relation to which adaptation was to be secured remained constant, all we should have would be the deaths of all not able to live, the survival of better endowed specimens; but there would be no movement that could be called progression or retrogression. This arises because the environment itself changes. Either the material conditions undergo a change, or the pressure of numbers on the means of subsistence initiate a struggle as to their possession. The consequence is the introduction of a new quality into the process of adaptation. It becomes a question of a greater endow-

ment of the particular qualities that spell survival. And that paves the way to what we call progress—or the reverse. For one must observe that evolution is as evident whether the movement is in the direction of, or away from, what we call progress. It levels neither "up" nor "down;" what it does is to secure a certain measure of accommodation between an organism and its surroundings. Up and down is as relative in biology as it is in astronomy. In nature there is neither better nor worse, neither high nor low, there are only differences, and if that had been borne in mind a great many theistic apologies would never have seen the light, nor would non-theists have so often weakened their case by using a watered-down form of the theistic argument.

### Evolution and Progress.

What ground is there, then, for speaking of evolution as "levelling up," or of its being a progressive force? None whatever. Retrogression (if one must use these terms) is as common in nature as progression. On the one hand, we have aquatic life giving rise to mammalian life. On the other hand, we have mammalian life taking again to an aquatic existence. Here, we have a "lower" form of life giving way to a "higher" form; and, there, we have the higher being supplanted by a lower. And, on the whole, lower forms are more persistent than are the higher ones. There are certain lowly forms that were in existence long before the appearance of man, and which will most probably be the last form of life to disappear from a worn-out globe. The argument with which the Theist seeks to meet a mechanistic conception of nature, namely, that evolution is a law of progress, that it implies a goal, and is the realization of a plan, is wholly fallacious.

From a scientific point of view it is meaningless chatter. Science knows nothing of a plan, or an end, or even of progress in nature. All these are conceptions that we humans create for our own convenience. They are so many standards of measurement, of the same nature as our agreement that a certain measure of space shall be called a yard, or that a certain quantity of liquid shall be called a pint. It is sheer anthropomorphism. It is the ghost of God imported into science.

In my next article I will deal with the more concrete applications of the principles on which I have been dwelling.

CHAPMAN COHEN.

## The Defence of Soviet Russia

The following is an extract from a three column reply in the Christian Science Monitor, Nov. 13, of L. A. Martens, representation in the United States of the Russian Socialist Federal Soviet Republic, to statements made by William Phillips, Assistant United States Secretary of State. This extract from the reply deals with one of the Phillip statements, viz., "that the Soviet Government is engaged in propaganda to overthrow the United States Government."

Nov. 5, 1919.

Honorable James W. Wadsworth, Jr.,  
United States Senate,  
Washington, D. C.

Sir: . . . It is to be regretted that the Department of State apparently is very much misinformed as to the true situation.

First of all, I wish most emphatically to deny the allegation that the Russian Soviet Government is en-