

# THE RED FLAG

A Journal of News and Views Devoted to the Interests of the Working Class

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FIVE CENTS

## Daily Herald Editorial

Extract from an Editorial in the London "Daily Herald" on the eve of the Southport Conference of the National Labor Party of Great Britain, at which it was finally decided to join Italian and French Labor in the strike demonstration against the Allied attempt to destroy the workers' republic of Russia.

The question of the suggested one-day strike against the Russian war is bound to be in everyone's mind. We must all get quite clear about this. Nobody wants to belittle political action: but will those who disbelieve in direct action for political ends tell us what in the present circumstances we are to do? The abomination goes on. Human beings are massacred. An unrepresentative Government, having tricked itself into power by lies, persists, dead against the will and conscience of the people in using British wealth, labor, munitions and men, to destroy the Socialist Republics. Nobody is being asked to strike for any particular form of Government in Russia: the suggested strike would be simply and solely for the right of the Russians to decide for themselves what form of government they shall have. The wealth and power of the capitalists is being used all the time for political ends: why not then the worker's power to give or withhold his work? Let the enemies of direct action give a little of their attention to the forces of Big Business! And let them tell us what we are to do. What form of "political" action do they suggest that shall stop the waste and murder? Or do they mean calmly to suggest that we are to acquiesce in the murder and the waste? We will not acquiesce. And we have a clear right to use our industrial strength to prevent the triumph of wickedness and reaction.

The social and industrial life of the nation is in the melting pot. The landlords, led by the Duke of Northumberland, and the whole capitalist forces, are on the warpath. In the City of London organized capital is declaring war on all schemes for nationalizing either land or industry. War bonuses and wages are coming down. Prices are still soaring. The army of unemployed men and women grows larger each day. The disabled men, broken in the war, find themselves badgered from pillar to post in a vain endeavor to get the merest instalment of justice. The problem of what to do with displaced women workers is proving well-nigh insoluble.

The conference must take a courageous line. Our national resources, our national labor were organized for war. They must now be organized for peace. The land, the minerals, the oil, all the natural resources of our country must be commandeered for the service of all.

Industry must be organized for service and not for profit. The day for compromise, for half-measures has long since passed by. We are on the road toward national bankruptcy. We can be saved only by reversing our policy and establishing, in place of competitive money-making anarchy, ordered, reasoned, co-operative industry for the use and service of all.

## THE HOLLOW MOCKERY OF CELEBRATING PEACE

SOME people imagine that the signing of the Treaty by the Germans would give peace to the world and the people of this country.

Speaking at the Guildhall on Monday, in support of the Victory Loan, Mr. Bonar Law referred casually to the fact that the Chief of the General Staff had told him that we were now waging twenty-three wars. Apropos of this, the Star reminds us that it was Sir Henry Wilson who, in a Paris interview the other day, remarked that while the terms of world peace were being prepared there were no fewer than twenty-three little wars still in progress.

A Star man asked the authorities in Whitehall if they could name them. At first they thought the C. I. G. S. was indulging in a figure of speech. But they reflected a moment, and the recited list grew with alarming celerity.

"Let us see," they said, in effect, "there are ten distinct operations in Russia, one in Siberia, one in Transcaucasia, one in the Balkan States, two in Hungary, one in Austria, one in India, one in Kurdistan, one in Arabia. That makes nineteen. Then the Poles are in action against a group of Germans."

The authorities (we are told) had rattled off this list in less than a minute, though it was more than enough for half a dozen war offices to go on with.

We have endeavored to descend to particulars, and offer the following list, which is, of course, imperfect:

1. We are, in Georgia, defending the Georgians from Denikin and Denikin from the Georgians.
2. We are fighting in Turkestan and have recently evacuated Merv.
3. We are fighting in Afghanistan.
4. Colonel John Ward and the Middlesex Regiment (are or recently were) in Siberia demonstrating their attachment to Kolchak.
5. Our expeditions based on Archangel and Murmansk are fighting in various parts of Northern Russia.
6. Roumanians are fighting against Bela Kun under Allied inspiration.
7. Czecho-Slovaks are fighting Hungarians.
8. Poles are fighting Ukrainians.
9. Ukrainians are fighting Hungarians.
10. German troops are fighting Letts and have re-occupied the country.
11. Esthonians are fighting Germans.
12. Germans are fighting Bolsheviks.
13. Esthonians, urged by Allies, are fighting Bolsheviks (much against their will.)
14. Finns are fighting Russians.
15. Kolchak, with Allied assistance, is fighting against the Bolsheviks in the East.
16. General Denikin, with Allied assistance, is fighting against Bolsheviks in the South-east.
17. The British Navy is in the Baltic assisting in shelling Cronstadt.
18. The British Navy is in the Black Sea assisting Denikin.

## The Defence Fund

FUNDS are urgently needed for those arrested in connection with the late labor troubles. These funds will be devoted to the defence of all those arrested whether labor officials or not.

Due to the strike, Union treasuries are either depleted or exhausted. It is the same also with the savings of individuals who have been on strike or from other causes unemployed. So that an extraordinary effort is requested of those who are financially better circumstanced.

For the purpose of impressing on the attention of our readers the urgency of generous support, we desire to point out that the enemies of labor, those shameless moral paupers, prating forever of constitutionalism, have already, openly and publicly, by means of the conscienceless press and from the blabbing mouths of governmental functionaries, tried, before the evidence was collected and the due processes of the law had taken effect, and found guilty those men arrested for fighting the battles of your class. These bourgeois have violated every principle supposedly lying at the base of their own jurisprudence. Their biased and partizan views have been given the utmost publicity in the capitalist press in all quarters of the globe, and the case of the arrested men irremediably prejudiced in the minds of the unfortunately, so large, un-eritical reading public, nor can any judge or jury, in our opinion, now sit on their case and weigh the evidence impartially. All this has been accomplished in premeditated malice, because it was known full well that the arrested men had no means of putting their side of the case forward adequately or of counter-acting the malicious propaganda defaming their personal characters and misrepresenting the aims and object of their activities.

The recourse now left to the arrested men is a vigorous and skilful defence in the courts. To do this, the best of legal talent must be obtained and this costs money, that universal equivalent of bourgeois justice.

Remember, it is not alone a question of the liberty of the individuals immediately concerned. Organized labor itself is also threatened and not alone that, but the scanty and pitiful remnants of the privileges of freedom of thought and speech still left to us, after five years of government by Order-in-Council, are also endangered.

Send all moneys, if possible, by cheque, money order, postal note or by registered letter to the respective treasurers of the following collecting agencies:

British Columbia Agency:—Victor Midgley, Postoffice Drawer 879, Vancouver, B. C.

Alberta Agency:—A. Brounch, 1203 Eighth Avenue East, Calgary, Alta.

Central Collection Agency:—E. Robinson, Secretary Trades and Labor Council, Winnipeg, Man.

Contributions will be acknowledged at a later date through the Labor and Socialist press.

C. STEPHENSON.

Secretary D. E. C. Socialist Party of Canada.