### THE CANADIAN FORWARD.

April 24th, 1918

(Continued from Page 4). "Second. The Diet may convene without special call and it has the right to prorogue its session. Until a new form of Government has been agreed upon in detail, the Diet, according to the election laws, shall determine upon new elections and the dissolution of the Diet.

Page Eight.

"Third. The Diet appoints the supreme executive power of Finland.

"The Supreme executive power shall temporarily be in the hands of the Economic Department of the Finnish Senate, its members to be appointed and recalled by the Diet."

## A JUNKER TREATY.

The Diet which adopted the above declaration, and which was controlled by the Socialists, did not at that time assume the Government pursuant to the provisions of the declaration because the non-Socialist parties refused to attend the sessions of the Diet after it had been illegally dissolved by the Provisional Government of Russia. Subsequently, however, when through the illegal election above mentioned, the reactionary elements secured the control of the alleged new Diet, they re-affirmed the declaration of independence and assumed to form a government under its terms.

The chief reasons for the revolution were, however, more deep-seated than the purely juridic justification. In the first place, the government elected by the illegal Diet entered into such relations with the German Government, which threatened to jeopardize the new won independence of Finland, and to betray the cause of the Russian revolution,-the real liberator of Finland. The representatives of that Finnish "Government" attempted at Brest-Litovsk to conclude a treaty with Germany similar to that made by the pro-German representatives of Ukraine. Even without waiting for a formal conclusion of peace the illegal "Government" entered into close relations with the German aristocracy and appointed a mission to Berlin. Subsequently, as we are informed from seemingly reliable sourcse, the deposed government actually entered into a political and economic treaty, practically placing the country under German protector

people, who well understood that the influence of German autocracy in Finland meant the destruction of all hopes of democratic evolution in the country and were an incalculable danger to the revolution not only in Finland but in Russia as well.

At the same time the illegal "Government" of Finland did little or nothing to alleviaate the misery and hunger of the people. Profiteering was allowed without restriction. Vitally necessary social legislation was hampered and reactionary measures were taken toward establishing obligarchical class rule.

The revolution of January, 1918, was organized and accomplished by the labor organizations. The deposed government fled to the northern part of the country and has succeed. ed in maintaining itself, with the help of German-imported arms and soldiers, in the most sparsely populated section, inhabited by about one-fourth of the people. The entire southern and middle regions, comprising the most important industrial, economic and political centers, are in the control of the new revolutionary government which is rapidly re-establishing order and asserting its authority.

#### THE PROVISIONAL GOVERN-MENT.

The Provisional Government of Finland consists of fourteen members, named the People's Commissaries, elected by the labor unions, co-operative societies, and the Socialist Party organizations. This Government claims title as a Provisional Government, acting until order is re-established throughout the country and until new elections are held and a new constitution is adopted.

The Provisional Government is supported by a voluntary army of workers' militia, comprising from one hundred thousand to one hundred and fifty thousand active and disciplined members. The authority of the new government is upheld and supported by a powerful chain of organizations, which in every town and village of the country, to some extent even in the northern part, work in sympathy with it and temporarily exercise the functions of local administration,

The Provisional Powelutionet

Unless the deposed government succeeds in subjecting the country to the German autocracy, there is absolutely no chance of depriving the workers' organizations of-the control of the country. And even then the workers' organizations of Finland are determined to render the most desperate resistance to the establishment of German autocracy in Finland. The power of the workers' organizations in Finland is by no means accidental or temporary. Since 1905, when the laboring classes of Finland, after long years of struggle, succeeded in abolishing the reactionary feudal political structure and establishing universal and equal suffrage, the Socialist Party has been in steady ascendency. In 1907 it held forty per cent. of the seats in the Diet. This number steadily increased in subsequent elections until in the election of 1016, which was the last legal election, the party representing the workers' organizations secured an absolute majority of the Diet.

#### RED DEMOCRACY VERSUS WHITE SLAVERY.

The reactionary policies of the opponents of the labor movement, and their present policy of relying on German autocracy in their fight against the democratic institutions and movmeents of Finland is increased by the fact that although the country for the past ten years has had a liberal constitution in regard to general political rights, the country has in many respects remained extremely reactionary in its social institutions, as the wealthy classes, so long as the legislative power of the Diet was subject to approval by the Russian Government, always used their influence with the Russian Government to thwart progres sive legislation of the Diet. Thus, for instance, the agricultural system

# ....PARTY ANNOUNCEMENTS...

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

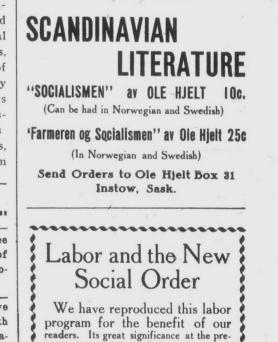
The Ontario provincial executive committee meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 363 Spaof Finland in many respects retains elements of survival of mediaeval serfdom, the tenants being compelleu to pay rent in the form of compulsory service without regard to the market price of labor. Public officers are appointed for lifetime and the spirit of arrogant bureaucracy prevails in the public offices. The laws, civil as well as criminal, have as their basis the obsolete code of Sweden of the eighteenth century.

The struggle of the working people of Finland, a struggle which has lasted for a century, against internal and external tyranny, is in its present aspects a struggle for real democracy, for industrial as well as political freedom, and for modern civilization against mediaeval autocracy. I sincerely believe it has a just claim upon the full sympathy on the part of the democracy of the world.

Respectfully submitted,

Santeri Nuorteva. Representative of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the People's Republic of Finland.

Will the ruling classes learn nothing, or can they learn nothing? Mr. Balfour, who consistently devotes his intellect to the support of reaction, is still cynically proclaiming that secret diplomacy is valuable and necessary-because it prevents wars!



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	ate. Latest advices, which seem quite credible, are to the effect that the representatives of the so called conservative "government" are ne- gotiating with Germany for the re- establishment of the monarchial form of government with one of the sons of the Kaiser as the King of Finland. Such plans and activities of the pro-German element in Finland were deeply resented by the masses of the	Government of Finland is in full sympathy with the Revolutionary Government of Russia and in active and close co-operation with it. Re- cently, I am informed, the Govern- ment of Russia signed a treaty with the Provisional Government of Fin- land recognizing Finland's complete independence, even in the domain of foreign policies and military matter's excluded from the provisions of the Act of July 18, 1917.	bridge. Saskatchewan Province Committee—Meets on the Sunday of each month. desiring to join party Locals are requested to F. G. Box 151, Vang Locals and Executive have their Advts. in for the sum of \$3.00 periods.	cial Executive he 1st and 3rd All comrades o or organize o write, Wetzel, guard, Sask. e Bodies may the Directory	especially to the working class. In order to familiarize the Canadian workers with the contents of this declaration. We are prepared to supply orders at the following rates : Single copies, 3c Bundles of 10 25c Bundles of 50 \$1.10 " "100 2.00 Postage paid. Order from Literature Dept. 363 Spadina Ave. Toronto
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