

THE CANADIAN FORWARD

Correspondence—

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"If one class is going to be better off than another, then surely it should be the class that does the work."

Philip Snowden, M.P.



WANTS TO KNOW THE LAW.

Vanguard, Feb. 9, 1918.
Dear Comrades of the Forward:
I was arrested some time ago on a charge of sedition, but after investigation the case was dropped. The officer who arrested me did not state his charge against me, nor tell me on what authority he was arresting me. Upon being ordered to do certain things, I asked him upon what charge he was making the arrest, and upon what authority. He remarked that I would find these things out when I reached Regina. After the case had been dropped, he instructed me to discontinue our Socialist meetings.

Will you look up the law on this affair and find out if there is anything in the military law of the day to prevent Socialists from holding meetings, and also if a soldier in uniform can make an arrest without stating the charge against the arrested person.

Yours fraternally,
Fred G. Wetzel.

Our Answer to the Above.

In response to the foregoing letter from Comrade Wetzel, provincial secretary of the S.D.P. of Saskatchewan, he was informed that the law was all on his side. This fact, however, should not cause him to imagine that his legal rights were likely to be respected. Most of the machinery for securing the enforcement of his rights is likely in the hands of men who glory in seeing the irresponsible deprive him of his legal rights. The Gingas, who know only one law, which is their momentary whim, are now in the saddle, and they are riding fast and not paying very much attention to whom they ride down or whose rights they trample on.

LIBERTY AND MILITARISM.

By Arthur Ponsonby, M.P.

Do you want the war to go on because you think we are fighting for liberty and justice against militarism and oppression? Liberty and justice are not in the gift of any existing government. Militarism and oppression are characteristic in varying degrees of them all. What has been the effect of our attempting to crush German militarism by force of arms? We have established militarism at home. We have deprived men of their liberty, punished men for their consciences, censored opinion and suppressed free speech. Militarism can only be crushed by the people themselves in a country where a free democracy exists. We cannot free the German people by warfare, but we can enslave our own.

The war for liberty and justice has yet to come. It will be the war of united democracy against the stale traditions of discredited governments—not a war of people against peoples. It will be a war against bad conditions, against pov-

erty, misery and ignorance. The real enemy is established inside every country. It is the spirit of tyranny, greed, materialism, intolerance and militarism. It is the unfair distribution of wealth, the neglect of education, the idolization of riches. The victims of that enemy are to be found in slums, in workhouses, in asylums, and in prisons. Why not make ready to fight that enemy, instead of wasting life and treasure in the slaughtering of men who are as anxious as you are to turn their attention to the real evils that surround them? The longer you continue this European conflict, the outcome of diplomatic intrigue, and the product of the reckless ambition of governments, the longer will the real war be delayed.

Do you want a lasting peace? If so, you must prevent the intrigues of diplomacy and the entanglements of secret engagements, you must avoid a settlement based on a renewed competition in armaments, you must nationalize the manufacture of armaments, you must control foreign policy through parliament, you must defeat the attempts to institute an embittering economic war which must make peace impossible, and you must demand the right of every people with national ideals unhampered and unthreatened. If you want to prevent this fearful calamity from happening again, you must substitute co-operation for rivalry among the nations, the harmony of an international council for the conflict of international armaments. These great objects might be obtained without further bloodshed, not by a frenzied desire for revenge and triumph, but by the wise determination of the people to insist on the governments stating their terms and opening negotiations.

BAINBRIDGE DEFENCE FUND.

Previously acknowledged	\$624.90
J. Naines, Toronto	1.00
A. W. Bowles, Local No. 4, Kitchener	4.00
J. Linnell, Cowdery	1.00
J. McCleary, Minitonas	1.00
Total	\$631.90

Make all cheques payable to H. Perkins, 363 Spadina Ave.

SIR AUCKLAND GEDDES ATTENDS TRADE UNION MEETING.

Over 10,000 delegates of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers attended a private meeting on Sunday, Jan. 27th, in Albert Hall, London, and adopted a resolution calling upon all the allied governments to enter into peace negotiations on the basis of no annexations and no indemnities.

Sir Auckland Geddes spoke for over an hour, amid considerable interruptions, at a Liverpool mass meeting of the Mersey District Federation of Engineering and Ship-

building Trades. The attendance numbered between 3,000 and 4,000. A resolution was passed, with two dissentients, pledging the meeting to resist by all possible means any further call upon the man-power of the nation unless the government intimated its willingness to adopt the war aims of the Labor Party, promised to facilitate the holding of an international workers' conference, and to agree without delay to the conscription of wealth.

Another great meeting of Clyde-side engineers was held in the City Hall, Glasgow, on Monday night, when Sir Auckland Geddes was questioned for two hours. The resolution, moved by Mr. McManus, seconded by Mr. Gallacher, pledged the meeting "to oppose to the very uttermost the government in its call for more men; to take action to enforce the declaration of an immediate armistice on all fronts;" and concluded with "the expressed opinion of the workers of Glasgow that from now on, and so far as this business is concerned, their attitude all the time and every time is to do nothing in support of carrying on the war but to bring war to a conclusion." The resolution was carried practically with unanimity and amid intense enthusiasm, accompanied by singing of "The Red Flag." Sir Auckland Geddes said he would personally support the proposal for an international conference of the workers, provided the German workers were properly represented.

WHAT THE ONTARIO PARLIAMENT DID.

The following Bills were introduced: To provide for the appointment of agricultural representatives; to amend the Mining Acts of Ontario; to amend the Metal Refining Bounty Act; to provide for the appointment of a general purchasing agent for the Province of Ontario, amending Juniors Act, to extend the duration of the present Legislative Assembly until the close of the war, to provide for better regulation of the public service, to amend the Municipal Act, to amend the Coroners Act, to amend the Administration of Justice Expense Act, to amend the Assessment Act, to amend the Statute Law Amendment Act, to amend the Act to authorize and confirm grants by Municipal Corporations for patriotic purposes, to amend the Mortgages and Purchasers Relief Act, 1915, to amend the law relating to landlord and tenant, to amend the Mechanics and Wage Earners Lien Act.

Mr. Hartley Dewart, M.P.P., has the following question on the order paper in his name: "What was the amount paid in by each of the following corporations in the year 1917, or the last period of twelve months for which returns are made, for all purposes under the Workmen's Compensation Act, namely: Massey-Harris Co., Ltd., John Inglis Co., Ltd., Toronto Carpet Mfg. Co., Harris Abattoir Co., Ltd., Park Blackwell Co., Ltd., Dominion Radiator Co., Ltd. What was the amount paid out in the same period under the Act, to the employees of each of the said companies, for claims made for injuries during said period. What amount, if any, was held under the Act, for further payments or claims made in the same period for injuries by such employees of each of the said companies."

Men who attend the altar and should most
Endeavor peace, their strife pollution-bring.

—John Milton.

CONSCRIPT THE BANKS.

Conscript the banks to enable our governments to have a continuous supply of bank notes free of debt and interest. We are using the same

notes and coins over and over again.

Conscript the banks to repatriate our soldiers and pay war pensions.

Conscript the banks to reduce and prevent war profiteering.

Conscript the banks to prevent poverty coming on the people through debt, interest and taxation.

Conscript the banks to finance the war and liquidate the war debt.

Conscript the banks to knock out war debt interest.

Conscript the banks to evolve beyond capitalism.

Conscript the banks to solve the unemployed problem.

Conscript the banks and we control all industries, because all industries, through their overdrafts, are subject to the banks.

Conscript the banks and we conscript the heart of capitalism.

Conscript the banks and knock out high prices.

Conscript the banks and there will be no necessity for race suicide.

Conscript the banks to save Canada.

Conscript the banks, in fact, embraces control of all our material resources to carry on this great struggle for freedom without burdening and impoverishing the masses through debt and interest, and without in any way interfering with the people's bank deposits.

JEROME K. JEROME ON "A LEAGUE OF REASON."

Jerome K. Jerome, stating in The Daily News the case for "A League of Reason," he says:

"There are two hopeful things about this war. The one is that it is going to end. Sooner or later the dove will return with the olive leaf in her mouth. God will have caused a wind of reason to pass over the earth, and the waters of anger and hatred shall be assuaged. Not all the Northcliffes and Reventlows in Europe can eliminate that fact. They can delay the end, but it will come. To-day the many headed howl at those who would hasten peace. To-morrow the curses will be for those who have prolonged the war. The other is that there is going to be no 'crushing victory' on either side. It would almost seem as if a far-seeing Providence had arranged that the forces should be so evenly balanced as to preclude this possibility. Any 'crushing victory' would make militarism triumphant through the world for the next century. It would prove its value and re-establish its prestige as the most efficacious arbiter of human affairs. A general draw will expose its futility, and overwhelm it with the execrations of the people. No nation containing the seeds of life ever has been crushed. Wounded and enraged it creeps away to feed upon its bitterness and work out its revenge."

WHAT GOVERNMENT TELL SOLDIERS.

The Canadian soldiers are voting for their general election, The Morning Post says:

"The issue was brought home to every voter by means of the following printed notice:

"If you vote against the government you will be here for life. If you vote for the government another man will take your place."

RUSSIAN PROCLAMATION TO GERMAN SOLDIERS.

The following proclamation has been distributed on the eastern front:

"German soldiers:—Russia offered Germany a democratic peace. Your militaristic autocracy refused it and intends to remove you from the comparative safety and tranquility of this front for the purpose of feeding you to the French and British cannon on the Western front."

(Signed) Ensign Krylenko.