

## WHAT OTHERS ARE THINKING

Bright Clippings from  
Wide-a-wake Contemporaries

### STATE CONTROL OF MINES.

#### Statement of Welsh Miners' Official.

In a statement made on Monday Mr. Vernon Hartshorn, a member of the executive of the South Wales Miners' Federation, announces, in connection with the Government scheme for the control of mines, that already assurances had been received on the important point of the status and rights of the miners. Those assurances, he says, are quite satisfactory, and at present there is not anything to be feared on that score.

The Government control scheme (he adds) is for the present in its rudimentary stages. The Government is proceeding slowly and cautiously, in order not to rush into unnecessary difficulties. This initial stage will, however, soon be over, and out of the new control there will have to be built up a great scheme for the benefit of the nation in various directions. It is certain that the Government does not intend that State control shall be merely formal, and without any practical effect upon the industry itself, or upon the part which the industry plays in the life of the nation. State control has in it the beginning not only of the solution of problems of production, but of distribution as well. The miners hope not only that State control will prove to be beneficial to the industry itself, but that the general public will also reap many advantages from it. It would not benefit the householders if the Government dealt simply with the output and left distribution entirely to the mercy of middlemen. If the scheme is to benefit the general public there must be State or municipal control of middlemen and dealers as well as of coalowners. The distribution and sale of house coal at any rate ought to be largely, if not entirely, under the control of the local authorities.—Huddersfield Worker.

### LABOR AFTER THE WAR.

At Keighley on Sunday morning a meeting held under the auspices of the National Union of General Workers was addressed by Mr. Will Thorne, M.P. (general secretary), and Mr. Walter Wood (district secretary). Mr. W. Bland, prospective Labor candidate for Holmfirth Division, presided.

The Chairman, looking forward to the depression in trade that he foresaw would follow the end of the war said that this would give the employee his opportunity, and even now the employers were consolidating their position.

Mr. Walter Wood thought the war was likely to result in the salvation of the workers, who would claim, on account of the great sacrifices they were making, to have a greater right to say what their life should be.

Mr. Will Thorne, M.P., said that if, after the war, the Government attempted to keep the workers hemmed in and restricted on the lines which had been agreed to voluntarily, and were not prepared to let them get back to economic freedom, there would be ways and means at the disposal of the workers that would break the back of any Government. He claimed that the wage-earners had been more patriotic than many of the employers.—The Worker.

### FRENCH SOCIALISTS.

#### Significant Vote on Relations With German Socialists.

The French Socialist National Congress last Thursday discussed the general policy of the party. M. Jules Guesde, in opposing the resumption at present of international relations, said

that the Internationale had not been capable before the war of maintaining peace, and to-day a reunion would mean only division. The struggle introduced between the various fractions would set the proletariats one against the other.

By 1,537 votes to 1,407, Congress adopted a motion declaring that it would consider the question of a general reunion of the Internationale only when the German Socialist party had transmitted to the International Socialist Bureau precise resolutions defining the attitude which it intended to take in view of the refusal of the Central Empires to define clearly the character of their offers of negotiations for peace.

At the close of the sitting the Congress voted a resolution in favor of the party being represented in the Cabinet, and authorizing the presence of M. Thomas in the Government of National Defence as Minister of Munitions.

### INVESTIGATE THE CHARGES.

A. A. Heaps, the Social-Democratic candidate for alderman in Ward 5, has formulated some very definite charges of wrongdoing in connection with the election in Ward Five. These have been made public and a copy has been sent to the City Council.

It is unreasonable to expect that a candidate for civic office who becomes aware that unlawful practices have been resorted to should himself undertake the task and expense of an investigation. In this instance it is, doubtless, quite impossible to do anything of the kind. But they should nevertheless be investigated. It becomes the duty of the City Council to see that an investigation be held.

It is held by some that the whole of the evidence will be brought to light in the trial of the protest which has been lodged by Mayoralty Candidate Dyson. It is by no means assured that the evidence will be delved into if it should be found that it relates only to the aldermanic contest and not to the mayoralty. On the other hand, the protest might not be pushed through to a conclusion, at least the option of seeing that it does not belong to the city.—Winnipeg Voice.

### MELTING POT.

"Germany wants peace," the newspaper headlines declare. It is about the only thing left in Europe worth having.

"Germany is beaten"—of course, but it reminds us of the beating that Pat Malone got. Paddy came home to his wife one night in an awful state, minus a nose and an ear, with his arm in a sling and his eyebrow chewed. "Fighting ye ar-r-e again," says Biddy, "and did ye let that dur-r-t-y little spalpeen, Mike McGinty, beat ye again?" "Whist! Whist!" says Pat, "don't spake disrespectful of the dead!"

Never before in the history of class rule has the hypocrisy of the exploiters of humanity and their hangers-on been so brazenly and impudently exposed as at the present moment.

It is rotten! At a time when speculators and exporters of foodstuffs are feeding the war demons of Europe and starving the workers of America, when murder machine makers are using such vast quantities of point paper material in their accursed explosives that the price of paper is forcing publications to the wall—at a time when the high cost of living, caused by allowing this gang of parasites to pursue their criminal traffic of cornering and shipping abroad for profit the necessities of life, has brought forth the grim spectre of hun-

ger in our land, come forth the shameless panders of plutocracy, with all the effrontery of a King Louis of France, telling the poor to eat grass!

And with them, like the priests were with King Louis, are the soul-savers, calling on the hungry to come to Jesus.

Demonstrations are being held in the cities, to show how a poor person can live on a cent a meal or less. And the reverend doctors of delusion are holding prayer-meetings in the workshops and factories to hypnotize the poor into worrying about their "lost" souls instead of their starved stomachs.

The whole thing is raw enough to start a red revolution.

## THE FUTURE OF WAR AND PEACE

### II.—General Causes of the War.

(By Mervyn Smith.)

For purposes of home consumption many of the reasons given as causes of the war are encouraged and permitted wide circulation. However, the shooting incident at Serajevo or the violation of Belgian neutrality are excuses and not causes. The idea that the German Kaiser precipitated the conflict out of pure wantonness must appear absurd on a moment's reflection. Wars are not planned and paid for by a few individuals. A crowned ruler is nowadays a survival with only nominal powers, or a noisy exponent of prevailing imperialism, and at most a partner with financial and industrial oligarchs. Not even a military party is all-powerful unless it receives the support of other elements of the upper classes. Nor do many of the commonly advanced "explanations" really explain the situation. Conditions of race, religion, government, social habits and character, are so varied amongst even allied nations on both sides, that they furnish no common and adequate motive for the general participation. Only the economic situation does this.

It seems strange that two countries recently considered as opposites in important respects should to-day be found as allies. On the surface Germany and Russia appear more possible allies than do England and Russia. That it is not so indicates that in alliances social freedom in the contracting nations is not considered. Alliances are made for the purpose of protecting interests—and those of the most "material" kind. Throughout a large part of the last century British and Russian aspirations conflicted in the Near East. But when German influence began to make itself felt in Turkey, when concessions were received and the Bagdad Railway begun, when, in short, German aggressiveness threatened to leave both Britain and Russia without a problem to dispute, then these two covert enemies came to an understanding and united against the newcomer. The British, who so long helped to keep the Russians from Constantinople, now seem prepared to allow them this city "as a reward for their efforts in the war." It is obvious that in the future, for some time at least, Russian occupation would menace British interests less than German occupation.

The incorporation of Constantinople and parts of Turkey with the Russian Empire would aid the development of Russia to full capitalist robustness and give her control of the outlet to the Mediterranean. But it was just in the direction of the Balkans, Turkey and Persia that Germany was turning her eyes. These countries, with Austria, linked together by the Bagdad and other lines, would form an economic union of vast strength. It would stifle Russian ambitions, threaten England's commercial supremacy and furnish German capital abundant opportunity to realize its imperialist dreams. The Triple Entente was formed to prevent the success of German aspirations. The

annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1908 was a German and Austrian victory. But Germany suffered through the Agadix incident, and again after the Balkan Wars, when the Serbian successes kindled bright hopes for a greater Serbia. Such a Slav scheme if successful would have destroyed the continuity of the projected world empire and prevented German gains from the exploitation of the backward nation. The Serajevo shooting furnished the Central Empires the excuse to strike with force of arms. True to their economic interests England, Russia and France were forced into the struggle. And beneath the fine phrases of the belligerents is heard the hard metallic language of steel and gold.

(To be continued.)

### A SLEEPY CHURCH AWAKENING.

The report of the Rev. J. T. Ferguson, representing the Synod Presbyteries of High River, Macleod, and Kootenay, to the 1914 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, as reported on page 44 of the acts and proceedings of the assembly, under the caption of "Social Unrest," will be of general interest to our readers. The report is as follows:—

"The attitude of a large number of wage-earners and members of labor unions towards the Church has not become more friendly. The influence spreading eastward and inward from the deplorable events of the prolonged labor disturbances on Vancouver Island, which brought representatives of labor into sharp conflict with government, has proved embittering and mischievous. The utterance of preachers and the deliverances of Church courts, given forth with laudable intention of helping to heal between the class interests involved, were belated and sprang from imperfect knowledge of certain phases of the dispute. There was, however, a prevailing impression that the supineness of the Church in the face of an approach to anarchy was not creditable to our sense of social justice. Many people have been reading Winston Churchill's 'Inside the Cup.' I have been asked everywhere what I thought of it. Its challenge to the Church will be more loudly heard as time goes on. The vehemence and perseverance of the Socialistic attack upon the Church cannot be overlooked. It has to be studied and explained. It is closely related to the attitude of large sections of people towards the Church as an institution, and it affects any effort which the Church may make in the direction of reaching numbers of people who are at present alienated from her. Our young missionaries are often much perplexed in endeavoring to meet the hostile criticisms with which they are confronted; and even the most experienced men find it difficult to lead those who are subject to Socialistic influences into hearty alliance with the Church. The feeling of many men is expressed in the action of certain Scotch miners who, when a subscription sheet on which contributions were solicited for missions was presented to them, wrote upon it the single emphatic word, 'Never!'"

One of the arguments against woman's suffrage is that woman's place is in the home. What irony! Seventy-five per cent. of the women have no homes. A rented house is not a home, it is just a place to stay. A mortgaged house is not a home, it's hell. If woman's place is in the home let society see that she has a home worthy of the name.

Now that the capitalists have got a strangle hold on all governments and enough people have been killed to satisfy the Malthusian theory, we ought to have peace.

The things that people reject as foolish their children accept as wisdom