

Keir Hardie On Labor's Claims

Socialist Labor Leader Raps the Liberals and Conservatives—Plea for a Minimum Wage—Social Reform Only an Anodyne.

Mr. Keir Hardie, M.P., addressing an Independent Labor Party meeting at the Palace Theatre, Burnley, England, recently, said both parties now admitted that upon the state was placed the responsibility of dealing with the social condition of the people. Even Tariff "Reform" was advocated on the basis of providing more work. The free trade party was content for a time to argue that under free trade every blessing would flow, but the last four or five years had upset that old-time opinion. During those years they had seen many measures passed—the last according to its sponsors the greatest of all, the insurance bill. Under that measure workers were to get ninepence worth for every year of life. Their critics were never tired of telling them that all the recent measures were very small, and he agreed with them, but they were a beginning, and that was the important thing. If they could get a minimum wage for one, why not for all industries? If they could regulate hours for miners they could do it for railwaymen, textile operatives, and for all classes of workers. If they could get ninepence worth benefit for fourpence there was no reason why the extra fourpence should not be thrown in for the benefit of workers. (Applause.) He wanted to say emphatically that the prime factor in creating public opinion which made the passing of these measures inevitable was the independent Labor Party's propaganda movement, in which men and women had found a new inspiration, a modernized form of Christ's Gospel, which had its change going on among politicians was but the reflex of change coming over the people. Politicians never moved along progressive lines of their own initiative, but only as they were pushed from behind. (Laughter.)

Why Working People Are Poor.
The fundamental basis of Socialism was not unenunciation of Liberal or Tory crying out against the House of Lords, or sneering at an idle judge, but education of the people themselves. How often had they heard politicians say they were not in favor of the "wildcat" schemes of Socialists, but "practical" reforms? "Practical social reform" was an anodyne, an anaesthetic, which might keep them quiet for a time, but would never solve the social problems. As things were today they required an old age pensions bill, and provision of meals for children, they even required an insurance bill, but the Socialists started from the assumption that things were wrong, and if they had the power, as they had the will, and they were gaining the power, they would not waste time in applying an anaesthetic, but would uproot the cause and make anaesthetics unnecessary. What was the idea of the insurance bill? It was to keep the working class poor, and so stricken by disease that it required the State to come to its help, to lessen its poverty by reducing the amount of disease. Why did the working class require a bill of this kind? "Why were they disease-stricken? If he heard or read of an idle class that was poor he could understand it, but why was the working class so poor? That it required the State to come and help it? Nobody had yet answered that question. Everyone admitted that working people were poor, and they were poor because they were the working class. That was the trouble about the situation. An idle class did not require an insurance bill. Was the working class some inferior creation of nature? Were they not the best of the race? Were they not

made in God's image, like every other class? Science, art, literature had poured their treasures into the world's lap, but these were almost a sealed book so far as working people were concerned. (Cries of "No, no" and "Hear hear.") They were a sealed book to men and women working in the mills of Lancashire under the conditions that obtained. The chief benefits that had come to industry had not been applied to men and women, but to the improvement of the machines that men and women tended. To appreciate art or literature there must be leisure, freedom from worry, and pleasant surroundings. The whole environment required to be adapted to allow men and women to enjoy art and literature.

Minimum Wage of 30s.
What alternative did the Independent Labor Party put forward? It had no measures to which it gave exceptional prominence. One was the fixing of a minimum wage of 30s a week for all who had less than that sum at all with 8s a day for colliers and all who were engaged in dangerous or unhealthy occupations. The second was the Right to Work Bill. The minimum wage, they were told, was not possible; the trade of the country could not stand a minimum wage. According to the researches of Mr. Charles Booth and Mr. S. Rowntree, it took 25s 6d to provide an average family with the bare means of subsistence. During the last ten years the income of the nation had increased by £201,000,000, and of that sum the working class had received an increase in wages £4,500,000—an average of twopence per week. The £194,000,000 remaining had gone to those who paid income tax. It was all rank nonsense—part of the pretence by which the working people were hoodwinked—for any man to say that the country could not afford a minimum to the poorest-paid working classes. (Applause.) They were also told that the right to work bill was impossible, and yet the right to work had been secured for certain sections of the community. When the country dismissed the members of the cabinet had the right to go to the treasury, and after signing a declaration, could draw half their salary until the nation found them a job again as cabinet ministers. What could be done by cabinet makers. (Laughter.) These were alternative proposals, immediately practical, which would remove the poverty of the working classes would obviate the need for the insurance bill. At present labor, land, and capital were divorced, and Socialism sought to bring them together for the benefit of the community. Until the working class raised itself by its own effort, Socialism must remain an unrealized possibility. Some critics quailed before the Independent Labor Party because the Labor Party was not avowedly Socialist. But why was it not Socialist? Because the members of the party were not avowedly Socialists. (Applause.) Trade unionists wanted to benefit their class. Let them try and find some basis on which they could work together for an end that was common to both. They found that basis in having a party of their own, prepared to fight for the freeing of the working classes. The Labor Party was working classes. The Liberal and not the third party were two regiments of one army, and Socialists were trying to create a second party to represent the interests of the working man, business-men, and professional man a possible ally and comrade. Inside churches, chapels and co-operative societies the men and women as well as the children were—(hear, hear)—as honest as they were, and trying to do all they could for humanity. It was Socialists work not to offend them by insulting them, but to be the channels through which their energies might find expression. (Applause.)

IRISH HUNTING WOMEN

Find Keen Enjoyment in a Sport that Calls for Nerves of Steel.

Hunting absorbs keen sportswomen in Ireland just now, and it is seldom that a frost drives the Irish follower to hounds from the countryside. Irish women are renowned for their prowess in the hunting field, where the terrible obstacles to be negotiated call for nerves of steel, and it is neck or nothing in the distressful country. The fearsome stone walls, some times overgrown with ivy and moss, and the stoutest hearts, and even the most hardened sportsman is known to quail at the commencement of the hunting season, experiencing the sensation of the heart in the mouth when called upon to face the stiff going. She finds her nerve returning, however after a day or so in the saddle.

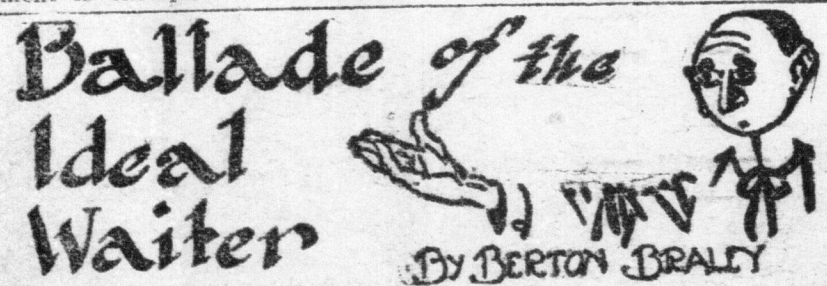
The late Empress of Austria used to hunt regularly in the morning, and her brilliant horsemanship is still spoken of. With the late Bay Middleton to give her a lead, she was always in the first flight and stuck at nothing. The famous happy-go-lucky hospitality that marks the Irish temperament is exemplified in matters

sporting, and open house is kept by those having accommodation in a good hunting district.

Every Irishman is a true sportsman, and the whole neighborhood turns out for a meet, those unable to raise a mount following on foot or driving in every sort of vehicle, some rare antediluvian specimens seeing the light of day on such occasions.

The Irish colleen will dance all night at a hunt ball and turn up at a distant meet as fresh as paint without going to bed at all, full of life and spirit, with wit and repartee bubbling like a font. The wild country brings out all the dare-devil Irish nature, and there is little searching for gaps or gates when the blood of Irish horse and rider is up.

Ireland is not over-represented in the matter of hunting, and Irish packs are not by any means numerous, and may be reckoned to number a couple of dozen. Some only possess quite a restricted number of couples, and hunt four or five days a week, though an occasional day may bring the total up.



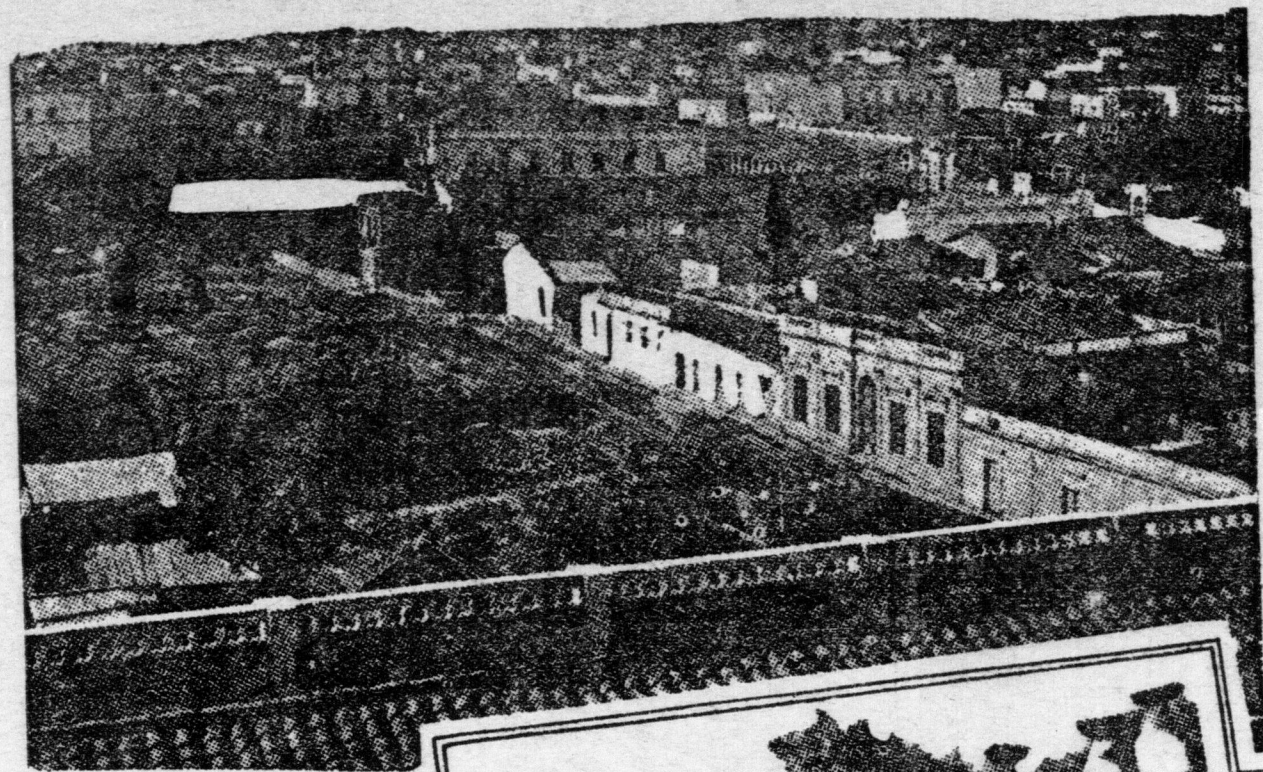
Some people sigh for a waiter who's humble,
Fawning and cringing and honeyed and sweet,
One who will snicker, though you sputter and grumble,
Kicking at everything offered to eat;
Others like garçons most proud and elite,
Waiters who radiate hauteur and tone,
Some people ask for a servant who's fleet,
I want a waiter who'll let me alone.

I want a waiter who'll forbear to fumble
Glasses and spoons as I lol in my seat,
One who won't lean over closely and mumble
Hints of things needed my meat to complete;
One who will stay at a distance discreet,
Not stick as close as a dog to a bone,
One who won't walk up and down—and repeat—
I want a waiter who'll let me alone!

Yes, he may spot me with soup, he may stumble,
Spilling my viands and treading my feet,
His voice may be only an insolent rumble,
His finger-nails black and his checking a cheat,
But, oh, if he'll leave me in peace at my meat,
Till I'm ready to go—and have made the fact known,
A generous tip shall be his for the treat—
I want a waiter who'll let me alone!

L'Envoi—
Prince, let's get off of our usual beat,
Let us find out if my vision has flown;
There's a place where you wait on yourself down the street—
I want a waiter who'll let me alone!

They Are Fighting Again in Paraguay, the Nation Without Men, Where Women Beg for Husbands and Pray for Babies; Paraguay's the Weirdest Tale in History.



[By Herbert Quick, Editor of Farm and Fireside.]

Down in Paraguay they are fighting again. The army of the revolutionists is said to be at the door of Assuncion, the capital. And yet, one would think that Paraguay had had enough of fighting. Her plains have been drenched with blood. She has felt all the hell there is in war.

Paraguay has known the awful days prophesied by Isaiah against those who shall greatly outnumber the other, "They men shall fall by the sword, and thy mighty in the war. . . . And seven women shall take hold of one man in that day, saying, We will eat our own bread and wear our own apparel; only let us be called by thy name." Perhaps the most dreadful thing that can happen to any nation is that one sex shall greatly outnumber the other. Paraguay is the world's best proof of that great social fact. Not so very many years ago an American insurance agent went up the Parana River to Assuncion—the city before which the fighting is now going on.

One day he saw looking out at him from a big house a senorita of mature years and that full Spanish beauty which blooms with the twenties and goes to seed with the thirties. She looked more pointedly next time he passed. Then she wrote him an invitation to call. He found that the house was a respectable one and called. The senorita asked him to marry her. "Am I not young enough? Am I not beautiful enough? Then, perhaps the senor will marry my sister, who is younger and very beautiful. Surely, I have waited long enough in this house for a husband! I pray the senor Americano to consider our proposal, and to marry me or my sister. We are good women, and rich; and our

blood goes back to the grandees of Spain." The army of the revolutionists was explored by Sebastian Cabot nearly four hundred years ago. A fortress was built there in his time called the "Fort of the Holy Spirit." Espiritu Santo—and so active was the spirit that possessed it that the natives were reduced to slavery. On this basis grew up the nation of Paraguay.

A dictator named Francia ruled it with a rod of iron. He hated the church and despised marriage, and tried all he could to debauch the morals of the people. He forbade foreign commerce with as much devotion to exclusion of foreign goods as that of any Reed, Smoot or Gallinger.

When strangers came into Paraguay Francia kept them in a sort of lotus-eating captivity—giving them luxuries and pleasures, and himself enjoying their company, for he was a learned man, was Dr. Francia. Does it sound like an Arabian Nights tale? Yet this was Paraguay.

After the regime of the Lopez family, when the curse of Isaiah came on the land. He made war on Argen-

tina and Brazil. Every man was obliged to fight. Whole regiments were made up of boys of 12 to 15. Women were enrolled by thousands, and when they fell out of the ranks they were butchered to keep them from joining the enemy.

Where Lopez marched every living animal was killed, and all who enlisted in his army were slaughtered as enemies.

In 1864 the population of the nation was about 1,400,000. In 1870 when the monster Lopez was defeated, there lived all Paraguayans but 28,000 men, 85,000 children, and 107,000 women! The women plowed the fields, built the roads, carried the freight up-guns, women said to almost any man: "We will eat our own bread and wear our own apparel—only let us be called by thy name! They begged for husbands and prayed God for babies.

It is the weirdest tale of history. And they are fighting again! Verily, "He hath made man a little lower than the angels!"

ENGLISH SUFFRAGISTS ARE BEGINNING TO SEE RAY OF HOPE ON HORIZON

Faith Put in Lloyd George's Suffrage Promises—The National Association of Women's Suffrage Societies to Co-operate With Him—Irish Women and the Vote—California and the Anti-Suffragists.

Now that the women in Great Britain who are making the fight for the suffrage have got their second wind after the body blow delivered by Premier Asquith a few weeks ago some of them are beginning to see a ray of hope on the horizon. The militant leaders of Mrs. Pankhurst's organization still declare that "the amendment scheme is a snare and a delusion," that Mr. Asquith is a villain of the deepest dye and Mr. Lloyd George's "clever little trap and harmful plotting become more clear every day." The former does not deny the impeachment, but Mr. George continues to go before the various organizations of women and insist that he is the best friend woman suffrage ever had and that all alone and single handed he is going to get it for them in the attempt. The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, with its 300 branches and many thousands of members, takes him at his word and announces that it is at his word to co-operate with his efforts.

The foreign public does not hear so much of this association as of the more spectacular one that furnishes such good copy for the newspapers, but it antedates the other by about forty years and is a strong force in the movement. At the great procession in London last summer it was said to have many thousands more in line than the militant body. Its president, Mrs. Henry Fawcett, widow of the eminent postmaster-general and one of the ablest women in England, has during her quarter of a century in office held

her association to strictly constitutional methods and has always believed that these would eventually win. She now accepts Lloyd George's pledges and in an open letter to him: "The disorders of which the events of November 21 and 29 are specimens (the militant demonstrations) are symptoms of a social and political disaffection. You may punish the offenders, but mere punishment does not affect the cause of the disease."

"I believe you have already made an attack on these causes by coming out boldly as the advocate of passing a women's suffrage amendment to the reform bill. When you are joined by Mr. Edward Grey, who is to unite, in the nature of what you intend to propose becomes known, it will be plain to the whole nation that you mean business and the causes of the unrest in England will be proportionately weakened."

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Realizing that there is absolutely no hope except through an amendment of the franchise bill, she joins forces with those who have pledged their efforts to secure this and says: "Make it as wide as possible, but give us some measure of any kind is obtained the National Union can claim a full share of the credit."

It is not alone to this National Union, however, that Lloyd George will have to answer for his good faith. The head of the Liberal Federation of over 100,000 members, the women's branch of the Liberal party, has recently held a mass meeting in Royal Horticultural Hall in London, its president, the Countess of Carlisle, in the chair, which was addressed by Mr. George and Sir Edward Grey, and it has decided to open a great campaign for a women's suffrage amendment to the electoral reform bill.

There will be a mandate that the party will disregard at considerable risk, as it is very largely dependent on the work of this federation at election time. With this determined effort on the part of the women, with their organizations and trade unions throughout the country protesting against the exclusion of women from this proposed bill, it really looks as if Premier Asquith might be checkmated in his bold game to put a pin into the movement for woman suffrage.

What Will Irish Women Get?

Irish women meanwhile are wondering what there is for them in the home rule bill whose secrets are so carefully guarded. They know that John Redmond, who has fought for years to secure for all Irishmen the fullest right to govern themselves, is not willing to let one woman share in this right; but they know also that the municipal councils of most of the cities of Ireland have demanded woman suffrage from the Parliament in Westminster, and that the Lord Mayor of Dublin carried this demand in person to the House of Commons. Further than this they know that if an Irish Parliament is formed for which women are not allowed to vote it will have so much trouble on its hands from the very beginning that it will be unnecessary for those North of Ireland men to make life any harder for it.

But there again is the situation which exists throughout the world, women waiting to see what crumbs will fall to them from the men's table. It is said that the present custom in England and the United States of women's sitting in the gallery and watching men enjoy their banquet originally grew out of the fact that the women were so poor that they could not afford to throw a bone over his shoulder to the women. A modern illustration of this custom is seen in the women who sit outside the legislative chambers and gaze hungrily at the men feasting on their opportunities to take all the fat official salaries, all the legal rights that can be devised, and then occasionally throwing a bone to women—a scrap of suffrage, a half just law, some privilege they do not want for themselves.

American men would resent the idea that those of Great Britain were more just to women than they, but even for those waiting Irish women the Parliament has just passed a bill making them eligible to sit on the borough and county councils, and it is expected that a number of women will be chosen at the January elections. They are also eligible to be elected as school board members and at the last election 110 were elected as poor law guardians.

For the past five years women in the rest of Great Britain have been eligible as aldermen and have been elected and re-elected to the councils of London, Manchester, Birmingham, Oxford and other cities, while three or four have served as aldermen in the city of London. Constant this with the situation in Hunnewell, Kan., a village of two or three hundred inhabitants, where a woman called city council of half a dozen men, and she was elected mayor from fulfilling her duties, while the whole country shrieks with laughter at the idea of a woman mayor!

California Anti-Suffragists. A Mr. H. O. Trowbridge, San Francisco, has reached the synchro-

ear of the Outlook with the tale of how they are going right to work through the power of the initiative to have another referendum on woman suffrage, at which he thinks it will surely be defeated. He says that at the last election only about one-third of the voters of the state declared for the amendment, and so it represented the voice of the minority.

The fact is that the largest total vote on any of the 23 amendments was cast on the one for woman suffrage, and therefore, according to Mr. Trowbridge's logic, all of the others should also be submitted again. He says he is perfectly sure that only a minority of the women want it. Commenting on this the Los Angeles Tribune says: "In view of the Los Angeles election, in which 90 per cent of the 84,000 registered women voted, and voted eagerly and in larger proportion than the men, we have a hunch that Mr. Trowbridge's initiative is indefinitely postponed."

The men of Los Angeles are now enthusiastic over women's voting and could be counted on for a much greater majority than the 6,000 they gave in November, while to this would be added surely a very large proportion of the women who have just used their new power. The women of San Diego have recently been able to secure through their new power the harbor improvements so long needed by that city, and they would hardly vote to take away from themselves the means by which they did it.

Nearly every woman in Santa Barbara has registered, and a big proportion have had the chance. There can be no reasoning to prove that the women of San Francisco would be less anxious to vote for the good of their city than were those of Los Angeles, and they could certainly neutralize the vote of the men of that city which constituted practically the opposition to the amendment. It is a little difficult to see where Mr. Trowbridge is going to get his majority, especially as the eastern anti-suffragists have announced that they do not intend to help California, not even to give the valuable assistance that contributed to the favorable result of the last election.

Why don't Mr. Trowbridge and his associates, if he has any, wait until after the presidential primaries which they will have in California within a few months? That will afford a supreme test as to whether the majority

of women want to vote. There will be no city to "save from him" the tools that they surely can't think that the whole nation is "going to be saved or lost by the vote of that one state. If the majority vote it will show that they want to vote; if they do not it will be time enough to talk about taking the right away from them.

But Mr. Trowbridge will be so busy getting the anti-suffragists to join about their great anxiety to save the one man having this burden thrust upon them.

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