

ITEMS OF NEWS FROM ALL PARTS

MONEY FOCKETED RASCALLY.

Mr. Mageau in Ontario Provincial Parliament.

But the greatest of all the troubles was the way the money was spent by the Government on colonization roads. He declared that "the money" was not spent where it was promised, and that the money was spent for political purposes, and for nothing else—to keep the boys' spirits up, so they would vote the right way at the next elections.

"The money," he went on, "was pocketed in a rascally and rotten manner," and from what he could see it was easy to pad the pay lists. "There is no limit to the possibility of graft. The amendments should not be for good roads, but for bad roads, and also for the better spending of the money, by handing it to the municipalities who would know where it was most needed."

Mr. J. T. H. Regan, South Wentworth, reminded Mr. Mageau that he had bought a limit for \$200 and sold it for \$9,000."

LABOR ALDERMAN ELECTED.

Anti-Registrationist Wins a Contest in Winnipeg, Man.

Winnipeg, Feb. 21.—Alex. Hume, Labor candidate, was elected alderman over Mr. F. J. C. Cox, in a civic bye-election in Ward Six to-day, by a majority of 118. Hume is an anti-registrationist, and upheld the same platform as Andrew Scoble, who was elected alderman in this ward at the regular civic elections, but who was unseated because of lack of qualifications.

GERMAN SOLDIERS CRAZED.

Made Lunatics by Horrors of War Endured on Ancre Front.

New York, March 6.—The United Press correspondent at the British front cables: One reason why the Germans retreated along the Ancre was because they were fast becoming a garrison of gibbering lunatics. Their position had become more hideous than the scuppers of hell. Mud, bottomless in places, and the ceaseless pounding of the British guns had turned their positions into stench pits too horrible for human nerves to stand.

I found myself stepping on German bodies which littered the region. They were in all imaginable conditions and position, sometimes piled several deep. I saw arms sticking full length out of the mud that concealed all else of the bodies to which they were attached. There were legs, feet, half bodies, or heads alone protruding. Some lay face down, some were flat on their backs, exactly as if asleep.

Imagine scenes like this covering miles. Imagine every trace of vegetation long since blasted away. Imagine the earth powder stained and churned up from ten to sixty feet in lepth. Imagine mud so bottomless that the German prisoners claim their men frequently were swallowed up whole in attempting to cross after dark. Such is the territory the Germans left.

The German prisoners told us that communication trenches had been wiped out by the incessant British fire and the mud, so that relief and revictalling was difficult, most dangerous. Men on such missions were caught by the British machine guns sweeping in the darkness, and could not be saved. Two attacks in November left scores of dead Germans outside the trenches. They have remained there until now, and the British are burying the remains.

It is not the mere business of beat-

ing the German armies in the field, or of the Allies riding as victors through the length and breadth of German territory. Both of these things may be accomplished without the world being freed from the incubus of militarism. Our real business is not the destruction of German bodies, but the getting of better and saner ideas into German heads. And not merely into German heads, but into the heads of other people as well. . . . Our real and most profitable task is to kill certain ideas, and to get others established in their place.—C Cohen, in "Freethinker"

Socialist organs on the Continent are caustic or ironical over the British conscription developments. In Italy, "Avanti" regards it as a Conservative victory over Liberalism and Labor. In Switzerland, the "Volksrecht" comments grimly on the latest action of "England, the foe of militarism," and takes it as a new illustration of the truth that this terrible war is bringing "a tremendous increase of militarism." In far Scandinavia, there are similar voices. On the other hand, writers in "L'Humanite" express pleasure at decisions of the Bristol Congress, and tell the British workers that compulsion is intended only for the war period. Nous irons voir—we shall see what we shall see.

Halodar Koht, Norwegian Socialist, conclusions are suggestive:—"Kolt has been writing in the "Social Demokraten" on his tour in Germany. He wants peace. Practically the whole of Germany does. I have just returned from a long sojourn in Germany, and nothing has impressed me more than this. Practically everybody I spoke to expressed an earnest desire for peace." This was not dictated, it seemed to him, by any feeling of weakness. "The Germans regard themselves as invincible, but they also recognize that the Allies, especially England, are invincible. Why, then, should it not be peace?"

DENMARK.

To Prevent Excessive Profits.

Producers and distributors are no longer allowed freely to determine their mutual relations. The State lately discovered that exporters of fish to Germany were making great profits, and that, owing to war conditions in the North Sea, the fishermen were in difficulties. It threatened to prevent altogether the export of fish unless the exporters paid to the fishermen a bonus of 100 per cent. of the prices charged Germany. The exporters had to agree. After a year of war, sugar rose to 11 cents a pound. Six months of State restriction and control of consumption brought it down to 6 cents. Eight other important food products have been reduced in price between 15 and 30 per cent.

Prime Minister Zahle declares that the State must accept full and direct responsibility for the health and welfare of every citizen. His cabinet is taking measure after measure to embody this principle.—J. H. Stauning.

WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT.

The people of Australia are bearing their part in the European war. They are shipping a lot of wheat to England. They are sending away thousands of their wage earners to the trenches of Europe. But prices of bread in Australia are somewhere around forty per cent below what we in Canada are paying.

When the Australian food gamblers decided to corner all the grain in the Commonwealth, instead of letting them do it, as we in liberty-loving Canada

do, the Australian Parliament stepped in and seized the entire stock of grain. The Australian Parliament said that no producer of grain should sell his grain to any food speculator, and both farmer and speculator would be liable to punishment under military law if they took part in any such transaction.

The result was that the capitalists food speculators went out of business, the Government paid the farmer a better price than he ever got for his wheat, and the Australian people are getting bread 40 per cent. cheaper than we in Canada are getting it.

The people of Australia are not scared by the world Socialistic. They like cheap and good bread.

BRITISH LABOR PARTY GROWS EXTENSIVELY IN MEMBERSHIP.

London, Feb. 18.—The membership of the British labor party increased from 376,000 in 1900, to 2,200,000 at the present time.

There are over 30,000 union men in the European trenches from Australia. All told, 150,000 have volunteered. It is not stated how many capitalists have enlisted.

AUSTRALIAN STATE RAISES ITS OWN SUPPLY OF BEEF.

Melbourne, Australia, Feb. 25.—The Queensland state labor government now owns about 30,000 head of cattle on the state cattle runs. The meat is supplied to the state butchers. Still more ranches are to be acquired, and it is thought that by the gradual widening of operations the American meat trust will be finally squeezed out of Australia, since it is in Queensland that the trust is operating. Later on sheep ranches are to be acquired. The operations of the Queensland state government are finding unanimous approval with the people of the state—except of course the capitalists and the representatives of the American meat trust.

ENGLISH CAPITALISTS INVEST IN CANADIAN LAND.

London, Feb. 14.—Two large English and Scottish co-operative trading societies have combined and bought in Saskatchewan, Canada, more than 10,000 acres of land, which is already in cultivation.

Products of this estate will supply with wheat the co-operative flour mills of Manchester, Glasgow, Newcastle, Bristol, and London, during the year. The societies have also made important joint land purchases in India and Ceylon.

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS TO DARTMOUTH PRISON.

London, Feb. 20.—Britons who have conscientious objections to war will be berthed in the Dartmoor convict prison after March 1.

NEWS FROM NOWHERE.

By William Morris.

This is the greatest and best of all the Utopias, because its author was not a Utopian, but a fighter, a poet, an artist, and a prophet, and one who realized that the social revolution must be brought about by the workers themselves.

He pictures a land filled with happy workers who have no masters nor any need for either kings or capitalists. With rare imagination and wonderful insight he has built up before our eyes a dream-country in which life would be an endless delight.

This great book has for years been out of print in America. We have just published a beautiful library edition, bound in red cloth, with gold stamping. Price, postage included, \$1.00. Address Charles H. Kerr & Company, 341 East Ohio St., Chicago. (ad.)

TRADE UNION NOTES

JAPANESE STREET CAR MEN THREATEN STRIKE.

Kobe, Japan, Jan. 25.—The United States is not the only nation in which soaring prices have caused labor unrest. In Osaka, drivers and conductors in the street car service of the municipality demanded an increase in wages owing to the extraordinary rise in the price of general commodities.

The authorities did not make a satisfactory reply to the demands and the men began to agitate for a general strike. The strike threat brought action from the authorities and the workers were told they must abandon the plan to quit work, as the authorities would try to grant their demands as far as possible.

Several years ago the street car men of Tokio, the capital, went on strike December 31, the busiest day of the year in Japan, as all outstanding accounts are supposed to be squared up on the last day of the year. No street care ran and the bill collectors and shopping people were kept on the move all night in a frantic endeavor to settle accounts before morning.

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 25.—Assemblyman A. I. Shiplacoff, Socialist, of Brooklyn, has introduced a bill in the Assembly legalizing the giving of birth control information. Shiplacoff's bill exempts from the category of indecent articles, the publication of which is a misdemeanor, any publication or article that discusses or give information on birth control. The bill has been drafted with the consent of the National Birth Control League.

Washington Jan. 25.—The International Association of Machinists is conducting a referendum on the question of admitting women as members. The referendum is the result of a resolution adopted by the Executive Board, which declares that "the necessity of organizing the female workers in the machine industry is becoming more apparent every day, there being a large number of them working under our jurisdiction who ought to be organized for our mutual protection."

UNIONS AND FARMERS AGREE ON LEGISLATION.

Portland, Ore., Feb. 25.—The organized farmers and the organized workers of Oregon are working in co-operation on a legislative program. The State Federation of Labor, the State Grange, and the Farmers' Union, through representatives who met in conference, indicated their attitude on certain proposed legislation now before the legislature.

The three organizations suggest a form of consolidation for the offices relating to labor, declare in favor of state aid in marketing problems and outline their position on various other phases of the legislative situation. The statement opposes an anti-picketing bill before the legislature. Any changes in the state 8-hour law are opposed. The statement favors making the recall apply to school directors.

The French Trade Unions are by no means acquiescent in spite of the war. All the Railwaymen's Unions are demanding increases of pay on account of the rise in the cost of living. The standard demand for an increase runs as high as 40 per cent.

...PARTY ANNOUNCEMENTS...

ALBERTA PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Meets on the First Wednesday in each month, at 8 p.m., at Mrs. A. Martin's, 10528 98th Street, Edmonton, Alta.