

**The Issue
MacDonald Dodged**

About five years ago it was proclaimed in these columns that Soviet Russia had become an issue which would last for a generation at least. It was an issue which would be a Russian intrigue within and without the ranks of the Labor party clearly brought matters to a pass where the Liberals were forced to adopt independent action.

Ramsay MacDonald claims that the financial arrangements are not the subject, but merely a contingent part of the treaty which Mr. Asquith has designated as "nursery diplomacy" and which he thought that the Soviet emissaries regarded the cash consideration as the main and indeed the sole purpose of the negotiations. The immediate issue involved is said to be fifteen million pounds, or an pre-war reckoning, twenty-five million dollars. During the Great War Great Britain voted to Russia, as an Ally for the prosecution of the war, the colossal loan of seven hundred million pounds. At the time the Russian Revolution broke out the Allies repudiated the loan and by the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk practically aided Germany, an enemy of the Allies, to the tune of a hundred million pounds. It was proposed to hand over this sum to the Soviet Government. The agreement makes no provision for the settlement of the earlier debt of six hundred and eighty-five million pounds on which the British taxpayer is to-day paying interest annually to the extent of about thirty million pounds. The new agreement of cash here to be secured by the credit of the Soviet Government, which theoretically at least regulates all theories of credit; and four years ago murdered hundreds of thousands of Russian business men by advocating the credit system.

The question of Britain's generosity to a favored nation treated as a matter of trade. But as pointed out a few weeks ago, the purchasing power of the Russian people was very low in comparison with the numbers, has been reduced almost to the vanishing point under Soviet rule. The purchasing classes of the Russia of 1913 have been slain and branch to the number of three or four millions; and their substance wasted.

The tone of many British journals exposed to Ramsay MacDonald has been temperate; and they have given consideration to the trade phase of the proposals; but among the electorate at large there is a strong sentiment against Soviet Russia which would endanger the treaty even if its terms are fair, and its advantages offered, tangible. Britain is today willing to deal with Germany, because Germany was an open foe and was soundly beaten. But Russia was an Ally who turned traitor in 1917 and by subsequent policies prolonged the war, and promoted international disturbances in countries that were her friends and still are her enemies. Treachery and assassinations are written in large letters over the Russia's recent history; and in the heavily burdened British Empire to come to her rescue in a spirit of altruism, Ramsay MacDonald is imposing too severe a strain on human nature. But though the Russian question has brought about the present crisis, the main and salient fact is that the group system which permits government by minorities, has become unworkable in Great Britain.

Empire Naval Defence

London Daily Telegraph: When the Dominion Premiers, at the Imperial Conference, welcomed the Admiralty's proposal to despatch the Special Service Squadron, they may have foreseen and welcomed in advance the reactions to which its presence would give rise. They may have felt that the vast interest in the Empire's Navy, and convince their self-governing peoples that the problem could no longer be ignored. We can only hope that something practical will come of it. The many hundreds of thousands of people who have boarded the cruisers at the various Dominion ports have, at any rate, seen what an efficient squadron can do, and they know that this is not the only navy in the world. It remains for their leading statesmen, to devise the means by which the problem of Empire naval defence may be put on a new footing, and the cost of it distributed more equitably than it is at present.

Borrowing Communists

Mr. J. Sexton, M.P., at the Trade Union Congress, said it was all very well to denounce the British capitalist, as had been done by one speaker, but no good was done by capitalism, he said. Mr. Sexton, "but don't let your friends of the Communist Party forget that the Moscow Communists have absolutely admitted failure, and have come to a capitalist country to borrow money to enable them to carry on their work." (Cheers and roar.)

"You cannot start a successful revolution on elevenpence," Mr. Sexton included, amid laughter.

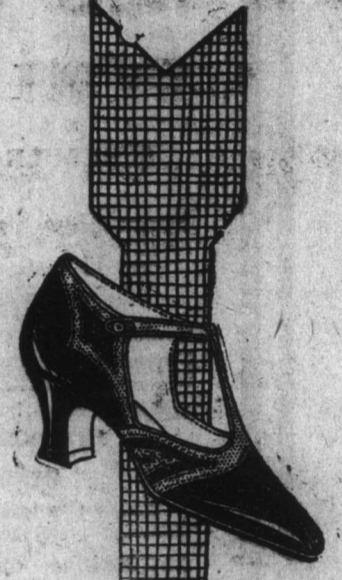
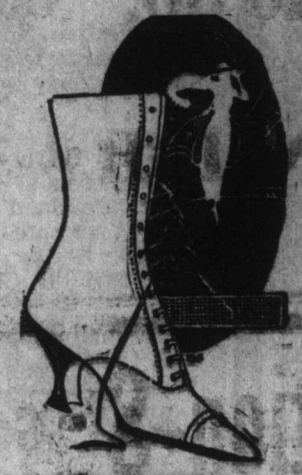
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OF BOOTS & SHOES

Interest, heightened by the unusualness of its values, and the genuineness of its reductions in prices of Reputable Footwear for every member of the family

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FOR THE ABSOLUTE LIMIT IN VALUES.



BOYS' STURDY BOOTS
Dark Tan Chrome Calf Boots; nothing better for roughing it. Fall time. A little price for such boots. All sizes.
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EVENING SHOES
Single Strap Black Satin Shoes, open front style, leather soles, Cuban heel; very dainty for special occasions. Sizes 4 to 9, half sizes included.
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SUEDE SHOES
Winsome line of Grey Suede Shoes, trimmed with black patent leather; medium heel, rubber tipped. Worth double the price.
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MEN'S BOOTS
In Dark Tan Calf. This line has been made to our special order; acknowledged a wonder in value and sturdiness for Fall wear. Ideal.
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BOYS' LONG RUBBERS
Goodrich's Knee-High Boys' Long Rubbers at a price you have probably never seen before. Boys' sizes 4, 5 and 6.
SPECIAL 2.68

INFANTS' BOOTS
Soft Black and Tan Kid Boots, laced and buttoned styles; first grade quality. Sizes 3 to 6.
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Girls' and Youths' BOOTS
Just see this line of seasonable Footwear, strong Black and Dark Tan Calf Boots, with low rubber heels; will outwear boots at twice the price. Sizes 3 1/2 to 2.
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BEDROOM SLIPPERS
Children's and Misses' Felt Shoes, dainty looking affairs with hand-painted fronts; assorted shapes and shades of Red or Blue; mixed sizes.
TO CLEAR AT 89c

SUEDE SHOES
Pretty Street Style Shoes, novelty strap effect, in Grey and Brown; medium weight, medium rubber heel. Sizes 4 to 6.
SPECIAL 4.88

COMFY SLIPPERS
Ladies' Slippers of high degree in beautiful quality Felt; shades of Fawn and Old Rose; soft Chamolise soles. A value worth seeing, worth securing. Sizes 5 to 7.
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LADIES' RUBBERS
First quality Black Low Cut Rubbers for ladies. One of the best Rubber offers we have shown for years. Sizes 4 to 7.
NOTE THE PRICE 77c

LADIES' SHOES and RUBBERS COMBINED.
Ladies' Dark Tan Shoes, laced or strapped style, equipped with a pair of our low cut or Storm Rubbers. Sizes 2 1/2 to 8.
VERY SPECIAL 3.28

MEN'S WORKING BOOTS
In Dark Tan Chrome Calf, showing extra heavy soles and heels, double stitched. Unbeatable value at
2.88

STREET SHOES
Sturdy Shoes for present wear. Your choice of Black or Dark Tan, strapped and laced styles, low and high heels. The best shoe value along the street to-day.
SPECIAL 2.18

LADIES' BOOTS
Dainty shaped footwear yet without strong and durable; 3 inches high with patent vamp and Dark Tan uppers. Sizes 2 1/2 to 7.
SPECIAL 4.48

LADIES' SPATS
Shapely high-grade Spats offered at just about half price for this week; 10 and 12 button height, in Grey shade only. Consider their usefulness to you at this season.
SPECIAL 89c

GIRLS' RUBBERS
Children's and Misses' High Cut Storm Rubbers, bought specially to feature at the following prices: Children's, 4 to 10—Special .79c. Misses' 11 to 2—Special .59c.
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INFANTS' BOOTS
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Wear overlastingly. Choice of Black or Dark Tan. Great for school wear. Sizes range from 6 to 13.
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Gasoline Prices

STATEMENT OF MANAGER OF IMPERIAL OIL CO. SHOWS SITUATION.

Much is being said as to the price of gasoline. Naturally those who have to buy gasoline would prefer that the product should be made as cheap as possible, but there are various angles to the problem, and they must be considered. A statement issued by F. T. McKean, manager of the Imperial Oil Company, Montreal, covers the situation admirably. It reads:

"It is unfair to Canadian refiners and distributors to compare the prices in Canada with the prices ruling at some one or more local points in the United States. Some of the newspapers have taken Detroit as a point of comparison. This is extremely unfair, for the reason that the price of gasoline in Detroit would appear to be out of line with the prices ruling in other large cities, such as Cleveland, Chicago, etc. As to why the wholesale price in Detroit should be actually below the wholesale price in Chicago, when practically all the gasoline sold in Detroit either moves through Chicago from the mid-continent field, or is refined just outside of Chicago, is a question which Canadian refiners can hardly be expected to answer.

"The following are the more important factors affecting the price of gasoline in Canada:

"(1) The cost of crude oil. There is practically no crude oil produced in Canada. Canadian refiners are dependent entirely in foreign fields for their supplies; they buy from the crude oil selling companies in these fields at the price posted at the wells from time to time. These posted crude oil prices fluctuate with supplying demand. The price paid, i.e. the cost to the Canadian refiner of his raw material is one entirely beyond his control. An average of at least 90 days ensues after the date of the purchase of crude before the same is delivered to the refiners in Canada, so that to-day we are refining crude oil purchased from two or four months ago at prices materially higher than to-day's price of crude oil.

"(2) The climate of Canada makes the sale of gasoline a distinctly seasonal business. In some of the summer months as high as 13 per cent. of the total yearly consumption is sold and distributed, whereas in some of the winter months the consumption declines to as low as 4 per cent. This wide fluctuation in demand necessitates an investment in plant, distributing equipment, as well as stocks of either crude or gasoline, far in excess of the investment necessary if the gasoline sales throughout the year ran fairly uniform one month with another. This results in materially increasing the cost of manufacturing and distributing gasoline in Canada as compared with similar costs over the greater part of the United States.

Over-production.

"(3) The unusual conditions existing at the present moment are the very considerable over-production of crude oil, particularly in the mid-continent producing field. This over-production of crude oil has brought about during the past few weeks a decline in the crude oil markets. In addition to the decline in crude oil prices, there are to-day in the hands of certain refiners in the States, larger stocks of gasoline than they had on hand a year ago at this time, and active efforts are being made to now dispose of this surplus gasoline stock, regardless of cost, rather than carry such through the coming winter.

"These are the reasons for the two recent reductions in the price of gasoline. Reductions in the States have been followed by reductions here in Canada, and it is possible that in the re-adjustment now going on, further reductions in gasoline prices will follow, not only in the City of Montreal, but throughout the entire Dominion of Canada. This is exactly what has happened in the past when similar conditions prevailed.

"The statement in the press that the wholesale price of gasoline in the City of Montreal is 26 1/2c is misleading. The wholesale price of gasoline in the city to-day is 23 1/2c, per imperial gallon, plus 2c a gallon Quebec Government road tax; net 25 1/2c, to the dealer 75 per cent. of this grade of gasoline is sold in the City of Montreal, and is retailed by garages and service stations to the public at 29c, including the Government tax.

Underground River Discovered in Savoy

An underground river passing under Mont Blanc has recently been discovered and may prove to be one of the sources of the Rhine. The river, which is known as "Eaux Belles," is said to contain many fine grottoes and cascades. It is thought that this underground stream is the source of many rivers flowing through Switzerland, Germany and Austria.

Leftover breakfast muffins can be toasted and served with marmalade at lunch.