

# WHAT OTHERS ARE THINKING

## Bright Clippings from Wide-a-wake Contemporaries

### THEY WERE ONLY FOOLING.

By Frederick P. Burdick.

Shortly before the war was declared the capitalist press made much ado about the offer of the copper trust to sell the United States government all the copper it desired for war purposes at virtual cost price.

Wall Street mouthpieces, both in the editorial rooms of the great newspapers of the country and in Congress, received the announcement with great acclaim. They told the people that the action of the copper trust was proof positive that all charges to the effect that the United States was being plunged into the war to benefit Wall Street were absolutely false. The copper trust was hailed as the greatest exponent of true patriotism the world has ever seen.

A few days after the President and Congress decided to declare war, without consulting the people, it was announced that the government was to purchase approximately 300,000,000 pounds of copper, the largest order for this metal in the history of the world.

Before the war was declared the copper trust agreed to sell the government all the copper it needed at cost, said to be 16½ cents.

And the explanation emanating direct from Wall Street was that it had been suddenly discovered that the cost of producing copper had been advancing steadily, "and to be just and reasonable with the copper producers, the government is said to have practically decided to pay what might be considered a reasonable price." It also asserted that if the copper trust kept its agreement to give the government all the copper it needed at 16½ cents a pound, the wages of the miners might have to be lowered. The earnings of the copper trust last year amounted to hundreds of millions.

And the "patriotic" offer of the steel trust to sell the government steel at 50 per cent. less than charged England and France is found to be more or less a joke.

Before the war steel was selling at \$20 a ton. At this price the trust made \$8 profit on every ton sold. Because the war gave the steel trust the opportunity to hold up the allies as much as it pleased, it raised the price of steel to as high as \$120 a ton.

Even when the government is charged half as much as the allies for steel, or \$60 a ton, it can be seen that the steel trust will reap a rich harvest of profits from Uncle Sam. Even if the production cost of \$12 a ton before the war had increased to \$20 a ton, which is not the case, the profit that the steel trust will make from the government through its "patriotic" offer will be \$40 a ton.

There is only one method by which the government can be assured of getting a square deal in its preparedness program, and that method is the government ownership and operation of the railroads, shipyards, and steel and copper industries.—N. Y. Call.

### ALLIES FOOL THEMSELVES, SAYS ORGAN OF WORKMEN'S COUNCIL.

Petrograd, May 29.—The newspaper organ of the Council of Workmen's and Soldiers' Delegates says:

"We must not allow any misinterpretation of our watchword, 'Annexation' means the forcible seizure of territory in another state on the day of a declaration of war. 'Without annexation' means not a drop of the people's blood for such seizure."

This publication, after quoting two English newspapers to the effect that

the declaration of the Provisional Government and the pronouncements of the revolutionary leaders show that the Russian peace formula coincides with the Anglo-French war aims, says:

"You are deceiving yourselves, gentlemen, or, rather, you are vainly trying to delude your fellow-countrymen concerning the real policy of the Russian revolution. The revolution will not sacrifice a single soldier to help you repair the 'historic injustices' committed against you. What about the historic injustices committed by yourselves, and your violent oppression of Ireland, India, Egypt, and innumerable peoples inhabiting all the continents of the world? If you are so anxious for justice that you are prepared in its name to send millions of people to the grave, then, gentlemen, begin with yourselves."

M. Tchernoff, the Socialist Minister of Agriculture, addressing a congress of delegates from the front, said:

"Peace must be concluded in which there are no victors and no vanquished. There is no question, however, of a separate peace. Appeals have been published for an immediate attack, but the army should utilize the present lull to organize itself. Then it will need no prompting; it will know itself what to do."

### Chancellor Tells of Huge Sum War Costs.

London, June 11.—England is spending £7,750,000 a day (\$37,277,500) in her warring, Chancellor of the Exchequer Bonar Law told the House of Commons to-day.

### MAYBE THEY NEED THE MONEY.

(Christian Science Monitor.)

A telegram from Ottawa says that gasoline is going up in price throughout Canada "on account of the entry of the United States into the war." But that, of course, is not the reason. Gasoline is going up throughout the Dominion for the same reason that it goes up throughout the United States, whether either country is at war or not, simply because the people of both countries permit the oil monopolists to put it up.

### EXTRACTS FROM THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES.

"That to secure these rights (life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness) governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government."

"But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security."

Article III, Section III, sub section 1, says that "Treason against the United States shall consist only in levying war against them, or in adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort."

Article VIII says that "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

If Premier Borden is honest and sin-

cere, he will no doubt consult the governed re compulsory military service, or otherwise demonstrate his fealty to vested interests by dictating to the people of this country and thus associating himself with those undemocratic characteristics so closely allied "to czar and kaiser" which have proven to be the curse of Europe, and which will ultimately result in the revolt of Canadian workers for his final overthrow, and the system for which he stands.

### GUNS! WHAT FOR?

#### Police Get One Hundred Guns for Riots

One hundred Winchester repeating 12-gauge shot guns and 5,000 rounds of ammunition, to be used in quelling riots and other disturbances were received at police headquarters Friday.

Next week classes in drill and the use of the weapon will be held several times weekly in each station.

Department officials deny impending war prompted purchase of the guns.—American Socialist.

Men guilty of acts of violence against the agitation for conscription in Montreal were arrested and heavily fined. This is the only method of incurring personal liberty.—Toronto Globe, June 14, 1917.

It would be interesting to know why the law of personal liberty was violated in Ontario and no fine paid. Perhaps the Globe will now inform us that Ontario is not in Quebec, and that Montreal is the only place where personal liberty is violated. At any rate, if it is up to the Globe to explain the geographical nature of their personal liberty interpretation as an excuse for their cowardly silence re the Toronto and Guelph personal liberty outrages. Does the law apply only to anti-conscriptionists?

### THE FAITHFUL THREE.

"Be It Known Unto Thee, O King, That We Will Not Serve Thy Gods, Nor Worship the Golden Image Which Thou Hast Set Up."—Dan. 13: 8.

These words and those of the Christian Apostles, not forgetting Daniel, who was forbidden to pray to any being excepting the king of Babylon, all most firmly declining to obey king rather than their own conception of right, may be of some comfort to those who are being punished because they will not conform, in action, to the orders of the rulers of the people.

Verses somewhat similar to these given below have been based on the above text:—

"Look upon the golden image,  
Hear the king's decree;  
See the burning, fiery furnace,  
And the faithful three!

"'Twas a royal king's commandment  
Governed conscience then;  
Yet how bravely for the truth  
Stood those noble men!

"So when earthly kings in error  
Bid you bend the knee,  
Turn and read the simple story  
Of the faithful three!"

A present-day application of these verses is in order!

R. B. ST. CLAIR.

### One Who Was Present Puts the Case From the Socialists Side.

By Hyper.

The account of the meeting held in the Labor Temple, Toronto, on Sunday, June 3rd, as reported in the Forward of the 12th, was taken holus-bolus from the Toronto Telegram, and from their point of view makes a very entertaining story. The fact that it says that some things occurred which

did not happen is a mere detail to a newspaper which for policy's sake twists and distorts a story to suit its own purpose. And, of course, a too strict adherence to the truth might be awkward.

The following, in a few words, is what took place: At about 7.15 on the date of the meeting, which was a public meeting, openly advertised, no attempt being made in any way to disguise its purpose, a large contingent of returned soldiers and their supporters, numbering in the neighborhood of 300, came into the hall, where, at the time, comparatively few of the socialists and their friends had come. By 7.30 the hall was comfortably filled, and the police—who knew beforehand that the soldiers intended to prevent the holding of the meeting—ordered the doors to be closed, thus preventing a very large number of our friends from gaining admittance.

The Finnish band, after having played a couple of concert pieces, played the "Marcellaise." They did not play the "Red Flag" for the very good reason that they couldn't, not having practiced it. Some of the soldiers, recognizing the air as the French national anthem stood to attention, while others began to call for "God Save the King." The yelling and shouting increased till by the time the band was through, it was impossible to hear what they were playing.

Sergt. Lowery of the G.W.V.A. had previously asked for, and had been granted a seat on the platform. He asked the chairman if they might sing "God Save the King." The chairman told him they could if they wished, but that the band, being composed of Finlanders, could not play it, never having learned it.

The mob had by this time gotten entirely out of the hands of either the socialists or the leaders of the soldiers, and pandemonium broke loose. All over the hall were groups of soldiers trying to sing in a dozen different keys. Some of the soldiers who were near the band tried to force them to attempt to play. But they failed, and the statement that the Finnish band either played or tried to play "God Save the King" is not true.

Meanwhile some of the women and children had made their escape through an emergency exit, but they were brought back into the hall and taken out safely by the proper way. Some of the soldiers started to use their crutches and sticks on a few of the socialists—not more than half a dozen as far as I know suffered any actual violence—and when they could find no other outlet for their courage they put their crutches and sticks through about 40 inoffensive chairs.

The whole affair did not last half an hour, and the soldiers marched to the City Hall, where under the guidance of an ambassador of the Prince of Peace, Rev. Sam Boal, they held a meeting to their hearts content. They wanted at that meeting to commence by singing "God Save the King." But no. The parson reminded them that it was "God's Day" and they therefore commenced, as became good Christians, with "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow."

Thus ended the eventful 3rd of June. The committee in charge of the meeting is quite satisfied with the result.

The action of the soldiers did more to advertise the anti-conscription movement in Toronto than a dozen resolutions passed at small (or for that matter, large) meetings of socialists could have done. And the citizens of Toronto have had their eyes opened to the fact that there is in this city an element to whom mob law is the ordinary method of argument.

"Come to Flanders with me, boys," was the rallying cry of Sergeant-Major Bohn. He is back again for another batch. This patriotic gent is always careful to take a return ticket.