

NEWS ITEMS FROM ALL PARTS

BOB SMILLIE GREET'S IRISH LABOR.

Let us hope that Labour is organising in Ireland not merely to secure a slight rise in wages from time to time or even for an instalment of justice in the shape of shorter hours of labour.

Those things, good in themselves, and absolutely necessary for immediate well-being, are only slight steps in the direction of Social, Political and Industrial freedom, and no movement is worthy of the attention of earnest men and women which has not for its object the total emancipation of the human race from the body and soul-destroying curse of landlordism and capitalism. Ireland, like the other countries of Europe, is being sorely tried at the present time.

Bequeathed from bleeding sire to son, "Freedom's battle once begun, but be of good cheer. The dawn is breaking, the common people of the world are going through martyrdom to freedom.

Though baffled oft, is ever won." I hope that the Irish Trades Union Congress at Waterford may be a huge success.

ROBT. SMILLIE.

WHY NOT A STATE BANK.

The Australian Commonwealth Bank is a State Bank, the only State Bank in the British Empire. It started in June, 1913, with £10,000 borrowed from the Australian Treasury. At the end of December, 1917, its assets were £47,000,000 and its accumulated profits over three-quarters of a million. That it has made large profits and afforded Australia cheap service is a small thing. But it has brought vast resources under the power of the State, it has made the State independent of the private banks in State financial operations, and but for it the amazing feat of floating domestic loans during the war amounting to 150 millions could not have been achieved. How much more certain, easy, and economical would our borrowing have been if we had at our command a State Bank of a similar character?"

Manchester Guardian

"... Every private industry, not excluding the banking industry, seems able to extract great sums from the public treasury here. Why not spend a tithe of the money in saving the country through a State Bank from the domination of the money trusts?"

LOSSING ON MONEY FRONT.

The people of this country have been losing heavily on the money front, and General Plunder is massing his reserves in preparation for the inevitable reaction when the people discover their losses.

The Government's own Select Committee on National Expenditure (see *Glasgow Herald* 27/7/18) have reported that since 1892 the Bank of England shareholders have drawn about £200,000 a year for "services" rendered to the State, and that in 1916-17 the booty jumped to nearly 1½ millions sterling (equal to over 10 per cent. on the total shares held by the Bank of England proprietors. In 1915-16 it appears to have been greater still.

You would observe also that the National Bank of Scotland is being

bought up by Lloyds' Bank, the shareholders in the former institution receiving £350 for every £100 worth of their stock. This swollen capital will make the dividend rate per £100 lower in future, and will prevent the working classes from being excited by big rates of dividend from exhibiting that jealousy which is the bane and the curse of the poor.

The Weekly Record and Mail (Lord Rothermere) last Sunday published a story about a munition worker (female) who was making so much money that she

"did her hair up each night during the Fair with Treasury notes."

Now you can guess what John Burns meant when he told the House of Commons the other day that the Harmsworth Press was owned by blackguards, edited by ruffians, and read by fools.

Glasgow Forward.

THE DEATH OF NICK.

So our Court has gone into official mourning over the death of our trusty and well-beloved cousin, "Nick Romanoff", and dutifully we drop a salt of tear upon the ironed weepers which drape our old tile hat; but we hereby serve notice upon whomsoever it may concern that we shall decline to go into mourning when (and if) officially ordered for the sudden death of our cousin "Hohen Bill."

Glasgow Forward.

BRITISH LABOR GROWING.

A statement issued by F. Bramley, of the Statistical and Information Bureau, Trade Union Congress, contains the following:—

During the first week in September, 1918, the Trades Union Congress will celebrate its jubilee at Derby, and special efforts are being made to make the fiftieth annual convention of Labour a record in every possible way. The following figures indicate the progress made during the past fifty years in the affiliated strength of Labour's annual Parliament:—

Year.	Place.	Deleg.	Memb.
1868	Manchester	34	118,367
1878	Bristol	136	623,957
1888	Bradford	165	816,944
1898	Bristol	406	1,200,000
1908	Nottingham	522	1,777,000
1917	Blackpool	697	3,082,000

Since the Blackpool Congress several unions have applied for an obtained admission, and in addition to a number of smaller unions the Amalgamated Society of Engineers with about 280,000, the Workers' Union with over 260,000, and the Friendly Society of Ironfounders have been accepted by the Parliamentary Committee. The affiliated membership is growing near and may get above the four-million mark.

This represents the largest trade union affiliated membership in the world, and the strongest organised force ever created by any class in any country for the purpose of mutual protection.

PAN-AMERICANISM.

According to a Toronto Star correspondent the relation of the South American Republics were never better, it states:

"Chile, long an ardent admirer of Germany for many natural reasons, of late has shown a desire to promote closer relations with the United States to the end of making permanent the lines of trade down the South American West Coast that have been established in our heavy importations of nitrates and copper for munition manufacture."

This admission says much:— isn't it remarkable how "Trade"—Nitrate, Copper, Munition manufacture, etc. effect the amorous instincts of imperialists and exploiters the world over? Surely it is up to the correspondent in his servile duty to "Biz-Biz" to explain the high ideals of these noble races,—and thus remove any reflection that Socialists and other gross materialists may feel inclined to take (Re) economic factors determining treaty relations, etc. Mexican Oil is also an important factor just now, with the tax dispute is also likely to become a cause for "Intervention" if nothing else satisfies.

JAPAN AND RUSSIA

By Philip Snowden.

The Press campaign in favour of Japanese intervention in Russia has been very active during the last few days. A statement has been published that President Wilson has at last succumbed to the pressure which has been brought to bear upon him to agree to the Japanese invasion of Russia, with the approval of the Allies. It remains to be seen whether this statement is true, but if it should turn out to be so it will be no surprise, for it will not be the first occasion when President Wilson has recanted previously expressed views, and supported a policy which he had previously denounced. Mr. Balfour has refused, in replying to questions in the House of Commons, to declare the policy of the British Government in regard to this important matter, but it is quite evident from the attitude of a large section of the Tory Party in Parliament that should the British Government support Japanese intervention in Russia the action will be approved by the House of Commons, or at any rate there will be no general opposition to it. Mr. Balfour's references to Russia in the Peace Debate, as I have stated in a previous paragraph, were ambiguous, and are quite capable of allowing him later to plead consistency by maintaining that in supporting the Japanese invasion of Russia the Allies are serving, in their view, the best interests of that country. We still believe that such a course of action by the Allies will be a criminal blunder, and one which will bring irrevocable disaster upon the Allied cause. The impotence or indifference of the House of Commons to questions of vital moment has never been more strikingly shown than by the fact that outside the pacifist group there has been no protest against the British Government supporting Japan in its attack upon Russia.

Labor Leader.

They tell us that we must have rich and poor in order that there shall be an incentive for the poor to work. A flea on a dog is an incentive for the dog to scratch, but the flea is of no benefit to the dog.

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ject of domestic control and concern in the United Kingdom. I decline to

invite them to change their fiscal policy. These matters are within their control, as our fiscal policy is within ours. And I would go further, and say that the people of Canada would not desire the people of the United Kingdom to change their fiscal policy for the purpose alone of giving a preference to the producers of this country, especially if the proposed fiscal changes should involve any injustice, or should be regarded as oppressive by a considerable portion of the people of the United Kingdom. But what this proposal looks to, as I understand it, is this—that we can within the Empire get better and cheaper facilities of communication than we have enjoyed up to the present time. That I believe, is the line along which the change indicated will proceed. The question of transportation has been a very live one, a very important one to the producers of this country, especially those of the western provinces. We know that before the commencement of war the cost of transportation across the Atlantic increased twofold or threefold. There was sometimes a dearth of ships. I hope and believe that there will be concerted action and co-operation between the Government of the United Kingdom and the Governments of the Overseas Dominions, by which speedier, better and more economical transportation will be provided between the Mother Country and the Overseas Dominions themselves. So that, in this light, I am confident that the resolution passed by the Conference will receive favourable consideration by the people of this country.

Here, then, we have a clear recognition of the position of the United Kingdom and the possibility of some arrangement being made which would be acceptable to Canada and other Dominions without carrying with it any risk of injury to our own people. British Labour desires to maintain the policy of the Open Door because this policy is more beneficial to the workers than a policy of commercial restriction and isolation. Moreover, it believes that it would afford immense possibilities in the way of Government action and organisation having for their object the safeguarding of British industry and commerce, and the highest development of the resources of every part of the Empire, which could be secured without imposing new and heavy burdens on the working classes. Instead of commercial antagonism and repression it desires a full recognition of the need for concerted international arrangements, having for their object a general improvement of working conditions of labour, wages, etc., by means of international factory legislation to operate in every country, whereby a greater measure of social and economic contentment may be secured for the workers of all nations, and safeguards imposed against their being economically exploited or oppressed. The future must be an improvement on the present and the past, but no improvement can be obtained from an economic war, because this double-edged weapon inflicts fatal wounds on all peoples. Of this Labour is convinced, that a world peace which is broadly based on the expressed will of free democracies cannot be assisted by a temporary or perpetual economic war. And a peace which does not properly recognise the natural economic rights of all peoples will be neither democratic nor lasting.

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"Revolution or Compromise"