

NEWS OF THE MOVEMENT

Notice to Locals.—We shall be glad to publish each week beneath this heading reports of the doings and activities of any local. Copy sent in should be written clearly on one side of the paper only. Reports should be brief as possible.

CITIZENS OF GUELPH, ONTARIO,

Opposed to Registration Unless All Industries Affected Shall Come Under Public Ownership.

A mass meeting was held in the Labor Hall, Guelph, to protest the action of the Government in calling for the registration of men eligible for military service. The meeting was attended largely by Labor men and Socialists, and it was agreed to call another meeting for the purpose of giving volume to the protest.

The following resolution was carried unanimously:—

Resolved: That we citizens of Guelph, in the Province of Ontario, in meeting assembled, on December 7th, do hereby oppose the scheme for national registration, unless all industries that are affected by registration shall come under the ownership and control of the nation; and all profits accruing from such industries be used for the benefit of the nation as a whole.

OPPOSED TO REGISTRATION.

Socialists representing the English, Jewish, Ruthenian, German, Polish, Lettish, women's and juvenile locals, assembled at headquarters of the party, corner of Dufferin avenue and Salter street, to discuss registration and conscription. The discussion lasted from 8 o'clock until nearly midnight, J. Penner occupying the chair. Finally the following resolution was agreed upon: "The Winnipeg locals of the Social Democratic party in convention assembled declare opposition to the action of the Dominion Government in imposing registration on the male population of the country. Our opposition is based on the following grounds: Recent events in Great Britain prove that registration is but the first step toward imposing conscription on the male population. If it is argued that all the country's resources should be thrown into the prosecution of the war, then we maintain the first step a responsible government should take would be to register and conscript the whole wealth of the country before calling upon the man-power of that country. On these grounds we believe that it is in the best interests of the working class to refuse to register."

Prince Arthur Hall was crowded last night with a down-town audience which met to protest against the increasing food prices and cheered the recommendation made by several speakers that the Government take over the food supply of the country.

The speakers were Messrs. C. P. Rice, I. Velicovitch, M. Buhay, L. Elstein, Miss R. Buhay and Mrs. R. W. Henderson.

The following resolution was carried with acclamation:

Whereas the price of food has arisen in the last two years and is still rising and whereas the food supply is being manipulated for the profits of monopolies, it is hereby resolved: (1) That the Dominion Government be urged to take over the food supply of the country; (2) That a maximum price be fixed on the necessities of life; (3) That a legal living wage be fixed; (4) That tariffs on the importation of food-stuffs be abolished.

COME TO THE LABOR TEMPLE ELECTION NIGHT.

The Women's Social-Democratic League has secured the Labor Temple for New Year's Evening, where they

will hold a reception for the Labor and Socialist candidates and their friends and supporters. The reception will be held in Room Two, and if that is not large enough to accommodate the crowd, the large Auditorium will be used for the occasion. There will be music to assist in cheering for victory and light refreshments to regale the workers for Labor's political cause. Of course, there will be speech-making by the candidates and others who have participated in the campaign.

Everybody invited. Admission free. Returns from the election will be announced from the platform. All welcome. Don't fail to be there.

NEW IDEA BAZAAR WAS A GREAT SUCCESS.

Women's Social Democratic League Nets Over Three Hundred Dollars on Their Broadway Hall Enterprise.

The bazaar and entertainment held under the auspices of the Women's Social Democratic League at Broadway Hall, Spadina Avenue, on Friday and Saturday evenings, December 8th and 9th, proved a splendid success from every point of view. The attendance was good on both evenings, and the young people of the various nationalities which go to make up the Socialist movement, had an all-round good time. The music furnished by the Young Socialist Band was thoroughly appreciated by the dancers, who took every advantage of it.

The booths were beautifully decorated and well filled with merchandise of every description, from household furniture to toys. The judges awarded the banner for the best decorated and furnished booth to the committee of the Women's League. The league's booth looked like a second edition of Eaton's department store.

Miss Ina Jaffray, of 44 Wyndham Avenue, held the winning number of the beautiful watch donated by Mrs. Rubin. She was also a successful contestant for the pillow donated by Mrs. Shapiro. The beautiful Irish chain quilt was won by Miss Pearl Cole, 321 Jarvis Street. If the party holding No. 327, drawn on the Teddy Bear and pillow contest of Local 87's Christmas treat, will make himself known he will find that he is entitled to the beautiful handworked soft pillow presented by Mrs. John Bruce.

The proceeds of the bazaar, which is divided between the Socialist Press, Women's League, and the Social Democratic Municipal Campaign Fund, will net over \$300. The Women's Social Democratic League desires to convey its hearty thanks and appreciation to all who co-operated to make their undertaking the big success which it turned out to be, and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Old Party Voter.

(International Socialist Review.)

Into the Polling-place, and why not knowing,
Nor whence, like water, willy-nilly,
flowing,
And out again, when he has made the Cross,
Back to his fruitless, ill-paid labor going.

He, in his youth, did eagerly frequent
Old party rallies, heard great argument,
About the Robber Tariff, and the Trusts,
And come away, no wiser than he went.

With them the seed of Piffle did he sow,
In hopes of some cheap job, helped
make it grow,
And this is all the Working Class has reaped—

Their efforts help their leaders get the Dough.

The receipt of this paper is an invitation to subscribe. Fifty-two issues for \$1.00.

CAN WAR BE PREVENTED?

By William Stewart.

A correspondent who evidently thinks I am a superlatively wise person asks me to provide him with an answer to the question, "Can War Be Prevented?" and, as if anticipating an affirmative answer, he follows up with the further question, "How Can War Be Prevented?" I confess that though I am not without a fairly "guid conceit o' mysel'," I shrink back from such questions as these, especially when presented so bluntly and off-handedly. I feel inclined to pass the questions on to the readers of Forward. If I am asked, "Could the present war have been prevented?" I have a very decided answer, the articulation of which might land me speedily in durance vile. So I remain inarticulate, like so many others who have been thus effectively stricken dumb.

Can war be prevented? How can war be prevented? Many people besides my correspondent must be asking these questions to-day. In the presence of the evils of war, in the midst of what seems the greatest war in human history, they ask these questions, helplessly, and impotently; they ask these questions, as a fly caught in a wheel might ask the question: "Cannot the wheel be stopped?" The war is compelling them to question the necessity of war. When the war ends, will they continue to question? If not, if they cease their questioning, and if they themselves do not provide an answer to the question, then there will be more war.

Can war be prevented? Christians humanitarians, reformers, and especially Socialists, are bound to answer in the affirmative. Any other answer would be the answer of despair, the answer of Nihilism, the confession that the idea of human progress is a delusion; the unrealisable dream of unpractical visionaries. Yet even that despairful negation answers itself. For the vision of universal peace undoubtedly exists, and the power to conceive that vision implies the capacity to realize it. The answer therefore is, "Yes, War Can Be Prevented."

How can war be prevented? We are bound to try to find answer to that question also. The reason why it is not answered is because we turn away from it and say, "It is not practical politics." But we cannot much longer turn away from it. Either civilization must destroy war, or war will destroy civilization. Many people to-day are trying to show how war can be prevented. We have been told that the present war itself is a war to end war, that is, to prevent war; and doubtless many of the soldiers in all the armies are inspired by that high ideal, many have given their lives for it. Their belief, crudely stated, is that it is the other side that makes war, and if they can destroy the other side, there will be no more war. But, as that belief is to be found in every one of the opposing armies, and in every one of the belligerent countries, it is difficult to see how this war, or any other, can end war. To subjugate your enemy is all very well, but he is still your enemy, and you must keep him in subjugation; and that means war. You can only end war by making your enemy your friend. And you will never make him your friend by making war upon him. War will not end war. We have not heard so much of the "war to end war" theory during recent months. Rather, we have had "economic conferences." One-sided economic conferences.

There are others who are trying earnestly to show how war can be prevented. They, too, are making great sacrifices for their ideal. The conscientious objectors to war. They say the way to stop war is to stop fighting; to refuse to fight; and they act with supreme courage up to their principles. They are quite right. If there were no fighters there would be no war. The con-

scientious objectors of to-day are making apparent their idea of the ultimate prevention of war. They say, in effect, the alternative to war is peace, and they, individually, attest their belief in that alternative. Individually. "Aye!" but, say their critics, "what if your attitude were adopted nationally? By the British nation only? Are we as a nation, believing conscientiously in peace, to allow the other nations who believe unconscientiously in war, to trample us out of existence?" "Yes," reply the conscientious objectors, "let us try that way. It has never been tried. The object is to prevent war. It takes two to make a quarrel, and this would probably be found more true of nations than of individuals. There can be no war if only one side is willing to fight; the side that persisted would be guilty not of war, but of massacre, and civilization itself would be the protection from that." The conscientious objector assumes that the world has made some progress since the Age of the cave man. I am with the conscientious objector. Actually so far as he himself is concerned, he has prevented war. If he could make himself numerous enough, he would make war impossible.

Meanwhile, the conscientious objector, being in a hopeless minority everywhere, humanity, while availing itself of his propaganda and example, must look round for other means of preventing war.

A League of Peace! That is the solution towards which the eyes and hearts of peace-lovers are turning hopefully. A league of the nations of the earth, which shall agree to treat as an outlaw any nation which breaks the peace of nations. A league of nations which shall limit armaments, define national boundaries, arbitrate on causes of quarrel and enforce international amity.

All hail, the League of Peace! The long-looked-for herald of the universal brotherhood of man. Socialists of all countries will rejoice, but not too optimistically, having in mind that this League of Peace will still be a league of Capitalist Governments, and that such a combination, if unleavened by democracy, may bode ill for the workers.

Socialists have something to say on this question of the prevention of war. Socialists say that the way to prevent war is to destroy the cause of war. They believe that the cause of modern war is Capitalism. They are quite sure of this. They have no doubt about it. They appeal to modern history in proof of it. They believe that questions of nationality, of race, and of religion, would now find natural and easy settlement but for the underlying force of Capitalism.

It was not for love of the Hindoos or the Mohammedans that the French and the English fought for the overlordship of India. It was for dividends, and the English East India Company won. It was not for love of the noble red man that the French and the English fought for supremacy in North America. It was for dividends, and again John Company won. It was not out of sheer disinterested benevolence that commercially allied nations fought to keep Russia away from the Bosphorus, and bolstered up the Turkish sick man. As the years go by, the sides may change, but the impelling force remains the same. Contending vested interests are the cause of war. Wars are waged for territory, for "spheres of influence," for the control of markets. Capitalism is the cause of war. To prevent war you must destroy Capitalism. To prevent war, you must establish Socialism. You must establish it internationally. To establish it internationally you must have a league of workers as well as a league of governments. Only in this way will present enemies become future friends, and war become not only impossible, but unthinkable. Socialism says: Destroy the evil of war at its source; destroy Capitalism; and it appeals to the democracies of the world to unite for that purpose.