

ITEMS OF NEWS FROM ALL PARTS

TAKE PREACHER'S ADVICE FAR TOO LITERALLY

Copenhagen, June 6.—According to the "Stargarder Zeitung," the local preacher of Tischendorf in Saxe Weimar, Germany, in the course of a sermon exhorted his parishioners to practice the utmost economy in regard to foodstuffs and quoted the famous imperial dictum, "We must persevere," urging the congregation to act accordingly.

The following night the pastor's house was robbed of a dozen hams and a quantity of bacon stolen. A placard was nailed to the door inscribed "We shall now be able to persevere."

MILITANT WOMAN

So here's to the new era of Militancy—"Hold, ye faint-hearted! Ye are not alone!

Into your worn-out ranks of weary men

Come mighty reinforcements, even now!

Look where the dawn is kindling in the East

Brave with the glory of the better day, A countless host; an endless host all fresh

With unstained banners and unsullied shields

With shining swords that point to victory

And great young hearts that know not how to fear

The women come to save the weary world."

—B. C. Federationist.

COMPETITIVE ANNIHILATION

The more efficient organization of war has only served more completely to reveal an indescribable maleficence. A populous industrialized nation in arms can hardly be defeated until its able bodied men have been so far killed that they are insufficient to protect its frontiers. In order to save the indispensable soldiers the utmost exertions and ingenuity are spent to obtain some superiority in weapons and materials. The whole civil population devotes its energy to the manufacture of equipment, ammunition and guns which are created only to be destroyed; and in the case of the present war an equally effective process of destruction at sea is being added to the destruction on land.

On both sides the technique of annihilation inexorably overtakes and surpasses the technique of production. The furnace of the war is steadily consuming large quantities of material and large numbers of men; and at the same time the chances of a decision are fading away. It is becoming less probable that the prolongation and the intensification of work of annihilation will enable either of the adversaries to impose its will upon the enemy.

—The New Republic.

SHOWING WHICH WAY THE WIND BLOWS

It does not require exceptionally keen powers of discernment to know that outside of Russia, there is not a government on earth that is not at present as essentially undemocratic and in every sense as unscrupulously autocratic and tyrannical as was that of Germany at the time of the present outbreak. Russia may be exempted from the indictment, not because the government of that country is any different from that of the rest, but because Russia really is just now a country without a government. The very fact of rulers and their spokesmen and attorneys sitting up nights in order to make the welkin continuously ring with asseverations of their in-

tense love for democracy and their hatred of all that is autocratic and Prussian, manifestly puts them in the class of those who "do protest too much," so much so in fact as to afford ample warrant for very grave doubt of their bona fides, but not of their hypocrisy.—B. C. Federationist.

LAW AND OTHERWISE

Law being the edict of one man or set of men and aimed at another or others, why should it be the duty of those at whom the law is aimed, to obey it? Of course, if every sucker on earth can be doped into the belief that the law is something sacred, and which it is his divine mission and bounden duty to scrupulously obey, those who live by working, suckers, have little or no cause to complain. It might be permissible to mention that all progress has been measured by the repudiation and violation of law. The purpose of all man-made law is to prevent progress, rather than to speed it along. It sometimes seems to us that it is the supreme duty of every one fit to be called a man, to persistently refuse to obey any and all law that rulers and other thieves and robbers may negotiate. Was it Thomas Jefferson who said that "they are best governed who are governed least"? Is there any merit in such a contention? It is up to the reader to determine.

—B. C. Federationist.

NO WORDS WASTED BY G. B. S.

George Bernard Shaw, though he writes lengthy prefaces, can be brief when occasion requires. The New Age, a well-known London sociological publication, has sent a questionnaire around to the ablest men in the kingdom, asking their opinion of "Industrial Reconstruction" after the war. The answers—60 of them—already have appeared in book form. The questions were as follows:

1. What in your opinion will be the industrial situation after the war as regards (a) labor; (b) capital; (c) the nation as a single commercial entity?

2. What is your view of the best policy to be pursued by (a) labor; (b) capital; (c) the state?

This is what Shaw answered:

"1. (a) (b) (c) Chaos, as usual.

"2. (a) (b) (c) SOCIALISM.

"G. Bernard Shaw."

And if Shaw had been asked his opinion about the "only" policy possible, as well as the "best" one, he would have made the same reply, we are practically certain.

Chaos, first; the death flurry of capitalism. Then Socialism, to bring order out of chaos. Shaw is a prophet who speaks short and to the point. But, then, he knows.—N. Y. Call.

THE FLOOD TIDE

New York, Oct. 20, 1917.

This city, always prompt to respond to political agitation, is in the whirl of a municipal campaign such as it has never witnessed before. Stung with the goad of fast rising prices for food, and eager for peace, the immense body of the working people, who cast the "silent vote" that is always a source of anxiety to the politician, are drifting in a solid mass to the Socialist party.

Straw votes taken in shops and in the thickly populated districts show Socialist majorities that stagger the Republican and Democratic leaders, and give promise of an avalanche for Morris Hillquit, the Socialist nominee, on election day, November 6th.

A poll of the jewelry workers, for example, taken by the New York Her-

ald, a Fusion organ, showed 398 votes for Hillquit out of a total of 494, with 47 for Hylan, the Tammany nominee, and 39 for Mitchel, the present mayor, candidate for renomination on the Fusion ticket. It is indicative of the swing to the Socialist side that the same group cast only 73 Socialist votes in the last mayoralty election.

The street meetings of the Socialists are attended by crowds numbering as many as eight and ten thousand persons, while their opponents can scarcely gather a corporal's guard. Hillquit's first appearance on the East Side in the present campaign was the occasion of a demonstration that reached the proportions of a triumphal march.

The live issues of the campaign are the war and high prices, with the infringement of the freedom of the press a close third, since the Russian, Hungarian and German Socialist dailies were deprived of their mailing privilege, and the great Jewish and English Socialist dailies, the Forward and the Call, threatened with similar punishment.

A meeting held in Madison Square Garden, Oct. 14, to protest against the expression of the last-named paper broke all records, with an attendance of 15,000, and at least 20,000 more turned away. In one week alone the circulation of the paper leaped 20,000, thanks to the Government attack.

All readers desiring to assist financially are requested to make remittances payable to Eugene L. Cohen, No. 7 East 15th St., New York.

A "V.C.'S" Wife to the War Office.

Our readers will appreciate the tragic humor of the following open letter sent to the British War Office in reply to a regimental paymaster's memorandum.

Re 48034, Bristol, Pte. T. H. Higgins.

Madam,—as your husband refuses to sign the necessary army form to enable separation allowance to be issued to you, will you please forward the two birth certificates to this office, so that separation allowance may be issued to you in respect of your children. Whilst separation allowance is not admissible to you in respect of yourself owing to your husband having refused to sign A.F.D. 4181B, the regulations permit allowance to be issued to you in respect of your children only. Will you, therefore, please forward these birth certificates as soon as possible.

C. Hewlett, Lt.-Col.

8 Lyndale Rd., Whitehall, Bristol. To Regimental Paymaster, Warwick.

Sir,—in reply to yours of the 17th re "Children's Allowances," I beg you to wait until I ask before offering me allowances paid by the War Office for my children.

I know no such man as Pte. T. H. Higgins. My husband is Mr. Thomas Henry Higgins, aged 41 years, going bald-headed, having put in 30 years for industrialism.

When we were married I well remember these words being read: "Those whom God hath joined together let no man put asunder." I always have had an aversion to soldiers, and it's impossible for you to make me the wife of one now. Governments can rob us of our husbands, but they can't force us to bring more children into this country under conscription, so I reckon that they and I will be quits.

The dear children I already have I will work for, independent of "military pay," and in spite of my being a chronic dyspeptic for 15 years.—Yours faithfully,

Mrs. Higgins
(A very conscientious objector.)
—Labor Leader.

Sir Edward Carson and Mr. Austen Chamberlain both voted against Women's Suffrage in any form.

HILLQUIT TELLS THE TRUTH

The truth was so strong that the New York Call, which gave publicity, had to show cause why it should not be banned. The speech as follows:

"In this great process of regeneration, we, the workers and Socialists of America, must and will play our part. For, notwithstanding the protestations of all our self-styled 'patriots' in our press and on our public platforms, the people of America, alike with the people of the whole world, want peace.

"The Socialist party is the only party that has the courage to voice this demand, this hope, this desire. As the spokesman of the great working class that is being bled to death in this war, we are opposed to war, to killing off the flower of our young manhood. We are opposed to the straining of our resources in pursuit of an unintelligible, un-understandable, bewildering kind of 'democracy'—a democracy that has the support of those classes who have robbed and despoiled the American people—a democracy which begins with suppressing our liberty of press and speech and assemblage, and the stifling of legitimate criticism at home.

"We say to the powers that be, to the ruling classes: 'Not war, dear bread and terrorism at home, but Socialism and social justice can make the world safe for democracy.'"

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great struggle against militarism.

Suppression is the order of the day. But suppression of a great and true cause has here led to the growth and development—so once more "Take Courage."

I was in Winnipeg recently and was much gladdened by what I saw there. Many indeed are ready to stand for freedom and to uphold the cause of humanity at all costs. From my brother in prison comes a message: "The power to compel does not exist, and a State of a society which endeavors to suppress the determination of an honorable man, though it lead to the purpose every available material resource, must inevitably yield before the unquestionable supremacy of the individual soul. Moreover, and this is a comforting reflection, the one who feels this sense of power—this ascendancy within himself—can regard his immediate circumstances with perfect equanimity and can await further developments with the utmost confidence, and his material 'deliverance' with a patience absolutely tireless." That is a message of a brave young soul who has already spent 17 months in prison for the "crime" of refusing to murder his fellow-creatures in this war for "Freedom." I am trying to answer all the letters that are coming now so fast.

The copy for leaflets is in the hands of the printers, and I hope soon to send a supply to every one who has written to me. I desire to thank W. E. Pierce for a lovely booklet poem, "The Only Way." There is no address given or I would write.

Let us bear up, dear friends. War and its offspring, Militarism, are the deadly foes of all workers—and doubly are they foes of womanhood.

Degradation of all that is sacred follows the wake of every war.

Let us arise and bravely fight, with the bloodless weapons of love, faith, and humanity. I have two suggestions to-day that I give for your consideration: First, that we boycott all capitalist jingo newspapers. (That suggestion came from a lady in the U. S.) Second, that we rise and quietly leave every religious service where war is preached in the name of Christ, as a protest against the blasphemy.

Please write to me, all who will help.

(Mrs.) Gertrude Richardson,
Swan River, Manitoba,
Canada.