

ITEMS OF NEWS FROM ALL PARTS

The Russian Revolution.

Toronto.—A huge mass meeting was held in Massey Hall on April 1st, under the auspices of a conference composed of Russian, Polish, Jewish, Finnish, Ukrainian and English Socialists, with speakers in the several languages represented.

The speeches were punctuated by rounds of applause. This was an extraordinary meeting. The constitutional aspect of the revolt was given secondary consideration; beautiful words of eulogy were expressed. Glowing terms of praise for the noble sacrifices that had been made for liberty and the deep spirit of fraternity and brotherhood that bonded the workers together with no trace of racial prejudice to becloud their vision. A feast for the gods. Hot and strong were the denunciations against a brutal ruling class, and the perfidy of hypocritical religious scoundrels. The speeches pulsated with the fervor of a clear (class conscious) revolutionary sentiment, punctuated by the oft-recurring arbiter class (and cheers).

No words can picture the fervor of this throng. Every line, every word expressing the working class character of the movement, in harmony with the great spirit of revolt that (as the writer put it "this restless spirit cannot be cajoled or fooled, this great urge to become more will not only destroy despotic rule in Russia, but the elements of slavery in all countries under all conditions of class rule.

This is the spirit that makes for progress, and may yet spike every gun on every battlefield as a herald of the coming day of Socialism.

The coming of the constitutional regime was heralded as a landmark in social evolution, but only serving to set in relief "the wondrous power of a united working class for still greater achievements. And the endorsement of this accomplishment with totally different motives than those which prompted the congratulatory messages of the European governments, not befuddled by the debts of honor (national debts), responsibility, so common to the capitalist government's laudations.

Gloriously spontaneous in all its aspects, a breath of the new spirit of "international socialism" and synonymous with "social revolt."

The meeting commenced and closed with songs of the revolution (in Russian). A collection of \$317 was taken up, the balance, after expenses are paid, will be sent to Russia to aid in the propaganda of Socialism. A resolution was passed which will be cabled to the new administration. I. B.

THE LOW COST OF LIVING IN ARMENIA.

And the Relation of the Social Evil Thereto.

The eyes of the whole world have again, by recent events, been turned upon Armenia. The writer, while investigating the high cost of living in Detroit as compared with Toronto, where, sad to say, it is still higher, had the good fortune to meet a representative Armenian from Van, the city which—according to war reports—has recently fallen into Russian hands.

The opportunity of interviewing the Armenian gentleman as to social and industrial conditions in Van, was eagerly grasped, and the amazing information was furnished that laborers received a daily wage of but 8c. to 30c., those having trades were paid from 40c. to \$1.00.

To offset these low wages, prices so low prevailed that a family could be housed, fed, and clothed, and a far greater balance be left upon the right side of the sheet than under our much-

vaunted high wage system. Prices obtaining in Van are such that a man need labor but six months in order to keep his family and self comfortably for the entire year. Rent of one-storey houses, \$1 a year; three-storey houses, \$10 for the 12 months; butter, 3 pounds for 20c.; sugar, 3 pounds for 24c.; grapes, 3 pounds for 2c.; meat, from 2c. to 4c. per pound; apples, 36 pounds for 6c.; pears, 36 pounds, 8c. to 12c.; milk, 3 pounds for 4c.; wheat, 252 pounds for \$2.00 to \$2.50; vegetables, 36 pounds for 10c.; fish, 50 pounds, 5c. to 10c.; bread, 3 pounds, 3c. to 4c.; coffee, tea, wine, or whiskey, per drink, 1 cent; meals, 8c. to 10c.; suit of men's cloth, similar to our \$40 suits, \$8; shoes, "Oxford" style, 75c. to \$1.00; shave and haircut, 4c.; child's haircut, 1c.

The gentleman said that the individual system of industry was still in vogue, and that farming and other implements similar to those used in patriarchal days were still in common use.

When inquiry was made about the extent of public vice, he replied: "We have no houses of ill-repute in our land. Everybody has sufficient paying work, and consequently the men marry at an early age and the social evil is unknown."

What an uncivilized country, yet what a happy land!

Other nations only cause it trouble, left to itself, minus the blessings of civilized capitalism, it has "peace, perfect peace!"

R. B. ST. CLAIR.

ELIMINATING WASTE.

London, March 14.—A proposal for pooling retail trades during the war has been approved at Birmingham by the civil and military authorities. Under the scheme, bread will be produced at large centers and districts allotted to certain people for the purpose of delivery.

Milk will be distributed in the same way. Small one-man businesses will be worked together under a pooling scheme, and after the war restored to their original state. By this means it is hoped to release a large number of men for the army.

AGAINST LABOR CONSCRIPTION.

London, March 9.—A great public meeting of the labor organizations is to be held March 31st to start a nation-wide protest against industrial conscription, which labor now believes is imminent.

WHY ARE POTATOES DEAR?

Interesting statistics are available here, says an Ottawa dispatch, concerning Canadian potato production and exports for the year 1916, as compared with those for 1915. These figures fail to explain why potatoes to-day are nearly three times the price they were this time last year.

The figures of production show that the yield in 1916 was only 2.35 per cent. lower than for 1915. Export for the two years, considering the difference in prices, would seem to have been about equal, and when it is considered that there are about 200,000 men overseas to-day who were in the Dominion in 1915, it is hard to explain prevailing prices of potatoes in the Dominion.

When is Mr. Crothers going to get busy?

CONSCRIPTIONISTS EXPELLED FROM AUSTRALIAN PARTY.

"Official Labor's Super-Parliament," as the Interstate Labor Conference in Melbourne, Australia, in December has been designated, began its deliberations with 36 representatives of the six states. It ended its sittings without

three pro-conscription delegates from West Australia. By a vote of 29 to 4 the following expulsion motion was carried: "That as compulsory overseas military service is opposed to the principle embodied in the Australian Labor Party's platform, all Federal members who have supported compulsory military overseas service, or who have left the Parliamentary Labor Party and formed another political party, are hereby expelled from the Australian labor movement." The resolution disowns all Mr. Hughes' supporters, and emphasizes the final character of the split in the Labor Party.

Included in the resolutions of the conference were two expressing indignation at the "sentences imposed by court-martial on Australian soldiers," and urging that Australians serving abroad who are charged with an offence "be tried by court-martial composed of Australians and that at least half of the court should be composed of men of the same rank as that of the person charged."

Not only have twenty-six of their members in the National Parliament, including Premier Hughes, been thrown out of their organization by the Labor party for advocating conscription along with other parties, but 11 members of Cabinet, 14 Senators and 21 members of the House of Representatives in the several States have been made to understand by the Labor Party that these men are through politically when their present terms in office expire. None will be renominated by the Labor party, the old fusion Liberal-Conservative party doesn't want them, and few, if any, can hope to win if they stand as Independents. Here is an instance where leaders suffering from the big head have not been able to misconduct the rank and file into a period of reaction.—Melbourne Socialist.

THE WAR AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

The effect of the great war upon the problems of public health has been to pile up difficulties for both present and future. These new difficulties must be understood by the public in order that, instead of being a source of discouragement with health measures in general, they may become a stimulus to increased activity, as has already been the case in England with reference to infant mortality.

A trained soldier is of great value to the nation, and he is carefully safeguarded from epidemic disease and looked after like a child, regularly fed, warmly clothed, given baths as frequently as possible, exercised as much as possible, and kept, as the saying is, "in the pink," and because of this very fact that he is in perfect physical condition a soldier is able to throw off to a large extent such germs of disease as may by chance be absorbed by him.

But the third factor involves very real and serious public health problems. Already about 2,000 soldiers have been invalided home to Toronto. As the number of these physically impaired persons rapidly increases, they will influence the death rate and sickness rates of the city. Many returning soldiers will bring with them communicable diseases contracted at the front, the most serious of which will be syphilis, gonorrhea and tuberculosis, and these men will become centres for the spread of infection among our population. Already between 100 and 200 men have been returned to the Toronto district with tuberculosis, and the hospital doctors indicate that the number of cases of syphilis is large. Anyone familiar with the many forms that these diseases take will understand the effect that they are likely to produce upon the registered death rates from many other diseases. Most serious problems of preventive medicine will arise from these diseases, and it is probable that the circumstances under which they arise will make possible their final solution.—Toronto Health Bulletin.

Germany to Be Republic.

George Ledebour, Social Democratic leader, said:

"If the German Emperor urgently advised Emperor Nicholas in 1905 to no longer oppose the justified demands of the people, why did not the chancellor venture to give the same advice to Emperor William. We regard a republic as a coming inevitable development in Germany. History is marching with seven-league boots. The German people, indeed, show incredible patience. The Reichstag must have the right to a voice in the conclusion of alliances, peace treaties and declarations of war. The Imperial Chancellor must be dismissed when the Reichstag demands it."

Shouts of "high treason!" interrupted Herr Ledebour, and the president called him to order.

London, April 1.—There were stormy scenes in the Reichstag Friday, according to a Reuter despatch from Amsterdam, when Socialist deputies foreshadowed the establishment of a republic and demanded that the Reichstag have larger powers in the foreign policy.

Dr. Edouard David, the Socialist leader, is quoted by the Cologne Gazette as saying:

"My party has addressed an appeal to foreign Socialists for peace without annexation. It has been rejected. The French want absolutely to annex Alsace-Lorraine."

He declared that the Imperial Chancellor's words directed to the new rulers of Russia had transgressed the military censorship, for the military authorities had instructed the press that nothing must be published appearing like approval of the Russian revolution. He asked for the creation of a constitutional democratic state.

Guelph, April 9.—Three hundred and fifty young men of Guelph who signed the National Service cards several months ago received letters from the military authorities to-day that their services were required for overseas service, and asking them to report at once to Lieut.-Col. Mutrie, chief recruiting officer for Wellington county.

The receipt of these letters, which made it very clear that this was the last call which would be made for voluntary service, caused many of these men to think seriously about the matter and a number of them have already presented themselves at the Armories to go before the Medical Board. Some in the list received had already enlisted, while others hold certificates stating that they are physically unfit. The majority of them, however, are able-bodied men, who could easily pass the Medical Board, and the action which they will take will be watched with interest.

Major Walker and the members of the 264th Battery will go carefully over the names, and a full and complete report will be made respecting every man. If his reasons for not enlisting are unsatisfactory to the authorities there is not much doubt but that he will be compelled to join the colors. The citizens of Guelph regard this action on the part of the military authorities as a move in the right direction.

The figures of the Australian soldiers' vote is given as follows: For conscription, 40,000; against, 106,000. No further comment is necessary.

...PARTY ANNOUNCEMENTS...

ALBERTA PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meets on the First Wednesday in each month, at 8 p.m., at Mrs. A. Martin's, 10528 98th Street, Edmonton, Alta.

Locals and Executive Bodies may have their Advs. in the Directory for the sum of \$3.00 per year.