

S.D.P. Notes and News

A NEW LOCAL FORMED.

In spite of the opposition of the editor of The Sun, Organizer Stirling reports the formation of a new local. At one of his meetings the entire audience was in support of the ideas propounded and a hearty vote of thanks was moved by a doctor in the audience.

PENNANT ON THE MAP.

Pennant, Sask., now appears on the Social Democratic map for the Dominion organizer reports that he has just formed another new local at that live town. Sterling, sound common sense talk is certainly making itself felt in the prairie provinces.

PORT ARTHUR REDS HAVE A CLUB.

Port Arthur Local 43 reports that they are having a stiff fight in that locality. Recently Comrade Ryan transferred to Fort William, where a new local was started. The local has a nice room with a library, which is called the "Club," where all interested in the movement are welcome, and men subscribe to the club who are not in the party. An attempt is being made to get them to fall in line and strengthen the political forces of the Social Democratic movement. Recently the local bade farewell to four of their members who were called up under the Military Service Act.

OUR ARTIFICIAL DEMOCRACY.

J. A. Hobson, in his new book, "Democracy after the War," brings home a great truth to friends as well as enemies of democracy thus:

"The cause of democracy has suffered almost as much from its friends as from its enemies. For while the latter have held it to be either undesirable or unattainable, the former have represented it as achieved already or inevitable. Now, neither of these former representations is true. Effective democracy nowhere exists either in the politics or industry of any nation. The forms of self-government, indeed, exist in Britain, France, America and elsewhere, with varying measures of completeness, but nowhere does the will of the people play freely through these forms. In every country the will of certain powerful men or interests is pumped down from above into the party machinery that it may come up with a formal register of an electorate denied the knowledge and opportunity to create and exercise a will that is informed and free. Popular opinion and aspirations act at best as exceedingly imperfect checks on these abuses of political self-government."

MRS. PRENTER AT HAMILTON.

Our meetings are becoming more of a success every week. We had Mrs. Hector Prenter here to-day, and she gave us a good talk on "Slavery Past and Present." Some of the extremists present did not quite agree with her remarks, but it was a very interesting talk, and of great educational value, because it appealed to the ladies, whose appearance was quite noticeable in the audience.—C. E. Borthwick.

This country, with its institutions, belongs to the people who inhabit it.—Abraham Lincoln.

TORONTO ENROLLS FOUR MEMBERS.

A meeting of Local 71 was held on Monday, Feb. 9, 1918, at 626 Ossington avenue. The local is taking a larger hall, when they propose having a large number of speakers. Four new members were enrolled. The local sold 100 copies of the new pamphlet on Keir Hardie. We

have leased the Sovereign Hall, corner of Northumberland street and Dovercourt road, for propaganda work for one year.

MONTREAL ENGLISH-SPEAKING REDS ORGANIZE.

A few English-speaking Socialists have been successful in reorganizing the English local of the Social Democratic Party of Canada here, recently. The need for this local has been felt for a very long time, but somehow we could not get it started. We already have 40 dues paying members. We in Montreal who are interested in the movement are very glad that we have at last been successful, and we hope that this will be the last time that the local will have to be reorganized.

I suppose you know that the Jewish local here consists of a very active group of Socialists and they are doing good work among the Jewish workers here. But a Jewish local alone cannot do very much in any other section of the city. We, who were in the English local before the war broke out, have realized that an English local was very necessary, but unfortunately could not have one. Now that we have eventually made such a local possible, we intend to keep it alive and help it to grow so that it will become the mouthpiece of the workers here.

At present we are getting 25 copies of the Forward from the Jewish local, and we feel that we can dispose of more than that number I will write you at once. We have quite a number of new members who have come from the States, and who are bright and very intelligent, and with the older forces that we have we sincerely hope to be able to keep the local on its feet, never to become inactive, but always more and more the mouthpiece of the Montreal workers.

FIGHTING FOR DEMOCRACY.

In Montreal one of the greatest atrocities is about to be perpetrated by the rulers in that province. While this Empire is fighting to make the world safe for democracy in Montreal a new charter is to be thrust upon the city, making it necessary for a man running in a municipal election to deposit \$500, which absolutely takes the right away from the working people to run a working class candidate. James Simpson, Vice-President of the Trades and Labor Congress, whilst in Montreal declared that if he lived in Montreal he would call a strike which would stop every wheel and bit of machinery in the city until the law was changed.

RIVERDALE ROUSED FROM SLUMBER.

Local 87, Riverdale (Toronto), held a successful social evening on Friday, Feb. 22, when they raised \$25.00 towards liquidating the campaign debt. A short address was given by James Simpson on labor conditions in Britain, and was followed by a musical programme, and it was the wee sma' hours of the morning before the gathering dispersed, feeling that another link had been forged which bound us stronger to the Socialist movement.

CANADA'S AFTER-WAR PROBLEMS.

Hamilton Local is still holding large and successful meetings. On Feb. 23rd their meeting was addressed by A. W. Mance, on "Canada's After-War Problems." Literature sales and collections were good.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO OUR OUT-OF-TOWN READERS.

Our Jewish comrades in Toronto have, with the first of March, started the publication of the Jewish Labor Gazette, a weekly newspaper in the Jewish (Yiddish) language.

Comrade Saul Elstein, who has gone through more than two decades of active work in the trade union and Socialist movement in England, the United States and Canada, is the editor of the paper. This assures that the contents will be interesting to every Trade Unionist and Socialist in Canada. Readers of the Forward should help to make this fact known to the Jewish workers and Jewish people generally who may happen to live in their district, or with whom they may meet on special occasions. The subscription price for the Jewish Labor Gazette is one dollar a year and communications may be addressed to the same office as the Forward, 361 Spadina avenue.

C.O. SMILES AT TWO-YEAR TERM.

He is the Fourth Sentenced in Winnipeg.

Winnipeg, Feb. 20.—The fourth conscientious objector, Stanley Hill, to receive a two years' sentence in the penitentiary in the last few days from Sir Hugh John Macdonald, went to the cells yesterday with a smile on his face.

GOVERNMENT LABOR REPRESENTATIVES.

So W. A. Appleton is to go to America as a government labor representative to explain to the American workers the point of view of British labor, as interpreted by the British Government. If American labor wants to know about British labor it had better have a British labor man who is not a government emissary to tell it. Of course, we do not know what Appleton is going to say, but we think that the less labor identifies itself with the government at the present stage, the better—at any rate for labor.—Herald, London.

LABOR WILL RULE WORLD.

In Opinion of Charles M. Schwab, U.S. Steel Magnate.

New York.—That we are at the threshold of a new social era in which labor will assume dominance throughout the world, was the prediction of Charles M. Schwab, president of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation, during an address on the war situation.

Mr. Schwab also discussed the great work of the steel corporation, which, he said, has grown enormously in the last year. He said that the Secretary of the Navy had asked the Bethlehem Steel Corporation for an enormous number of torpedo boat destroyers, upon the construction of which the corporation is now engaged, and that within a period of eighteen months the United States would have more of these vessels in service than the combined navies of the world.

"We are facing a social situation," he said, "which we should be keenly alive to, a situation which is going to come at the close of the war, a 'social renaissance' of the whole world. Call it Socialism, social revolution, Bolshevism, or what you will, it is a levelling process and means that the workman without property, who labors with his hands, is going to be the man who will dominate the world.

"It is going to be a great hardship to the owners of property, but, like all revolutionary movements, it will probably work good. The sooner we realize this the better it will be for America. We must not fight this movement, but we must educate it. We must go among the people of the working classes and mingle with them and learn their feelings and thoughts."

WHAT THEY EXPECT.

"What do Socialists expect to gain by offensive references to the flag?"

asks the New York World.

Alas! These poor misguided souls hope to revise the policy of those who spend so much time praising the flag. They jump to the foolish conclusion that if skyrocket, spread-eagle apotheoses of the flag will fill legislative halls with dilly-dalliers and wishy-washers reviling the flag will fill them with sensible legislating men of profound sympathies and broad vision. Of course, the idea is absurd, but it is pardonable. So long as one set of men hide behind the flag, another set of men will want to tear it down. But why not cease talking about the flag and confine our attention more exclusively to the things that are going on beneath it?—E. O. Jones, in "Judge."

CHRIST ON THE BATTLEFIELD.

(Note—A very beautiful picture of Christ on the battlefield was sent to me as a gift by the Editor of the "Canadian Forward," who is now in prison for his brave defence of liberty and opposition to war.)

Poor dying men, they lie with eyes upturned

To the dear Christ, radiant in robes of light;

In gentlest love, with outstretched hands He stands

On the dark fields of agony and night;

The guns are silent, and the hatreds cease

And lo! the strife of death is changed to peace.

In the dark background rise the city's flames,

And everywhere is ruin and distress;

And yet the Christ serenely stands alone—

The loving Saviour, waiting but to bless.

The blood pours forth from wounded sons of earth,

Yet once a Star of Peace shone at a Birth!

Oh! that the world could hear the angel-song!

Oh! that the sleeping millions would awake!

Oh! that the earth would rise from all its woe!

And all the hateful shackling fetters break!

For Jesus came to set the captive free

Why will the world not claim His liberty?

Poor dying men, as on their pictured forms

My eyes a moment rest, and then grow dim;

I look on you with anguish in my love

E'en as I turn for comfort unto Him.

Oh! world of sorrow still the Star doth shine

When shall we welcome Him—the Christ Divine?

Gertrude Richardson.

Christmas Day, 1917.

Swan River, Manitoba, Canada.

—Leicester Pioneer.

METHODS ENTIRELY DIFFERENT.

"With democratization and control of the people, I have no fear as to the future. The people will see to it that all differences and divergencies will be adjusted, not by the horrible means by which they are adjusted now, but by methods entirely different and more humane."

—Right Hon. Sir R. L. Borden.

NOT AFRAID.

"Some say that Socialism will have to be faced and I am not afraid. To some people Socialism appears to be agnosticism and to others anarchy. I am very much in sympathy with Socialism, and have not very much objection to it."—Mayor Harold Fisher, Ottawa.