

on the same system.

16.—The Executive Committee of the Communist International appoints the International Secretary of the Communist Women's Movement and organizes a woman's section of the Communist International.

17.—A member of the Communist International journeying to another country has a right to the fraternal support of the local members of the Third International.

## Decaying Institutions

SOCIETY as a social organism, like everything else in nature, is subject to stimulus, which assist its growth and repressives, which retard it; develops new institutions and casts off others which have ceased to function.

Observe closely and you will find in present day society, alongside the most scientific mode of production, the decaying institutions of savagery, barbarism and early civilizations.

This is most readily noticed in religious bodies. Aside from dress and architectural changes in their respective places of worship—what difference is there between the Salvation Army parading down the street accompanied by the jangle of tambourines and cymbals, and the parade of a savage tribe and the din of drum-sticks on the stretched hides of their tom-toms; or the ritual of "medicine men," casting out devils, and the chief performers of the "Holy Rollers"; or even the cultured parasitical class of today, captivated by psychic phenomena, and the sensuous-loving leisure class of two thousand and more years ago who dipped into the Elysium mysteries.

In an age when the individual may climb the skies, skim light and swift as a bird through fleecy seas, or speak his thoughts in Vancouver to a friend in St. John; at a time when the romance of Jules Verne is hammered into concrete reality and we can explore the depths of the ocean, it is strange that these relics of ancient societies should still remain as landmarks for the student of social sciences.

But a psycho-pathic examination of these victims of obsessions and delusions will unravel the tangle of ideas which lead to such a mental state.

We know that long sustained poignant grief over the loss of a friend will at some stage induce a condition of mind akin to torpor, and midway between consciousness and unconsciousness, when the "spirits" of the departed will arise from the surrounding gloom to startle and alarm.

These apparitions appear to be from without the mind and in front of our eyes, when they are really viewed from within the mind, and in front of the mind's eyes: as do the figures in dreams when healthy, normal minds seek rest in sleep.

Yet this similarity between the figures in dreams and the spirits of seances, the different stages of consciousness in which the mind will unfold the impressions stored in its cells, escapes the attention of bourgeois savants, while the charlatans and so-called mediums can wax fat at the expense of the curious minded, the gullible and the distressed. The unusual conditions attending the great war and arising out of it, which unhinged the minds of many, bringing grief to more, and stirring the emotions of all, are responsible for "spirits" seen and "messages" received by hundreds, who for the first time in their lives (and probably the last) were clairvoyant. But as these conditions subside and minds again become normal, this decaying institution of spiritualism will become still more dilapidated.

A pathological diagnosis of the sincere salvationist, or his brother and sister in the "Holy Rollers," will lay bare maladies from malnutrition and functional derangement. Such institutions as these are harder to destroy under capitalism than is spiritualism, for while this latter receives stimulus at rare intervals and from unusual conditions, these former institutions draw sustenance from conditions of poverty which never abate from year to year.

They exist as being dispensers for gentle, meek-eyed Charity who, having swiped one portion and begged another from the surplus wealth produced by a slave class, hands back a trifle to the half-starved, rattle-demon followers of the misguided, half-baked, hypocrite, "General" Booth.

Mankind has made the greatest use of his language to coin new names for old gods and devils,

and when he rechristens these as "earthbound souls" and "astral bodies," his vanity is tickled: that in doing so he has made something at last that is new, different in nature and origin from anything preceding it.

But let us turn for a moment to the decay of capitalism. Marxian Socialists have made it clear that Capitalism can only develop and progress in any given country so long as it can find a sale for its surplus commodities in a world market. That the moment this system becomes universal in all countries, and the pace of their development more approximately equal, in the productive resources of each, the more rapidly is the world market filled with wealth. Then the periods of productive employment grow smaller and the intervals of unemployment longer.

It is at this stage that competition becomes so ruthless, small enterprises are swallowed by large ones, combines carry on production from the initial to the finished stage, and the stores of every country act merely as mediums in distribution. The battle for place in this market employs immense armies and navies, the destruction of each others' economic resources becomes more devastating than ever. Common material interests draw together certain nations, a distinctive policy for mutual protection, and co-operation in war on their competitors, and the exploitation of the world's raw materials and the motor power of their industries. Higher pile the national debts and the greater becomes each others inability to pay.

We have arrived now at a stage when the breaking up of this system becomes more apparent; the perspective is no longer national, but universal.

North and south, east and west, wherever we turn the major portion of the working class are idle, some seething with discontent, others, feeling less acutely, drifting from place to place, country to country in search of a beefsteak or a job.

The minds of the ruling class are filled with terror; they must find markets, or once more go to war in order to make a market, and thus provide work for this growing army of idle men. In the meantime they will foment civil wars out of religious antagonisms and national prejudices.

How fiendish this ruling class can become when their class position is in danger, how terribly alarmed are they, can be seen from the following (vide daily press) London, March 3:

"Many influential members of both Houses of Parliament (British) met last night, the Duke of Northumberland presiding, to consider the subject of the Bolshevik conspiracy against liberty and democratic institutions in general and the safety of the British Empire in particular.

"Among the speakers were Sir Michael O'Dwyer, formerly governor of the Punjab, who described the state of India; Sir Edward Carson, the Earl of Denbigh, Lord Sydenham and Lord Edbury. All of them emphasized the gravity of the danger and the need for the awakening of the civilized world to it."

The report, unfolded by these members of the British ruling class, disclosed the nature of this "Bolshevik conspiracy to break up the home, destroy the church, morality and property, throughout the Empire, generally, that the sun never sets on, and Ireland particularly.

And, according to them, the Bolsheviks are supplying the sinews of war to the Sinn Feiners; the leaders of the working class movement in England, Scotland and Wales are also being paid for stirring and keeping the workers of these countries in a revolutionary ferment as well as saving the I. W. W. in Canada from dying naturally from a lack of "dues nutrition."

So terror stricken are these members of the British ruling class they must fancy the power once attributed to King Midas has been given to Lenin, who spills gold as freely as Niagara spills water.

It is necessary, however, to show these statements are made with the definite object of molding the minds of the working class to suit their own particular purpose, in other words, to blind the people as to the real nature of the Irish situation, and from seeing who are really destroying the homes, morality and peace of the workers in Ireland.

In order to preserve the hegemony which has made Britain "mistress of the seas," the ruling class there will blast every national ideal which has grown in the minds of the Irish people, even if they have

to destroy every last home in the country, every last vestige of morality.

This is very clearly brought out in the "Report of the British Labor Commission to Ireland," and it more than all else proves how ruthless capitalism is when it comes to clearing away obstacles standing in its path.

"The circumstances of the destruction by fire of the Abbeydorney creamery were the subject of investigation by the Commission. There can, in our opinion, be no doubt that the buildings were fired by uniformed men, who used petrol for the purpose of setting the creamery buildings alight more speedily and effectively. The store, which contained a good deal of inflammable material, was completely gutted. The manager was ill-used."

"The commission visited the village of Shanagolden. On August 23 an attempt was made to fire the Co-operative Creamery there."

"This attempt failed, but returning later: The Black and Tans were seen to sprinkle petrol inside the creamery. A five-gallon tin of petrol was left behind by the party. Immediately after they left the building there was a loud explosion and the creamery burst into flames. . . . The county court judge awarded £12,000 damages. Cheese to the value of £4,000, which had been made for export to Great Britain, was destroyed."

"At Ballymacelligott men were shot, and houses and other buildings, and hay ricks were set on fire as well as a creamery."

Hosiery factories at Balbriggan and Bandon were set on fire, hundreds of people were employed in these and the loss runs into many thousands of pounds.

Printing works at Tralee was destroyed, "the damage done by the Crown forces was estimated at £50,000."

Destruction of arms and private houses around Cork, the terrible fires in Cork itself; the physical violence and brutality; the massacres of people, the ravishing of women, makes this document the most scathing indictment against a government, and will impress itself more forcibly upon the memory of the Irish as long as class rule lasts in Ireland. And if Soviet gold is squandered in Ireland for the destruction of property, the blasting of homes, and all ideas of morality, then this gold is flowing into the treasury of the British government for distribution among the greatest bunch of fiends since the days of Nero and decaying Rome.

R. K.

## SOVIET RUSSIA MEDICAL RELIEF COMMITTEE.

New York, Feb. 15, 1921

Ewen McLeod,  
401 Pender Street East, Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Comrade,—We have your letter of February 9, enclosing cheque for \$152.00, contributions collected from the Russian colony in Vancouver. We wish to thank you and the contributors very warmly for this generous help toward bringing medical relief to Soviet Russia.

We appreciate your comment regarding Charles L. Drake, and concur fully with you in the opinion that the connection was a mistake from the very beginning. However, in self-defense we have to state that Charles L. Drake was not appointed by our committee, but was put in charge by Dr. A. M. Rovin, and upon his responsibility, as the committee did not know Drake, and was unwilling therefore to place him in complete control. Drake was therefore under the supervision of Dr. Rovin, who had implicit faith in his character and his ability, having had knowledge of Drake's previous activities as an organizer. It soon developed that the supervision of Dr. Rovin was entirely inadequate, and the committee took immediate steps to place Drake under the direct control of the New York office. He was requested to make a weekly report to the committee, and to take no action without first obtaining the approval of our committee. However, he failed to comply with our instructions, and it developed that the only way in which the work of the Chicago district could be placed on a proper basis was to eliminate Charles Drake from our campaign. This was done accordingly, not, however, before a good deal of mischief had been done. This we are gradually overcoming, and in time will succeed in living down.

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