

The Voice of Reason

[From the Nation, London, Oct. 25]

If any sort of truce were concluded tomorrow with Soviet Russia on the Bullitt-Lenin terms, the economic outlook of the whole of Central and Eastern Europe would be instantly transformed. It is clear from the careful reports of Professor Goode that Soviet Russia is far from being without resources. The grain harvest has been exceptionally good, and would be available for the starving Borderland peoples, if only the now well-organized railway system of Russia could obtain fuel, lubricants, and spare parts for the locomotives and river steamers, which should transport it. There is timber enough awaiting export to solve our housing problem, and flax enough accumulated to clothe us in fine linen. The universal need is so immense, and the possibilities of exchange so various and unlimited, that the mere lifting of the Russian blockade would probably in itself suffice within a few months ease the intolerable tension from Siberia to the Rhine. The peasant would bring out his hoarded grain; the eggs and butter of Siberia would find their way to towns which have not seen such luxuries for years, if only the insensate barriers of exchange were lifted. Even hopeless Vienna, which makes excellent locomotives, would begin to live again, if it could exchange spare parts against Russian wheat.

"But would you," it may be said, "allow the Germans to snatch from us the fruits of victory, by permitting them to 'dump' their tools and machines upon Russia?" Assuredly we would, even if it were certain that German competition could frustrate our own efforts to capture the Russian market. For even in that event the general prosperity will be served. Russia, thanks to the use of German machinery, will be the better able to send us cheap grain and flax and timber; and if she herself did not take our exports in exchange, they would go by some of the triangular processes of trade to some other good market. If Germany made her profits in Russia, she would spend some part of them in purchasing British goods.

The military events of the next two or three weeks will settle in all probability the question of whether the Soviet Republic can be overthrown by arms before the winter sets in. If Kolchak and his generals fail to achieve a decision now, it must be postponed until next summer at the earliest. The question of the blockade will then present itself anew in an acuter form than ever. Shall we continue it, with the certainty that its

EDUCATIONAL CLASSES

Vancouver Local No. 1, S. P. of C.
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Dunlevy Avenue

Economic Class.—Every Sunday at
3 p.m. Text Book, Wage-labor and
Capital.

History Class.—Every Wednesday
evening at 8 o'clock. Text Book,
Industrial History of England, by H.
De B. Gibbins. Everyone invited. No
questions asked.

continuance means not merely the death of millions of human beings, for want primarily of fuel, in Russia itself, but also the postponement for another winter of the economic recovery of Central and Eastern Allied Europe? The chain of interdependence between these countries links their fate inescapably. The textile mills of Poland, the locomotive works of Riga and Vienna, the electrical factories of Berlin, are all normally dependent on the closed Russian market. If they are workless, then either they cannot take our exports, or, what is rather worse, they take them on credit, which will mean, as things are going today, that we incur bad debts.

Blockades are always two-edged weapons. One cannot doom another nation to starvation without in the end suffering oneself.

IRELAND

The problem of Ireland's independence is one of the insoluble problems of Imperialistic Capitalism. Only on a world economy based on production for use can self determination of nations be realized. Capitalism is perpetually at war commercially, and militarily also, even if not actually, then potentially.

In the meantime, before the forces of the new order gain control, the capitalist rulers have only one solution for Ireland's struggle for independence and that is to beat it into subjection to the needs of empire. But to do this in the face of the new forces of freedom daily gathering influence among the great mass of the awakening peoples is to tamper with the floodgates of the deluge. The order for the abolition of juries in Ireland had gone forth but was hastily withdrawn in panic fear. The following extracts from a Manifesto by T. P. O'Connor for the League of which he is president, will in part show why the order was withdrawn.

LONDON, Dec. 8.—T. P. O'Connor, president of the United Irish League of Great Britain, and member of the House of Commons for the Scotland division of Liverpool in a manifesto just issued says:

"The tragedy of Ireland deepens hourly; oppression grows cruel and more widespread and shameless. Civil law has ceased to exist in Ireland. Martial law, justified only in actual warfare, has taken its place. The government in Ireland is Prussian militarism and Orange in its policy, its methods and its instruments.

"I have come to the conclusion that we have nothing to expect from the present ministry; they have broken their pledges to Ireland almost in the same breath in which they were uttered. We are determined to make our organization an ally, independent, separate and self-governing, of the British Labor party.

"We can only give satisfaction to the resentment felt by our people in Great Britain against the present treatment of Ireland by striking a blow through our influences and vote in Great Britain against those responsible for Irish oppression."

TO LIBERATE UKRAINE

(From "The Christian Science Monitor.")

LONDON, England, (Wednesday)—A Moscow wireless message states that a "green army" has had considerable success in the Caucasus and that Tnapse and Maikop are in its hands.

Leon Trotsky, the Bolshevist Minister of War, has issued to the Red troops on the Ukrainian front an order in which he directs them, "while inflicting merciless blows" on General Denikin, to treat the Ukrainian workers with proper consideration and love.

Mr. Trotsky adds that the task of the Bolsheviki is not the conquest of the Ukraine but its liberation, but he expresses his conviction that the Ukrainian workers will decide to enter into a close fraternal union with Soviet Russia. The order concludes, "Long live free and independent Soviet Ukraine."

Meantime Moscow wireless messages make it apparent that the Bolsheviki are in serious straits regarding fuel, and great activity in an effort to remedy this is reported from different parts of Russia. Incidentally one message states that the Red guards of Kazan have decided to mobilize the propertied classes of the population for the preparing of fuel.

POLICE AGENTS ARE CHARGED WITH PERJURY

Vancouver, Dec. 5.—Sam Dekteroff made a somewhat sensational appearance in the police court Wednesday afternoon. He appeared to give evidence against Durasoff and Barney Roth, police operatives charged with perjury in connection with the deportation proceedings against Chekoff and Zukoff.

At the request of Mr. I. I. Rubino-witz, who is conducting the private prosecution, Magistrate Shaw issued a warning from the bench against any attempt being made by friends of the defence to tamper with the witness in the interval between the adjournment and the next sitting of the court.

At the previous sitting of the court it was alleged by witnesses that attempts had been made to influence their evidence, and in making the application to the magistrate to issue a warning, counsel did so, he intimated, to prevent any repetition of the occurrence which he alleged had taken place.

Dekteroff, who stated that he had left Vancouver ten days after the arrest of the Russians on July 19, had gone to Anyox where he has been working since. He claimed to have been a constant companion of Alexander Durasoff for three months prior to Durasoff disclosing his identity as a detective at the time the men were arrested.

He denied that Chekoff or Zukoff had disseminated revolutionary doctrines among Russians either at the home of John Deakoff or at Butaeff's poolroom, or had addressed meetings.

Propaganda meeting, Sunday, 8 p.m. Empress Theatre, Gore and Hastings street.

Leave for Winnipeg

Jack Kavanagh and Jack Harrington have been called to Winnipeg to give evidence for the defense of the men now being held for seditious conspiracy. They will leave for the prairie metropolis this week end.

You Can Get It Here

Newsagents handling "The Indicator" in Vancouver, W. Love, next to Royal Theatre. Columbia News Agency, Columbia and Hastings, John Green, Carrall St., General Post Office News Agency, Granville St.

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To increase the circulation of "The Indicator," Urgent. One dollar for 20 issues, money returned if unable to fulfill obligation. Do not delay. Help on the educational movement. "The Indicator," 20 issues \$1.00.

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A statement of the theories and conclusions of Scientific Socialism.

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ITALIAN SOCIALISTS CHEER LENINE

ROME, Dec. 12.—Russia was to the fore again today in the chamber of deputies, when the Socialists branded England and the United States as most plutocratic of all states. Deputy Cicotti, Socialist, declared that an Anglo-United States combination existed to make Odessa, Danzig and Fiume centres from which to reach out and strangle continental Europe.

The Socialist deputy, Prof. Grasiadei, asserted that the war was suspended only temporarily.

Workers' Liberty Bonds

For the Defense of the Men Arrested as a Result of the Winnipeg Strike, in Denominations of \$1, \$2 and \$5. Have You Got Yours Yet?

A DAY'S PAY FOR WINNIPEG

Liberty of Speech and Action Is Worth Paying and Fighting For

Make all monies payable to A. S. Wells, Secretary of Defense Committee, 405 Dunsmuir Street, Vancouver, B. C.

Labor Defence Fund

Send all money and make all cheques payable to A. S. Wells, B. C. Federationist, Labor Temple, Vancouver, B. C.

Collection agency for Alberta: A. Broatch, 1203 Eighth avenue east, Calgary, Alta.

Central Collection Agency: J. Law, Secretary, Defence Fund, Room 1, 530 Main street, Winnipeg.