

NEWS ITEMS FROM ALL PARTS

KERENSKY'S REPLY TO MRS. PANKHURST.

Her Savage Attacks on former Russian Premier Explained.

London, July 14. — Mrs. Pankhurst's savage attacks on Kerensky in America are amusingly explained in the Chronicle to-day. 'Twas in Petrograd Mrs. Pankhurst had been haranguing Kerensky, by whom she had been granted an appointment with great eloquence and at some length, when, suddenly, with a few impatient words, the revolutionary leader left the room. Mrs. Pankhurst scandalized by his abruptness, asked an interpreter what Kerensky had said. The latter at first refused to answer, but, being pressed, eventually replied: "You must promise not to be offended, but what Kerensky said was: 'Haven't I enough to do without listening to old ladies from England.'"

President Wilson To Aid Bolsheviks

Official recognition of the Bolsheviks by the government, as part of the American aid plan, is again being urged upon President Wilson.

Raymond Robins, of Chicago, former Bull Moose leader, recently back from Russia, where he had intimate knowledge of Lenine, Trotsky and other Bolshevik leaders, is the chief proponent of this plan.

It is being preached by persons in President Wilson's confidence. Robins says that the Bolsheviks are far from disintegration. He contends they constitute the only government existing in Russia, and that their recognition would so stabilize them as to make possible the rehabilitation of Russia.

POLICE CHIEFS DISCUSS ALIENS AND THE UNIONS.

The Chiefs of the Dominion Police have been in Convention at Hamilton, Ont. The most important matters discussed were opposition to the formation of Policemen's Unions — and what is to do with the Alien Enemies, Pro-German Socialists, etc. Here is their resolution:

"That the government should make it an offense for any member of a police force or others responsible for the administration of the law, to belong to any trade union or any kindred organization, although recognizing the immense value such organizations are to the working man."

Chief Charles Slemm, of Brantford, vice-president of the association, thanked the speakers for their welcome. In concluding, he said he hoped that the delegates would take up the important question of what to do with the alien enemies. Socialists and all pro-Germans.

PROPOSED REDUCTION OF HOURS.

Is sent to jail for One year.

Felix Cosanevitch, a Russian of Brantford, Ontario has been sentenced to one year in prison with an option of a \$500.00 fine. The offence for which Cosanevitch has been sentenced is the advocacy of a four hour day in order to cope with the conditions arising after the war. We are of the opinion that the penalty imposed upon Cosanevitch is one of

the finest examples of persecution in the name of law that we have heard of during many months. In view of the actual strikes that are taking place at the present time and the general support of the labor movement in the interest of the strikers, it seems to us an imperative necessity that they should demand this man's liberation. All readers are therefore advised to send protests to the Minister of Justice and to bring the matter before their local union.

A DEFENCE OF "SOVIET DEMOCRACY."

The article "Bolshevism in Retrospect," in last week's Nation is an excellent statement of the principle of government by Soviet, and brings out the fact that a government is not necessarily undemocratic because it governs with a Parliament elected by a new method. The Constituent Assembly, the writer says,

"rested, of course, upon the traditional basis of territorial representation, which democracies took over from the feudal past. In spite of the adoption and survival of this basis the world over, one ought not to make a fetish of it, or to refuse to examine other possible systems. If one could start *de novo*, and ask what is the natural method of grouping citizens together for purposes of representation, the territorial system might not have the best of the argument. . . . The root idea of the Soviet system is that those who work together are the natural unit. All the hands in a given factory meet together to choose a delegate. All the peasants in a village do the same, and all the soldiers in a battalion. The unit of representation is, in short, a natural and familiar social organism. Men vote together who habitually associate together. The delegates chosen in this way by each group of workers from a local Council (urban or rural), and these Councils, in their turn, send delegates to the National Soviet, which in its turn elects a Standing Executive."

THE BOLSHEVIKI PROBLEM THE PEASANTS AND THE CLASS WAR.

By N. Lenine

The social-democratic mass movement in Russia has been going on for twenty years (if we count from the great strikes of 1896). Throughout this interval, passing through the two great revolutions, there runs a veritable red thread of Russian political history, this great question: Shall the working class lead the peasantry forward to socialism, or shall the liberal bourgeoisie drag them back into a conciliation with capitalism.

"The revolutionary Social-Democratic Party (Bolsheviks) has all this time been fighting to remove the peasants from the influence of the cadets and has offered them, in place of the utopian middle class view of Socialism, only a revolutionary-proletarian path to Socialism.

"Only the proletariat, leading on the poorest peasants (the semi-proletariat, as they are called in our program) may terminate the war with a democratic peace, may heal its

wounds, and may undertake the steps toward Socialism that have become absolutely unavoidable and non-postponable. That is the clear demand of our class policy at present."

"The peasants want to retain their small holdings and to arrive at some place of equal distribution," he says, "So be it. No sensible socialist will quarrel with a pauper peasant on this ground. If the lands are confiscated, so long as the proletarians rule in the great centres and all political power is handed over to the proletariat, the rest will take care of itself, will be a natural outcome of the 'power of example'; practice itself will do the teaching here.

"The passing of political power to the proletariat, that is the whole thing. Then all the essential, fundamental, real points in the program of the 242 instructions become realities. And life will point out with what modifications this realization is to proceed. We should worry. We are not doctrinaires.

"We do not pretend that Marx or the Marxians know every detail of the road which leads to Socialism. That would be folly. We know the direction of the road, we know what class forces will lead to it, but the concrete, political details will appear in the experience of the millions when they tackle the job."

JERUSALEM THE GOLDEN.

Lipton has opened a tea shop in Jerusalem. Business is excellent. Prospects are good. The war of liberty is now bearing fruit. Pacifists can get ahead with the sackcloth and ashes any time. They have been discredited. The choir will now sing "Jerusalem, the golden with milk and honey blest," or perhaps more correctly (revised version) with tea and bacon blest. The New Jerusalem has arrived. Not the land of the prophets, but the land of the Profits. Hosanna! Hosanna!

(The Call, England)

BACK AT THE FRONT.

The German *communiqué* the other day announced that the Crown Prince advanced to the attack. A wicked independent Socialist M.P. called Herr Cohn says the *communiqué* is false, inasmuch as it was the German workers who advanced, the Crown Prince keeping his carcass safely 60 kilometres in the rear.

DEMOCRATS OF A SORT.

Toronto and Hamilton city councils have passed resolutions demanding the abolition of the Canadian Senate as being an undemocratic body. While we socialists can endorse their action it should be pointed out that if their democratic sentiment is of a genuine quality they could begin exercising it nearer home. Let them then get busy in an effort to remove the property qualification for municipal office. In these days when democracy is receiving so much lip service let us not forget that in municipal elections our choice of candidates is restricted to property owners and property holders. To this extent therefore, city councils are themselves undemocratic bodies. In the final analysis we will find that it is economic interests that determine the actions of a class. The senate represents the "big" interests, the large manufacturers, while the municipal councils represent the small fry, the storekeepers etc. The workers therefore must rely upon themselves

to obtain what they believe to be their rights by supporting in every way possible their own political and industrial organizations. Real democracy can exist only where all have interests in common, that is where all are workers and none exploiters. Let the goal of our political and economic activities therefore be the establishment of the socialist state industrial democracy.

MR. BILLING AND THE LEGAL MESMERISTS.

A New Version by Glasgow Forward

The Billing trial has greatly excited the capitalists and their press; they profess the greatest abhorrence of the slanders and sexual muck which featured the trial; they are fiercely incredulous of the existence of 47,000 highly placed degenerates. But there is some reason to believe that the real reason for their campaign against Mr. Pemberton Billing is the fact that he and his friends had courage and the ability to shatter the Mumbo-Jumbo superstition and oppression of the Law Courts. These alleged courts of justice are the last line of capitalist defence, and around them has been woven such an aura of sanctity as permits the medieval brutality of their practices to go on unchecked, uncriticized and even unnoticed. Here is a collection of frozen-faced, highly-paid lawyers, dealing out punishments to the weak, the unfortunate, the cursed from birth, the victims of evil surroundings; mystifying, terrorizing, mesmerizing the accused and their witnesses; their stock-in-trade an array of Latin learning about Rex and in re and verbum sap and Quis custodiet, and docks and turnkeys and trapdoors and policemen in helmets and themselves in ermine cloaks. And some poor worm being alternately scaled and impaled, not with a view to sympathetically understanding him, diagnosing his disease or prescribing conditions that might in future enable him to do well and not ill. But with a view to his punishment.

And into this bullies' cold storage enters Mr. Pemberton Billing and his troops. The majesty of the law is suddenly smote in a sore place. The judge is denounced as a damned liar, a learned counsel is threatened with a thrashing, a mob in the galleries and in the streets, applauds each tug at the rags surrounding the Mumbo Jumbo; and lo and behold, Society awakes to the knowledge that a judge is but a common man, and that his criminal law has no necessary connection with justice. That is why the capitalist press is angry.

SORRY HE SPOKE

"I told Henrietta that I was proud to see her vote just like a man," said Mr. Meekton.

"Did that please her?"

"No. The choice of phrase was unfortunate. She said that if she couldn't vote better than a man there would have been no need of her troubling about the ballot in the first place." —Exchange.

Socialism will preserve the family instead of destroying it, as is the way with capitalism.

Socialism is simply an extension of the ownership of the means of life. They are now owned by a few. Socialism would have them owned by all the people collectively.

Capitalism is economic cannibalism.